

*The* **VENTANA**

MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB



FEBRUARY  
MARCH  
APRIL  
OUTINGS

Glenn Stewart/SCPBRG

**Eyecatching . . . Observers needed**  
p. 5



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CLUB  
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All materials for publication must be received by the deadlines listed in *The Ventana* publication schedule (see below). No exceptions.

**SUBMISSIONS FORMAT**

Please limit articles to 800 words; letters to 300. All submissions may be edited for clarity and length. Submissions are preferred via e-mail or on a high density 3-1/2 inch diskette. Save files as "text" or "ascii." Mail hard copy to editor, address below.

**WHERE TO SEND SUBMISSIONS**

Send submissions to: Debbie Bulger, Editor 1603 King Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 e-mail: [dfbulger@cruzio.com](mailto:dfbulger@cruzio.com)

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

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2005

**VENTANA PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:**

Issue	Deadline	Mailing Date
#2	Mar. 28	Apr. 13
#3	May 16	Jun. 1
#4	Jul. 25	Aug. 10
#5	Sep. 26	Oct. 12
#6	Nov. 28	Dec. 14

Articles received after deadline may not be published.

**CHAPTER CHAIR**

**Help get the Community GPU approved**

In January, a group of 18 environmental and community organizations including the Ventana Chapter presented the Board of Supervisors with a new General Plan Update (GPU) for Monterey County. This document was prepared after seven community forums which drew about 1000 participants. Two of the meetings were conducted in Spanish. All were reported by community television.

With the help of professional planner Terry Watt and former Assembly member Fred Keeley, Chapter members helped craft a plan for Monterey County which will provide the strongest policies in the state for affordable housing and protection of natural resources. The section on agriculture would exempt farmers from troublesome permit regulations for routine farming practices and would preserve farmland.

The plan calls for at least 25% of new housing to be affordable. It will increase the affordable housing requirement to 40% at Fort Ord. Growth would be directed to areas which already have roads, public services and other infrastructure. This will discourage sprawl and leapfrog development which is a huge problem in the county.

The Chapter is concerned about how the Board of Supervisors will receive this fair-minded General Plan Update because of their dropping the previous plan last summer after having spent five years and \$5 million. The County tossed out the previous draft GPU because of pressure from developers and other special interests.

We need your help to apply pressure to the Supervisors. Please contact your local Supervisor and tell him you would like to see the Board approve this Community GPU.

—Rita Dalessio

**Volunteer opportunity Bookstore merchandiser**

The Ventana Chapter Bookstore in Carmel needs more pizzazz.

If you are creative, energetic, have retail experience or (for the right person) would like to learn more about the retail business, this volunteer position may be for you.

The Club would like the bookstore to attract more customers. We need to display our wares in a more attractive fashion and ultimately to achieve more sales.

If you are creative and skilled/ interested/excited about merchandising, call Marilyn Beck, 372-6860. Flexible hours, variable time commitment.

**How to contact your Monterey County Supervisor**

**District 1:** Fernando Armenta, 60 W. Market St., Ste. 110, Salinas, 93901, [district1@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:district1@co.monterey.ca.us), ph: 755-5011, Fax: 755-5876.

**District 2:** Louis R. Calcagno, P.O. Box 787, Castroville, 95012, ph: 755-5022, Fax: 633-0201, [district2@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:district2@co.monterey.ca.us).

**District 3:** W.B. "Butch" Lindley, P.O. Box 946, King City, 93930, ph: 755-5033 or in King City, 385-8333, Fax: 385-8327, [district3@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:district3@co.monterey.ca.us).

**District 4:** Jerry Smith, 2616 1st Ave., Marina, 93933, ph: 883-7570 or 755-5044, Fax: 384-1839, [district4@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:district4@co.monterey.ca.us).

**District 5:** Dave Potter, Courthouse, 1200 Aguajito Rd., Ste. 1, Monterey, 93940, ph: 755-5055 or 647-7755, Fax: 647-7695, [district5@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:district5@co.monterey.ca.us).

**FROM THE EDITOR**

**The power of water**

Between Christmas and New Years I was camping and climbing in the California desert east of Joshua Tree National Park. We were climbing in the Chuckwalla Mountains with our friend Jackie from Nevada when the rains came. Jackie was carpooling with us for the day, and we decided to go back to the BLM's Corn Springs campground.

Instead, we watched in awe as the leading edge of the water slid down the wash, paralleled the road for a bit, then flowed across the pavement. The water picked up speed, pushing foam and debris before it. Our way back to the campsite was blocked by a rushing torrent. We sought high ground and decided to spend the night in the truck.

After a tailgate supper, the three of us tried to get some sleep. At 4:30 a.m. we were startled awake by brilliant flashes of lightening to the south. With the rain getting harder, we hightailed it to Blythe, luckily having to drive across flowing water only once.

While we were having our own encounters with water, unbeknownst to us, halfway around the world, hundreds of thousands of people were living and dying in the worst natural disaster in recorded history. A week later on our drive home, we stayed at a motel and

were shocked by the TV reports of the destruction and human suffering.

Since that day, I have read editorials about the savagery of Nature and the struggle of humans against natural forces. It saddens me to see such commentary.

In my life I have climbed many mountains. Some of them such as Mt. Rainier and the east face of Mt. Whitney were very challenging. Each time I start a climb, I give thanks to the mountain and try to approach it with awe and respect.

Nature is not good or bad. It is not avenging or hostile. It is. How we interact with it depends on our attitude. That is not to deny that bad things can and do happen to innocent people caught by tsunamis, lost in snowstorms, or swept away by flash floods.

Oftentimes these tragedies are completely unavoidable, but other times, a natural occurrence is turned into a human tragedy by human failure to respect natural forces.

When we build in a floodplain, we should not be surprised when our houses are swept away by a swollen river. If we clearcut a mountain slope, we should not be surprised when a landside comes crashing down on our community or highway.

My hope is that if anything good can come out of the terrible loss of human life that occurred last December, that a greater respect for the forces of Nature will change the behaviors that unnecessarily put people at risk.

—Debbie Bulger

**New and re-elected Ex-Com Members**

**Ventana Chapter**

Heather Allen  
Joel Weinstein  
Rita Dalessio

**Santa Cruz Group**

Aldo Giacchino  
Mike Guth  
Bojana Morgenthaler

Note: Marilyn Fravel has resigned from the Santa Cruz Group Ex-Com. The new Ex-Com has appointed Lois Robin to fill Marilyn's term.

**Moving?**

Please fill out and mail the change of address form on page 15.

The post office charges us 70 cents each if they handle the address change. Please help the Club by using the coupon on page 15.

Thank you



## LETTERS

The Ventana welcomes letters. Send to:

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR  
The Ventana, 1603 King Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

or email to [dfbulger@cruzio.com](mailto:dfbulger@cruzio.com)

Please include a phone number with your letter. Anonymous letters are not accepted. Letters may be edited for length.

### Inter-county Carpooling

I am interested in participating in Sierra Club hikes, but I live in Monterey. You have a carpool site but nothing listed for Monterey. Could you consider having a carpool site in Monterey as most of the hikes are farther from Monterey than from Santa Cruz. Or you could have a bulletin board for carpool information? Thanks.

—Phyllis Hilton  
Monterey

### Editor's Note

Several members have expressed the desire for informal carpooling between Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties for outings. Please see the notice on page 7.

### Volunteers Needed

The Citizens Monitoring Network, sponsored by the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is looking for volunteers to monitor water quality of creeks and storm drains in Salinas. On the first Saturday of the month we monitor 3 sites in the NE side of town on Natividad, Gabilan, and Santa Rita Creeks. We monitor the creek and a storm drain outfall at each site. This provides an opportunity to look at impacts of agricultural and urban runoff. If you are interested in participating, please contact Robin Lee, [landgaze@hotmail.com](mailto:landgaze@hotmail.com), 443-1153.

—Robin Lee  
Salinas

*"... all our military strength, all our police, all our technologies and strategies of suspicion and surveillance cannot make us secure if we lose our ability to farm, or if we squander our forests, or if we exhaust or poison our water sources."*

—Wendell Berry

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Staff for Sierra Club Bookstore in Carmel

A chance to enjoy working in Carmel and helping the Club. Volunteers work 4 hours a month. Meet interesting people. Join the team! Call Gil Gilbreath, 624-7501.

# It's time to restore Hetch Hetchy



Ron Good, Executive Director of RESTORE HETCH HETCHY, and local activists meet with Representative Sam Farr in December. From l to r: Martha Balogh, Barbara Mossberg, Rep. Sam Farr, Alayne Meeks, Gabrielle Stocker.

by Gabrielle Stocker

How many readers know that in Yosemite National Park, a few miles north of Yosemite Valley, lies the 1120 acre valley of the Tuolumne River, "a wonderfully exact counterpart of Yosemite Valley... a grand landscape garden, one of Nature's rarest and most precious mountain temples." (John Muir) But this valley, the Hetch Hetchy, including 800 feet of cascades and waterfalls along four miles of the Tuolumne River, lies under 300 feet of water.

How could this have happened? In an unprecedented action within a National Park, Congress narrowly passed the Raker Act in 1913, which authorized San Francisco to construct the O'Shaughnessy Dam and reservoir on the

Tuolumne River in the Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park.

This was in spite of vigorous opposition by citizens across the nation, led by John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, who fumed, "Dam Hetch Hetchy! As well dam for water tanks the people's cathedrals and churches, for no holier temple has ever been consecrated by the heart of man." Muir died the following year, some say of a broken heart. The

dam was completed in 1923, and the valley was flooded under several hundred feet of water.

RESTORE HETCH HETCHY, a citizen group including expert naturalists, attorneys, engineers, economists, public policy and public finance experts, artists, and teachers is working to restore this beautiful valley. They have recently completed a study exploring win-win solutions for Hetch Hetchy and the San Francisco Bay Area water and power users. In November Governor Schwarzenegger directed state agencies to undertake a comprehensive study of the costs and benefits of restoring Hetch Hetchy Valley within Yosemite National Park.

For further information and to support this effort, visit [www.hetchhetchy.org](http://www.hetchhetchy.org). Thank Governor Schwarzenegger for ordering the restoration study (See contact information below.)

Since the days of John Muir, the Sierra Club has supported the preservation, and now the restoration, of Yosemite's Hetch Hetchy Valley. For more information visit [www.sierraclub.org/ca/hetchhetchy/](http://www.sierraclub.org/ca/hetchhetchy/). To view a photo of Campfire Girls enjoying Hetch Hetchy in 1919, visit [www.sierraclub.org/ca/hetchhetchy/camp\\_fire\\_girls.asp](http://www.sierraclub.org/ca/hetchhetchy/camp_fire_girls.asp).

And, the next time you're in Yosemite, visit the Hetch Hetchy site!

## Contact Your Representatives

**President George W. Bush**  
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Washington, D.C. 20500  
Comment line: (202) 456-1111  
FAX: (202) 456-2461  
[president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)

**Vice President Dick Cheney**  
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[vice.president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:vice.president@whitehouse.gov)

**Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger**  
State Capitol Building  
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[www.governor.ca.gov](http://www.governor.ca.gov)

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**State Senator Abel Maldonado**  
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**State Senator Joe Simitian**  
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### The Sierra Club's

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### Featured Programs

**Lodge Fundraising Dinners February 5, March 19** Help support the Lodge you love! All proceeds benefit "Friends of the Lodge." Price: \$77 members, \$82 nonmembers, \$28 kids 13 and younger (includes lodging and meals). Dinner only price \$30.

**Bay Area Ski Bus Trip February 25-27** Price: \$155 members, \$170 nonmembers, \$115 kids 13 and younger.

**Bay Area Lodge Fundraising Ski Bus Trip March 18-20** Price: \$185 members, \$200 nonmembers, \$115 kids 13 and younger.

**Snowshoe Ecology Tours February 18-20, March 25-27** Price: \$115 members, \$125 non-members.

**Kid's Intro to Nordic Skiing Workshops March 11-13** Price: \$95 per child (includes one day ski rental, minimum age 8).

**Mid-week Ski Packages** Price varies based on resort.

**Nature Knowledge Workshop May 27-30** Price: \$155 members, \$185 non-members, \$95 children.

**Sierra Serenity June 19-24** Price: \$250.

For more information about these programs or to receive a full schedule and description of Clair Tappaan programs please visit our website at [www.ctl.sierraclub.org](http://www.ctl.sierraclub.org) or call (530) 426-3632.

## Settlement of multiple lawsuits is major victory for Soquel Creek

For nearly a decade, there have been battles over development proposed adjacent to Soquel Creek in the City of Capitola. Continued development threatened to further degrade this invaluable steelhead and riparian habitat.

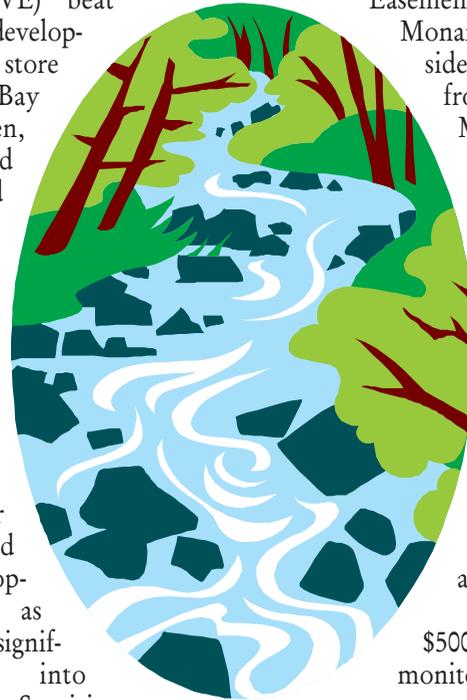
In 1995, the groups Save the Habitat and Working to Advance the Village Environment (WAVE) beat back a proposal by developers for a major box store development on Bay Avenue. Since then, public objection and litigation has stopped development. In 2004, the property owner returned with proposals for development.

Also, since 1996, the Rispin Mansion Property, which was owned by the City, has been proposed for a bed & breakfast and additional development. The project as originally conceived significantly intruded into Environmentally Sensitive Habitat for overwintering Monarch Butterflies. Save the Habitat has fought the proposal and the sale of City-owned property for private development. The Council approved the project in 2004.

By the latter half of 2004, Save the Habitat had filed four new lawsuits against the City of Capitola concerning creekside development, and another one was about to be filed. WAVE joined in the lawsuit on the new Bay Avenue project. Recently Save the Habitat, WAVE, the City, and the developers were able to settle these lawsuits.

In exchange for dropping the ever-growing numbers of lawsuits, the plaintiffs achieved a laundry list of protections for Soquel Creek and Monarch Butterfly habitat along the creek. Among some of the significant protections are:

- Permanent Conservation Easements for riparian and Monarch habitat on both sides of Soquel Creek from Hwy. 1 to Rispin Mansion. These easements ensure significant setbacks from Soquel Creek for any new development.
- Permanent Public Access Easement on the Rispin Mansion property.
- Removal of exotic species and restoration of riparian habitat.
- A contribution of \$5000/year for salmonid monitoring for a period of seven years.
- Stormwater and lighting standards for new development.
- Additional protections for Monarch Butterflies.
- Creation of the position of Environmental Officer within the City of Capitola. The officer will be responsible for enforcement, will formally report to the City Council every six months on the state of Soquel Creek, will coordinate pollution data, and be a point person for grant money to restore and enhance the creek.



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Operation by USFS Permit

# Greased lightning

## Peregrine falcons in California



David Gregoire/SCPBRG

*The peregrine is known to be the fastest animal on the planet. Near vertical dives in pursuit of prey often exceed 200 mph.*

by Glenn Stewart

I was still five minutes from my observation point when I heard the unmistakable wailing call of a peregrine falcon. It was the unhurried, ascending wail, waaaaa, waaaaa, of the male as he let the female know that he was nearby as she lay atop her clutch of eggs.

I hurried along the trail hauling the weight of a heavy tripod, 60-power scope, binoculars, and thermarest to the edge of the canyon. I set up and soon located the peregrine on the branch of a snag across the canyon. He was so far away that I could see his beak open before the sound of his wailing reached me. What a stunning sight! Black cap, white breast, and slate gray wing all visible in the morning light.

Every three or four hours, the male peregrine visits the female at the nest to deliver food to her or to give her a break from incubation. This "nest exchange" is the only opportunity observers have to pinpoint the location of the actual nest ledge.

After a long wait, I was rewarded by the sight of the male dropping from his perch in an arcing dive that ended with his landing on a cliff ledge. He bowed forward with a "chupping" call, and disappeared. The female had already emerged and was in flight before the cliff. But I held on the spot where the

male had disappeared and carefully noted nearby landmarks—a large, round,



Craig Himmelwright/SCPBRG

*Peregrines nest in the sand and gravel found on protected ledges*

flat-faced rock and reddish stain near the ledge where the male disappeared. Then I sat back and enjoyed the female's flight.

She circled in the sunshine seeming to enjoy spreading wings and tail to gain altitude. After two or three turns of the circle, her feet dropped and a large stream of excreta fell away. She flew some more and then perched in the morning sun to preen and stretch. Surely, I thought, she is on eggs.

Here is a species that has fascinated humankind throughout the ages. The peregrine is an extraordinarily efficient bird hunter that is known to be the fastest animal on the planet. Near vertical dives in pursuit of prey often exceed 200 miles per hour. "Peregrine" is Latin for "wanderer" or "foreigner." Some peregrines that breed in the high Arctic migrate as far as the high, central plains of Argentina for the winter.

This magnificent bird almost became extinct because the pesticide DDT was causing eggshell thinning and breakage. By 1970, no peregrine falcons could be found nesting successfully east of the Mississippi River, and just two pairs were found producing young in California.

Thanks to the elimination of most uses of DDT and population recovery through captive breeding, releases of young, and, management of wild pairs, the species has recovered and been removed from the federal endangered species list. (The state of California continues to list the peregrine as "endangered.")

The nest in the Santa Cruz Mountains is one that I found while hiking several years ago. It is one of 12 to 15 such nest sites in the Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito, tri-county area.

Never in the past 50 years have peregrine falcons been more abundant. It is only during the approximately 100-day breeding period (courtship to fledging) that we can learn something about the California peregrine falcon population by counting nesting pairs and, if possible, noting the number of young. A database of this information has been maintained year after year since the early 1970s.

We monitor their numbers because fluctuations in the peregrine falcon population can be a valuable indicator of environmental health. Site fidelity is very high among this species, so many observers return to sites year after year to report on occupancy and

productivity. With the current estimated California population at 300 pairs, Predatory Bird Research Group biologists cannot begin to monitor all of them within the breeding cycle, so we depend on the reports of volunteer observers.

The peregrine falcon is among the most widely distributed birds in the world nesting on every continent and major landmass except Antarctica. They nest in the sand or gravel found on protected ledges and prefer tall cliffs (and buildings and bridges) overlooking sea coasts, lakes, and rivers. Many people in the Monterey area are familiar with the "Embassy Suites" peregrines that perch on the building's letters from October to April each year. Like other wintering peregrines in the Bay Area, they disappear around the income tax deadline to return to their nesting territory which is likely somewhere in the Arctic.

The "Embassy Suites" falcons are sometimes seen standing on the ventilation stacks of the Monterey Bay Aquarium. In Santa Cruz, a wintering peregrine is often seen perched near the mouth of the San Lorenzo River or across from the Natural History Museum.

*Glenn Stewart is Program Manager for the UCSC Predatory Bird Research Group.*

## Become a peregrine observer

The UC Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group was central to peregrine falcon recovery activities in California, Oregon, and Nevada from 1975 to 1992. They produced young for release from a captive flock and from thin-shelled eggs collected in the wild for hatching in the incubation lab. Research is continuing.

If you are interested in participating by filing reports of peregrine falcon nesting activity, download the observation form at [www.scpbrg.org](http://www.scpbrg.org) "peregrine survey." A link is provided to a detailed description of nesting behaviors. Using the behaviors as a guide, observers can determine nesting chronology from a distance so that the wild falcons are never disturbed. Observers may contact Glenn Stewart, [gstewart@ucsc.edu](mailto:gstewart@ucsc.edu) with information or questions.

## School assemblies

Limited grant funds make school assemblies on the peregrine falcon recovery available for grades three and up. The 45-minute presentations include slides illustrating the peregrine's natural history, biologists at work raising young falcons, and, climbers entering cliff nests in the wild. A tame peregrine accompanies the presenter. Please contact Glenn Stewart, [gstewart@ucsc.edu](mailto:gstewart@ucsc.edu) for more information or to schedule an assembly.

# CALENDAR

## Sierra Club Events

Friday, February 25

### Singles Potluck and Games

Friday evening potlucks are a great way to begin the weekend, and provide an opportunity to work out some weekend plans with others. 6:30 p.m. Bring food to share and your own plate, cup, utensils, and serving utensils. We love home-cooked food, but store-bought items (minimum value \$4) make great contributions too. For directions call George, 335-7748.

Friday, March 11

### Potluck & Slides:

#### Sweden/Poland/Czech Republic

Jann McCord will share slides from her trip to Sweden, Poland and the Czech republic last year. The potluck begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring food to share and your own plate, cup, utensils, and serving utensils. We love home-cooked food, but store-bought items (minimum value \$4) make great contributions too. For directions call George, 335-7748.

March & April

### Fundraising Cruises

Have a fun vacation and help the Club raise money at the same time. Sierra Club California Political Committee is sponsoring a series of cruises to Channel Islands National Park. Cruises depart from Santa Barbara. Prices include bunk, sumptuous meals and snacks, and a ranger naturalist to lead hikes and identify wildlife. See whales, dolphins, seals, lots of birds and more.

March 18-21, San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz & Anacapa Islands (\$650).

April 2, Santa Cruz Island (\$175).

April 29-May 1, San Miquel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz Island (\$470).

To make a reservation send a check for \$100 payable to Sierra Club to leader Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye Street, El Monte, CA 91732. For more information contact Joan at [jholtzhl@aol.com](mailto:jholtzhl@aol.com), 626-443-0706.

Friday, March 25

### Singles Potluck and Games

See listing from February 25.



Friday, April 8

### Potluck & Slides: Island of Maui

This 'Island of Maui' slide show will be presented by Don Nielsen. The potluck begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring food to share and your own plate, cup, utensils, and serving utensils. We love home-cooked food, but store-bought items (minimum value \$4) make great contributions too. For directions call George, 335-7748.

### Non-Sierra Club events of interest

*The following activities are not sponsored or administered by the Sierra Club. The Club makes no representations or warranties about the safety, supervision or management of such activities. They are published only as a reader service.*

Friday - Sunday, February 25 - 27

### Banff Mountain Film Festival

The best films and videos from the Banff Mountain Film Festival will thrill and inspire you. Different films each day. Journey to exotic locales, paddle the wildest waters, and climb the highest peaks. Rio Theater, Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz. 7:00 p.m.; 2:00 p.m. Sunday. \$12 general, \$10 students. Tickets available at UCSC Box Office, Bugaboo, Pacific Edge, Adventure Sports, Family Cycling Center. A benefit for UCSC Wilderness Orientation Scholarship Fund and UCSC Recreation. Call 459-2806 for more information.

Saturday, February 26

### Landfill tour

Get up front and personal with how your garbage is handled. FREE bus tour for Santa Cruz County residents of the Buena Vista county landfill and the Monterey Regional Waste Management District in Marina to see large-scale composting. Learn how hazardous waste is handled. See recycling in action. Call Karin Grobe, 427-3452 to reserve a seat.

Sunday, February 27

### FREE Wormshop

Learn how worms can eat your food scraps and make beautiful compost for your garden. FREE workshop for Santa Cruz County residents. 1:00-3:00 p.m. Optional worm bin, \$15. Call to reserve worm bin. Sponsored by Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. Call Karin Grobe, 427-3452. Green Acres Elementary School, 966 Bostwick Lane, Santa Cruz.

Saturdays (see dates below)

### Habitat restoration —

#### California Native Plant Society

Volunteer to restore native habitat in State Parks in Santa Cruz Co. Wear layered work clothing. Bring water & gloves. Tools provided. 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We work rain or shine, but, if things get particularly unpleasant, we call it a day. Contact Linda Brodman, 462-4041, [redwdrn@pacbell.net](mailto:redwdrn@pacbell.net). website: [www.cruzcnps.org](http://www.cruzcnps.org).

February 12, Henry Cowell State Park  
We will have a booth at the Migration Festival from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Drop by and learn about migrating critters and plants.

February 26, Sunset Beach State Park

March 5, Quail Hollow County Park

Saturdays

### Garland Ranch hikes

The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District docents lead hikes at Garland Ranch Park every Saturday and invite Sierra Club members to join them. An updated list of all hikes may be found on their website: [www.mprpd.org](http://www.mprpd.org).

Second and fourth Saturdays

### Habitat restoration —

#### Watsonville

Second and fourth Saturdays each month. Sponsored by Watsonville Wetlands Watch. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Meet in Orchard Supply parking lot at Green Valley Rd. and Main St. in Watsonville. Gloves, tools and lunch provided. Call Laura Kummerer, 728-4106 for more information. No experience needed.



Jon Muir on his 2500-kilometer odyssey across Australia on foot. For 128 days, Jon and his dog, Seraphine, survived entirely off the land, hunting and gathering along the way. Image from the film, *Alone Across Australia to be shown at the Banff Mountain Film Festival*. See calendar listing this page.

Courtesy of Banff Mountain Film Festival

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# O U T I N G S

## RATINGS

### GENERAL INFORMATION:

All outings begin and end at the trailhead. Carpooling to and from the trailhead is strictly a private arrangement between the driver and his/her guests. Carpool drivers are not agents or employees of the Sierra Club.

**GLS = Gay & Lesbian Sierrans. All are welcome on GLS outings.**

### EXPLANATION OF RATINGS:

The outings described vary in difficulty from leisurely walks to strenuous hikes. The following explanation are general guidelines. (For more information about the difficulty of a particular hike, call the leader):

**Walk:** Between 2-5 miles, leisurely pace.

**Easy:** No more than 5 miles; slight elevation gain; easy pace.

**Moderate:** 5-10 miles; up to 2,000' gain; boots; better than average fitness required.

**Strenuous:** May involve off-trail hiking; demanding pace; for experienced hikers in good condition only.

## MEETING PLACES

### DIRECTIONS:

**Big Sur Land Trust Parking Lot:** 3785 Via Nona Marie, Carmel. From Hwy. 1 heading S in Carmel, turn left on Rio Rd., left on Via Nona Marie, then left into the parking lot behind Monterey County Bank.

**Albertson's/Bagel Bakery:** Heading south on Hwy. 1, pass through Monterey. One mile past the Ocean Ave. intersection, turn left on Carmel Valley Rd. Almost immediately, turn right at the light toward the stores. Albertson's and Bagel Bakery are on the right.

**Santa Cruz County Govt. Center:** The large grey building at the corner of Ocean and Water in Santa Cruz. We meet at the corner of the parking lot nearest to the gas station.

**Felton Faire:** From Santa Cruz take Graham Hill Rd. toward Felton. Just after you pass Roaring Camp (on the left), make a right into Felton Faire shopping center. We meet at the edge of the Safeway parking lot nearest Graham Hill Rd.

**41st Avenue Sears:** From Hwy. 1 in Capitola, take the 41st Avenue exit and continue toward the ocean on 41st Avenue toward the Mall. Pass the main Mall entrance and turn right into the next entrance heading toward Sears. We meet behind the bank located at 41st and Capitola Road. **Senior Saunter meets in Sears parking lot close to 41st Ave.**

**MPC Parking Lot:** Monterey Peninsula College Parking Lot. From Hwy. 1 take the Fisherman's Wharf exit, go straight one block, turn left and left again into the first parking lot, parking lot A. This is the site of the Thursday Farmers Market. Plenty of parking without a fee on weekends.

*In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.*

## FEBRUARY

*Sunday, February 6*

### HIKE: JACKS PEAK

8 miles around the perimeter of Jack's Peak Park. Great views of Monterey Harbor and Pt. Lobos. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the K-Mart parking lot in Seaside. Take the 218 exit off of Hwy. 1. Bring lunch, water, and wear boots. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

## NOTICE

Club events such as potlucks, slide shows and other get-togethers are on page 6 in the Calendar listings.

*Tuesday, February 8*

### SENIOR SAUNTER: ANTONELLI POND

Easy 3-mile walk along the west side of Antonelli Pond to visit the homeless garden then on to Terrace Point to the Seymour Center. We'll return to Natural Bridges picnic tables for lunch. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or meet on Delaware Avenue in Santa Cruz just past Swanton Ave. at entrance to Natural Bridges at 9:50 a.m. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water and \$2 carpool. Leader: Jean Harrison, 425-5447.

*Wednesday, February 9*

### HIKE: SALINAS RIVER STATE BEACH

From Moss Landing we'll hike along a trail beside the old Salinas River to Monterey Dunes Way and the Salinas River State Beach boundary and return along the beach. The beach is usually covered with driftwood and is backed by fragile, vegetation covered sand dunes. If you would like to join us at the end of the hike, we'll walk down toward the Moss Landing Channel and eat lunch at Phil's. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m., in back of the gas station at Rio Del Mar exit of Hwy. 1 at 9:15 a.m. or at the trailhead at 9:45 a.m. 7 miles. Bring water. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

*Saturday, February 12*

### HIKE: PINNACLES PEAKS

Climb both North and South Chalona Peaks. This 3,500' elevation gain hike is worth every inch of its strenuously-steep 15-mile loop. Experience a hike that not too many people dare to take. Views of the Diablo Range to the east, the Santa Lucia Mountains to the west and the overlook of the great Salinas Valley. Bring plenty of water, food, wear boots, dress in layers, gloves and \$ for carpool. Limited space, call leader for meeting information. Rain cancels. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez. Co-leader: Suzanne Arnold, 678-1968.

*Saturday, February 12*

### WALK: MT MADONNA PARK

We'll start at Sprig Lake and search for fetid adder's tongue. 5 miles with steep trails. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call for additional information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

*Saturday, February 12*

### HIKE: EAST MOLERA

Lovely views of the coast, Pico Blanco, and the canyon of the South Fork of the Little Sur reward us for our steep climb towards Post Summit. 6 miles and 1,800' elevation gain. Bring lots of water, lunch, hat, sun protection and \$ for the 45-minute carpool. Rain cancels. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Albertson's in Carmel. Back by 4:00 p.m. Leader: Andrea Phelps, andrea\_phelps@csumb.edu.

*Sunday, February 13*

### WALK: FORT ORD

Let's meander around the southeast corner of Fort Ord on BLM trails. We'll spend 3 hours exploring rolling hills at an easy pace. Expect mud; wear boots. Dress in layers; bring water and a snack. Rain cancels. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the trailhead opposite the CHP offices near Portola Dr. and Reservation Rd., just off Hwy. 68. For directions, call before the date of the hike. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

*Tuesday, February 15*

### SENIOR HIKE: WILDER RANCH

We'll climb the Baldwin Loop Trail 3.5 miles with STEEP UPHILL. Great ocean views. Dress for weather. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or at Mission & King, next to Shen's at 9:50 a.m. Bring lunch, water, \$3 carpool. Rain cancels. Leader: Beverly Meschi, 359-9961.

## carpool news

Meet 1 hour before formal meeting time in order to save gas and protect the environment when participating in out-of-county outings. Informal (no leader) carpool meeting spots:

**Santa Cruz: Co. Government Bldg.  
Monterey: K-Mart Seaside**

*Wednesday, February 16*

### HIKE: LONG RIDGE

7-mile hike off Skyline Blvd. at the Grizzly Flat trailhead. We will hike along Peters Creek to the top of Long Ridge. The rainy season is prime time to search for animal tracks and the stories they tell. Great views of the S. F. Bay area. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. to carpool, or at the trailhead on the west side of Skyline, 3.3 miles north of the intersection with Hwy. 9 at 10:10 a.m. Wear hiking shoes, and bring lunch and water. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.



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# O U T I N G S

Sunday, February 20

**HIKE: ANDREW MOLERA**

We'll hike an 8-mile loop around the park with incredible views, a large variety of flora and a beautiful pocket beach. Bring boots, lunch, water and sandals for the river crossing. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

Tuesday, February 22

**SENIOR HIKE: BUDDY'S TRAIL/ ROARING CAMP**

Explore the woods of Roaring Camp. Redwoods; climb to the top of Bear Mountain for lunch (restroom available). Moderate 2.5 miles with SOME UPHILL. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or at Felton Fair at 9:50 a.m. To go direct, park immediately after the RR crossing at Roaring Camp, turn left into San Lorenzo Lumber entrance and park in large lot by RR tracks. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water and \$3 carpool. Rain cancels. Leader: Pat Herzog, 458-9841.

Wednesday, February 23

**HIKE: SFB MORSE/ MISSION TRAIL PARK**

5 miles total. Hike through groves of live oaks, Bishop pine, Monterey pine and a pygmy forest of Gowen cypress. We'll hike along small creeks for 2 miles and see where they have plans for building an equestrian center. Then we'll drive to the Carmel Mission and hike uphill trails to the Flanders Mansion built in 1924 with its one-acre Lester Rowntree Native Plant Garden. The garden overlooking Carmel Bay has over 100 plants identified. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m., or behind the gas station at the Rio Del Mar turnoff at 9:15 a.m., or at the trailhead on Congress Way at 10:10 a.m. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Friday, February 25

**HIKE: PINNACLES**

Starting on the west side, we'll hike an 8-mile loop that takes in the highlights of this fascinating National Monument: Juniper Canyon, High Peaks, Balconies and Caves. Wonderful views and some narrow, steep and maybe wet stretches. Leisurely pace. Bring lunch, water, sturdy shoes and a flashlight for the caves. Meet at MPC parking lot A at 8:30 a.m. (bring change for the parking fee) or Chaparral parking lot, West Pinnacles, at 10:00 a.m. Rain cancels. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372-7427, marydainton@juno.com.

Saturday, February 26

**HIKE: LOWER PEBBLE BEACH**

Enjoy spectacular ocean views and Del Monte Forest on this 9-mile hike starting near Asilomar, then south along Spanish Bay Golf Course to Bird Rock. We then proceed east adjacent to Spyglass Hill and Poppy Hills Golf courses down through S.F.B. Morse Reserve and out along 17 Mile Drive. Bring water, lunch, and wear hiking shoes. Meet in front of the Fishwife Restaurant on Sunset Drive at Asilomar Ave. in Pacific Grove at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Stacy Smith, 625-5256.

Saturday, February 26

**WALK: POGONIP**

Join us Saturday morning on the Pogonip with a focus on birds accompanied by Todd Newberry, President of the Santa Cruz Bird Club. Learn to identify Pogonip's birds—both by their voices and appearance. (Those looking for a walking workout may be disappointed.) We plan to visit the source of Pogonip Creek where special birds are often found. Meet at the top (north end) of Spring St. at 9:00 a.m.; we'll return to the same spot around noon. Call leaders Celia and Peter Scott (423-0796) if you have questions.

Sunday, February 27

**HIKE: PALO CORONA TO SOBERANES**

From the mouth of Carmel Valley we'll hike along dirt roads to the old homestead site for lunch. Then eventually cross Mal Paso Creek, climb up to the Palo Corona ridgeline and return via Soberanes Canyon or Rocky Ridge Trail. Very strenuous 12.5 miles, 3000' elevation gain. Bring lunch, water, etc. Call for reservation and hike details. Rain cancels. Leader: Larry Parrish, 622-7455.

## MARCH

Wednesday, March 2

**HIKE: FORT ORD**

We'll hike 7 miles of up and down trails on the Old Reservoir Engineer Canyon Loop on Fort Ord Public Lands managed by the BLM. Rolling hillsides with groves of live oaks where once Ohlones camped and soldiers trained. Views of Salinas Valley and Fremont Peak. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m., or behind the gas station at the Rio Del Mar turnoff of Hwy 1 at 9:15 a.m., or at the trailhead up the street from the Highway Patrol Office off Reservation Rd. and Portola Rd. at 10:00 a.m. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, March 5

**WALK: GARLAND RANCH**

4-mile figure 8 loop. Hike up to the Mesa via Buckeye and Waterfall trails, come back via Fern, Mesa, and Lupine Loop trails. Hope to see early wildflowers; trails may be muddy. Meet at Albertson's to carpool at 9:00 a.m. or at Garland Park at 9:20 a.m. in the parking lot. Santa Cruz people may meet 1 hour earlier at the Government Center for carpooling (no leader). Bring snack and water. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Saturday, March 5

**HIKE: ALMADEN QUICKSILVER**

This walk in Santa Clara County involves a carpool over the hill. 9 miles on trails different from those we have recently done. I want to see which wildflowers grow in the Park's serpentine soils. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to car-



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# OUTINGS

pool. Call for additional information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

*Sunday, March 6*

**HIKE: WEST MOLERA**

We'll hike Hidden Trail to Panorama Trail to Bluff Trail. Fantastic ocean views. Stream crossing. 8 miles and 1000' elevation gain. Meet at Albertson's at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch, water and sandals for river crossing. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

*Tuesday, March 8*

**SENIOR HIKE: POGONIP/HARVEY WEST**

4 miles. Some steep uphill from Harvey West parking lot by baseball fields. We'll walk to the clubhouse, then to the Sacred Tree, back on Spring St. down hidden staircase to Harvey West for lunch. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or at Harvey West at 9:50 a.m. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water and \$2 carpool. Rain cancels. Leaders: Joan Brohmer & Pete Lazo, 462-3803.

*Saturday, March 12*

**HIKE: MITTELDORF PRESERVE**

Come on this wonderful loop in the Mitteldorf Preserve, administered by the Big Sur Land Trust. 7 miles; 1500' elevation gain. If we feel like it, we may leave the cars at the gate and add 3 more miles to the hike. Great views and the largest redwood in Monterey County. Bring lunch, water, sunblock, wear a hat. Call for a reservation and meeting time. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

*Sunday, March 13*

**HIKE: TERRACE CREEK**

Let's hike up the Pine Ridge Trail from Big Sur State Park then up the Terrace Creek Trail to the Old Coast Road to the Ventana Inn. Lunch high above the ocean with great views. 10 miles and 2,000' elevation gain. Wear boots, bring lunch and water. Meet at Albertson's at 9:00 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

*Tuesday, March 15*

**SENIOR HIKE: POINT LOBOS**

From Whaler's Cove we'll hike the North Shore, the Allen Cypress Grove, then along the Sand Hill Trail to Piney Woods for lunch. 3 miles on good trails with some uphill. We

**Getting to outings**  
Sierra Club encourages outings participants to walk, bicycle, and take the bus to outings meeting places.



may see whales. Bring binoculars. Heavy poison oak. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or go direct to Whaler's Cove parking lot. Bring lunch, water, jacket, \$5

carpool and part of \$3 entrance fee. Leader: Pat Herzog 458-9841.

*Friday - Sunday, March 18 - 20*

**SKI: HUTCHINSON LODGE**

Hutchinson Lodge is the small lodge near Clair Tappaan. It has 2 lofts for sleeping, a large living/dining room with 2 wood burning stoves, and a sauna. Cost per person is \$48 for 2 nights/ members. Non-members/ \$52. The price includes all meals! (Vegetarian available) X-country ski rentals and lessons available for a fee at the main lodge. Free access to groomed trails from the back door. Free shuttle bus from the lodge to nearby cross-country and down-hill ski areas. We will all share cooking and cleaning chores. For reservation and trip information, send the completed form below, a check for the total amount payable to Sierra Club and a SASE or e-mail address to Hutchinson Ski, P.O. Box 604, Santa Cruz 95061. Mail-in reservations must be received by March 7. Information will be mailed to you on March 9. Early reservations required, space is limited. Refunds for cancellations are 100% before March 10, 50% by March 14, none after the 14th. For more details call George Jammal, 335-7748.

*Saturday, March 19*

**HIKE: KAHN RANCH**

Kahn Ranch is the far eastern end of Garland Park. We will get there the easy way (by car). This hike is limited to the first 15 callers, as

drive-in access is by permit only. We'll slowly climb steep trails to great views for a 4-mile loop with a short side trip to Fern Falls. Lunch at a view spot. Call leader for meeting time and place: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

*Saturday, March 19*

**HIKE: HENRY COE**

This second largest state park (thanks Julie) should have wildflowers by mid March. 10 miles with 1500' elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call for additional information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

*Sunday, March 20*

**HIKE: VICENTE FLAT TRAIL**

Well-graded trail with fine ocean views. 11 miles and 2000' elevation gain. We'll pass small creeks and walk by mighty redwoods. One hour carpool down the Big Sur coast. Bring water, lunch, and \$ for carpool. Wear hiking boots. Heavy rain cancels. Meet at Carmel Bagel Bakery at 8:30 a.m. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042, suzannecarmil@aol.com.

*Sunday, March 20*

**HIKE: BUTANO STATE PARK**

Celebrate the spring equinox with a 10-mile

hike by magnificent old-growth redwoods, the headwaters of Butano Creek, and the north ridge with its fine views. We should see many wildflowers, including a colony of the uncommon Calypso orchids (John Muir's favorite wildflower). Meet at 8:45 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Bring lunch and water. Call leaders Peter and Celia Scott, 423-0796, drip@ucsc.edu for details.

*Tuesday, March 22*

**SENIOR HIKE: DE LAVEAGA PARK**

Hike by Branciforte Creek, redwoods, laurels and oaks. SOME UPHILL. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or at De Laveaga Park by restrooms at 9:50 a.m. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water and \$1 carpool. Leader: Beverly Meschi, 359-9961.

*Friday, March 25*

**HIKE: VEEDER TRAIL & REDWOOD CYN**

In spring the Veeder trail in Garland Park hosts a profusion of wildflowers. We'll meet behind Brinton's at 10:00 a.m. to carpool. Our 4-mile loop hike is very steep both up and down hill. Bring water and lunch to enjoy at the wildlife pond at the high point of our leisurely walk. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372 7427.

**Hutchinson Lodge Ski Trip**  
**Friday - Sunday, March 18-20**

Names \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Eve Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# of members \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$48 each = \_\_\_\_\_

# of non-members \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$52 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed (make checks payable to Sierra Club) = \_\_\_\_\_

Departing day/time \_\_\_\_\_ Returning day/time \_\_\_\_\_

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# O U T I N G S

Saturday - Sunday, March 26 - 27

**BACKPACK: PINE VALLEY**

Strenuous, steep 14-mile loop with 2,000' elevation gain. The views of the Ventana Wilderness are awesome. We'll hike up from China Camp, down to Church Creek Divide, up to Pine Ridge Trail, to Bear Basin Connector to Pine Valley where we'll camp for the night. Hopefully we'll get to meet and talk to the legendary John English who might have some wonderful tales to share with us in his cozy cabin by the creek. Bring water for the day, food, wear boots, dress in layers, bring gloves and \$ for carpool. Limited space, call leader for meeting place, time. Rain cancels. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Tuesday, March 29

**SENIOR SAUNTER:  
SOBERANES/GARRAPATA**

The Point is the setting for Robinson Jefferson' poem "Place for No Story." Scenic 3-mile walk then up the road to Rocky Point where we can buy lunch or sit on cliffs and eat your bag lunch. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. To go direct, Soberanes is on Hwy. 1 beyond Carmel Highlands. There is a barn on left side of road with parking across street from bar on ocean side. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water and \$5 carpool. Leader: Grace Hansen, 476-7254.

Wednesday, March 30

**HIKE: GARLAND PARK**

Up the Waterfall trail to the wildflower-covered Mesa trail to Snivley's ridge and Sky Loop trail. 8 miles, 1600' elevation gain. The steep ascent toward Pinyon Peak through oak groves and small meadows will let us look down on Garzas Canyon. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. or behind the gas station at the Rio Del Mar turnoff at 9:15 or at the parking lot in front of Garland Park at 10:15 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

**APRIL**

Friday, April 1

**BACKPACKING WORKSHOP**

Repeat of a workshop from last year. If you would like to learn about backpacking or want to improve your backpacking skills, a new class will be offered from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Garland Ranch with a backpack trip determined by the group. Space limited. Make reservations with Henry at 655-1948, hleinen@aol.com. Henry has taught this class nationally, and we are fortunate to have him offering it for our chapter. Sign up now!

Saturday, April 2

**HIKE: TORO PARK**

8 miles and 1800' elevation gain loop hike to

the higher ridges of Toro Park. Extensive views of Salinas Valley and Monterey Bay from Ollason Peak and Cougar Ridge as we pass oaks, grassy meadows, and wildflowers. Meet at Seaside K-Mart parking lot, at 9:00 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Bring lunch, water, and dress in layers. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042, suzannecarm@aol.com.

Sunday, April 3

**HIKE: MOUNT MANUEL**

We'll hike up from Big Sur State Park. Strenuous 11 miles, 3,000' elevation gain. Incredible views. Wear boots, bring lunch and water. Meet at Albertson's at 8:00 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Remember: Daylight Savings Time begins! Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

Wednesday, April 6

**HIKE: TORO PARK - EAGLE PEAK**

The reward for this uphill hike of 8 miles and 1400' elevation gain is a 360° view extending from Salinas Valley to Monterey Bay. We will be hiking through oak woodlands, chaparral ridges, forested canyons and fields with many wildflowers. Meet at Sears 41st at 9:00 a.m. or behind the gas station at the Rio Del Mar turnoff on Hwy 1 at 9:15 a.m. or just outside the park gate at 10:00 a.m. Bring water, lunch. Walking sticks could be helpful since the winter rains have caused erosion on the trails. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, April 9

**HIKE: NISENE MARKS**

A 13-mile hike along Aptos Creek Rd and Trail. Lunch at Sand Point Overlook while enjoying a panoramic view of Monterey Bay. Side trip to Five-Finger Falls. 1400' elevation gain. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. or at the parking lot behind Aptos Station at 9:20 a.m. Bring lunch and water and hiking boots. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Saturday, April 9

**HIKE: UPPER PEBBLE BEACH**

8 miles through Del Monte Forest. We leave from Carmel Beach traveling through Pescadero Canyon, on to Huckleberry Point, down through S.F.B. Morse Reserve and out past Poppy Hills. Bring water, lunch, and wear hiking shoes. Meet at Carmel Beach at the west end of Ocean Ave. at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Stacy Smith, 625-5256.

Sunday, April 10

**WALK: POINT LOBOS**

4-mile walk, starting from Hwy. 1, out and back to the Ichxenta point grind holes, then past Whaler's Cove, to the top of Whaler's Knoll and back via southern trails. Spring wildflowers should be in bloom. Meet at Albertson's at 9:00 a.m. to carpool. Santa Cruz people may meet 1 hour earlier at the Government Center for carpooling (no leader). Bring snack, water, done about noon. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Tuesday, April 12

**SENIOR SAUNTER: MOORE CREEK**

We'll walk through grasslands and see a vernal pool at the City's most recent greenbelt acquisition. 2.5 miles, moderately steep in parts. No facilities. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. To go direct, park off Western Ave. near former Wrigley plant. Cross Hwy. 1 at signal and walk north to gate. Alternate parking is just off Hwy. 1 at Shaffer. Bring lunch, water, and \$1 carpool. Leader: Jean Harrison, 336-5293.

Wednesday, April 13

**HIKE: ELKHORN SLOUGH/  
MOSS LANDING BEACH**

We'll hike around 3000 acres of marshland and tidal flats. There are about 250 species of birds, 80 species of fish and 400 species of invertebrates. The trail leads to the five fingers of Parson's Slough and then to the Slough Marsh Loop past the dairy barns and a heron rookery pond. Afterwards we will walk along the beach at Moss Landing for lunch. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m., or behind the gas station at Rio Del Mar turnoff and Hwy. 1 at 9:15 a.m., or at the Elkhorn Slough Interpretive Center at 9:50 a.m. Bring lunch, water, and \$2.50 reserve entrance fee. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday - Sunday, April 23 - 24

**BACKPACK: PICO BLANCO**

Strenuous 12-mile with 1,500' elevation gain. From the Old Coast Road we'll hike up the Little Sur River to Pico Blanco and spend the night at the Boy Scout Campground where we will be enchanted by the spellbinding pool with its mesmerizing waterfall. Bring water, food, layered clothing, comfortable footwear, and \$ for carpool. Space limited, call leader for meeting place, time. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

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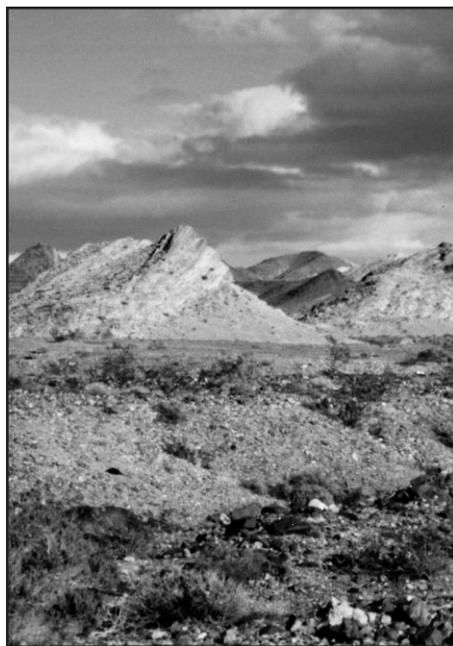
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Friday-Sunday, April 1-3

**ANTELOPE PROTECTION CAR CAMP**

In the relatively unknown Carrizo Plain tucked between the Coast Range and the Central Valley, miles of barbed wire from former ranching days need removal to allow pronghorn antelope and tule elk freer access and protection from predators. Meet Friday at Selby Campground, remove barbed wire on Saturday, then hike Caliente Ridge on Sunday and learn about the area's natural history. Enjoy spring wildflowers, lush meadows, and abundant birds and wildlife. Contact Leader: Melinda Goodwater, MGoodwa651@aol.com, (408-774-1257).



Richard Stover

Desert peaks near Palen Pass in the Mohave.

**Club wins protections for snowy plover**

The Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club and the California Department of Parks and Recreation finalized a consent decree in December for the protection of the western snowy plover at the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area.

The Santa Lucia Chapter had sued the State Parks for violating the Endangered Species Act. Under the terms of the settlement, an additional half-mile of beach will be closed to off-road vehicles during the plover's March to October breeding season.

"This is really an issue of whether to treat our beaches like a sandpit or like the natural treasures they are," said Chapter Chair Tarren Collins. "Thanks to this agreement, future generations of beachgoers can experience the beauty and wildlife of our ocean dunes."

There are only 1,600 breeding pairs of western snowy plover on the Pacific coast.

# Court limits mountain biking in Nisene Marks because of deed restrictions

On December 9, 2004, Superior Court Judge Judy Holzer Hersher agreed with Citizens for the Preservation of the Forest of Nisene Marks State Park by ruling that, "mountain biking is prohibited by deed restrictions conveying the Dedicated Property (in the Forest of Nisene Marks State Park) to the State and that the use of mountain biking cannot be authorized in the deed restricted portions of the Park."

After nearly four years of public meetings, controversial preliminary draft plans, and a flawed General Plan, a lawsuit was filed against State Parks in April 2003 by Citizens for the Preservation of the Forest of Nisene Marks State Park. The lawsuit was based on language in the Marks family deed and the family's intention that the park remain largely undeveloped as a natural preserve, offering a place of refuge and solitude for hikers in an essentially primitive redwood landscape.

The Court agreed with Citizens and based its findings on the language of the Marks family deeds, the family's concerns regarding erosion, the family's wishes that any use be limited to hiking, camping, nature study and associated activities, and the fact that the family explicitly banned horses. The ban on horses was due to concern that the horses might cause damage to the hiking trails, particularly because of the Park's "erodible soils." State Parks enforces the ban on horses.

Judge Hersher stated that though there was no sport of mountain biking at the time the property was transferred to State Parks, "that mountain biking is at least analogous to horseback riding in terms of the damage that it does to the environment." This view was shared by many. Public written comments on the general plan were 3-to-1 opposing the expansion of bike trails in the Park.

**Sierra Club role**

During the General Plan process, the Santa Cruz Regional Group of the Sierra Club submitted written and oral comments to State Parks. The Santa Cruz Group focused on the lack of protection for natural resources in the Park's Plan. The Club asserted that the level of analysis in the plan was insufficient to determine the impacts of designated uses and development on habitat and species within the park.

The General Plan did not contain a comprehensive biological inventory of the park. Without such an inventory, it would be impossible to determine the need for special designations such as natural preserves. Likewise, there was no modern carrying capacity analysis nor

cumulative impact analysis to determine how multiple uses proposed for the Park would effect natural resources. In what was viewed as an obvious attempt to avoid the issue of whether, or where, mountain bikes would be allowed on trails above the steel bridge, the General Plan did not contain a trail plan. The Sierra Club further asserted that the intention of the Marks family to keep the property in a natural state should be honored.

Ultimately, the Court based its findings on the language of the Marks deeds: "... the family intended the Property to remain largely undeveloped" and "... that any development of the property that occurs shall be in keeping with the natural surroundings," that "... given the grantors' emphasis on including only those activities associated with camping, nature study, and hiking, and the exclusion of all activities which would result in a substantial negative impact or erosion of trails, mountain biking is not an 'associated activity' contemplated by the grantors. Accordingly, the Court interprets the language of the deeds to prohibit mountain biking within the deed restricted portions of the Park."

The law requires such deed restrictions on land donated to public use to be strictly construed. For this reason, it is impermissible to read into a deed a use that did not exist when the land was donated and which is not associated with hiking, camping or nature study.

There are critics of the court ruling. Some see it as an overall condemnation of mountain bike use in State Parks, which, of course, it is not. Critics of the ruling might want to ask themselves how they would feel if they donated 9,000 acres to the State for a particular use and with certain restrictions, and then the State simply ignored their wishes. It is important that donors' wishes be followed so that other donors are comfortable and encouraged also to donate land.

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### Sierra Club Members are Great Prospects

Median Age: 41  
Male/Female: 63% / 37%  
Median Household Income: \$56,227  
Attended/Graduated College: 81%  
Professional/Technical/Managerial: 36%

### Outdoor Sports Enthusiasts

Backpacking/Hiking	4 times more active than the average adult
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Source: 1996 MRI Doublebase

For Rate Information, Contact:  
Debbie Bulger - 457-1036

## Friends of the Sea Otter



### Education Center

Visit Friends of the Sea Otter (FSO) to find out everything you want to know about the Central Coast's favorite little marine mammal. We offer an extensive library with historical and biological information, the latest statistics and facts, and activities for kids.

### Retail Center

FSO's store features locally made sea otter crafts, environmentally friendly clothing and bags, and a wide variety of otter memorabilia. All proceeds benefit FSO's non-profit efforts to protect the southern sea otter and all sea otter habitat.

Friends of the Sea Otter 125 Ocean View Blvd. #204 Pacific Grove (the American Tin Cannery above First Awakenings restaurant)

# Another bad September Ranch proposal

Surprise! Yet another sprawling high-end subdivision is proposed for Carmel Valley—just what that area needs as it struggles to cope with existing water, traffic, and septic deficiencies. Compounding the problems, are hundreds of unbuilt lots of record.

The twist on this one is that it's September Ranch (S-R) again, which had its earlier approval overturned by the

courts when the Chapter and Save Our Carmel River hired attorney Michael Stamp to successfully sue. That previous S-R was based on a "creative" and inadequate water supply analysis. We won in Superior Court on the water issues, and the Court of Appeal in San Jose upheld that decision. The Court of Appeal decision was published by the Court and serves as a statewide precedent on water and EIR issues.

Now the developer, and the same law firm (Lombardo and Gilles) is back with a new, also "creative," water analysis. The problems with this development have not gone away. The Sierra Club has no intention of going away either.

The new proposal is for 94 market-rate and 15 inclusionary units, which would require the removal of 3,582 trees. This total includes 890 coast live oaks and 2,692 Monterey Pines. Cutting thousands of trees makes a mockery of the county's tree protection ordinances. In addition, both native oaks and Monterey Pines and their habitats are threatened throughout the county by other huge developments. (For example, more than 15,000 Pines would be destroyed by Pebble Beach's expansion).

Also (not a surprise given Monterey County's recent pattern of jamming projects through the system) S-R has been put on a fast-track. The County proposes to eliminate review and input

from the resident's Land Use Advisory Committee, the Subdivision Committee and the Planning Commission. Instead the County and the developer want S-R to be brought before the Board of Supervisors only. Considering the controversy surrounding September Ranch, and the fact that the project was approved by the Supervisors last time in spite of its legal inadequacies, it is inappropriate to deliberately block review by advisory bodies and citizen input.

This fast-tracking also is ironic since the previous September Ranch approval helped trigger Carmel Valley's decision to consider incorporation. Incorporation was felt by many to be the only way residents could deal with the failure of the Supervisors to consider the limitations of water supply and infrastructure and the needs of the residents.

## How to help

Contact the Board of Supervisors and Chief Administrative Officer Lew Bauman. Ask that the project not be fast tracked. Email the entire board by contacting the Clerk of the Board, [andersona@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:andersona@co.monterey.ca.us). Mail, email, and phone contacts for individual supervisors are on page 2. To send a letter to the entire Board write to Monterey County Board of Supervisors, P.O. Box 1728, Salinas, CA 93902.

## Activist Patricia Bernardi catches City of Monterey violating Public Records Act

In June 2003, when open government activist Patricia Bernardi spotted the Lombardo & Gilles private billing code on an official City of Monterey planning document, she recognized it immediately. And when Bernardi saw that the billing code had been partially obliterated with "white out" by the City Attorney's Office, she got worried.

From 1999 to 2001, Bernardi led litigation against the County of Monterey that exposed pervasive ghostwriting of county documents by the Lombardo & Gilles firm, lawyers for developers. That firm had been writing Monterey County documents and providing them to selected county staff members, who concealed the true authors. The scheme was discovered because the Lombardo firm's billing code was at the bottom of documents in tiny print.

In 2003, the City of Monterey concealed the Lombardo firm's involvement in writing public documents. So, Bernardi made a Public Records Act request to the City, focusing on documents submitted by Lombardo for the Ocean View Plaza shopping mall on Cannery Row. The City refused to produce the documents.

In July 2003, Bernardi and her attorney, Michael Stamp, sued the City under the Public Records Act. After more than a year of litigation, Bernardi won. The Courts ordered the City to produce over 200 pages of public records that the City had claimed to be confidential.

Bernardi wasn't done. She discovered that Assistant City Attorney Deborah Mall had deleted the City's emails with the Lombardo firm. So Bernardi subpoenaed duplicate records from the firm. She received 92 pages of emails showing that the City Attorney had secretly worked hand-in-hand with the Lombardo firm on the Ocean View Plaza approvals.

Bernardi still wasn't done. She went to Court to recover her attorney's fees. In January 2005, the Court required the City to pay Bernardi's attorney's fees and costs.

The Ventana Chapter honors Patricia Bernardi for her leadership and selfless dedication to open government. Her actions are courageous and are valuable steps towards open government in Monterey County.

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### State quarter in circulation

Sierra Club members can rejoice that the new California State Quarter depicts John Muir admiring Half Dome with a soaring California condor in the sky overhead. The coin, released on January 31, is adapted from a concept by Garrett Burke and engraved by Don Everhart.

Burke hopes the design will help educate people about nature, "What Muir stood for is really what all Americans, and really all citizens of the planet, should stand for: Making a difference and living in balance with nature and just realizing that we're only on this planet for a very short time, and that what we do every day counts."

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## Moving?

Please fill out and mail the change of address form on page 15.

The post office charges us 70 cents each if they handle the address change. Please help the Club by using the coupon on page 15.

Thank you

# Sprouts in the garden

Green Acres Elementary School students learn science through gardening



Trish Hildinger

*Third graders harvest greens with teacher Claire Witherspoon.*

by Debbie Bulger

Although some children might think their food comes in plastic wrap from the supermarket, students from appropriately-named Green Acres Elementary School in the Live Oak School District know that food comes from planting seeds and tilling the earth. These children do not wonder when apples and walnuts are in season; they know. Green Acres students not only grow lettuce, carrots, tomatoes, radishes, asparagus and other scrumptious veggies, they harvest and eat the fruits of their labors.

During the fun process, they learn science, nutrition and how to work together. Older children spend 30 minutes/week and kindergarten cultivators somewhat less time participating in composting, planting, weeding, and the yummy part—eating. Typical lessons might include examining bugs under a magnifier, using nature as the subject for an art project, or learning how worms eat

garbage and make compost.

Each class has its own large garden bed on the multi-acre school gardening site. Nestled on the ground are smaller boxed beds that one to three students can share to grow whatever they want during the Lunchtime Gardening Program. In addition apple, pear, citrus and walnut trees offer their bounty.

The Green Acres gardening program is run by Claire Witherspoon who teaches science through gardening and Trish Hildinger, who works parttime with the school and community to secure funding and volunteers. Starter plants and seeds have been donated by Upstarts Organic Seedlings, The Garden Company in Santa Cruz, and Bay West Nursery in Live Oak.

The garden is completely organic and, combined with the school nature area, has won a Certificate of Achievement from the National Wildlife Federation Schoolyard Habitats. In 1978, Green Acres was the site of the original Life Lab garden. This learning model was so



Trish Hildinger

*Chloe, Teddy and Brian participate in the Lunchtime Gardening Program.*



Trish Hildinger

*Children in Mrs. Turpen's third grade wash salad greens in preparation for eating.*

successful that it spread to over 1,200 schools in the United States and even in some foreign countries. The Life Lab program is now a separate non-profit which provides no funding or support to individual schools.

The Green Acres Science Garden program is funded partly by the Live Oak School District and partly by grants and donations. To learn more or to donate time or materials, contact Trish Hildinger, 475-0111 x 235.

## Funding insecure

You might be surprised to learn that there is no secure source of funding for the California Coastal Commission. Sierra Club is currently exploring ways to fix this problem. Watch future issues of *The Ventana* for more on this issue. To track coastal issues visit [www.sierra-club.org/ca/coasts](http://www.sierra-club.org/ca/coasts).

## Bicyclists wanted

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission is looking for a few good bicyclists to serve on its Bicycle Committee. This body advises member agencies on bike-related issues, policies, plans, and projects. Meetings are held in the evening once a month in downtown Santa Cruz. For more information, contact Cory Caletti, 460-3201.

## Heat's on

The World Meteorological Organization has reported that 2004 joins the 10 warmest years on record—all occurring since 1990. Scientists predict increased habitat loss, sea level rise and shifting weather patterns. Sounds like another reason to invest in solar power and fuel efficient vehicles.

## Automakers sue

Instead of cleaning up their emissions and addressing the Climate Crisis, the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers is suing the California Air Resources Board over their rule implementing California's law requiring reduced emissions from cars.

## Addicted?

President Bush is calling for the building of more nuclear power plants as a

solution to dirty coal-burning power. "Switching from dirty coal to dangerous nuclear power is like giving up smoking cigarettes and taking up crack," said Dan Becker for the Sierra Club. The Club advocates energy conservation and clean, renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power.



Since 1997 five reintroduced condors have died after feeding on lead-contaminated carcasses.

Dave Clendenen, courtesy US Fish & Wildlife Service

## Get the lead out

The Ventana Wilderness Alliance and other conservation organizations, Native Americans and hunters have petitioned the California Fish and Game Commission to require non-lead bullets in condor country. Lead poisoning from ammunition in carcasses is the primary threat to the fragile condor population. Since 1997 five reintroduced condors have died and at least 33 others have required blood treatment after feeding on lead-contaminated carcasses.

## Grinch

Two days before Christmas, the Bush Administration announced a harmful new forest policy. The new rules effectively remove 20 years of national forest protections and, not surprisingly, conform closely to a timber industry wish list. The rules undermine wildlife and clean water protection and eliminate requirements that forest plans comply the National Environmental Policy Act. The new rules give economic activity equal priority with preserving the ecological health of the forests.

## Committee studies ways to reduce County's trash

A citizens committee comprised of Sierra Club and community members and recycling professionals is studying solutions to Santa Cruz County's trash problem. County residents vigorously opposed new landfill sites last September. The Buena Vista landfill is expected to run out of space in 2020.

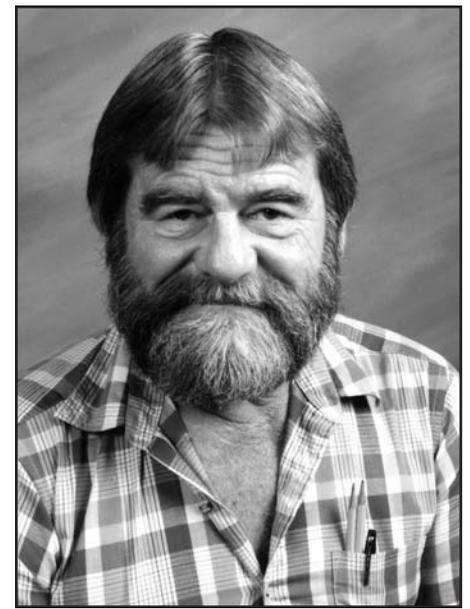
At its January meeting the committee discussed a variety of strategies for reducing and recycling County garbage. The group decided to focus on three strategies that could potentially have the most impact on solid waste reduction:

- Large-scale composting facility, making it possible to collect food scraps and soiled paper from residences and businesses.
- Waste sorting facility to target large loads rich in recyclable materials such as scrap metal, construction and demolition materials, clean wood and yard waste from commercial sources.
- Ordinance mandating recycling of construction and demolition waste, possibly tied to building permits.

The committee's next meeting is Tuesday, February 22. We will discuss export of trash out-of-county and incineration (The official term is "waste conversion," or "combustion with energy recovery."). A key issue to be resolved is regionality—exactly where are the boundaries of our waste-shed? At what point is garbage considered an 'export'? And on what geographic area should we focus strategies for recycling and reducing garbage? The cities of Watsonville and Santa Cruz are not in imminent danger of running out of landfill space. Should they be included in these efforts?

After dealing with those issues we expect to come up with an action plan. We are interested in expanding the group. If you would like to become involved in finding solutions to county solid waste problems or have any questions, call Karin Grobe, 427-3452.

*"The first thing we must begin to teach our children (and learn ourselves) is that we cannot spend and consume endlessly"*  
—Wendell Berry



## Forest champion Thurbie Keith Markoe

Thurbie Markoe, a champion of education, the environment, unionism and humanitarianism, succumbed to complications following surgery on December 8, 2004 at the age of 70.

Thurbie Markoe was a teacher remembered with gratitude and affection by generations of students in the Pajaro Valley School District. When diabetes forced him from the classroom, he turned his remarkable energy and talent to defending our unique natural resource, particularly his beloved old growth redwoods.

Thurbie graduated with a Bachelor of Science from the University of Maryland in 1959 and completed his Master's Degree at the Western State College of Colorado in 1967.

He was a voracious reader and an equally avid searcher on the internet for information and ideas. Whenever Thurbie spoke at a hearing before an agency with jurisdiction over the county's natural resources, people listened. Thurbie knew what he was talking about, and he spoke persuasively.

Despite his deteriorating health, Thurbie was always at Sierra Club Forestry Task Force meetings. His dog, who would rather be out camping, waited patiently in his camper.

Thurbie is survived by his son Kevin, brother David and wife Fran. The family requests that donations be made to the Sierra Club, the Nature Conservancy or the American Diabetes Foundation.

This spring when chainsaws again threaten ancient redwoods, I'm sure the trees will whisper among themselves, "We miss Thurbie."

—Ida Hills



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Volunteer Chair	Rita Summers	P.O. Box 646	Pacific Grove, CA 93950	655-2526

#### Chapter Executive Committee

Chapter Chair	Rita Dalessio	16 Via Las Encinas	Carmel Valley, CA 93924	659-7046
Vice Chair	D'Anne Albers	P.O. Box 2532	Carmel, CA 93921	375-1389
Treasurer	Joel Weinstein	140 Carmel Riviera Dr.	Carmel, CA 93923	625-5586
Other Members	Larry Espinosa	19240 Reavis Way	Salinas, CA 93907	663-2753
	David Epel	25847 Carmel Knolls Dr.	Carmel, CA 93923	625-3137
	Joel Weinstein	140 Carmel Riviera Dr.	Carmel, CA 93923	625-5586
	Julie Engell	15040 Charter Oak Blvd.	Prunedale, CA 93907	633-8709
	Marilyn Beck	528 Crocker Ave.	Pacific Grove, CA 93950	372-6860
	Gudrun Beck	23765 Spectacular Bid	Monterey, CA 93940	655-8586
	Heather Allen	1114 McClellan Ave., Apt.23	Monterey, 93940	224-0134

#### Admin Chair/Sec

Admin Chair/Sec	Mary Gale	25430 Telarana Way	Carmel, CA 93923	626-3565
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#### Coastal Chair

Coastal Chair	D'Anne Albers	P.O. Box 2532	Carmel, CA 93921	375-1389
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#### Conservation Committee

Co-Chairs	Gudrun Beck	23765 Spectacular Bid	Monterey, CA 93940	655-8586
	Gillian Taylor	52 La Rancheria	Carmel Valley, CA 93924	659-0298

#### Local Wilderness Committee

Chair	Steve Chambers	319 Caledonia St.	Santa Cruz, CA 95062	425-1787
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#### Computer Database:

	Stephanie Kearns	740 30th Ave. #67.	Santa Cruz, CA 95062	475-1308
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#### NC/NRCC Reps.

	George Jammal	601 Manzanita Ave.	Felton, CA 95018	335-7748
	Patricia Matejcek	P.O. Box 2067	Santa Cruz, CA 95063	423-8567
Alternate	Mary Gale	1310 Prima Vera #122	Salinas, CA 93901	422-6970

#### Outings Chair

Outings Chair	Anneliese Suter	9500 Center St. #53	Carmel, CA 93923	624-1467
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#### Population Committee

Chair	Harriet Mitteldorf	942 Coral Dr.	Pebble Beach, CA 93953	373-3694
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#### Political Chair:

Political Chair:	Terry Hallock	P.O. Box 486	Carmel, CA 93921	625-1477
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#### Pot Luck Committee

Chair	Marion Chilson	6060 Brookdale Dr.	Carmel, CA 93923	624-3510
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#### Sierra Club Council

Delegate	David Epel	25847 Carmel Knolls Dr.	Carmel, CA 93923	625-3137
Alternate	Rita Dalessio	16 Via Las Encinas	Carmel Valley, CA 93924	659-7046

#### Transportation Committee

Chair	Neil Agron	26122 Carmel Knolls Dr.	Carmel, CA 93923	624-3038
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#### Ventana Editor

Ventana Editor	Debbie Bulger	1603 King Street	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	457-1036
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#### Pajaro River Committee

Co-Chairs	Lois Robin	4701 Nova Dr.	Santa Cruz, 95062	464-1184
	JoAnn Baumgartner	P.O. Box 1766.	Watsonville, CA 95077	722-5556

### Santa Cruz County Group of the Ventana Chapter

Group Office: 1001 Center St., Santa Cruz, near Actors' Theatre Website:www.ventana.sierraclub.org

Mailing Address: Sierra Club, Santa Cruz Group, P.O. Box 604, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0604

Phone: 831-426-HIKE (426-4453), Fax: (831) 426-LEAD (426-5323), e-mail: scscrg@cruzio.com

#### Executive Committee

Chair	Aldo Giacchino	1005 Pelton Ave.,	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	460-1538
Other members	Patricia Matejcek	P.O. Box 2067	Santa Cruz, CA 95063	423-8567
	Lois Robin	4701 Nova Dr.	Santa Cruz, CA 95062	464-1184
	Richard Shull	110 Amber Lane	Santa Cruz, CA 95062	425-5153
	Shandra Dobrovoly	147 S. River St., Ste 221	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	477-1981
	Kevin Collins	P.O. Box 722	Felton, CA 95018	335-4196
	Bojana Morgenthaler	25401 Spanish Rnch Rd.	Los Gatos 95033	408-353-5536
	Mike Guth	22905 East Cliff Dr.	Santa Cruz, CA 95062	476-0295
Treasurer	Nan Singh Bowman	12470 Lorenzo Ave.	Boulder Creek, CA 95006	246-3591

#### Growth Management Committee

Chair	Charles McClain			420-1747
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#### Conservation Committee

Chair	Patricia Matejcek	P.O. Box 2067	Santa Cruz, CA 95063	423-8567
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#### Forestry Task Force

Chair	Jodi Frediani	1015 Smith Grade	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	426-1697
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#### Membership Committee

Chair				
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#### Outings Chair

Outings Chair	George Jammal	601 Manzanita Ave.	Felton, CA 95018	335-7748
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#### Transportation Committee

Chair	Jim Danaher	340 Soquel Ave. #205	Santa Cruz, CA 95062	427-2727
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#### Political Committee

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## MEETING SCHEDULE

### Ventana Chapter (Monterey Co.)

Information: 624-8032

#### Executive Committee:

Last Thursday of the month; Call for meeting place & time.

#### Conservation Committee:

Alternate 3rd Saturdays, 2:00 p.m.  
Beck's house: 23765 Spectacular Bid, Monterey. Take Hwy 68 to York Rd. to Spectacular Bid.  
March 19, at 2:00 p.m.

### Santa Cruz Regional Group

Information: 426-HIKE (426-4453)  
Meeting place: Sierra Club Office  
1001 Center St, Santa Cruz, Suite 11.

#### Executive Committee:

Wednesday, Feb. 9, at 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, Mar. 9, at 7:00 p.m.

#### Conservation Committee:

Wednesday, Mar. 2, at 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, Apr. 6, at 7:00 p.m.

# Appeal to deny subdivision near Elkhorn Slough successful



Margie Kay

Subdivision denied on these 25 acres near Elkhorn Slough.

In December the Coastal Commission voted 5-5, effectively denying a 10-lot subdivision, Sunridge Views, pro-

posed for 25-acres on Maher Road near Elkhorn Slough. Following unanimous approval of this project by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, Friends, Artists and Neighbors of Elkhorn Slough (FANS), LandWatch Monterey County, and Coastal Commissioners Mike Reilly of Sonoma County and Sara Wan of Malibu appealed the project to the Coastal Commission.

The developer, Steve Bradshaw, had prepared an EIR for the project which stated that the conversion of farmland to houses could result in a net reduction of water use of up to 24-acre feet per year. The Coastal Commission staff didn't buy this argument. They recommended that without a regional solution for the Monterey water crises, and without

assurances that future residents could safely drink the water, the project should be denied.

Attorney Bill Yeates represented FANS at the hearing. Yeates told the Commission that the Supervisors had abandoned the "newest draft" of the Monterey County General Plan, which was supposed to address the severe water crises. He stressed the ecological value of the unique coastal resources in the area at Elkhorn Slough, now a National Estuarine Research Reserve. He showed a map of how the proposed lots drain directly into the Slough. He also described the severe overdrafting of water in North Monterey County.

It was also disclosed at the Commission meeting that the developer's

hired lobbyist had met with nearly every commissioner, some more than once.

When the Commissioners discussed the project, Commissioner Sara Wan showed that the water saving analysis didn't include any irrigation for any landscaping or water use for second units. Commissioner (and Monterey Counter Supervisor) Dave Potter said that he supported the project in part because it had undergone a "full blown EIR."

Commissioners voting for the development were Potter, Secord, Peters, Neely & Iseman. Commissioners voting against the project were Wan, Reilly, Shallenberger, Kruer & Burke.



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## The VENTANA

MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

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Glenn Stewart/SCPBRG

**Comeback kid** p. 5



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