Volunteers finally get permission to hang a sign at the Chapter bookstore in 1987, 15 years after it opened. From l to r: Joyce Stevens, Bob DeYoe, Richard Tette, Marty Glasser, and Charlotte Anderson.

End of an era
p. 4
Bookstore volunteers appreciated

This summer, the Ventana Chapter Sierra Club bookstore closed after nearly 30 years in the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea. It began as a group of friends with a mutual interest in hiking and natural history who had a vision to share their experiences with other Chapter members. They came together to create a comfortable “Environmental Center” in which to meet, exchange ideas and information, and plan outings. Volunteer managers and sales personnel put together an inventory of some of the finest books on nature, hiking and wilderness available to the public.

The cornerstone of the bookstore became the Los Padres Trail Guide, now in its seventh edition. To produce this book, volunteer hikers explored the hills, valleys, streams and rivers of this vast forest to describe to the reader the magnificence and uniqueness of our own backyard (and how not to get lost!).

Deadline

Mailing Date

PERIODICAL POSTAGE

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Sierra Club,

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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Debbie Bulger, Meryl Everett

Debbie Bulger, Dale Nutley,

Vivian Larkins

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DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

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 “asci.” Mail hard copy to editor, address below.

WHERE TO SEND SUBMISSIONS

Send submissions to: Debbie Bulger, Editor 1623 King Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95062 e-mail: dbulger@cruzio.com

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please send all Letters-to-the-Editor to: dbulger@cruzio.com

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The Sierra Club / Ventana Chapter Volume 44 Number 4, 2005

degree from the newly-formed Yale Forest School, Leopold subscribed to Gilford Pinchot’s philosophy that the main purpose of the nation’s forests was to produce lumber. As he gained experience and maturity, he conducted experiments to reveal that forests and other habitats consisted of complex relationships.

He came to understand:

• That killing predators caused weakerdeer herds that would starve because of insufficientforage,

• That many devastating natural phenomena are not acts of God but the result of human decisions,

• That fire is an essential ingredient in a healthy ecosystem,

• That there should be some places without roads to be set aside as wilderness,

• That species survival depends on sufficient habitat.

He came to understand, as he stated, that “Land ecology at the outset discards the fallacious notion that the wild community is one thing, the human community another.”

Leopold died in 1948. His book of personal essays, A Sand County Almanac, published in 1949, is regarded as one of the 10 top environmental classics. If you haven’t read this delightful book, I suggest you hustle down to the library, bookstore or online book seller and get connected.

—Debbie Bulger

Seeing connections

O n my recent backpack in Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park up Cloud Canyon and eventually to the summit of 13,666’ Midway Mountain, the wildflowers were spectacular. There were entire meadows of shooting stars, masses of tiny blue-eyed Mary, four kinds of monkey flowers, cinquefoil, coyote mint, buttercups, phlox, columbine, delphinium, and all the other usual suspects. Streamside I spied the regal Sierra Crane orchid and Leopard lilies. On the mountain top I was greeted by glorious cobalt-colored sky pilot and show-stopping Sierra gold.

I saw so many different kinds of flowers, I started thinking of them as movie Oscar winners. The blossom, of course, is the star, but to look her best, she needs the rest of the crew. The stem would be the best supporting actor and the leaves catering.

And then there are the unseen and underappreciated crew-members that do their work quietly and dependably behind the scenes: The fungi that knit the forest together and the bacteria that break down waste. Maybe it was the heat or the 60+ miles of trail, but I was seeing connections.

I was reminded of the life and work of Aldo Leopold, widely acknowledged as the father of wildlife ecology. Leopold didn’t start out understanding the connections of the natural world, but his keen powers of observation and willingness to admit and learn from his mistakes set him apart.

As a young graduate with a Master’s on August 27 at Moss Landing Marine Lab will include a salute to the most recent hardworking staff of the bookstore: Charlotte Anderson, Gil Gilbreath, Mary Gale, Rita Summers and Bruce Rauch. Please join us in honoring these incredible volunteers! The program will also include a talk about the oceans by Mike Sutton, Director of the Center for the Future of the Oceans and a screening of Lois Robin’s excellent film about the Pajaro River entitled Stuck in the Mud: The Pajaro River in Peril. Please attend, meet other members and learn more about the natural resources we are working so hard to protect.

—Rita Dalessio

From the Editor

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES INDIVIDUAL JOINT

Welcome Bag!

Please send all Letters-to-the-Editor to:

Editor, c/o Sierra Club • 1603 King St.

Richard Stover

Debbie Bulger, Dale Nutley,

Vivian Larkins

Please send all Letters-to-the-Editor to:

dfbulger@cruzio.com

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Boulders, CO 80322-5968

I enclose check and mail to: Sierra Club P.O. Box 52968 Boulder, CO 80322-5968

Printed on Recycled Paper
Chapter and Group events to highlight marine sanctuary

Ocean speaker and video premier featured at Chapter membership luncheon

Get ready for the Sierra Club Ventana Chapter’s 2005 membership luncheon on Saturday, August 27, from noon to 3:30 p.m. Guest speaker Mike Sutton, the Director of The Center for the Future of the Oceans. Sutton will talk about “Ocean Conservation in California and Beyond.” He will be discussing both California’s progressive ocean legislation and the significant challenges at the state and Federal level.

Come enjoy this refreshing summer lunch at Moss Landing Marine Lab. Cost is $10/person. Reserve your place by sending a check, before August 25, for $1 to: Marilyn Beck, 528 Crocker Ave., Pacific Grove, CA 93950. Space is limited.

From Monterey: Take Hwy. 1 north. Turn left onto Moss Landing Road. Moss Landing Marine Lab’s main building is located at 8272 Moss Landing Road on the left directly after the cemetery.

From Santa Cruz: Take Hwy. 1 south. Turn right onto Moss Landing Road (just past the power plant). Continue straight through town past the antique stores and post office. See details above. Ample free parking.

The Ventana welcomes letters. Send to:
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
The Ventana, 1632 King Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
or email to dbulger@cruzio.com
Please include a phone number with your letter. Anonymous letters are not accepted. Letters may be edited for length.

My car’s a gem
1 am 83 and unfortunately live 2 1/2 miles from the nearest bus stop. I’m too old and lazy for biking. But I recently bought a Gem car which is entirely electric, max 25 mph, legal on streets with a speed of 30 mph or less. It has a range of 20 miles per charge and gets me around Pebble Beach, Pacific Grove and Carmel. My “ugly-bugly” plugs into a 110v outlet so is usually “nursing” in my garage.

You can see them at www.gemcar.com.
—Harriet Mittendorf
Pebble Beach

Contact Your Representatives

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500
Comment line: (202) 456-1111
FAX. (202) 456-2461
president@whitehouse.gov

Vice President Dick Cheney
(202) 456-1414
vice.president@whitehouse.gov

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-2841
FAX. (916) 445-4633
www.gov.de.ca.gov

Senator Dianne Feinstein
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(202) 224-3841; (415) 559-2707
1 Post Street, Suite 2450
San Francisco, CA 94104
senator@feinstein.senate.gov

Senator Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-3533
(415) 424-0200 (Voice)
1700 Montgomery Street
San Francisco, CA 94111
senator@boxer.senate.gov

U. S. Representative Sam Farr
100 W. Alisal Street
Salinas, CA 93901
(831) 429-1976 (Santa Cruz)

The Santa Cruz Group is launching a new speaker series on September 19 at 7:00 p.m. at the Simpkins Center, 979 17th Ave., Santa Cruz. Rachael Saunders, Community and Public Relations Coordinator for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, will give an illustrated talk on “The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary: History, Overview, and Management Issues.” The Monterey Bay Sanctuary, stretching along 276 miles of Central Coast shoreline, is a federally-protected marine area that supports one of the world’s most diverse marine ecosystems. Presentation attendees will learn about the history of the sanctuary as well as gain insider perspectives on the management issues. With public hearings for the updated Management Plan scheduled for this fall, this presentation will provide great background information to community members.

These talks, which are free, will be presented quarterly to provide the community with insights on local and global conservation and ecology topics. Refreshments will be served.

The Humpback whale above is one of 27 species of cetaceans that frequent the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary.
End of an era:
Ventana Chapter Bookstore closes

by Mary Gale

The Chapter bookstore, long an institution in Carmel closed in early July. For over 28 years the bookstore was staffed entirely by volunteers, an incredible achievement.

The Ventana Chapter Sierra Club bookstore began life as an environmental center where chapter members could read in the library (stocked with donated books on outdoory subjects), discuss conservation issues, and write letters to politicians and government agencies. Joyce Stevens, Dawn Cope, Corky Matthews, and R. Merrill Jones headed up the effort to establish the bookstore with carpentry help from Ed Cope. Long-time member and hike leader, Bob DeYoe, agreed to charge a very low rent for the upstairs space in his Las Tiendas Building on the south side of Ocean Avenue in Carmel.

After much hard work, both planning and building, the Chapter received a permit from the City of Carmel and opened on Groundhog Day of 1977. Though very stingy with permits for signs, the city eventually agreed to allow a sign for the Sierra Club Environmental Center in the arch above the stairs.

The committee recruited volunteers to work in the center and in ensuing years welcomed Hulda Bonestell as recruiter, trainer and supervisor of the many volunteers who gave their time so selflessly. Each year at Christmas, Alice Goulding opened her home on Randall Way for a party to acknowledge the great contribution made by the bookstore volunteers.

To attract customers who might not see the sign, the group created silly ads to draw attention to the center and its wares (Sierra Club cups, t-shirts, etc.). In one, Joyce, Dawn and Merrill pose as the monkeys who see, hear and speak no evil—their eyes, ears, and mouths covered by Sierra Club cups. Another depicted Dawn wearing Sierra Club cups as earrings.

Many other chapter members contributed to the center’s success. Ansel Adams, a charter member of the Ventana Chapter, presented some of his photographs to enhance the ambiance. This gift had been solicited by Ken Wood, a member who worked tirelessly on behalf of the Coastal Act.

The lack of a prominent sign had always been a problem. It was remedied in 1986 when the City of Carmel adopted a freer set of planning standards. Joyce Stevens seized the opportunity to get an overhead sign for the building facade as well as permission to paint a sign on the wall above the stairs. For nearly 20 years the improved signage has been guiding customers to the space known as the Sierra Club Bookstore.

In recent years the management of the bookstore has been in the very capable hands of Charlie Anderson and Giselle Gilbreath. With help from buyers Paul Jones and Mary Gale, the bookstore has had an up-to-date inventory of the most popular books on natural history, photography, hiking and camping as well as a delightful selection of children’s titles.

Bruce Rauch has worked tirelessly as treasurer, and Vi Fox and then Rita Summers recruited and scheduled the volunteers who were thanked once a year with a celebratory luncheon.

Joyce Stevens reflects, “It’s a sad thing to see the end of an era. This has been the Ventana Chapter’s presence in the community, a place for positive interactions with members as well as folks who have never even heard of the Sierra Club.” The difficulty of finding an affordable replacement space for the little rooms at Las Tiendas means that the bookstore will probably not be reestablished at another location.

We’re looking for a few good activists

We’re looking for a few good activists

Are you, or do you know, an activist who can make a difference by serving on the Chapter or Group Executive Committee? Candidates must have a proven record of interest/involvement in environmental issues and have time to meet monthly and work on issues.

Call a member of the nominating committee. Don’t delay.

Nominating Committee Members

Ventana Chapter

Election Chair-Mary Gale 626-3565
Gillian Taylor 659-0298
Rod Mills 659-3745
Paula Lope 659-2623

Santa Cruz Group:

Shandra Dobrovolsky 477-1981
Jodi Frediani 426-1697
Sandy Henn 662-2843

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Printed on Recycled Paper
Santa Cruz County to require recycling

by Karin Grobe

Santa Cruz County has adopted a far-reaching ordinance requiring residents and businesses to recycle. The ordinance will have an impact on people who haven’t been willing to recycle under the current voluntary program.

Patrick Mathews, Santa Cruz County Recycling/Solid Waste Division Manager, is hopeful that the diversion rate, which was 55% in 2003, will increase to 70% as the ordinance takes effect and new diversion programs are put in place. “The carrot we’ve been offering is the option of taking advantage of recycling opportunities to reduce waste hauling bills and help conserve resources,” he said. “Most residents and businesses have opted for the carrot, but now we need the stick-in the form of this ordinance-to get those who are not currently recycling on board.” The greatest impact is expected from construction/demolition and business recycling, where as much as 50% of the materials currently landfilled could be recycled.

The ordinance mandates recycling of 22 materials. Most are currently accepted in Waste Management’s curbside program, including paper, cardboard, glass, metal and plastic containers, batteries, asptic packaging, milk and juice cartons, yard and wood waste and small scrap metal. Other items are accepted at the Buena Vista Landfill and the Ben Lomond Transfer Station—mattresses, gypsum board, concrete, asphalt, tile, porcelain and appliances.

An educational outreach program began July 1. Starting January 2006 notice tags will be placed on garbage containers with appreciable amounts of recyclable materials. The prohibitions will go into effect January 2007, when haulers will refuse collection if recyclables are mixed with refuse. Gate staff at the two County disposal facilities will turn back self-haul loads that include recyclables. Haulers are prohibited from collecting recyclables mixed with waste and containers for recycling must be provided along with containers for refuse.

Avid recyclers are enthusiastic about the ordinance, which they hope will force their neighbors and businesses to start recycling, thus saving space in the county landfill. Although there was little opposition to the ordinance, Mathews says haulers have grumbled, unhappy with their role as middlemen who will need to provide recycling containers and be involved at some level with enforcement.

Felton voters approve bonds to buy water system

Unless you were on vacation, you probably have heard that Felton voters approved Measure W with room to spare even though passage of the measure required a two-thirds yes vote to pass. The measure approves $11 million in bonds to acquire Felton’s water system for the public.

At press time, the German-owned California American Water Company (Cal Am) was saying the water system was not for sale.

We can expect Cal Am to fight vigorously to retain ownership of the water system, not because the 1350 Felton hookups provide a lot of revenue for this multi-national company, but because Cal Am is worried about other communities and other voters following Felton’s example.

In June, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District approved a ballot measure asking voters if a public entity should replace Cal Am as the local water distributor. Unlike the Felton measure, the Monterey measure is advisory only. If approved, supporters of the measure would then move for an appraisal of Cal Am’s local assets, and probably seek adverse condemnation of its system.

Drinkard not confirmed to Board of Forestry; Governor substitutes unqualified candidate

Local Santa Cruz activists performed a remarkable achievement by rallying the public to protest the appointment of Nancy Drinkard, ex-CDF forest practice officer to a seat representing the public on the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. Members of the Santa Cruz Group Forestry Task Force knew from experience that Drinkard was disrespectful to the public and really represented the timber industry.

As a result of the many calls and letters protesting Drinkard’s appointment, it died for lack of a confirmation hearing. In her place, Governor Schwarzenegger has appointed Ronald Nehring of El Cajon. Unfortunately, Nehring is not qualified for the position. California Code states that members of the board should have knowledge of watershed management, forest management, fish and wildlife, or related areas. Nehring’s main qualifications appear to be that he narrowly escaped having his house burn down in the recent El Cajon fire and that he is vice-chair of the California Republican Party.

How to help
• Write Senator Don Perata, Chair, Senate Rules Committee, State Capitol, Room 205, Sacramento, CA 95814. Let Senator Perata know you think Nehring is not qualified for the position as required under Section 731 of the Public Resources Code of California.
• Call Jodi Frediani for more information, 426-1697.

Redwood Empire again tries to log Lompico headwaters

by Kevin Collins

The Lompico Timber Harvest Plan (THP) which was stopped by an unprecedented decision of the CA Board of Forestry on appeal by Santa Cruz County in April 2004 has come back as a “new” filing. Essentially the same logging plan, it is newly numbered 1-05-158 SCR. We could find no reference whatsoever in this “new” THP to the Board of Forestry’s ruling. This is probably because the Timber Industry and California Department of Forestry (CDF) are terrified of having to deal legitimately with the issue of cumulative watershed impacts. Perhaps they think if they ignore the issue, it will go away.

This is unlikely. The Sierra Club and its partner organizations such as the Lompico Watershed Conservancy have no intention of abandoning our rivers and streams to continual decline from water pollution.

Lompico Creek is listed as impaired under the Clean Water Act as is its parent watershed, the San Lorenzo River. The water from this creek for the Community of Lompico and the steelhead which spawn in Lompico Creek are critical public resources. We will continue to defend our right to live in healthy watersheds surrounded by wildlife. Wildlife can only survive in streams that we protect from abuse.

About 40% of our steelhead and salmon runs are now extinct. We cannot afford to lose any more.

The Lompico Watershed Conservancy and the Lompico County Water District both tried to resolve this dispute by arranging a purchase of this headwaters land. In 2001 the landowner asked a price for these 425 acres far in excess of its legal appraisal value.

There will be a public hearing at the Zayante Fire House on this new THP. At press time the date of the hearing was not known. Please check the Conservancy’s website for the hearing date and additional information, www.lompicocreek.org or call 335-8136.

How to help
• Attend the public hearing.
• Write a letter to CDF opposing this Timber Harvest Plan. The address for comment is Public Comment (List the THP # 1-05-158 SCR), CDF Forest Practice, 135 Ridgway Ave. Santa Rosa, CA 95401.
C A L E N D A R

Sierra Club Events

Friday, August 12

**Potluck & Slides: Sicily**
Tonight’s slide show on Sicily will be by Vilma Siebers. 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.

Sunday, August 21

**Singles Breakfast at Dharma’s**
Let’s take advantage of the 2 for 1 breakfast coupon that Dharma’s always has in the Ventana. This will be in lieu of our monthly potluck. Meet at Dharma’s at 9:30 a.m. sharp and bring a coupon. See coupon for address. Leader: George Jamnal, 335-7748.

Saturday, August 27

**Chapter Luncheon**
Mike Sutton, Director of The Center for the Future of the Oceans, will speak on “Ocean Conservation in California and Beyond: Challenges and Opportunities in 2007-08.” In addition, see the World Premiere of Lois Robin’s documentary on the Pajaro River. Lunch and program only $10/person. All members welcome. Call Heather Allen, 224-0134 to reserve a place. Space is limited. Moss Landing Marine Laboratory, noon to 3:30 p.m.

Friday, September 9

**Potluck & Slides: Desert/Red Rock Country**
This slide show by Kim Vester will cover some of his trips to several areas of the west, including Death Valley and Canyonlands. 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.

Monday, September 19

**Marine Sanctuary Talk**
Rachel Saunders, Community and Public Relations Coordinator for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, will speak on this amazing marine ecosystem right in our backyard. See incredible images of marine life and learn about the management issues facing us. FREE. 7:00 p.m., Simpkins Center, 979 17th Ave., Santa Cruz. Refreshments will be served.

Sunday, September 25

**Singles Breakfast at Dharma’s**
See August 21 for details.

**Environmental Film Festival**
Opening night for the gala EarthVision International Environmental Film Festival. This slide show will be by Lynora from her recent trip to New Mexico. 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.

Sunday, October 2

**Vegetarian Potluck & Fireworks: Seabright Beach**
Celebrate Santa Cruz’s 214th Birthday. Please bring your plate, cup, serving utensils, beach chair or blanket, warm clothes, lantern or flashlight and musical instruments for a sing-a-long after the fireworks. For more information call 335-3342 after 11:00 a.m. Leader: Karen Kaplan.

Friday, October 14

**Potluck & Slides: New Mexico**
This slide show will be by Lynora from her recent trip to New Mexico. 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.

**Wednesday, August 24**

**Sustainable Communities**
Slide show FREE slideshow about creating ecologically and economically sound communities. Sponsored by the city of Capitola. 7:00 p.m. Capitola City Hall Council Chambers, 420 Capitola Avenue (near the village). For more info call 475-7300.

**Wednesday, August 31**

**Landfill Tour**
Learn about new efforts to recycle more construction waste at the Santa Cruz County Buena Vista Landfill. For more information and carpooling, call Karin Grobe, 427-3452.

**Friday, September 23**

**Streetcar Conference**
Case studies on how streetcars are an economically sound solution to the problems of transportation and urban revitalization. Sponsored by the city of Capitola. 7:00 p.m. Municipal Auditorium, 717 Beach Dr. off Granite Creek Rd. For directions call Diane & Irvin, 423-5925, or George, 335-7748.

**Saturday-Sunday, October 29-30**

**Watershed Conference**
The “Healthy Rivers, Happy Fish” watershed conference will consider fish barriers and removal projects, stream turbidity, and stream bio-assessment among other topics. Field trips on Oct. 30. For more information contact Jodi Frediani, jodiFred@ao.com.

**Chapter Speaker Series**

**FREE**

**Monday, September 19**

7:00 p.m.

Simpkins Center
979 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz


You otter come!
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.

**August**

**Saturday, August 13**

**HIKE: BIG BASIN TO THE SEA**
We’ll take advantage of the special Big Basin Bus to get us to the starting point. Meet at the Santa Cruz Metro Center to catch the #35 bus at 8:30 a.m. for Big Basin (the bus will NOT wait for stragglers). We’ll end the hike at the mouth of Waddell Creek in time to catch the No. 42 bus, arriving back in Santa Cruz at 6:55 p.m. 13 miles, almost all downhill. Bring lunch, water, two $1 bills and four quarters for bus fare. Wear hiking boots. Leader: George Jammal, 335-7748.

**Sunday, August 21**

**HIKE: TERRACE CREEK**
We’ll hike up the Pine Ridge Trail from Big Sur State Park, then up Terrace Creek to the Old Coast Road. Lunch at the top with great views of the coast. Then down via the Ventana Inn. 10 miles with 2,000’ elevation gain. Meet at Albertson’s at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch, water and wear good shoes. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

**Tuesday, August 23**

**SENIOR HIKE: WADDELL BEACH/CREEK**
Hike the last leg of the Big Basin to Sea Trail. 5 miles. Some uphill, some shade/sun, lots of trees & poison oak. Bathroom at trailhead. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at 9:50 a.m. at Shem’s, Mission & King. Bring lunch, water, tick repellant and $4 carpool. Sturdy shoes recommended. Trails will be dusty. Leaders: Pat Herzog, 458-9841 and Joan Brohmer, 462-3803.

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

**Saturday, August 13**

**HIKE: PALO CORONA**
We’ll start at the mouth of Carmel Valley, hike up dirt roads to the old ranch site for lunch, and return the same way. 12 miles and 2,500’ elevation gain. Maybe a history talk also. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Call for reservation. Leader: Larry Parrish, 622-7455.

**Tuesday, August 16**

**SENIOR SAUNTER: NEW BRIGHTON/POT BELLY BEACH**
It’s a great time for a beach walk. We’ll take the back way down to the beach. We may get as far as the cement ship. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. If you go direct, meet at 9:50 a.m. and park on Kennedy at Park St. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen and $1 carpool. Leader: Grace Hansen, 476-7254.

**Friday, August 19**

**MOONLIGHT HIKE: PINNACLES**
Hiking the Pinnacles by moonlight is a thrilling and unique experience. We’ll start in the late afternoon and have 1200’ elevation gain. Camping overnight optional. Bring water, food, and wear good hiking shoes. Call for a space and more information. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

**Saturday, August 20**

**INTERGENERATIONAL OUTING: MOSS LANDING**
Children to seniors. Hike, frisbee, rest, chat, explore and hike some more (2 to 4 miles depending on group’s desire). Potluck lunch at 12:30 p.m. at Moss Landing Marine Labs. Meet at 9:15 a.m. at Bittersweet Cafe or Moss Landing Marine Labs at 10:00 a.m. Leader

**Gary Harrold, 662-0102.**

**Wednesday - Thursday, August 24 - 25**

**BACKPACKER’S DELIGHT**
The first morning we’ll hike the 4-mile loop through the 37-acre old-growth redwood Heritage Grove in Sam McDonald County Park. After lunch we’ll drive 7 miles to Portola Redwoods State Park where we’ll backpack 2-1/2 miles to the Slate Creek Trail Camp for our overnight stay. The following day we’ll back pack a 6-1/2 mile loop over a ridge, into a canyon, through the Peters Creek Grove, back to the trail camp then 2-1/2 miles to our cars. The Heritage and Peters Creek Groves include many of the most spectacular old-growth redwoods in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The total elevation change is about 1000’. Call hike leader at least one week in advance to reserve a space. Bring plenty of water, food, overnight gear and $3 for carpool and entrance fees. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

**Friday, August 26**

**BIKE RIDE: PACIFIC GROVE TO MARINA**
Explore the new “links in the trail” through Monterey and Sand City and see how the Monterey Bay Coastal Trail connects with the Pacific Grove Rec Trail and the old Fort Ord bike path. Meet at Lovers Point in PG at 10:00 a.m. at the start of the rec. trail. Our route will be almost all on paved bike trails, along asphalt in the city, on hard-packed dirt in the county and on the trail in the park. The route is about 20 miles.

**The Sierra Club’s**

**Clair Tappaan Lodge**

Enjoy beautiful mountain trails and vistas, wildflowers, lakes and streams. Come on your own or join one of our exciting workshops or hiking weekends. Built by Sierra Club members in 1934, this rustic, hostel-style lodge stands atop historic Donner Pass, just an hour and a half from Sacramento. Expect excellent family style meals, a friendly staff and a casual atmosphere.

**Featured Programs**

**August 5 - 7**
Photography in the Sierra $125 members, $150 non-members

**August 12 - 14**
Family Hike Weekend $125 members, $150 non-members, $75 kids

**August 19 - 21**
Sierra Nevada/Tahoe Group’s Save The Clair Tappaan Experience Weekend Fundraiser $200

**August 26 - 28**
Yoga Workshop $145 members, $170 non-members

**August 28**
Bay Area Fundraiser Dinner at Marinwood Community Center in San Rafael

**September 2 - 5**
Labor Day Weekend Celebration

**September 9 - 11**
Tai Chi/Chi Kung Workshop $145 members, $170 non-members

**September 9 - 11**
Emerging Artist Bluegrass Benefit Festival $100 (2 nights lodging, 3 meals/day, and great music). $45 (camping and music pass)

**September 16 - 18**
Fall Work Party

**September 23 - 24**
Tibetan Qigong Workshop $145 members, $170 non-members

Prices for featured programs include meals and lodging. For more information about these programs or to receive a full schedule and description of Clair Tappaan programs please visit our website at www.cts.sierraclub.org or call (800) 679-6775.

**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.

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

**Meeting Places**

**Directions:**

- **Park and Ride/Big Bear Diner:** This parking lot is on Rio Road in Carmel.
- **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.
with a little on streets. Relatively flat ride with a few short hills. Be prepared for headwinds and some congestion on the trail, around the Fisherman’s Wharf area. 30 miles at a leisurely pace. Helmets mandatory. Bring water and lunch, which we’ll eat at Lock Paddon Park in Marina. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372-7427.

Saturday, August 27
HIKE: LONG RIDGE (MIDPEN)
This may be old hat for some, but this is Kirk Smith’s traditional walk that I took over. He likes to recall the couple that met on one and returned the next year married. Hi Kirk. 9 miles with 1200’ elevation gain. Views over Big Basin to the coast. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call Nick for additional information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Sunday, August 28
HIKE: POGONIP TO RIVER Join Friends of the Pogonip for a tour through the Pogonip to the San Lorenzo River. Meet at 9:00 am at the Friendship Garden near the Pogonip Trailhead in Harvey West Park for an 8-mile hike. Bring lunch. A dip in the river may be possible. For information, call leaders Celia and Peter Scott, 423-0796.

Saturday, August 27
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. Some wildflowers and wildlife. Bring water, snack. Binoculars optional. Meet at Albertson’s at 9:00 a.m. for a short carpool. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Sunday, August 28
HIKE: PINE RIDGE TO TERRACE CREEK Strenuous 10-mile hike with 2200’ elevation gain through redwood canyons and ferns. Great ocean views at lunch, weather permitting. Short car shuttle ending at the Ventana Inn. Expect both shade and sun. Wear sturdy boots and bring lots of water, lunch, and a hat. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Bagel Bakery. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042, suzanecarmil@aol.com.

Tuesday, August 30
SENIOR SAUNTER: CAPITOLA/DEPOT HILL We’ll walk the streets of Capitola from Jade St. Park, up Wharf Rd. to Rispin Mansion area and Soquel Creek. The hardy can walk up the 87 step grand staircase and do the Depot Hill Loop. For those who don’t want to walk the steps, an easier path is available.

Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Serr 41st Ave., or go direct to Jade St. Park. Bring lunch or eat at one of the many restaurants on the Esplanade. Leader: Marilyn Selby, 479-3809.
Saturday, September 17
HIKE: HENRY COWELL STATE PARK
I haven’t decided exactly where to go. We’ll match the trails to the weather. About 10 miles and 1500’ elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call Nick for additional info.
Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Saturday, September 17
HIKE: ANDREW MOLERA
We’ll hike up the Ridge Trail, down the Panorama Trail and along the bluffs in a moderately strenuous 8-mile loop. Beautiful panoramic views. Bring water, lunch, hat, and $4 for 45-minute carpool. Meet at Albertson’s at 10:00 a.m. Back to car around 5:00 p.m.
Leader: Andrea Phelps, e-mail at andrea_phelps@csumb.edu.

Saturday - Sunday, September 17 - 18
CAMPOUT: PINNACLES
High Peaks hike in the moon light! Potluck dinner Saturday night. The cost is $8/person for members, $10/non-members and $5/children 12 and under. For reservations call leader by September 11. Leader: George Jammal, 335-3742.

Sunday, September 18
SINGLES VEGETARIAN POTLUCK: GARDEN OF EDEN
Meet at 11:00 a.m. at Felton Fair to carpool. Return at 4:00 p.m. From the trailhead, it’s an easy 20-minute walk to the river picnic site. Bring your plate, cup, serving utensils, water & a potluck dish to share. Wear bathing suit. Bring a towel & sun protection. For more information call after 10:00 a.m. 335-3342.
Leader: Karen Kaplan.

Sunday, September 18
WALK: CARMEIL STATE BEACH
How about a Sunday morning saunter from Carmel River Beach to Monastery Beach, returning via the bluff trail? Enjoy the breathtaking views of Point Lobos, and listen to the song of the surf. 3 miles. Wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather; wind breaker recommended. Bring water and a snack.
Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the parking lot at Carmel River Beach at the lagoon (south end of Carmelo Street in Carmel). Hwy. 1 to Ocean Ave, west on Ocean Ave, left on Carmelo. Leader: Joyce Stevens, 624-3149.

Tuesday, September 20
SINGLES VEGETARIAN WALK: ASILOMAR/PEBBLE BEACH
Meet 1 hour before formal meeting place. This Santa Cruz County park is located high above Watsonville on Hwy. 152. Moderate 2.5 mile hike in lovely forest and meadows. For those who like an afternoon treat, we’ll have a side trip to the Asilomar Bluff trail. End at the Godchaux parking lot with ocean views finishing at Asilomar via boardwalks. Bring water and a snack.

Saturday, September 24
HIKE: NISENE MARKS
9-mile loop hike up the West Ridge Trail, past Hoffman’s logging camp site, and out through Bridge Creek canyon, with a rugged one-mile in and out side trip to Maple Falls. 800’ elevation gain. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m. or at the parking lot behind Apts Station at 9:50 a.m. Bring plenty of water and $ for carpool and park entry. Short car-shuttle required. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.
Outings

Fishwife Restaurant on Sunset Drive in Pacific Grove, at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Sunday, October 2
WALK: CARMEL RIVER STATE BEACH
This beautiful beach at the Carmel River mouth offers spectacular views of Point Lobos and Carmel Bay and good birding from the hill overlooking the lagoon. Mostly level, with just one short but steep climb. 2 miles. Bring water, optional binoculars, and a snack. Wear good shoes and dress in layers we could have sun, fog, or maybe a very early winter storm, a miracle which would cancel the walk! Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Park and Ride in front of Black Bear Diner on River Road in Carmel. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-5365.

Tuesday, October 4
SENIOR SAUNTER: PG/ASILOMAR
We’ll walk north along the coast to Point Pinos watching waves and tidal pools. Fairly flat 3 miles. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at the Visitor’s Center in Pacific Grove. Bring jacket, sit-upon, lunch and $5 carpool. Optional lunch at the Fishwife. Leader: Brooke Ewoldsen, 649-1714.

Friday, October 8
HIKE: NISENE MARKS
A 13-mile loop hike from the Porter gate, up the Loma Prieta Grade trail, over Hinkley Ridge and China Ridge, and down and out through Aptos Creek canyon, with a side-trip to gorgeous Five-Finger Falls. Lunch at Sand Point Overlook with its panoramic view of Monterey Bay. 1400’ elevation gain and multiple creek crossings. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. or at the parking lot behind Aptos Station at 9:20 a.m. Bring plenty of water and $ for carpool and park entry. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Saturday, October 9
HIKE: MOUNT MANUEL
This is a great hike out of Big Sur State Park with 3000’ elevation gain over 10 miles. The trail climbs with a steady grade, and we have done significant maintenance on the upper section. Meet at Albion’s at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch, water, and wear good hiking boots. Leader: Steve Legard, 402-1422.

Tuesday, October 11
SENIOR HIKE: GARLAND RANCH
The gentle to steep oak covered slopes take us on a 3-mile hike to a fern pond and the Indian grinding rocks. Return through Cooper Ranch with its historic barn and nature center. Some uphill. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. To go direct, Garland Ranch is on Carmel Valley Road 8.6 miles from Hwy. 1. Meet at the Visitor’s Center. Bring lunch, water, $5 carpool. Leader: Beverly Meschi, 475-4185.

Wednesday, October 12
HIKE: VICENTE FLATS
We’ll drive down breathtaking Big Sur, shuttle up to Nacimiento Road, to Pine Cone Road, where we’ll start our descent to Vicente Flats, all the way to Kirk Creek Camp. It’s not a strenuous hike because we will be descending most of the 9 1/2 miles. Bring lunch, plenty of water and wear good hiking shoes. Call for more information. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Sunday, October 9
HIKE: POCONI
Bring lunch and water. We’ll see the haunted meadow, sacred oak, kils, and other thrilling sights. 6 miles. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center. Leader: Sheila Dunnway, 336-2235.

Sunday, October 9
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This is a great hike out of Big Sur State Park with 3000’ elevation gain over 10 miles. The trail climbs with a steady grade, and we have done significant maintenance on the upper section. Meet at Albion’s at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch, water, and wear good hiking boots. Leader: Steve Legard, 402-1422.

Tuesday, October 18
SENIOR HIKE: WILDER RANCH
We’ll climb up the Baldwin Loop Trail with beautiful ocean vistas. This is a 3.5 mile hike with some moderate uphill (we’ll take it at your pace). Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or just before 9:30 a.m. at Shem’s at Mission & King Sts. Bring lunch, sit-upon, water and $3 carpool. Leader: Beverly Meschi, 475-4185.

Outings

Sponsored by the Sierra Club’s Cal/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee

Saturday-Sunday, September 17-18
CAR CAMP OWENS VALLEY
We’ll remove tamarisk, and then take short hikes to view wildlife and special areas. If the weather is hot, we can retreat to the higher mountain meadows. Camp at Diaz Lake County Park just south of Lone Pine; fee. Meet Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the campground. Potluck Sat. night. Bring all your food and camping gear, gloves, loppers and hand saws and clothes for all kinds of weather. Mike Prather, Owens River Committee activist and outstanding birder, will be our resource specialist. For more information, contact leaders: Cal and Letty French, 825-239-7338. Prefer e-mail: ccfrench@comcast.net.

Saturday-Sunday, September 17-18
DESERT PROTECTION AND RESTORATION
We will participate with an off-road vehicle group in a National Public Lands Day project sponsored by the BLM. Projects will include general trash pickup, installing limited use area signs, building vehicle barriers to prevent entry to the wilderness area, and camouflaging and restoring illegal vehicle trespass routes. Saturday will be a work day followed by a potluck dinner. On Sunday there will be options for a hike and/or a trail ride. Leader: Craig Deutsche, 310-477-6670, deutsche@earthlink.net.

Saturday-Sunday, September 17-18
OUTINGS
Sponsored by the Sierra Club’s Cal/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee

Tuesday, October 17
HIKE: SIERRA AZUL (MID PEN)
Last time we did a pretty difficult walk to the top over Lexington Reservoir. This one will be easier. 8 miles and 1600’ elevation gain. We will remove tamarisk, and then take short walks to view wildlife and special areas. If the weather is hot, we can retreat to the higher mountain meadows. Camp at Diaz Lake County Park just south of Lone Pine; fee. Meet Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the campground. Potluck Sat. night. Bring all your food and camping gear, gloves, loppers and hand saws and clothes for all kinds of weather. Mike Prather, Owens River Committee activist and outstanding birder, will be our resource specialist. For more information, contact leaders: Cal and Letty French, 825-239-7338. Prefer e-mail: ccfrench@comcast.net.

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LEED-certified means a green building

by David Tanza and Debbie Bulger

There has been considerable discussion at recent Santa Cruz City Council meetings about requiring some new building projects to be LEED certified. Just what is a LEED-certified building? LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

The LEED Green Building Rating System, developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, is a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. LEED provides a scorecard for evaluating the sustainability of a building. Based on well-founded scientific standards, LEED examines sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality, among other criteria.

Building “green” does not mean that energy-efficiency features are simply added to the developed design, but rather the LEED process integrates energy-efficiency design, resource-efficient construction methods, and energy and water efficiency and more. It is a whole-building approach.

Specific design and building practices earn points toward four levels of certification: certified, silver, gold and platinum.

For example, projects receive points for using a sustainable site rather than prime farmland, being located 100 feet or more from creeks or other water, being near public transit, including features which reduce automobile dependency, and minimizing impervious surfaces so rainwater will not run off, but will return to the water table.

Other features which earn credits include using captured rain water or recycled water for landscape irrigation, installing waterless urinals and water-efficient fixtures, installing a renewable energy system such as solar or wind power for part of the energy needs of the building, using recycled building materials, and diverting construction waste from the landfill.

Although some features of a green building may cost more than standard features (e.g. energy-efficient windows), their use may reduce the entire building cost because other elements such as the heating/cooling system can be downsized or eliminated. Other changes might cost more up front but reduce operating costs during the life of the building.

According to researchers at The Worldwatch Institute, an independent, non-profit environmental research organization based in Washington, D.C., it is estimated that worldwide building construction and operations account for over 40 percent of the world’s total energy consumption. How we choose to build has enormous effects on our environment, health, economy, and sense of community. Green building addresses problems such as “sick” buildings, traffic congestion and global warming.

For more info visit www.buildinggreen.com or www.usgbc.org.

David J. Tanza, AIA, CCM, is a Principal at Strategic Construction Management. He is a LEED-Accredited professional.

Debbie Bulger is the editor of The Ventana.
Chapter hires law firm to handle Pebble Beach appeal

The Ventana Chapter has hired the San Francisco law firm of Tom N. Lippe to handle its appeal to the Coastal Commission of the environmentally-destructive Pebble Beach development. Besides the Ventana Chapter, 21 additional organizations and individuals, including two Coastal Commissioners, have filed appeals over Monterey County’s approval of the Pebble Beach Company’s massive proposed development plan.

This harmful project would destroy over 17,000 trees, threaten habitat for 19 species of special concern, and result in increased water usage in an area already suffering from a severe water shortage and over drafting of the Carmel River.

Our 11-page appeal focuses on violations in the Monterey Local Coastal Plan. We believe that that existing Local Coastal Plan, instead of Measure A, must be used to govern the environmental requirements of the project, as Measure A has not been certified by the Coastal Commission.

The Pebble Beach Company plan is a sprawling, harmful project in an area of unique and sensitive forest, dunes and coastline. Nestled in the largest existing remnant of rare Monterey pine forest, this subdivision of luxury houses and commercial real estate is already encroaching on plant and animal species of concern.

When the Spanish Bay housing development and golf course was approved by the Coastal Commission 21 years ago, the community was promised that it would be the “last golf course” in Pebble Beach. At that time, several critical conservation easements were attached to parcels to protect them from development. Promises were later described by the Pebble Beach Company as “unworkable” and fell apart while lavish sums were spent instead on the construction of ornate buildings and the design and maintenance of a world-class golf course.

The Club’s appeal covers these concerns and challenges several other aspects of this project. We are concerned about the massive amounts of proposed grading, the devastation of Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area by the removal of 17,000 trees and 36,000 individual federally-listed Yadon piperia plants, and the encroachment and displacement of existing trail routes.

Some of the other groups that have filed appeals are California Coastkeeper Alliance; California Native Plant Society, Monterey Bay Chapter; Concerned Residents of Pebble Beach; Friends of the Sea Otter; League of Women Voters of the Monterey Peninsula; Helping Our Peninsula’s Environment (HOPE) and The Ocean Conservancy.

To view our entire appeal, please check our website: www.ventanasierraclub.org.

Watershed festival to celebrate Carmel River

The second annual Watershed Festival of Life will be held on Saturday, October 8, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The festival will celebrate the Carmel River and other watersheds through the arts and sciences.

The celebration will begin with a “Gathering of the Waters” ceremony led by a large steelhead puppet. Stephanie Mills, author of Epicurean Simplicity and In Service of the Wild, is the keynote speaker. There will be live harp music, organic food, fun watershed activities for families, and more.

The Watershed Festival of Life is hosted by the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula on Carmel Valley Rd. approx. 1.5 miles east of Hwy. 1.

Judge rules Monterey County must release development documents

A judge has ordered Monterey County to release records about the controversial September Ranch subdivision in Carmel Valley—information county officials maintained wasn’t public because it was held by a county consultant.

Local open government advocates, The Open Monterey Project (TOMP) and Patricia Bernardi, filed the suit, which resulted in this welcome ruling. Ventana Chapter Conservation co-chair Gillian Taylor, who is also a member of TOMP, reported the lawsuit was filed after many attempts were made to obtain the information through Public Records Act provisions. The Act is meant to provide governmental accountability through public access to documents covering the conduct of the people’s business.

The Chapter is actively engaged in the environmental review of the huge September Ranch project itself, which calls for the removal of 3,582 trees (890 coast live oaks and 2,692 Monterey Pines), involves steep slope alteration and has many unanswered questions about water and traffic impacts. The county approved a slightly different version of the Ranch project in 1998, but after the Chapter and others filed suit, the courts said the project’s environmental impact report failed to properly address the all-important water issue. That litigation also led to revelations that the developer’s Salinas law firm, Lombardo & Gilles, “ghostwrote” project documents supposedly created by county staff. Monterey attorney Michael Stamp represented the Chapter and the citizen groups in both successful suits.

The water, traffic, and biological impact issues raised by the first September Ranch project haven’t gone away. The Carmel Valley Land Use Advisory Committee voted against the project, but formal hearings before the County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors haven’t yet been scheduled.
California has opportunities to reduce mercury poisoning

by Bill Magavern, Senior Representative, Sierra Club California

Recent scientific findings indicate that mercury contamination of our air and water may be even more hazardous than previously believed. In March, Texas researchers found a possible link between mercury in the environment and autism, a severe developmental disorder in which children seem isolated from the world around them. Earlier this year, a pediatric study concluded that lower IQ levels linked to mercury exposure in the womb cost the U.S. $8.7 billion a year, as 630,000 children are born each year with unsafe levels of mercury in their blood.

Mercury released into the air and water eventually can find its way to our tables via contaminated fish. So that tuna fish sandwich that you feed your kids for lunch could actually be doing more harm than good.

Given the severity of the mercury problem, we need to do everything we can to reduce releases of mercury. Sierra Club California has successfully advocated for a number of mercury reduction steps in recent years, including bans on the sale of new mercury-containing thermostats, thermometers and novelties, and tighter restrictions on mercury-containing wastes going to landfills. This year we are seeking four new measures:

1. AB 966, authored by Assembly Member Lori Saldaña (a former chair of the San Diego Chapter) would require dentists to install devices that keep mercury out of the wastewater leaving their offices. The cities of San Francisco and Palo Alto, along with the states of Maine and Connecticut, already require these amalgam separators to remove from water the mercury used in some dental fillings. We expect the Assembly to vote on the bill in January. Opposition from the dental association is intense.

2. AB 1415, authored by Assembly Member Lloyd Levine from Van Nuys, would require the removal of all mercury switches from motor vehicles at the end of their lives, with the costs paid by the auto manufacturers. Although the newest vehicles no longer contain mercury switches, millions of cars on the road now do include mercury capsules that need to be removed before the auto is scrapped. Opposition from the auto manufacturers has stalled the bill for now.

3. AB 1415, authored by Assembly Member Fran Pavley from Agoura Hills, would ban new sales of mercury-containing switches, relays and measuring devices, the largest remaining source of mercury in products. The Assembly has approved the bill, and the Senate will act on it soon. The State’s Department of Toxic Substances Control supports AB 1415.

4. With the help of Senator Liz Figueroa, from the East Bay Area, we are pushing the Department of Toxic Substances Control to stiffen enforcement of its rules for recycling mercury-containing light bulbs. Currently, only about 25% of these lamps are being recycled; the others go into the trash, with the mercury escaping into the environment sooner or later. If you have fluorescent bulbs (which we recommend for their energy efficiency), you should take them to a hazardous waste collection site when they burn out, so the mercury can be recycled.

Make a difference

Join Sierra Club California’s Legislative Action Network

http://cal-legalert.sierraclubaction.org

Monterey County Supervisor, Dave Potter was reappointed.

The Sierra Club would expand its coastal program if given the chance, says its spokesperson.

New Coastal Commissioners

Mark Massara, Director of the Club’s Coastal Program reports that the Coastal Commission is in better shape than it was a few months ago. New commissioners include Chula Vista mayor Steve Padilla to replace Scott Peters and Manhattan Beach City Councilmember Jim Aldinger to replace Orange County Coastal Commissioner Toni Isemann. Coastal champion Mary Shallenberger was reappointed. The Club is very disappointed that Monterey Counter Supervisor, Dave Potter was reappointed despite his destructive voting record and his endorsement of the Pebble Beach expansion.

Cocktail flushed

Public outcry has forced the EPA to abandon its plans to “blend” partially-treated sewage with treated wastewater before releasing it directly into the nation’s waterways. It seems the EPA subscriptions to the adage, “The solution to pollution is dilution.” Luckily the public has higher standards when it comes to clean water.

El sol

Sierra reports that Spain has mandated that any new or renovated buildings in the country must include solar panels. Way to go, Spain.

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Sierra reports that Spain has mandated that any new or renovated buildings in the country must include solar panels. Way to go, Spain.
Lois Robin, a member of the Club’s Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee has produced a video, Stuck in the Mud: The Pajaro River in Peril which documents the challenges to the Pajaro River watershed. The Pajaro River originates in the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Gabilan and Diablo Ranges, passing through communities in four counties before emptying into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary after it leaves Watsonville.

This immense watershed brings with it a raft of problems associated with agriculture, construction and mining along its course. Nitrites and chemicals from agriculture move into the Monterey Bay contaminating sea life as well as freshwater life in the river. Mining and logging plug the river with sediment, destroying habitat for fish and amphibians. Removal of trees along the levees has destroyed habitat and depleted the once-dense bird life of the lower Pajaro. Towns built along the river floodplain have constructed the natural movement of the river.

The video advocates authorizing the Army Corps of Engineers to develop a complete watershed-wide plan rather than dealing only with the 12 downstream miles of the river. It advocates the Sierra Club position of environmental restoration along with flood protection. And it advocates for public access to the river for recreation.

The video will be featured at the Ventana Chapter luncheon on August 27 and will be shown on public television in various communities throughout the watershed. Consult your local TV listings for viewing times.

“Stuck in the Mud” is an independent production by Lois Robin who in addition to serving on the Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee is co-chair of the Pajaro River Watershed Committee. The documentary can be purchased in DVD or VHS formats for $10.00 from Lois Robin, Robin@baymoon.com or from the Santa Cruz Sierra Club office, 426-HIKE.

Much of the cost of the video was self-funded by Robin in addition to a small grant from Ken and Ethelyn Miller of Watsonville. Some of the footage was recycled from video taken for the recent multi-media art exhibit on the Pajaro River.

Currently Robin is raising money for distribution. Those wishing to make a tax-deductible contribution may contact Lois at the email address above or call 464-1184 for information on how to contribute.

Volunteers needed to prepare Sierra Club huts for winter

Richard Stover of Santa Cruz repairs the outhouse at Peter Grubb Hut in 2004.

S
ierra Club huts have been a tradition since the 1930’s. Established in California by early Club members who had seen and used huts in Europe, they have provided shelter for generations of skiers, snowshoers, and (now) snowboarders who find wonder in overnight exploration of areas near Donner Summit and Lake Tahoe.

Each September and October, the four huts are refurbished and resupplied for another winter season by work parties of volunteers who contribute a weekend to bringing in firewood, repairing broken windows, and generally cleaning up. There are plenty of things to do for just about everyone.

Volunteers need only simple backpack gear, work clothes, and a healthy attitude toward manual labor. The Club provides tools and supplies (including food) as well as overnight accommodations and breakfast at Clair Tappan Lodge near Donner Summit at no cost before the work party begins.

Enjoy the camaraderie of working with other volunteers in the crisp fall air of the mountains. No experience necessary. For more information or to sign up, contact one of the leaders below.

Sep 10-11, Benson Hut: Jim Gannon, 707-525-1052, gannon99@earthlink.net.

Sep 17-18, Peter Grubb Hut: Chris MacIntosh, 650-375-7841, cmac@scbglobal.net.

Sep 24-25, Peter Grubb Hut: Debbie Benham 650-964-0558, deborah056@scbglobal.net or Herb Steierman. 408-773-7013. herb@ix.netcom.com.

Oct 8-9, Ludlow Hut: Dick Simpson, 650-494-9272, rsimpson@stanford.edu.

Oct 24-25, Bradley Hut: Dick Simpson, 650-494-9272, rsimpson@stanford.edu.

Oct 22-23, TBD as needed: Dick Simpson, 650-494-9272, rsimpson@stanford.edu.

Lois Robin, a member of the Club’s Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee is co-chair of the Sierra Club’s Executive Committee is co-chair of the Sempervirens Fund to buy Panorama Ridge.

The Sempervirens Fund is purchasing Panorama Ridge, a critically important 40-acre parcel adjoining Castle Rock State Park. The Santa Cruz mountains land preservation group has secured the purchase of the $700,000 parcel with a down payment of $200,000 from its Opportunity Fund. The Panorama Ridge fundraising campaign aims to complete the purchase by year-end so the property can be conveyed to Castle Rock State Park.

Views from the ridge-top parcel are spectacular, encompassing a full sweep of vistas from Monterey Bay to the south, the Big Basin parklands to the west, across the Pescadero watershed to the north, and all the way to the Pacific horizon. In the creative purchase deal, Sempervirens Fund worked with the seller to create a life-tenancy agreement allowing the seller to continue living in the existing house on a 5-acre portion of the property that will remain off-limits to park visitors.

“Today we are a giant step closer to opening a hiking and riding trail to connect the Skyline entrance of Castle Rock State Park with trails that will encircle the entire 5,000-acre park.” observed Brian Steen, Sempervirens Fund Executive Director.
Chapter Executive Committee

Chair: Rita Dallessio  
16 Via Las Encinas  
Carmel Valley, CA 93924  
659-7046

Vice Chair: D’Anne Alberts  
P.O. Box 2582  
Carmel, CA 93921  
375-1389

Treasurer: Joel Weinsten  
140 Carmel Rivera Dr.  
Carmel, CA 93923  
625-5586

Other Members:
- Larry Espinosa  
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Salinas, CA 93970  
663-2753
- David Eipel  
25847 Carmel Knolls Dr.  
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- Joel Weinsten  
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- Marilyn Beck  
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372-6860
- Guston Beck  
23765 Spectacular Bld  
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- Heath Aten  
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President: Rita Dalessio  
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Carmel Valley, CA 93924  
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  - Political Committee
    Chair: Jim Danaher  
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Santa Cruz, CA 95062  
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  - Outings Chair
    Vacant
  - Vacant
- Chapter Chair: Jodi Frediani  
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Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
426-1697
- Chair: Charles McClain  
420-1747
- Growth Management Committee
  Chair: Charles McClain  
420-1747
- Conservation Committee
  Chair: Patricia Matejek  
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On August 16 the Monterey County Board of Supervisors will consider whether to circumvent the right of the people to vote on the proposed Rancho San Juan subdivision. During the Christmas holiday season last year opponents of the project submitted 16,000 signatures of voters on a referendum requiring the Board of Supervisors to either reverse its approval of the development or allow the public to vote. However, the will of the people could be ignored if the Board decides to rescind its approval then approve phase one of the project as a stand-alone development.

A letter from the developer’s attorney outlines just such a scenario, explaining that those who disagree with this slight of hand just “misunderstand the process.” On August 16, one day before the deadline to pull the referendum from the ballot, Board members will clarify who they represent—the citizens of Monterey County or a Marin County developer.

It is critical that Sierra Club members and other environmentalists attend the public hearing, Tuesday, August 16 at the new Supervisors’ Chambers, 168 W. Alisal Street, Salinas. This is the new County Administrative Building adjacent to the courthouse. The exact time of the public hearing was not available at press time. It will be posted on the Monterey County website, www.co.monterey.ca.us, on August 11 or can be obtained from the Clerk to the Board, Darlene Drain, 755-5066.

If you cannot attend the meeting, you can contact the Board and let them know you expect them to honor the will of the people and respect democracy.

Rancho San Juan is the biggest project in county history, wedged between Salinas and Prunedale east of Highway 101. When fully developed, it would create a new city one half the size of Marina on what is now mostly 2500 acres of productive agricultural land. The proposed development would pump an additional 700 acre-feet of water from an over-draft ed aquifer, more than double the traffic on Highway 101, urbanize 1750 acres of farmland, and contain 4000 houses and a golf course resort.

Contact information
Write: Monterey County Board of Supervisors, P.O. Box 1728, Salinas, CA 93902
Phone: 755-5066
Fax: 755-5888
Email: CTTB@co.monterey.ca.us