A cotton tale
p. 12

This beautifully-worked hand-knit sweater by Lynner Alper is made from organic cotton yarn.
Tunnel vision

I am trying to increase my appreciation for local animals that are less popular. Last month, when Richard and I were having a snack at the Wilder Ranch picnic area, the little guy with the big cheek pouches on our front cover poked its head up inches from our feet. It lacks the large, staring eyes of its nocturnal cousins, its protruding yellow teeth are anything but cute, and its feeding habits annoy gardeners and landscapers; but with close observation, it has a charm of its own. I am, of course, speaking of the gopher.

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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.
Healthy Rivers, Happy Fish

Watershed conference explores obstacles to fish survival

A fish out of water is a fish in trouble. But low water flows aren’t the only threat for local extirpated and endangered steelhead trout and coho salmon. The October 29-30, Healthy Rivers, Happy Fish watershed conference will explore obstacles to fish survival in our Central Coast streams (lack of water, lack of large wood, sediment and chronic turbidity, fish passage barriers) and what we can do to help.

An outstanding line-up of local and out-of-area speakers will be on hand to share the latest research on keeping streams healthy. Topics will also cover what macro-invertebrates (bugs) can tell us about stream health, and the use of mapping watershed information to aid in fish population recovery. We’ll also learn how many coho and steelhead still swim in our local waters. Fred Keeley, keynote speaker, will talk on “The One Thousand Mile Journey to Save the Fish Next to You.”

Other presenters include: John Ricker, Santa Cruz County; Don Alley, D.W. Alley & Assoc.; Jerry Smith, San Jose State University; Greg Andrews, Marin Municipal Water District; Jim Harrington, Department of Fish and Game; Bill Trush, McBay & Trush; Patrick Higgins, KRIS; Dave Hope, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board; Brian Dieterick, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo; Matt Baldzikowski, Santa Cruz.

Saturday will be a day of presentations plus a viewing of “Stuck in the Mud, The Pajaro River in Peril,” DVD by Club activist and filmmaker, Lois Robins. Sunday will include field trips to San Vicente Creek and Little Creek along the Santa Cruz north coast. $25 covers the cost of both day’s activities plus lunch each day. One-day attendees pay $15 (lunch included).

The conference will be held on October 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 902 High St., Santa Cruz. On Sunday, field trips will be from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information and to register: www.crfm.org or 426-1697.

Contact Your Representatives

Please Recycle This Paper Again

The Sierra Club - Ventana Chapter Volume 44 Number 5, 2005

3
Vote NO on Prop 73

The Sierra Club opposes Proposition 73, a constitutional amendment on the November 8 special election. Proposition 73 is an attempt to undermine a woman’s right to choose. The Sierra Club is pro-choice because we believe in a woman’s right to choose and in the right to have family planning readily available to those who want and need it.

Proposition 73 would amend the state constitution to require health care providers to notify the parents of women under the age of 18 before providing abortion services. Once a parent has been notified, a mandatory waiting period of 48 hours would be required before the doctor could provide an abortion. Only teens faced with a medical emergency or those who obtain a “judicial bypass” would be exempt from the parental notification requirement.

The Sierra Club supports voluntary family planning as an important part of family planning as an important part of personal family matters. It would place our most vulnerable teens—those in abusive homes or those who are pregnant as a result of rape or incest—in a position to independently confront the possibility of motherhood. If Proposition 73 passes, these allies would have fewer resources to support environmental efforts.

State Special Election, November 8

Vote NO on Prop 75, the “Paycheck Deception Act”

by Bill Magavern, Senior Representative, Sierra Club California

Conservative ideologues and large corporations have placed on the November 8 ballot an initiative to prohibit public employee unions from making expenditures on political activities (which include electoral activities, issue advocacy and any other political or legislative cause) unless they have obtained the express written consent of each union member whose dues will be used.

In 1998 an initiative along similar lines, but applying to all labor unions, failed to pass. Sierra Club California opposed that measure, and the Conservation, Executive and Legislative Committees have all voted to oppose this year’s Prop 75. Sierra Club urges a no vote on Prop 75 for the following reasons:

1. We support the ability of membership organizations to use members’ dues and contributions for public advocacy purposes, particularly for state and local ballot measures. Although the news reports about Proposition 75 focus on contributions by state employee unions to state candidates, the initiative also applies to campaigns for state and local ballot measures. (It also applies to all “public employee labor organizations,” and not just to state employee unions.) We oppose attempts to make it more difficult for membership organizations to engage in these campaigns.

2. Prop 75 would skew the political landscape against the environmental cause. The measure is a blatantly unfair attempt to take away one of the biggest sources of campaign funding for Democrats and moderate Republicans. Prop 75 would not require corporate polluters to gain the permission of their shareholders before lobbying against the environment or contributing to candidates.

Prop 75 is blatantly unfair. It would not require corporate polluters to gain the permission of their shareholders before lobbying against the environment or contributing to candidates.

3. The unions targeted by Prop 75 are often allies of the environmental movement. Public employee unions in California have come to the aid of the environmental movement many times. For example: California Nurses Association, one-quarter of whose members are public employees, has supported many of our top priorities such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles. The service employees International Union (SEIU), which represents a huge number of public employees, is our partner in offering solar energy to our members. The California Association of Professional Scientists, which represents many staffers at the Departments of Fish and Game and Toxic Substances Control, has worked with us on protecting the budgets of environmental agencies. Public employee unions in 2002 helped the environmental community defeat the Polluter Protection Act (Prop 37) which would have reclassified environmental mitigation fees as taxes requiring 2/3 votes. Were Prop 75 to pass, these allies would have fewer resources to support environmental causes.

Drying up funding from public employee unions would drive even more politicians into the arms of corporate contributors when they are seeking big bucks to fund their campaigns. In addition, many of the elected officials with the best environmental records would face difficulty raising money without this support. Since environmental groups like Sierra Club give very little money to candidates (and public campaign financing is not yet a reality in California), pro-environmental politicians need to seek funding from other sources. Public worker unions are among their biggest funders.

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The Sierra Club believes that water is a public resource, not a commodity. Monterey Peninsula voters will decide on November 8 whether or not to fund a study of the public acquisition of Cal Am’s water distribution system.

The Sierra Club urges a YES vote on Measure W.

Also urging a yes vote under the umbrella of the Monterey FLOW (Friends of Locally Owned Water) Coalition are Monterey Peninsula business and professional leaders, residents, environmentalists and social justice advocates who have come together to ensure that water remains affordable for all.

Sierra Club believes that municipal water systems are essential public services and should not be privatized. This summer, nearby Felton in Santa Cruz County approved a bond measure to purchase its water system from Cal Am. North of Half Moon Bay, the community of Montara, has been successfully running its water system since purchasing it from Cal Am in 2002.

Cal Am is a subsidiary of RWE, the world’s third largest water utility, based in Germany. Three European multinational corporations are buying water systems from small communities and large multinational corporations are buying water systems from small communities and large municipalities. The film documents the increase in water rates and exploitation of the poor. The Sierra Club has produced a study guide to the video.

Sierra Club was one of 235 public interest organizations from around the world that released the following declaration in Kyoto at the 3rd World Water Forum setting forth principles for global water policy:

“Water, as a public trust and an inalienable human right, must be controlled by the peoples and communities that rely on it for their lives and livelihoods. The management of water services must not only remain in public hands, but must be revitalized and strengthened to make community and worker participation central in order to democratize decision-making processes and ensure transparency and accountability.”

Vote YES on Measure W.

Measure W will be on the ballot for voters who reside in Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, which includes residents of Seaside, Sand City, Del Rey Oaks, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Pebble Beach, Carmel, Carmel Valley, and Carmel Highlands, as well as some adjacent unincorporated areas.

For more information and updates check out www.montereyflow.com.

The independently-produced film documentary, *Thirst*, chronicles the world water crisis and how community groups are challenging multinational corporations. The film documents the increase in water rates and exploitation of the poor. The Sierra Club has produced a study guide to the video.

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For more information and updates check out www.montereyflow.com.

Judi Lehman
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District

YourVentana Chapter has endorsed incumbent environmentalist Judi Lehman for the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District for Division 2. This includes the communities of Monterey, Sand City, Del Rey Oaks, and Seaside. Lehman is being challenged by a developer-backed candidate who works in the construction industry and supported the dam.

"Unfortunately, the dam is not dead," says Lehman. "There is still a faction on the Peninsula who would love to revive the dam, even though voters soundly rejected it in 1995." While a dam is not likely to be approved under current laws protecting endangered species, there are efforts to roll back those laws. Dam proponents are holding out hope for changes to remove those obstacles. Cal-Am Water is mandated to find a replacement source of water for approximately 8,000 of the 11,000 acre feet it pumps annually from the Carmel River. Cal-Am currently pumps that water illegally, because it does not have the necessary water rights.

"I strongly support the right of the public to vote on a water project," asserts Lehman. "We need to restore the Carmel River and cease the overpumping. To proceed without the residents’ approval is unfair and unwise. The solution to our water situation must not overburden the environment."

Lehman has been a staunch advocate of maintaining full funding for the river restoration projects, which faced a threat in 2004 when new Board member (and former Cal-Am General Manager) Larry Foy said that the District should not be running these programs. Lehman supports Measure W which would authorize a study of the process and cost of a public takeover of Cal-Am’s private water distribution system. Lehman points out that support for public ownership of the system has grown in response to Cal-Am’s ongoing behavior: failure to bring down its high rate of water loss; causing environmental harm; spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on public relations campaigns; and failure to maintain the aging infrastructure.


Vote NO on Measure C

The November 8 election will contain a yes or no vote on changes to the Monterey County General Plan allowing the Rancho San Juan development. Vote NO. A public vote on this environmentally destructive development is the culmination of the petition drive which collected over 16,000 signatures during the holiday season last year.

To confuse voters, Monterey County Planning staff released a downsized version of the massive development on September 20 and will hold hearings just before the election. Don’t be fooled. Although the project appears to be downsized, it is only the beginning.

In anticipation of launching their piecemeal strategy, the Supervisors tried to pull the referendum from the Ballot at the last minute. Caught between outraged voters and the out-of-county developer, only one supervisor, Dave Porter, spoke forcefully against the piecemeal approach and what he called, “the County’s unholy alliance with the developer.” Two supervisors, Smith and Calcagno, reluctantly voted to allow voters a voice. This created the 3-2 majority that kept Measure C on the ballot.

“Even a board that shows little support for the public interest will acquiesce when the public insists loudly enough. It’s more important than ever for the public to send a loud, clear political message to the Board by voting NO on Measure C; NO on Rancho San Juan.”

In short, more information and to volunteer to help stop Rancho San Juan, go to www.stopranchosanjuan.org.

Judi Lehman
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District

Your Ventura Chapter has endorsed incumbent environmentalist Judi Lehman for the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District for Division 2. This includes the communities of Monterey, Sand City, Del Rey Oaks, and Seaside. Lehman is being challenged by a developer-backed candidate who works in the construction industry and supported the dam.

"Unfortunately, the dam is not dead," says Lehman. "There is still a faction on the Peninsula who would love to revive the dam, even though voters soundly rejected it in 1995." While a dam is not likely to be approved under current laws protecting endangered species, there are efforts to roll back those laws. Dam proponents are holding out hope for changes to remove those obstacles. Cal-Am Water is mandated to find a replacement source of water for approximately 8,000 of the 11,000 acre feet it pumps annually from the Carmel River. Cal-Am currently pumps that water illegally, because it does not have the necessary water rights.

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Sierra Club Events

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. This event will be hosted by Diane & Irvin at 150 Lions Field Dr. off Granite Creek Rd. For directions call Diane & Irvin, 423-9253, 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. Fred Kerley, Keystone Speaker. First Congregational Church, 900 High Street, Santa Cruz. 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday; Field trips on Sunday. $15/day or $25/2 days includes box lunch. Student scholarships available. To register visit www.crfrn.org.

Potluck & Slides: Underwater Photography

Robert Sellers will present his “Treasures of the underwater world” slide show from various tropical locations in the Pacific Ocean. 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.

Friday, November 11

Vegetarian Thanksgiving Potluck

We’ll celebrate thanksgiving on Friday so those who have family obligations can still participate. We’re going to let some Turkeys celebrate too, so bring a vegetarian dish (main dish, dessert, salad, etc.) to share and your own table service. The potluck will start at 6:30 p.m. For directions call George, 335-7748.

Habitat restoration — Watsonville

Telluride Mountain Films

World-class films to benefit UCSC recreation program scholarships. Best selections from America’s premier festival of mountain, adventure, cultural & environmental film & video. Rio Theater, Santa Cruz. 7:00 p.m. (Doors open at 6:15) $10/students & seniors, $12 general admission. Advance tickets at UCSC Box Office, 459-2159 and at Pacific Edge. Call 459-2404 for more information.

Saturday, November 12

Sustainable fisheries

Seymour Marine Discovery Center, fall lecture series. Meredith Lopuch from the Monterey Bay Aquarium will speak on “Sustainability through Marine Stewardship Council Certification of Small Scale Fishers*.” For more information call Laura Kummerer, 728-4106 for more information.

Thursday, October 20

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.

Non-Sierra Club events of interest

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

Friday - Sunday, November 4-6

Birding Festival

Enjoy the first Monterey Bay Birding Festival. Expert-led field trips, guided walks for children, bilingual outings. Visit the Big Sur Ornithology Lab. For complete schedule see www.montereybay-birding.org. $15/person for entire weekend. Children 12 and under FREE.

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 Oviedo Park parking lot off Green Valley Rd. and Main St. in Watsonville. Gloves, tools and lunch provided. Call Laura Kummerer, 728-4106 for more information. No experience needed.

Free Wormshops (dates following)

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.

Saturday, October 25

Vegetarian Thanksgiving Potluck

We’ll celebrate thanksgiving on Friday so those who have family obligations can still participate. We’re going to let some Turkeys celebrate too, so bring a vegetarian dish (main dish, dessert, salad, etc.) to share and your own table service. The potluck will start at 6:30 p.m. For directions call George, 335-7748.

Moving?

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

Thank you

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6 The Sierra Club / Ventana Chapter Volume 44 Number 3, 2005
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. (For more information about the difficulty of a particular hike, call the leader):
Walk: Between 2-5 miles, leisurely pace. Easy.
Strenuous: More than 5 miles, slight elevation gain; easy pace.
Moderate: 5-10 miles; up to 2,000’ gain; boost; better than average fitness required.
Strenuous: May involve off-trail hiking; demanding pace; for experienced hikers in good condition only.

MEETING PLACES:
Park and Ride/Black 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 Fair: From Santa Cruz take Graham Hill Rd. toward Felton. Just after you pass Roaring Camp (on the left), make a right into Felton Fair shopping center. We meet at the edge of the Safeway parking lot nearest Graham Hill Rd.
41st Avenue: 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 Rd. Senior Saunter meeting 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 head 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.

Directions:
From Hwy. 1 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 Rd. Senior Saunter meeting Sears parking lot close to 41st Ave.

Pouring our 1996 1st place Stout and 2000 Bronze Winning Summer Wheat
Restaurant open at 11:30 every day Served food and good to 11 PM Weekdays & 12 AM Weekends

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The Sierra Club’s Clair Tappaan Lodge

Discover the secret season of the Sierra this fall by visiting Clair Tappaan Lodge. Enjoy fall colors, cooler temperatures and miles of hiking trails without the summer crowds. Built by Sierra Club volunteers in 1934, this rustic, hostle-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.

2005-06 Winter Update
The Clair Tappaan Community has shown strong support by contributing to our current fundraising campaign, and we thank you. Our goal has nearly been achieved; however, we still need you to help by visiting the Lodge this fall and winter. The Lodge will continue to provide its traditional Thanksgiving Dinner and New Year’s Eve Bash. Popular programs such as our Snowshoe Ecology Tours, Kid’s Nordic Ski Weekends, and Ski Bus Trips will also continue to be offered; check our website for updates to the activity schedule. See you on the summit!

For more information about these programs or to receive a full schedule and description of Clair Tappaan programs please visit our website at www.cs.sierrabc.org or call (800) 679-4775.

Saturday, October 22
HIKE: PORTOLA REDWOODS
A 12-mile hike through beautiful Portola Redwoods State Park to the uncut and awe-some Peters Creek Grove. This large grove of giant old-growth redwood trees is tucked away in the far reaches of the park in a deep canyon along Peters Creek. We’ll do a 1.3 mile circle of the grove. Our tree measures 17 feet in diameter, and there are many others up to 14 feet. 100’ change in elevation and two easy creek crossings. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Santa Cruz County Government Center, or at 8:30 at Felton Fair, to carpool, Bring plenty of water and $ for carpool and entry. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-838.
Springs on the Big Sur River and soothe sore muscles in the warm pools. 10 miles each way with 1500' elevation gain. We'll camp overnight on Saturday and hike out Sunday afternoon. Call for more information. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

We'll hike in on Saturday to Sykes Hot Springs.

**OUTINGS**

**BACKPACK: SYKES HOT SPRINGS**

**Saturday - Sunday, October 22 - 23**

JOIN US for a 12-mile hike, rock hopping over the Little Sur River and climbing to Pico Blanco Camp. Strenuous with elevation gain. Gorgeous waterfall, large boulders await us for our lunchtime stop. Meet at Carmel Bagl Bakery, 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch, lots of water, wear sturdy boots, and bring $ for carpool. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 620-0442, suzanne.arm@ccol.com.

**Tuesday, October 25**

**SENIOR SAUNTER: WILDER RANCH**

We'll walk the bluffs from parking lot to 3 mile beach. Easy, flat trail with spectacular ocean views. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at Shen's Gallery, King & Mission, 9:55 a.m. Restroom at parking lot. Bring lunch, water, $3 carpool and entrance $5. Leader: Jean Harrison, 425-5447.

**Wednesday, October 26**

**HIKE: POPOGON TO UCSB**

We'll hike up the Old Stables Trail past the old clubhouse into the wildlife area and on toward Fern Meadow. It is amazing ... Hwy. 9 before the railroad bridge and walk to the park entrance to meet us at 9:25 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-9525.

**Wednesday, November 2**

**HIKE: BERRY CREEK FALLS**

Let's hike these beautiful 8 miles with 1000' elevation gain. Bring lunch, water and wear hiking shoes. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:00 a.m. Call for more information. Leader: Steve Legnard, 422-1422.

**Friday, November 4**

**HIKE: CAPE LISBOA WELL**

This is a new hike. We'll walk a fire road in Paradise Park to Hwy. 9, cross over to Rincon Trail, then back on a trail to the San Lorenzo River. 4 miles. Some uphill. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. To go direct, take Hwy. 9 to Paradise Park entrance (4 miles). Bring lunch, water, and $ for carpool. Leader: Pat Herzog, 458-9841 and Joan Brohmer, 462-3803.

**Wednesday, November 9**

**HIKE: MONTA BELLO**

Join us for a 12 mile hike with great views in a beautiful preserve which is part of Mid-peninsula Regional Open Space District. We'll go up Bella Vista, down Indian Creek, and return along the Stevens Creek Nature Trail.

**Sunday, November 5**

**HIKE: OLD COAST ROAD**

This is a new hike. We'll walk a fire road in Paradise Park to Hwy. 9, cross over to Rincon Trail, then back on a trail to the San Lorenzo River. 4 miles. Some uphill. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. To go direct, hike Hwy. 9 to Paradise Park entrance (1 mile from Hwy. 9/1 intersection. Once in Paradise Park, follow signs for 1 mile to picnic grounds with ample parking.) Lunch in Paradise Park after hike. Restroom facilities. Bring lunch, water, $2 carpool. Leaders: Pat Herzog, 458-9841 and Joan Brohmer, 462-3803.

**Wednesday, November 9**

**HIKE: MONTE BELLO**

Join us for a 12 mile hike with great views in a beautiful preserve which is part of Mid-peninsula Regional Open Space District. We'll go up Bella Vista, down Indian Creek, and return along the Stevens Creek Nature Trail.

**Saturday, November 5**

**HIKE: GARLAND RANCH**

Meet at the Visitor Center, lunch at Redwood Canyon. Beautiful views and some fall color. Bring hat, water, and lunch. Meet at Albertson's in Carmel at 10:00 a.m. We'll be back around 4:30 p.m. Leader: Andrea Phelps, e-mail at andrea.phelps@csumb.edu.

**Sunday, November 6**

**HIKE: OLD COAST ROAD**

We'll hike 11 easy miles on the Old Coast Road. We'll leave cars at Bixby Bridge and start our hike by West Molera entrance. We'll see beautiful valleys, giant redwoods, and spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean. The hike ends with an unforgettable and mesmerizing view of the Big Sur Bridge across a massive ocean background. Rain or shine (bring rain gear). Bring lunch, water, and $ for carpool. Hike 10 miles roundtrip with some elevation gain, starting at the Visitor Center, lunch at Redwood Canyon. Beautiful views and some fall color. Bring hat, water, and lunch. Meet at Albertson’s in Carmel at 10:00 a.m. We’ll be back around 4:30 p.m. Leader: Andrea Phelps, e-mail at andrea.phelps@csumb.edu.
**Meet 9:00 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. to carpool or drive to the parking lot on Page Mill Road across from the Los Trancos Preserve, 7 miles west of Hwy. 280. Bring water and lunch. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.**

**Saturday, November 12**

**HIKE: MEDICINE BUDDHA TO SAND PT.**
10-mile hike from the Medicine Buddha above Soquel. We’ll follow Bates Creek up to the West Ridge and Hinckley Ridge to Sand Point. Overlook in Noeste Marks. Spectacular views of the Monterey Bay. 1300’ elevation gain with no creek crossings. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m. Bring plenty of water and $ for carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

**Saturday, November 12**

**HIKE: PALO CORONA**
We’ll start at the mouth of Carmel Valley and either hike to the ranch house and back, or we can do a shuttle to Soberanes Canyon or do some other variation. We’ll be flexible and try to accommodate plans. Plan on a strenuous hike whichever way we go, 10 miles or more. Please call for a reservation. Leader: Larry Parrish 623-7459.

**Sunday, November 13**

**HIKE: GARLAND RANCH**
Let’s meander around the lower 40 at this beautiful park, perhaps stopping in at HQ to admire the mini-museum and passing elsewhere for fall color. Slow pace, distance moderate, but footing can be tricky on the slick trail, so wear good boots and carry a hiking pole if you have one. Bring lunch and water, and meet at main parking area (not on shoulder of C.V. Rd.) off Carmel Valley Road 8+ miles east of Hwy. 1, 1 at 10:00 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

**Tuesday, November 15**

**SENIOR HIKE: MANZANITA PARK**
Hilly 3-mile hike in North Monterey County. We can see ocean and Fremont Peak on a clear day. Lunch at picnic table, bathroom at visitor’s center. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at Manzanita Park. Call leader for directions. Bring lunch, water, $4 carpool. Leader: Beverly Mech, 475-4185.

**Friday, November 18**

**HIKE: BLUFF CAMP**
Let’s see if there’s any water left in Los Padres reservoir! Meet behind Brinton’s (opposite Albertson’s) at 9:00 a.m. to carpool to Princes Camp in Cachagua. Our 8-mile walk takes us across the dam and along the edge of the reservoir to lunch at Bluff Camp on the upper Carmel River. Scenic and moderately strenuous terrain at a leisurely pace. Bring lunch and water. Leaders: Cath Farrants and Mary Dainton, 372-7427.

**Saturday, November 19**

**WALK: ASILOMAR/PEBBLE BEACH**
4-mile walk along city streets in Pacific Grove and Pebble Beach, then via a trail between lawns to the beach and out to Point Joe and back with ocean views, finishing at Asilomar via boardwalk. Bring water and snack, done by about noon. Meet across from the Fishwife Restaurant on Sunset Drive at Asilomar Boulevard in Pacific Grove at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Martha Taylor, 372-9213.

**Sunday, November 20**

**HIKE: BOON DOY PRESERVE**
The Preserve is owned by CA Dept, of Fish and Game so well-mannered dogs on leash are welcome. Weather can be cooler than you might expect so bring warm and waterproof layers. 3 miles with 1200 elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call Nick for more information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3161.

**Sunday, November 20**

**HIKE: VENTANA CAMP**
We’ll carpool to the Big Sur Ranger Station and hike the Terrace Creek Trail to the Ventana Camp Fork. Bring sandals for a Big Sur River crossing amidst smooth river stones. Large rock and boulder outcroppings provide a perfect lunch stop. 10 miles roundtrip, moderately strenuous, mostly in shade. Bring lunch, lots of water, and $ for carpool. Wear sturdy boots. Meet at Carmel Bagel Bakery at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-6442 or suzanne@caremail.com.

**Sunday, November 27**

**HIKE: PINNACLES**
Let’s hike the Pinnacles High Peaks Trail and out through the caves. 8 miles with 1,500’ elevation gain. Bring lunch and water, and wear hiking shoes. Meet at the new Home Depot in Seaside (the old K-Mart) at the 218 exit off Hwy. 1 at 8:00 a.m. or at the West Pinnacles parking lot at 9:15 a.m. Call for more information. Leader: Steve Legnard, 412-1422.

**Tuesday, November 29**

**HIKE: POGONIP**
We’ll hike a moderate 4 to 5 miles starting from Spring Street to Lime Kiln and will view the Sacred Tree on the way. No bathrooms. Meet before 9:30 a.m at Sears 41st Ave. or at the end of Spring Street at 10:30 a.m. Bring lunch, water, $2 carpool. Leader: Joan Brorhner, 462-9303.

**Wednesday, November 30**

**HIKE: POINT LOBOS**
It’s always an amazing hike through the “Crown Jewel” of the California State Park system no matter what the weather is. We’ll begin at the entrance and circle the park with views of water and wildlife. We’ll hike up over Whaler’s Knoll and through history by the Whaler’s cabin. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at the park. We’ll meet at 10:20 a.m. in front of the restroom across from the entrance station. Bring water and lunch. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

**Saturday, December 3**

**HIKE: MOUNT ADONIA PARK**
A 6-1/2 mile loop from the Spring recreation area. We’ll hike along the Berry Go-Round, Loop, Blue Springs and Black Hawk Trails. 1050’ elevation gain. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m. to carpool or at the Spring entrance off Hwy. 1, 1 at 10:30 a.m. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

**Sunday, December 4**

**WALK: TORO REGIONAL PARK**
We’ll climb a moderate grade at a leisurely pace to a hill overlooking the “civilized” part of the park, stop for lunch, and then descend more abruptly back to our cars. Bring food, water, and dress in layers. Heavy rain cancels. Meet outside the park gate at the parking lot at 10:00 a.m. Take Hwy. 68 to Portola Drive,

**Telluride Mountain Film Festival**
**Saturday, Nov. 12, 7 p.m.**
**Rio Theatre, Santa Cruz**

**$10 Students/Seniors / $12 General**
Best selections from America’s premier festival of mountain, adventure, cultural, & environmental film & video

and follow signs to park. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

Tuesday, December 6

SENIOR SAUNTER HOLIDAY LUNCH

Wednesday, December 7

HIKE: TORO COUNTY PARK

Thursday, December 8

HIKE: ST. JOSEPH’S HILL OPEN SPACE

Saturday, December 10

WALK: POINT LOMOS/NORTH COVE

Sunday, December 11

WALK: POINT LOMOS/NORTH COVE

Wednesday, December 14

HIKE: MOUNT MADONNA PARK

Thursday, December 15

HIKE: TORO COUNTY PARK

Saturday, December 23

HUTCHINSON LODGE SKI TRIP

Sunday, December 24

WALK: POINT LOBOS/NORTH COVE

Saturday, November 19

ANTELOPE PROTECTION CARCAMP

S E R V I C E  O U T I N G S

Saturday-December, November 19-20

ANTELOPE PROTECTION CARCAMP

With little rainfall and few water sources, the species that live in the Carrizo Plain are both hardy and endangered. Particularly beautiful are the pronghorn antelope which evolved in these wild, open spaces. Then cattle ranching left a legacy of endless fences, which are deadly to the pronghorn. Join us for a weekend work party in this remote area removing fencing, car camp at KCL campground. Bring food, water for the weekend, and camping gear. Potluck Saturday night. Rain cancels. For more information, contact Leaders: Cal and Letty French, cfrench@ctc.net.

Sierra Club Member Profile

Advertising in this newsletter packs more clout into your advertising dollars. Sierra Club members are one of the most valuable audiences in America. They are “opinion leaders” and “influentials,” by any name they are some of America’s most sought-after advertising targets. Their own purchasing activity is substantial. But, more important, they influence others—in everything from opinion and outlook to choice of products. They are not only consumers, but also doers and leaders.

Club Members are among the most active, affluent audiences of adventure travelers and year-round outdoor sports enthusiasts your advertising dollars can buy. It’s an unduplicated audience with the power to buy your products and services.

Sierra Club members are Great Prospects

Profile

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

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Governor signs contraceptive availability bill
by Joan Jones Holtz & Karen Gaza Pits, Sierra Club CA Population Committee

In late September, Governor Schwarzenegger signed into law a bill sponsored by Senator Debra Ortiz of Sacramento which will make contraceptives available to California women when “morality police” pharmacists refuse to fill their prescriptions. The bill had bipartisan support and was endorsed by Sierra Club.

Since the Weldon amendment was quietly inserted into the Omnibus Bill last fall and passed without debate, it is legal for a pharmacist to refuse to fill a prescription for birth control pills based on religious beliefs. Four states have already approved bills that allow pharmacists to do this, and 23 states are considering such legislation.

Senator Ortiz’s bill makes allowances for pharmacists with such beliefs, however, the bill makes it mandatory that pharmacists who object to filling certain prescriptions notify their employers in writing when they’re hired. The pharmacies would then be required to have someone else on hand to fill those “objectionable” prescriptions, or refer customers to a nearby pharmacy.

It is not clear at this time whether those same morality police/pharmacists will refuse to fill prescriptions for Viagra or AIDS-treatment medicines.

Why is the Sierra Club interested in insure women’s access to contraception? Forty years ago the fertility rate of the U.S. was four children per woman. Without chemical contraception, the population of the U.S. would have grown much faster than it has. At the former birth rate, the U.S. population would be more than twice what it is today. The present birth rate in California is 2.4 children per couple, far above replacement level, and is one of the major contributors to the population growth of our state. Rapid population growth impacts air quality, water availability, wetlands, farmland, traffic congestion, climate change, and more.

Help stop Lompico logging
Come to the hearing in November

Activists are needed to attend the Public Hearing for the Lompico Creek Headwaters Logging Plan, long opposed by the Sierra Club. It will tentatively be held on Wednesday, November 2 at the Zayante Volunteer Fire House at 7700 East Zayante Rd. across from the Trout Farm Inn in Felton. The hearing is likely to start at 7:00 p.m. The date and time are still tentative. For updated information please contact Kevin Collins, 338-8136 or email, bbs@cruzio.com.

Over 200 people attended the 2001 hearing, and their presence made a big difference. The hearing in 2001 went down in the annals of CDF history because the community was so overwhelmingly opposed to the plan. The event was dramatic and fascinating. This first logging plan was finally stopped in 2004 by the Board of Forestry on Santa Cruz County appeal. The new logging plan has hardly changed at all and presents the same threats to water quality and wildlife.

The area proposed for logging, the Islandia headwaters, is the core watershed that has an over-allocated water supply and is under state order not to release new water connections. This area is a beautiful and currently undisturbed set of complex canyons full of wildlife. Extensive efforts to purchase the land for conservation protection have been thwarted by the landowner’s sky high price set far above its legitimate appraisal value.

Please come to the public hearing and help save this beautiful place. For updated information visit www.lompicocreek.org.
Cara Lamb and Lynne Alper are increasing the availability of organic cotton products with their buying habits. They know that conventional cotton farming does serious harm to the environment. That’s why they cotton organic.

In fact, the pesticides used in growing cotton account for about 25% of all insecticides used worldwide. This statistic is even more astounding when one considers that cotton is grown on only 3% of the world’s farmland. These pesticides are applied from the air with crop dusters and can poison farm workers and wildlife, drift into neighborhoods, and eventually end up in our water supply.

Alper, from Bonny Doon, loves to buy organic cotton outfits for her grandchildren. She shops at stores in Scotts Valley and Santa Cruz. “I always ask store clerks if they have any organic cotton items,” she explains. “That way, if they don’t, my asking may get them to consider carrying organic. Organic baby clothes are so soft,” she continues. “You can feel the difference.”

Organic baby clothes make good gifts and often cost less than non-organic baby clothes from a fancy store. While they do cost more than standard cotton items, they are sometimes available at used baby item stores.

Lamb, who lives in Santa Cruz organizes her clothes budget around how often she uses a garment. “I can afford to pay more if I wear something a lot, she explains. “If I need a fancy outfit that I’m only going to wear once, I’ll buy it at a thrift store.” Consequently, she buys organic underwear and bed linens. “I plan to get organic cotton towels when my old ones wear out,” she says. Lamb also mentioned the superior feel to organic cotton items. “They don’t have chemical finishes on the fabric.”

Buying organic cotton products is good for the earth. Now, that’s a cotton tale worth telling.

**Take action**

Consider buying organic cotton clothing and household items as much as you can afford. In Santa Cruz, EcoGoods (a Ventana advertiser) carries organic cotton clothing, bed linens, and towels. Also in Santa Cruz, all of Patagonia’s cotton sportswear items are 100% organically grown. In Scotts Valley The Clothes Pin carries organic baby items. Readers can order organic items online from many sources including the Sierra Club.

_Cara Lamb loves the soft feel of her organic cotton sheets._

_photos by Debbie Bulger_

_Cara Lamb and Lynne Alper are increasing the availability of organic cotton products with their buying habits. They know that conventional cotton farming does serious harm to the environment. That’s why they cotton organic._

**Clever cotton pickers**

_Cara Lamb holds up the organic cotton doll she found at a second-hand baby item store._

_photos by Debbie Bulger_

_These are some of the tender soft organic cotton baby clothes Lynne Alper has purchased for her grandchildren._
Offshore drilling victory

A
t their August public hearing in Costa Mesa, the California Coastal Commission unanimously voted to object to the Bush Administration’s effort to extend 36 offshore oil leases between Oxnard and San Luis Obispo. The next day a Federal judge ruled on the same issue, barring the extension of the leases until an extensive environmental review can take place. These leases are the last offshore spots not included in the Federal drilling moratorium, and with this ruling it is highly unlikely that there will be any new drilling in these areas for several years.

It is not just the California Coastal Commission that has published an analysis of the wasteful program and invested in the promotion of commercial logging and illegal road construction in America’s National Forests. At the same time, citizens are being asked to pay fees for hiking their own public lands, and some recreation areas are being closed for lack of funding. The Federal logging program makes no environmental or economic sense. Instead, the Congress should stop this wasteful program and invest in the protection of communities from fires and the restoration of damaged forests and watersheds.

D
id you know that the US Forest Service actually requested $278 million from Congress for 2006 to plan commercial timber sales in ancient forests, roadless areas and other sensitive wildlife areas? This is just a part of an annual billion dollar subsidy that promotes commercial logging and illegal road construction in America’s National Forests. At the same time, citizens are being asked to pay fees for hiking their own public lands, and some recreation areas are being closed for lack of funding. The Federal logging program makes no environmental or economic sense. Instead, the Congress should stop this wasteful program and invest in the protection of communities from fires and the restoration of damaged forests and watersheds.

Since taking office, President Bush and Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth have repealed protections for wild roadless areas, overturned forest management rules that protect wildlife, and have worked to increase logging. There is a better way. We can use federal resources and energy to “protect the best and Restore the rest” of our National Forests. Our tax dollars and Federal agencies should work to provide sound management that American citizens want, not the continued logging of ancient forests, roadless areas, and closed campgrounds.

For more information on getting involved in Sierra Club’s National Forest Protection Campaign visit: www.sierraclub.org/forests or contact Myke Bybee, (220) 675-2389.

How to save money at the gas pump

1. Combine errands.
2. Use a fuel-efficient car instead of a gas guzzler.
3. Turn off your engine instead of idling. Waiting to pick up someone? Pulled over to talk on your cell phone? Turn off your engine.
4. Use public transportation. Check out bus schedules, consider Caltrain or Amtrak for your next trip to San Francisco or Oakland and Bay Area cities. Use BART to the San Francisco airport. All have websites which help you plan your trips.
5. Carpool. Check out the commute and rideshare programs in your county. Even if you can’t carpool every day, it will help your wallet if you do it some of the time.
6. Consider buying a motorcycle, scooter, or other two wheeler.
7. Ride a bike. Bikes work well for many trips depending on your fitness level and the safety of the route. Santa Cruz County has a subsidized electric bike program.
9. Drive smart. Fast starts and rapid braking waste gas. Observe the speed limit and maintain a constant speed. Take your foot off the gas when approaching stop signs/lights and glide to a stop.
10. Buy locally. If you drive 25 miles to save a dollar, you haven’t saved a penny.
11. Send The Ventana your personal tip: dbbolger@cruzio.com.

Please Recycle This Paper Again

The Sierra Club / Ventana Chapter Volume 44 Number 5, 2005 13
Congress takes first step toward gutting Endangered Species Act

O n September 29 Congress took the first step toward gutting the 30-year-old Endangered Species Act, America’s safety net for fish and wildlife at the edge of extinction, voting 229 to 193 for legislation crafted by House Resources Chair Richard Pombo (R-CA). The bill eliminates habitat protection for fish and wildlife facing extinction, creates an exemption for the approval of potentially dangerous pesticides, and establishes a new entitlement program for developers and polluters. If Congressman Pombo’s bill becomes law, animals such as the wild salmons will be less likely to recover," said Carl Pope, Sierra Club Executive Director. "American children will be left a future with more strip malls than salmon runs.

The legislation eliminates habitat conservation measures on tens of millions of acres of land around the country, and prevents such conservation activities in the future. Analysis of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service data shows that species with critical habitat are more likely to be increasing in number and heading towards recovery than species without by a 2.1 margin. The legislation also creates a new entitlement program by requiring the Federal Government to pay developers, the oil industry and polluters to avoid destroying the habitat of fish and wildlife. According to the Congressional Budget Office, these giveaways for developers and bureaucracy would double the cost of conserving fish and wildlife listed under the Endangered Species Act. Those costs would climb to $2.7 billion over the next five years.

"Since when does paying people not to violate the law constitute sound policy?" asked Pope.

The Endangered Species Act enjoys a proven track record of success. Ninety-nine percent of all the fish, plants and wildlife ever considered under the Endangered Species Act have been saved from becoming lost forever, including the bald eagle and the grizzly bear.

Reported in March 1969:
Chapter Chairman Rudd Crawford testified in person on behalf of the Sierra Club and the Ventana Chapter at the Senate Interior Committee hearings to include the Willow Creek area in the establishment of the Ventana Wilderness. The Forest Service sought to exclude Willow Creek on the grounds that wilderness designation would preclude construction of primitive fireplaces and sanitary facilities needed to cope with problems of heavy use by Scout groups. Crawford said, "I wish you could see the meadows when the lupine is out, and the coniferous on the brush-covered mountain sides, and the madrone and toyon berries during the Christmas season, and the Indian paintbrush and the yucca in bloom." Another article in that same issue begins, "The oil leak off Santa Barbara has covered the beaches with tar, killed thousands of birds, and severely dammed marine life along many miles of the southern California coast."
Factory farms contribute to antibiotic resistance

by Margaret Mellon, Ph.D., J.D., and Susan Prolman, J.D., Union of Concerned Scientists

Antibiotics, one of the medical miracles of the 20th century, are becoming less effective in human medicine due to the rise of resistant bacteria. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has declared antibiotic resistance one of its “top concerns.” Antibiotic-resistant bacteria cause more virulent infections and increase human suffering. Patients are forced to take more sick days, disrupting businesses and the economy. The National Academy of Sciences estimated that antibiotic-resistant bacteria cost U.S. society at least $4 to $5 billion each year.

When bacteria are exposed to antibiotics, bacteria resistant to the drugs live to reproduce. Therefore, while antibiotics are important for disease treatment, their use can create stronger, more-resistant strains of bacteria over time. For this reason, it is important to use antibiotics only when absolutely necessary, for instance, to treat sick animals. Unfortunately, factory farms, also called concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), routinely use massive amounts of antibiotics, including those important in human medicine, for nontherapeutic purposes.

CAFOs crowd thousands or even hundreds of thousands of animals into tightly confined spaces. These industrial animal operations use antibiotics not to treat sick animals, but to compensate for overcrowded, unsanitary, and stressful conditions and to promote faster growth. Meat producers use an estimated 70% of all U.S. antibiotics and related drugs for such purposes. This translates to about 25 million pounds of antibiotics and related drugs fed every year to livestock—almost eight times the amount given to humans to treat disease.

The nontherapeutic use of antibiotics involves low-level exposure in feed over long periods—an ideal way to encourage bacteria to develop resistance. Resistant bacteria can be transferred from animals at CAFOs to humans in three ways: through meat consumption, through direct contact with the animals, and through environmental contamination.

How to help

• Buy meat produced without the use of routine antibiotics. Such meat is available at local organic food stores and some specialty stores.
• Learn more about other problems associated with factory farms at www.sierraclub.org/factoryfarms.