Garden wisely

Sign for sale in downtown Santa Cruz at Artforms Fair Trade.
Update on Monterey County’s General Plan

This column will update you on the status of the General Plan Update (GPU) continuing in Monterey County. The Chapter has been very actively participating in this process for six years. One outcome has been the Community Initiative which will be on the ballot in June. We strongly recommend that you support this initiative.

The County continues to waste scarce public funds (now well over $5 million) while favoring commercial and developer interests in the GPU process. The Chapter remains involved in these hearings by commenting on some of the worst features of the County GPU.

The latest bad news is the Monterey County Agriculture Advisory Committee’s recommendation that the County Board of Supervisors change its trails policy to prohibit trails on private property. Such a new, anti-public policy has no public benefit and could subject the County to both ridicule and expensive lawsuits.

Also objectionable is the proposed provision that trails could not be created on lands, public or private, “adjacent to agricultural lands or operations.” This loosely-defined rule (“adjacent” means close to, as well as next to) would almost certainly subject the county to lawsuits and would give agribusiness interests partial control over the property of others, without cause and without legally-required findings.

Finally, the attempt to limit all trails or easements throughout Monterey County to a “voluntary program,” that would require the approval of “all adjacent landowners,” is too vague to be enforced. How, for example, does one define a landowner as “adjacent”? As worded, some could argue that this language might require the approval of every landowner in the County before any trail could be established. Of particular concern are some newly-acquired park properties on the Monterey Peninsula for which trails are currently being planned as well as the long range planning for extended coastal trails.

The trail policy is still under review, and we are watching. Unfortunately the majority of the Supervisors have made it very clear they do not favor public benefit in their land use planning.

—Rita Dalessio

Wintertime visitor

On rainy days in the winter I am visited by a special little friend. I don’t know if it is male or female. It arrives at my doorstep or on the concrete walk leading to my tiny porch. I have to take special care during rainy weather not to step on it. It is called an Ensatina. It’s a salamander.

My California reptile and amphibian book tells me that Ensatina are lungless salamanders. That is, they use their skin to breathe. They are nocturnal and eat a great variety of foods including earthworms, sow bugs and beetles. I think the ones in my yard must eat a lot of beetles because they have jaws like a pit bull. I read that they catch their prey with their tongues and crush it with their jaws.

Perhaps the ones that visit my porch are looking for worms on rainy nights. But where do they come from? My book reports that they prefer damp woodland, rotting logs and leaf litter. They live beneath rocks and often go below ground using gopher holes and other burrows.

Well, my yard has plenty of gopher burrows! There is also an abundance of leaf litter as I prefer a more natural appearance to my yard than the super-tidy, remove-every-fallen-leaf look. I have a modest woodpile which I use from time to time for car camping trips. Meanwhile, it serves as habitat.

And of course, I don’t apply pesticides to my yard. Not even ones touted as safe. Even so-called safe pesticides kill fragile salamanders and frogs. If they do that, I shudder to think of what they do to children. Perhaps some night I’ll be lucky enough to see two Ensatina mating. With Ensatina, mating is a graceful dance. The male rubs his female’s throat with his head and body. She then lays her throat on his lower back or tail, and he leads her about. After the male deposits spermatophore on the ground, he leads the female to that spot where she picks up the sperm with her vent for internal fertilization. Meanwhile, the male strokes the female’s body with his tail.

The particular Ensatina visiting this year must have had an unpleasant encounter with a bird. Or perhaps it was born that way. It has only one eye. That’s how we know that it’s the same animal as previous visits.

Although I live on a city street and have only a small yard, I have learned how to create a front row seat to watch nature’s grandeur by providing a bit of habitat and by not using killer chemicals. Lucky me.

To see a photo of an Ensatina, go to page 9.

—Debbie Bulger

The Bird Feeder

A Birder’s Emporium

Everything for the wild bird enthusiast including bird feeders, houses, baths, field guides, bird books, videos, cassettes, t-shirts, posters, binoculars, note cards, seeds, and more.

The Sierra Club / Ventana Chapter Volume 45 Number 1, 2006

Printed on Recycled Paper
Hike to save the pines February 18
Come on this important hike

Monterey County is known worldwide as one of California’s premier coastal vacation spots, offering something for everyone—surfing, hiking, quiet, and relaxation. The county also boasts at least 20 places where golfers can enjoy a day on the links as well as acres of rare and undeveloped forestland where nature lovers can experience California’s rapidly disappearing “wild coast.” But this balance, delicately preserved for decades, is at risk with a developer’s proposal to cut down 17,000 threatened Monterey pine trees to build what they have ironically named “The Forest (Golf) Course.”

Sierra Club, starting with John Muir himself, has worked for over 100 years to protect the Del Monte Forest, the largest natural forest of Monterey pines left in the world, and all the endangered plants and animals which call the forest home. Final decisions are expected soon, as the California Coastal Commission has scheduled a hearing on this development this spring.

Sadly, at risk is more than the loss of one grove of trees, more even than the loss of one of the last stands of a tree which once covered so much of our coastline. The threat here is one of statewide precedent. By allowing a developer to cut down 17,000 threatened trees, decision makers could well be helping to cut down one of California’s strongest environmental protection laws.

The California Coastal Act is unique among conservation laws because it respects Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area. According to this law, it is not just the frog, or the bird or the flower that is worthy of protection, but the area in which the critter or tree lives. Our coastal protection laws are designed to protect the area, and in this case, that means the forest.

The Del Monte Forest has long been considered Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area since the Monterey pines are not only threatened themselves, but also as protection for the wildlife that depend on the trees for survival.

There is still time, however, to save this forest. This is why on Saturday morning, February 18, Sierra Club’s Coastal Director, Mark Massara will join outings leaders and Sierra Club members from throughout California to hike in this beautiful and threatened forest.

With fun and easy hikes Sierra Club hopes to raise awareness of the importance of this forest. Join us for a fun morning and to learn the simple things that people can do to help protect this forest for future generations.

Check out the outings listing for February 18. And hike to save the pines.

Stop using poisons

RoundUp is not safe for use around your home. You could be hurting your family, guests, neighbors, pets and the environment. (RoundUp is lethal to amphibians.)

Human defenses against chemicals are much like those in plants. A plant-killing product can penetrate the human body and do damage.

RoundUp’s ingredients can reach reproductive tissue 18 minutes after contact (recent French study). Embryonic tissue is so sensitive that disruptions can be passed on to the next generation of tissues that can make up any of several organs.

Cancer, brain damage, and fetal death can result from such disruptions. Damage can be done by very low doses.

Years of “Our product is safe,” from the Tobacco Industry and the makers of Agent Orange (who make RoundUp) have shown us that we can’t trust the word of some big corporations.

The safety claims for RoundUp have been forbidden by New York State.

Chemically we are not so different from plants that we can expose ourselves to plant poisons without being hurt. Herbicides and the other pesticides we use carry high risks to us all.

The spray bottle quick fix can bring disaster to the door.

Please stop using poisons. The County of Santa Cruz has stopped using RoundUp for three years, but not forever, and Caltrans still sprays us. Tell the reluctant Board of Supervisors of Santa Cruz County to stand up to Caltrans.

—Richard Moss
Aptos

Contact Your Representatives

President George W. Bush
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
vicepresident@whitehouse.gov

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

Senator Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-3841; (415) 957-3207
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) 403-0100 (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)

U.S. Representative Anna Eshoo
695 Emerson Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301
(650) 323-3498
annagram@mail.house.gov

State Senator Abel Maldonado
520 Paseo De San Antonio, Suite 206
San Jose, CA 95113
(408) 277-9461
senator.maldonado@sen.ca.gov

State Senator Joe Simitian
State Capitol, Room 4262
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-6747
FAX (916) 323-4529
Senator.Simitian@sen.ca.gov

State Senator Jeff Denham
369 Main Street, #208
Salinas, CA 93901
(831) 769-8040
senator.Denham@sen.ca.gov

Assembly Representative Simon Salinas
152 W. Alisal Street, Rml. 134
Salinas, CA 93901
(831) 759-8576
FAX: (831) 759-2961
assemblymember.Salinas@assembly.ca.gov

Assembly Representative John Laird
701 Ocean Street, Room 318-B
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 456-2393
99 Pacific Street, Suite 5513
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 649-2935
assemblymember.Laird@assembly.ca.gov
Bush administration abandons long-standing protections for critical wildlife habitat on Alaska’s North Slope

Oil leasing plan ignores public opinion

The Sierra Club is concerned that the growth planned for the two UCSC campuses in Santa Cruz will exceed the carrying capacity of the city. Accordingly, the Santa Cruz Group submitted comments to the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) prepared for the University’s expansion. The fact that two separate DEIRs have been prepared, one for the main campus and another for the Marine Science Campus (Terrace Point) appears to be an attempt to segment the expansion project, a tactic that is forbidden under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Besides the “significant and unavoidable” impacts which the plan itself identifies, the Club enumerated other impacts in the areas of aesthetics, biological resources and major loss of natural resources. Especially egregious is the meaningless wording where proposed mitigations are to be carried out “to the extent feasible.” This is no mitigation at all.

The impact that campus development will have on wildlife habitat is great. Habitat will be fragmented with a significant impact on wildlife. The Draft Environmental Impact Report greatly underestimates the effect on wildlife.

The Club’s comments also ask for a more serious analysis of the alternative of locating the projected University growth at its satellite campus in Silicon Valley.

Public Utilities Commission approves solar plan

In January, the California Public Utilities Commission approved Governor Schwarzenegger’s Solar Roofs Initiative. The solar energy plan, approved on a 3-to-1 vote, would provide subsidies over 11 years (through 2016) to encourage both business and residential customers to install enough rooftop solar energy systems to generate 3,000 megawatts of electricity. That’s enough power to serve about 2.2 million homes and would eliminate the need for six modern power plants, according to the commission.

The plan will be funded by monthly surcharges paid by customers of investor-owned utilities—Pacific Gas & Electric Co., Southern California Edison Co. and San Diego Gas & Electric Co.—in California. However, customers of municipal utilities, such as SMUD in Sacramento, will be also be able to take advantage of this plan.

This initiative was supported by the Sierra Club California.
Help protect wild forests

O
n May 5th, 2005, one of the most popular conservation policies in American history was revoked by the Bush administration. Their decision to abandon the landmark Roadless Area Conservation Rule, and replace it with a convoluted petition process, leaves America’s last wild forests at risk from destructive commercial logging and road building. This ill-conceived plan ignores the overwhelming public support and forces state governors to petition the Department of Agriculture to protect wild, roadless national forests in their state.

America’s last roadless national forests belong to each and every American. All our remaining roadless areas should be protected, completely and permanently through reinstatement of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule of 2001.

Now you can add your voice to the chorus of Americans who want our national forest legacy protected from destructive commercial logging and logging road construction. Sign the petition today! It’s quick, it’s easy, and the message is clear: protect all of the nearly 60 million acres of roadless wild national forests, reinstate the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

Take Action!
Sign the petition online at: www.sierraclub.org/forests/roadless/petition.asp

All our remaining roadless areas should be protected, completely and permanently.

A native forest is a self-regenerating forest that has never been cut or planted by humans. See the photographic evidence for yourself at http://forestcouncil.org/learn/aerial.


Certified Green Auto Repair Businesses

MONTEREY/PACIFIC GROVE
Forest Hill Auto Service
1125 Forest Ave., Pacific Grove, 831/372-6575
Pacific Motor Service
501 E. Fowler Street, Monterey, 831/372-9371

Certified Green Restaurants Capitola
Gallen's
1250 Capella Rd., 831/462-1717

Monterey Bay Area Green Business Program
Look for this seal.
All Green Businesses display this seal in their shops

For more information about the Monterey Bay Area Green Business Program, contact your local Santa Cruz County Coordinator Jo Fleming at (831) 466-7439
or your local Monterey County Coordinator Monterey County, Environmental Health Division (831) 755-4579

or visit our website at www.ambag.org/greenbiz

Please Recycle This Paper Again

The Sierra Club / Ventana Chapter Volume 45 Number 1, 2006

5
Resort or refuge? Coastal Commission to consider Pebble Beach project

F rom March 8-10, the California Coastal Commission will be meeting in Monterey at the Hyatt Regency, and it is likely the Pebble Beach Company plan and Measure A will be on the agenda. The Pebble Beach Company’s proposed project area is almost 300 acres and includes a new golf course, 33 luxury homes, 160 new hotel rooms, a driving range and a new equestrian center—all in the Coastal zone.

This massive project is proposed for an area thickly forested with native Monterey pines and which also has multiple wetland habitats with healthy populations of wetland vegetation, defined under the Coastal Act as Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area. The plan would require cutting down 17,000 trees. The plan also threatens coastal dune habitat and rare maritime chaparral. Nineteen species of plants in the project area are considered to be rare or endangered, seven of which are State and/or Federally-listed.

When the project sailed through the approval process at the Board of Supervisors last March, for weeks domestic and international papers from as far away as London and Australia wrote scathing reports, especially concerning the chopping down of so many native trees.

The Coastal Commission has the power to modify or deny the project. Over 20 private persons and organizations including the Ventana Chapter have filed appeals with the Commission requesting that they deny the project.

How to help

Please plan to attend these hearings. Help save these trees and the habitat for all the plants, animals and birds that will be adversely affected by this massive project. For more information on times, dates and location, go to: www.coastal.ca.gov.

Greenskeepers

There are plenty of golf courses in Monterey County, but fewer and fewer native Monterey pines. In December, attorney Mark Massara and Club members representing the Great Coastal Places Campaign traveled to the Coastal Commission meeting in San Francisco bearing gifts: small potted Monterey pine trees adorned with more than 1000 ornaments containing notes from members urging the Commission to protect the Monterey pine forest.

Mark reports, “I was proud to represent all of our Great Coastal Places members in asking the Commission to protect this magnificent forest for our children and our children’s children.”

To view photo of the trip visit www.sierrclub.org/ca/coasts.

Spin

Don’t be fooled by ads in leading women’s magazines touting the beauty and sustainability of wood. The only problem is the disconnect between what could be and what is. The ads are sponsored by the Abundant Forests Alliance, a coalition of eight timber companies. While logging can be sustainable, the timber industry continues to cut irreplacable old growth trees.

Gov takes action

Governor Rod Blagojevich of Illinois announced a plan to require his state’s coal-fired power plants to reduce the levels of toxic mercury released into the air and water. The plan forces the plants to reduce mercury pollution by 90% in the next three years. The Sierra Club played a big role in this decision, holding nine mercury testing events prior to the ruling.

Mercury is a developmental neurotoxin that can affect developing fetuses, young children, and at higher doses, can lead to serious health effects in adults. The EPA estimates that one in six women of childbearing age has mercury levels in her blood that are high enough to put a baby at risk. Nationwide, as many as 630,000 infants are born every year with unsafe mercury levels, putting them at risk of cognitive and development damage.

To get a kit to test the mercury in your body go to www.sierrclub.org/mercury.

You can see forever

Sempervirens Fund reports that their campaign to raise money to purchase the 40-acre Panorama Ridge as an addition to Castle Rock State Park was a resounding success. A grand opening of the property to the public is slated to occur this spring. The present owner has established a life-tenancy agreement which allowed him to sell the property and continue living in the existing house on a 5-acre area that will remain off limits to park visitors. Panorama Ridge offers views of the entire Monterey Bay. On a clear day, you can see all the way to the Farallon Islands!

Be a picky eater

What do you do if you’re worried about pesticides in your food but your budget is strained by the cost of buying organic? Pick and choose based on pesticide residues. Apples, peaches, strawberries, celery and other fruits and veggies consistently carry higher levels of pesticide residue according to USDA data as reported in the February 2006 issue of Consumer Reports. Find out the whole story at your public library.
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.

Saturdays (see dates below)
Habitat restoration — California Native Plant Society
Volunteer to restore native habitat in State Parks in Santa Cruz Co. Wear layered work clothing. Bring water & gloves. Tools provided. 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We work rain or shine, but if things get particularly unpleasant, we call it a day. Contact Linda Brodman, 462-4041, redwdrn@pacbell.net. website: www.cruzcnps.org.
- February 11, Quail Hollow Co. Park
- February 25, Moore Creek Preserve, Santa Cruz

Month of February
Nature photo exhibit
"For the Love of Wild Fish, Waters, & Forests," by photographer Kate Stafford. Boulder Creek Library. Made possible through a grant from the California Department of Fish & Game, the County of Santa Cruz Fish & Game Advisory Commission, and the Valley Women's Club.

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

Friday - Sunday, February 24-26
Film Festival
Ignite your passion for adventure! The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour will exhilarate you with amazing big-screen stories. Journey to exotic locales, paddle the wildest waters and climb the highest peaks. Rio Theatre in Santa Cruz. $12 General, $10 Students/Seniors. Tickets from UCSC box office, 459-2159; on line @ events.ucsc.edu/tickets; and at sponsors listed in ad on p. 12.

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. 10:00-1:00 p.m. Optional worm bin, $15. Call to reserve worm bin. Sponsored by Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. Call Karin Grobe, 427-3452.
- Sunday, Feb. 26, Grey Bears Recycling Facility, 2710 Chanticleer, Santa Cruz.
- Saturday, April 15, Wilder Ranch
- Saturday, May 20, Grey Bears Recycling Facility, 2710 Chanticleer, Santa Cruz
- Saturday, June 17, Aladdin Nursery, 2907 Freedom Boulevard, Watsonville
- Sunday, July 23, Quail Hollow Ranch Co. Park, 800 Quail Hollow Rd, Felton

Monday, March 13
Potluck and Slides
Join botanists Jim West, Randy Morgan, and Roy Buck and photographers Albie Miles and Dylan Neubauer for an illustrated journey through the flora of the incredibly diverse Scotts Creek watershed. UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building. 6:30 p.m. potluck; lecture at 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by the UCSC Arboretum and the California Native Plant Society.

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.

A scene from “Becoming a Man in Siberia,” to be shown at the Baniff Festival. Photo: Benoit Segur, Philippe Pothon, courtesy of The Banff Centre. See listing above for Feb. 24-26.
The Soquel Demonstration State Forest (SDSF), adjacent to Nisene Marks State Park, was established in 1990 thanks to AB 1965 sponsored by then Assembly member, Sam Farr. The 2681-acre forest, previously owned by Pelican Timber Company and slated for extensive logging, became part of the 71,000-acre demonstration state forest system.

Farr and his aide at the time, Fred Keeley, made sure the enabling legislation for SDSF included safeguards to prevent the demonstration forest from becoming a “cash cow” for the state. The safeguards included: watershed protection; base-line monitoring; studies of the hazards, risks, and benefits of forest operations; public education; sustained yield timber production, and protection of old growth redwood trees. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) which manages the state forests, may conduct limited commercial logging at SDSF only to fund maintenance and operations and fulfill the other objectives of AB 1965. An advisory committee, also required by the enabling legislation, was formed to help CDF develop a General Forest Management Plan for this particular demonstration forest. The general public also has been actively involved in ensuring that the management plan adheres to the enabling legislation.

Since the formation of SDSF, one timber harvest has occurred and a number of small hardwood harvests have taken place. Some studies have been conducted including research on snags (dead, standing trees) and snag creation, bird populations, sudden oak death and large in-stream wood. Various educational events have also taken place.

Last year, SDSF foresters prepared a second timber harvest plan (THP) to occur along the east branch of Soquel Creek. This plan, still under review, does not conform to the General Management Plan for SDSF.

The initial proposal included using water from Soquel Creek for road construction.
Read labels carefully, and select non-pesticide alternatives that will not harm children, pets, amphibians such as the Monterey Ensatina, or wildflowers.

Phacelia (violet) and goldfields blanket the Carrizo Plain in the spring. 2005 was an especially good year for wildflowers.

continued from p. 8

The Club does not expect to see major federal policy shifts in the next few years, given the anti-environmental leadership in the White House and the Congress and the growing anti-environmental slant of the federal courts.

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!

Many commonly-used garden products will kill amphibians such as the Monterey Ensatina. Read labels carefully, and select non-pesticide alternatives that will not harm children, pets, and native animals.
The 15-acre County property in Roach Canyon is a long, narrow parcel, running north-south, and located off Carmel Valley Road just east of De La Mesa, Carmel. The property was donated outright to the County in 1964 by the developers of De La Mesa who, at the same time, granted the County a scenic easement on an additional 271 acres surrounding the development. Both the 15-acre gift and the scenic easement were given by the developer in return for clustering and density concessions on the buildable mesa.

That the County accepted the gift with the intent of putting it to park and/or open space use is evidenced by the fact that the County Parks Director and his Parks Commission met with an advisory committee of Peninsula citizens to discuss how best to develop the land for this type of use. It was the consensus at that time that the 15 acres should be left undeveloped, and that the land would, in the future, serve as a key element in a hiking and riding trail system, and as a southern access to an anticipated public park on the Peninsula’s ridge.

. . . The Executive Committee . . . adopted a resolution opposing the use of Roach Canyon for anything but park or open space . . .

by Vicky Hoover, Activist Outing Chair

S

ign up for a 2006 Sierra Club national activist outing and become part of the new Wild Legacy Conservation Initiative that the Club inaugurated as a result of the Sierra Summit. Our nation’s Wild Legacy is at the heart of the Sierra Club mission, and our outings program is tied to this proud tradition. National Activist outings inspire people to fight to preserve our wild legacy and also train participants to become strong advocates for preservation on their return home.

Sign up now while space is still available. For details, contact Vicky Hoover, 415-977-5527 or vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org. Ask about partial trip scholarships if cost is a deterrent. For a trip brochure and application form, call the Sierra Club Outing Department’s 24-hour voicemail, 415-977-5522, or visit www.sierraclub.org/outings/national.

August 27 - September 4

FROM THE TUSHAR HIGHLANDS TO THE AQUARIUS PLATEAU

Enjoy Central Utah’s undiscovered national forest plateaus on two short, moderate backpacks separated by a rest day. From these remote heights, admire broad views over Utah’s basin and range to spectacular Escalante canyonlands. Learn Utah wilderness history and issues with Vicky Hoover and Jim Catlin. Trip #06102A, $545.

September 8 - 16

BIG SKY AND WINDING RIVERS

A hidden land of high desert and a vast, undulating volcanic plateau deeply cut by abrupt gorges is known to few people. We’ll hike the Owyhee’s dramatic ridges and rivers while van-camping along obscure backcountry roads in Idaho, Oregon and Nevada. Leader Craig Deutsche shows off this prime habitat for pronghorn antelope, eagle, sage grouse and more. Trip #06103A, $725.

September 10 - 17

AUTUMN IN WILD VERMONT

Come enjoy our mixture of moderate backpacking and trail maintenance in Vermont’s proposed Glastonbury Mountain Wilderness. Early autumn colors and an exciting wilderness campaign enhance our two separate short “working” backpacks in the legendary Green Mountains, with leader Debbie Smith and Vermont activist John Harbison. Trip #06104A, $595.
GENERAL INFORMATION:
All outings begin and end at the trailhead. Carpooling to and from the trailhead is strictly a private arrangement between the driver and his/her guests. Carpool drivers are not agents or employees of the Sierra Club.

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

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

**Walk:** Between 2.5 miles, leisurely pace.
**Easy:** No more than 5 miles; slight elevation gain; easy pace.
**Moderate:** 5-10 miles; up to 2,000’ gain; boosters better than average fitness required.
**Strenuous:** May involve off-trail hiking; demanding pace; for experienced hikers in good condition only.

MEETING PLACES:

DIRECTIONS:

**Park and Ride/Black Bear Diner:** This parking lot is on Rio Road in Carmel.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**FEBRUARY**

Saturday, February 4
**HIKE: PT. BONITA**
After driving to San Francisco, we’ll take the bus across the Marin Headlands to the Pacific coast. We’ll visit the park Visitor Center and Pt. Bonita lighthouse, then hike back via the Coastal trail to and across the Golden Gate Bridge. 10 miles with 1000’ elevation change. Bring water, lunch and a snack, hiking boots and $3.25 bus fare. Binoculars and/or camera optional. Dress for windy weather. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:45 a.m. Leader: George Jannal, 335-7748.

Saturday, February 4
**WALK: MONTEREY’S PATH OF HISTORY**
Have you ever walked through Old Monterey and really looked at the historic adobes and monuments and wondered what kind of stories they could tell? Here is your chance to become an expert in Monterey lore and take a leisurely 3-mile walk. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Monterey Public Library parking lot on Pacific Street across from the fire department. Wear walking shoes; bring water and a snack. Rain cancels. Phone old historic leader, Joyce Stevens, 624-3149 for more information.

Sunday, February 5
**HIKE: JACK’S PEAK**
We’ll walk around Jack’s Peak clockwise, starting at the elementary school on Olmstead Road (near airport). 6 miles with less than 1000’ elevation gain. Beautiful views of Monterey and Point Lobos. Bring water and lunch. Heavy rain cancels, dreible doesn’t count. Dress for water weather. Confirm by calling leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Tuesday, February 7
**SENIOR SAUNTER: ANTONELLI POND**
3-mile easy hike starting at the west side of Antonelli Pond, visiting the Homeless Garden, then to Terrace Point and the Seymour Center. Back to Natural Bridges for lunch. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or on Delaware Ave. just past Swanton at entrance to Natural Bridges at 9:50 a.m. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water, $2 carpool. Leader: Jean Harrison, 425-5447.

Saturday, February 11
**HIKE: WILDER RANCH**
A 9-mile loop with 900’ elevation change, along the Engelmann, Long Meadow, Chinquapin, Eucalyptus, Old Cabin and Wild Boar trails in the eastern and northern sections of Wilder Ranch State Park. We’ll traverse several riparian forests and open meadows with beautiful ocean vistas. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch and $1 for carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Saturday, February 11
**HIKE: POINT LOBOS**
4-mile walk, starting from Hwy. 1, to the Pit, then back past Whaler’s Cove, to the top of Whaler’s Knoll and back via southern trails. Meet at Albertson’s at 9:00 a.m. for short carpool. Bring snack, water, and optional binoculars for close-ups of the animal life. Leader, Martha Saylor 372-9215.

Saturday, February 11
**HIKE: PINNACLES**
Hike North and South Chalone Peaks. Experience a hike that few dare to take. Views of the Diablo range to the East, Santa Lucia Mtns. to the west, overlook of the great Salinas Valley, and if nature permits, we will be able to see from Moss Landing all the way to Santa Cruz. This 3500’ elevation gain hike is worth every inch of its strenuously steep 15-mile loop. Bring plenty of food, water, dress in layers, and $ for carpool. Starting time is early. For information call Esperanza Hernandez, 679-1968. Please call in advance.

Sunday, February 12
**HIKE: FT. ORD**
10 miles in rolling hills on Fort Ord Public Lands with some elevation gain. Exact path to be determined, perhaps some early wildflowers. Heavy rain cancels. Bring water, lunch, wear boots. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Home Depot, exit 218. Leaders: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042, and Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

Sunday - Monday, February 12 - 13
**OVERNIGHT SKI: PETER GRUBB HUT**
Peter Grubb is a Sierra Club hut built in the 1930s near Castle Peak north of Interstate 80. Experienced skiers only. We will depart around 10:00 a.m. on Sunday from Clair Tappaan Lodge to the Boreal Ridge Snow Park where we will park then ski with back packs for 2.5 miles to Peter Grubb hut. We should be back at Clair Tappaan lodge by sunset on Monday. You may choose to stay Saturday night and/or Monday night at Clair Tappaan. $16/person. For reservations and 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 convenient access to all mountain activities, excellent family style meals, a friendly staff and a casual atmosphere.

FEATURED PROGRAMS

**FEBRUARY 3–5 Snow Camping Skills Course** Price: $145 members, $170 non-members.

**FEBRUARY 10–12, MARCH 24–26 Bay Area Ski Bus Trips** Ride in comfort from Oakland to Clair Tappaan. Price: $175 members, $200 non-members, $140 children (includes lodging/meals).

**FEBRUARY 17–19, MARCH 24–26 Snowshoe Ecology Tours** Enjoy guided snowshoe day tours and broaden your knowledge of alpine ecology. Price: $145 members, $170 non-members (includes lodging/meals).

**MARCH 10-12 Kids Ski Weekend** Start kids off right with lessons and short trips on CIT trails. Price: $125/child (includes equipment rental/lodging/meals).

**MARCH 17–19 Snow Camping Trip** Price: $145 members, $170 non-members.

For more information about these programs or to receive a full schedule and description of Clair Tappaan programs please visit our website at www.clitapaa.com or call (800) 679-6775.
We’ll climb the Baldwin Loop trail 3.5 miles with moderate steep uphill with great ocean views. No restroom facilities, but we can stop at Wilder Ranch to use restrooms. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or at Mission & King Streets by Shen’s at 9:50 a.m. To go direct, drive past Wilder Ranch entrance about 2 miles. When you see sign saying “Quilted Fish,” park in lot to the left. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water, $3 carpool. Leader: Pat Herzog, 458-9841.

**Saturday, February 18**

**HIKE: DEL MONTE FOREST**
Join Club members from other chapters for a get-together and walk in Del Monte Forest. Bring lunch. Mark Massara of the Club’s Great Coastal Places campaign will be there to talk about the Sierra Club’s opposition to the Pebble Beach Company’s plans to cut down 17,000 trees for a golf course and other development. There are picnic tables and several choices for hikes and walks in the forest. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Veterans Park in the City of Monterey on the edge of Skyline Forest. For more information call D’Anne Albers, 422-8144.

**Sunday, February 19**

**HIKE: PICO BLANCO PUBLIC CAMP**
Let’s hike to the most beautiful waterfall and pool in the Ventana Wilderness. This 15’ fall and 30’ pool is surrounded by redwoods, granite and ferns. Strenuous 11 miles and 1500’ elevation gain with the first two miles along the Little Sur river. Bring lunch, water, wear boots and maybe bring sandals. Meet at Albertson’s at 8:30 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

**Tuesday, February 21**

**SENIOR HIKE: COASTWAYS/AÑO NUEVO**
A 3-mile hike from the Año Nuevo trailhead across Hwy. 1 from Coastways Ranch (now closed). We’ll walk the trails to the nesting beaches and back to the Visitor Center for lunch. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water and $4 carpool. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or at Mission & King Streets by Shen’s at 9:50 a.m. For further directions, call leader: Joan Brohmer, 462-3823.

**Wednesday, February 22**

**HIKE: JACK’S PEAK**
Jack’s Peak County Park sits on a wooded ridge separating the Monterey Peninsula from Carmel Valley and surrounds the 1,088’ peak. We’ll hike through Monterey pine forest and coastal oak trees to overlooks of Monterey Bay, Carmel Valley, the Santa Lucia Mountains, Point Lobos and the blue Pacific. 8 miles looping around Skyline, Rhus, Iris and Coffeeberry trails. Bring water and lunch. Park entrance fee required. Meet to carpool from Santa Cruz at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. or behind the gas station in Aptos at 9:15 a.m. We will meet at the East Picnic parking lot at the park at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 425-3925.

**Friday, February 24**

**WALK: SPANISH BAY & POINT PINOS**
We’ll walk around Spanish Bay in Pebble Beach, then loop back to explore the boardwalk area of Asilomar Conference Grounds. Next we’ll walk along coastal paths to Point Pinos looking for shorebirds. Our return will be along the old railroad path. Bring water and lunch, which we’ll eat in the leaders’ garden. Easy walk with ocean breezes and views. Meet at 10:30 a.m. outside the Fishwife Restaurant in Pacific Grove (Follow Hwy 68 west until it reaches Asilomar Blvd.) Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372 7427.

**Saturday, February 25**

**HIKE: PAT SPRING**
Let’s hike 14 very strenuous miles to Pat Spring with 2000’ elevation gain. From Devil’s Peak we’ll be able to admire the back of Pico Blanco. Unforgettable vistas. We can refill our water bottles at Pat Spring with the help of my water filter. Bring plenty of food for energy, water, dress in layers, and most important of all comfortable shoes for the day. Leisurely pace; we can take our time on this LONG hike. For information about meeting place and time, call leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

**Friday, February 24**

**HIKE: WHALE PEAK**
Join us for a day hike within Garrapata State Park to the crest of Palo Corona where one can see north past Santa Cruz and south past Big Sur. This hike will take us along Soberanes Creek 1 mile through the redwoods where we begin an 800’ climb to the top of Palo Corona for lunch. Spectacular views. Our 5-miles round trip hike takes us down the Rocky Ridge Trail. Bring lunch and lots of water; good hiking shoes. Meet at Albertson’s at 9:50 a.m. for a car shuttle. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Henry Leinen, 635-1948.

**Sunday, February 26**

**HIKE: GARLAND RANCH/WATERFALL**
Let’s stroll around some of the lower trails of this beautiful park and find out if there is water in the waterfall. Easy pace, elevation change slight, but footing can be slippery, so wear footgear with good tread. Bring water and lunch. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the lower parking lot, 9 miles east of Hwy. 1 on Carmel Valley Road or at Albertson’s at 9:30 a.m. for a car shuttle. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Patty and John Bissenden, hospitality and first-class service are trademarks. Come and be pampered at Sorensen’s.

**Call or write for a free brochure.**

---

**Sorensen’s (Resort)**
Hope Valley, CA 95612
1-800-423-9949
www.sorensensresort.com

A year-round resort with cozy log cottages; a cafe serving hearty gourmet cuisine and fine California wines. A High Sierra hideaway offering many choices...fishing, courses in fly-tying, fly-rod building, & fly-casting, hiking, cross-country skiing, historic walks & hot springs.

Its backdrop...the grandeur of Hope Valley, with its wide-open meadows, towering rugged peaks, and clear, rushing streams teeming with trout.

For innkeepers Patty and John Bissenden, hospitality and first-class service are trademarks. Come and be pampered at Sorensen’s.

---

**National Geographic & Dunham Bootmakers Present**

**THE BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR**

**Feb. 24, Feb 25, 7 pm**

Feb. 26, 2 pm (Sunday Matinee) Rio Theatre

$10 General, $10 Students/Seniors

Different films each show

Tickets available at UCSC box office, (831) 459-2159, on line @ events.ucsc.edu/tickets and at Bugaboo, Pacific Edge, Adventure Sports. Sponsored by UCSC Recreation • Bugaboo • Pacific Edge • Seagate • Adventure Sports • Family Cycling Center • Good Times

Call UCSC Recreation @ 459-2806 for more info. We adhere to A.D.A. • A Benefit for UCSC Wilderness Orientation Scholarship Fund & UCSC Recreation

---

**O U T I N G S**

---

For more information, call leader: Jukka 429-8513 beginning at 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. only.

**Sunday, March 1**

**HIKE: LEXINGTON PARK**
We’ve all driven by the reservoir built in 1952 that was named after the logging town of Lexington. This basin is believed to have been used by the Ohlone Indians for thousands of years as part of a trail corridor to the coast and later used by the Franciscan missionaries. We’ll see some of the historic spots and discuss the history as we hike 8 miles along the trail up to Prast Rock and down...
In spring the Veeder trail in Garland Park hosts a profusion of wildflowers. It may be a bit early for the big displays, but we’ll take a look. Meet behind Brinton’s at 9:40 a.m. to carpool to the trailhead on East Garzas Road. Our 4-mile loop hike is very steep both up and down hill. Bring water and lunch which we’ll enjoy at the wisteria stand at the high point of our leisurely walk. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372-7427.

Saturday, March 4
HIKE: SUNOL COUNTY PARK
We’ll be looking for early wildflowers in this East Bay park. The rolling grassy hills east of San Francisco Bay get more sunlight and heat so our chances are good. 10 miles with some steep hill climbs. Long sleeves and long pants recommended for ticks. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Bring $5-6 carpool contribution for this long drive. Call Nick for more information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Saturday, March 4
HIKE: BLOOMQUIST RANCH
We’ll hike a dirt road along Tularcitos Creek in upper Carmel Valley. This is a remote section of the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District. 6 miles round trip to the old cabin site, with 200’ of elevation gain. We hope to see many early wildflowers. Bring lunch and water. Call for reservation and meeting times as space is limited. Leader: Larry Parrish, 622-7455.

Sunday, March 5
WALK: CARMEL CIRCLE
Come with us on a 3-mile, rambling circle in Carmel. We’ll start at the Carmel River Beach, past Mission Ranch, up Mission Trail Nature Preserve, through Carmel along the Carmel Beach Walk to our starting point. Pine trees, postcard houses, ocean beaches, gardens. We’ll see it all. Meet at Carmel River State Beach parking lot, south end of Carmel Street at 10:00 a.m. from Santa Cruz, take the Monterey Bay Expressway to 28th Street at the river, turn left on East Garzas Rd. and continue 0.2 miles to the paved road. From Seaside, take Hwy. 1 south to Ocean Avenue exit, then turn left on East Garzas Rd. and continue 0.2 miles to the paved road. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at the end of Green Hills Rd. at 9:25 a.m. in front of the gate across the road. Meet in front of the last commercial building. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Sunday, March 5
HIKE: FALL CREEK EAST RIDGE
A 7-mile loop hike, with 1200’ elevation change, along the Bennett Creek, Ridge, Truck and Big Ben trails in the east-ridge section of this state park. Our return will follow gorgeous Fall Creek where we’ll see the machinery at the remains of the old barrel mill and the three granite-block lime kilns that date from the 1870s. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Bring $5-6 carpool contribution for this long drive. Call Nick for more information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Saturday, March 11
HIKE: PINE VALLEY
Join us on this strenuous, steep 14-mile loop hike with 2000’ elevation gain. The views of the Ventana Wilderness are breathtaking. We’ll hike up from China Camp, down to Church Creek Divide up to Pine Ridge Trail, to Bear Basin Connector to Pine Valley. Hopefully we’ll get to meet and talk to the legendary John English who might have wonderful tales to share with us by the creek. Bring lots of food, plenty of water (filter provided), dress in layers, and wear boots. For information about meeting place and time, call leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Sunday, March 12
HIKE: KAHN RANCH
We’ll watch for early spring flowers as we take a short but steep loop on the Hitchcock Canyon and Manzanita trails. 500’ elevation gain; 5 miles. Because access to this area of Garland Park is strictly limited, phone leader for meeting time and place. Participants will need binoculars, sun hat and/or rain gear, and their own transportation to Carmel Valley. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

Tuesday, March 14
SENIOR HIKE: POINT LOBOS
This is one of our favorite spots. We’ll park at Whalers Cove and hike the North Shore, the Allen Cypress Grove, then Sand Hill Trail to Piney Wood for lunch. Bring binoculars. 3 miles on good trails. Heavy poison oak. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or at Whalers Cove parking lot about 10:30 a.m. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water, $5 carpool and share of entrance fee. Rain cancels. Leader: Pat Herzog, 485-9841.

Wednesday, March 15
HIKE: LODATO PARK
Our trail in this Scotts Valley park heads uphill from Hwy. 17 off Green Hills Rd. to the ridge overlooking Scotts Valley. It circles from Blair Ranch Rd. to Redwood Rd., with spectacular views over Scotts Valley, Santa Cruz and Monterey Bay and then descends into a private nature park in the redwoods. For this moderate 6-mile hike bring water and lunch. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at the end of Green Hills Rd. at 9:25 a.m. in front of the gate across the road. Meet in front of the last commercial building. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, March 18
HIKE: HENRY COE STATE PARK
This hike will be another wildflower effort. 10 miles with 1800’ elevation gain, some of it quite steep because the park originally was a cattle ranch (trails planned more for horses than Sierra Clubbers). Come with us on a 3-mile, rambling circle in East Bay park. The rolling grassy hills east of San Francisco Bay get more sunlight and heat so our chances are good. 10 miles with some steep hill climbs. Long sleeves and long pants recommended for ticks. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call Nick for more information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Monday, March 20
HIKE: BUTANO STATE PARK
Celebrate the spring equinox with this 10-mile hike, including magnificent old-growth redwoods, the headwaters of Butano Creek, and the north ridge with its fine views. We should see many wildflowers, including, if we’re lucky, a colony or two of the uncommon Calypso orchids (John Muir’s favorite wildflower). Meet at 8:45 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Bring lunch and water. Contact leaders, Peter and Celia Scott, 423-6796 or drp@ucsc.edu for details.

Tuesday, March 21
SENIOR HIKE: DE LA VEGA
Feel as if you are in your own backyard. Hike by Branciforte Creek, redwoods, laurels and oaks. Some uphill. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or at De Laveaga Park by restrooms at 9:30 a.m. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water and $2 carpool. Leader: Janet Schwid, 425-3845.

Wednesday, March 22
HIKE: GARZAS - REDWOOD CANYONS
Garzas is a stream-fed canyon bisingecting Garland Ranch. The Garzas Canyon Trail heads up the lush garden-like canyon past rock-lined pools and numerous creek crossings. The hike goes into Redwood Canyon, a remote side canyon with clusters of towering redwoods and then down the East Ridge Trail. If there has been a lot of rain, you might want to wear waterproof boots for this 9-mile hike. There are numerous footbridges as the trail climbs and then dips down by Garzas Creek. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m. to carpool or drive 10.3 miles down Carmel Valley Rd. to Boronda Rd. and turn left on East Garzas Rd. and continue 0.2 miles to the paved road. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at the end of Green Hills Rd. at 9:25 a.m. in front of the gate across the road. Meet in front of the last commercial building. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.
Come and celebrate my birthday by camping at the Pinnacles. Friday night we’ll serve cheese and wine at dinner. On Saturday there is a 12-mile hike from the campground to the reservoir, the high peaks and down to the west side, to the caves and back to camp. For information about meeting place and time, call leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Saturday, April 8
HIKE: COOK SPRING CAMP
We’ll start hiking from Memorial Park Camp along the Arroyo Seco River to Forks Camp, past beautiful False Madrone Camp, to Madrone Camp, to Cooks Camp and back. Beautiful river sites, redwoods, pines, madrones and spectacular views of mountain ranges. Strenuous 12 miles. We’ll benefit from the maintenance work that the VWA has done on this wonderful trail. Early start for long ride to trailhead. No shorts, wear long sleeves, dress in layers, bring substantial lunch, water, wear comfortable boots and bring $ for carpool. For information about meeting place and time, call leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Saturday, April 8
HIKE: PURISIMA CREEK REDWOODS
A 10-mile loop hike, with 1500’ elevation change, along the Purisima Creek, Soda Gulch, upper Harkins Ridge, upper North Ridge and Whitmore Gulch trails, in this open space preserve. From Hwy. 1, we’ll travel northeast 4.5 miles on Purisima Road to the trailhead. This 2,633-acre preserve has the northernmost major redwood forest in the Santa Cruz Mountains, and it is also wooded with Douglas fir, madrone, oak and chaparral. The ridge tops will provide us with views of the Pacific and the local mountains. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 8:00 a.m. Bring water, lunch and $5 for carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Sunday, April 9
HIKE: VICENTE FLATS
We’ll start hiking from Memorial Park Camp and walk along the Arroyo Seco to Forks Camp, past beautiful False Madrone Camp, to Madrone Camp, to Cooks Camp and back. Beautiful river sites, redwoods, pines, madrones and spectacular views of mountain ranges. Strenuous 12 miles. We’ll benefit from the maintenance work that the VWA has done on this wonderful trail. Early start for long ride to trailhead. No shorts, wear long sleeves, dress in layers, bring substantial lunch, water, wear comfortable boots and bring $ for carpool. For information about meeting place and time, call leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Sunday, April 9
HIKE: GARZAS CREEK
What’s up in the wildflower world? We’ll check out the blooms along the Terrace Trail then drop down to Garzas Canyon to return along the creek. 5 miles, elevation gain slight. Bring lunch on the go and bring $ for carpool. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Sunday, April 9
HIKE: PURISIMA CREEK REDWOODS
A 10-mile loop hike, with 1500’ elevation change, along the Purisima Creek, Soda Gulch, upper Harkins Ridge, upper North Ridge and Whitmore Gulch trails, in this open space preserve. From Hwy. 1, we’ll travel northeast 4.5 miles on Purisima Road to the trailhead. This 2,633-acre preserve has the northernmost major redwood forest in the Santa Cruz Mountains, and it is also wooded with Douglas fir, madrone, oak and chaparral. The ridge tops will provide us with views of the Pacific and the local mountains. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 8:00 a.m. Bring water, lunch and $5 for carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Sunday, April 9
HIKE: VICENTE FLATS
We’ll have a wonderful drive down the coast and then climb steadily but not steeply over meadows, through redwoods and finally to an open spot under huge trees where we saw a gazzilion gloggy ladybugs last year. About 2000’ elevation gain and 11 scenic miles. Meet at Albertson’s at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch, water, and $ for carpool. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042, suzannearcm1@aol.com.

Sunday, April 9
HIKE: GARZAS CREEK
What’s up in the wildflower world? We’ll check out the blooms along the Terrace Trail then drop down to Garzas Canyon to return along the creek. 5 miles, elevation gain slight. The flowers should make it all worthwhile.

Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the main parking lot of Garland Ranch (on Carmel Valley Road) to avoid crowding at the trailhead. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-5565.

Tuesday, April 11
HIKE: FORT ORD
4 to 5 mile hike with some steep uphill on Ford Ord Public Lands. We’ll see a great variety of wildflowers blooming this time of year. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. Call leader for directions if you wish to go direct. Bring lunch, water, $ carpool. Leader: Joan Brohmer, 462-3802.

Saturday, April 15
HIKE: HOLT ROAD TO SNIVELY RIDGE
We’ll walk up from Mid Valley on Holt Road through the forest to the “closed” south trail to Garland Ranch’s Snively Ridge and higher, if we want. May return down the park or go back on the north trail to Mid Valley. 9 miles, 1500’ elevation gain. Expect some pois-son oak, so wear long pants. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Mid Valley shopping center in Carmel Valley and meet at the bank on Berwick Street at 9:30 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Call to confirm. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Sunday, April 16
HIKE: WEST PINNACLES
This is a great spring hiking area with lots of wildflowers. 10 miles with 1000’ elevation gain that will take us through the high peaks with the possibility of viewing a condor. Bring lunch and lots of water, wear sturdy shoes. Meet at MPC parking lot A at 8:30 a.m. or at the West Pinnacles parking lot at 10:00 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Call leader before the hike. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-4122.

---

The Sierra Club / Ventana Chapter Volume 45 Number 1, 2006 Printed on Recycled Paper
FEATURES
Chapter chair 2
From the editor 2
Letters 3
Newscips 6
Calendar 7
Roots 10
Outings 11
Chapter directory 15

ARTICLES
Hike to save the pines 3
Feds to drill on North Slope 4
Solar plan approved 4
Protect wild forests 5
Pebble Beach development to come before Commission 6
Soquel Forest controversy 8
Activists trips 10
New bikeway opens 16

Bicyclists enjoy the new Beach Street Bikeway in Santa Cruz at the ribbon-cutting ceremony in December. This bikeway provides two-way travel for bicyclists on a one-way street fronting the beach and Boardwalk. Beach Street is a major travel corridor for bicyclists traveling between the Westside and the Eastside of Santa Cruz.