Who says you can't go grocery shopping on a bike? Corinne Hyland brings home the groceries despite being 8 1/2 months pregnant. As a health educator for the County of Santa Cruz, Corinne practices what she preaches. About three weeks after these photos were taken, Corinne gave birth to a 7 pound 15 ounce baby girl, Evan Marie.
1. Two critical land use measures may face on the June 6 ballot in Monterey County. We urge all Ventana Chapter Sierra Club members to vote NO on Measure C, the second referendum to stop Rancho San Juan and to vote YES on the Community General Plan Initiative. As we go to press, it is not yet certain if these issues will be on the ballot.

2. Rancho San Juan, proposed for 2,500 acres between Salinas and Prunedale, was first approved by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors in December 2004. Because both traffic and water problems were not addressed, four lawsuits were filed against the county.

3. In November 2005 nearly 76% of Monterey County voters rejected Rancho San Juan. However, one day before voters went to the polls, the Supervisors approved a so-called down-sized version of Rancho San Juan, Butterfly Village. Within a month of hijacking the election, Supervisors began re-expanding Rancho San Juan.

4. Opponents of the project then qualified a second referendum, Measure C, for the June 2006 ballot. Ventana Chapter of Sierra Club urges you to vote NO on C.

The “downsized” project contains 1,147 houses, and a golf course/resort. It will generate 13,000 additional car trips on already gridlocked roads and will increase water consumption in an area of severe water overdraft.

To learn more about Rancho San Juan call Julie Engell, 633-8799 or visit www.stopranchosanjuan.org.

Yes on Community General Plan Initiative

The Community General Plan Initiative amends the County’s 1982 General Plan in four common-sense ways.

1. The initiative focuses development and community investment in five existing communities: Fort Ord, Pajaro, Castroville, Boronda, and Chualar. Each of these communities has existing infrastructure which can be augmented, has existing redevelopment plans, and has expressed desire for some growth.

2. The initiative requires adequate roads and a permanent water supply before or concurrent with new development.

3. The initiative increases the amount of below-market-rate housing required in all new subdivisions from 20% to 30%.

4. The initiative requires a vote of the people in order to change these basic land use policies.

The Community General Plan Initiative is endorsed by Sierra Club, the League of Women Voters of the Salinas Valley, and of the Monterey Peninsula, the Salinas Valley LULAC #2995, and many others. To learn more visit www.montereyplan.org or call 647-1028.

—Julie Engell

This column was written by Julie Engell a member of the Chapter Ex-Com.

Why I support habitat preservation and restoration in the Arana Gulch Greenbelt

The City of Santa Cruz has released a public comment a Master Plan and Draft EIR for the eastside Greenbelt property known as Arana Gulch. When I first moved to Santa Cruz in 1988, the property was full of cows. At the time I was unaware of another resident of that coastal prairie remnant: the Santa Cruz Tarplant (Arana Gulch variety). The tarplant’s flower is not showy. You might walk right by it without taking notice. But it has one very important distinction. It grows nowhere else in the world. It is officially listed as “threatened” by the Federal Government and as “endangered” by the State of California.

When I walk on either Greenbelt properties owned by the City, I expect to have an experience in which Nature is paramount. I do not expect or want paved paths through the Pogonip. I recall in horror at the thought of paving a path through the glorious goldfields that blanket parts of the Moore Creek Uplands. Why, then, would the City consider installing a series of paved paths on the smallest of its Greenbelt lands?

The lure of a bicycle connection through Arana Gulch has many people discounting the environmental damage that paving such a connection would create. As a frequent bicyclist, I understand that lure. Bicycling is a non-polluting form of transportation that the Sierra Club encourages. We need more bikeways and bike lanes in this community.

I am a member of People Power, the bicycle advocacy group; I am also a member of the California Native Plant Society. I cherish biodiversity, not only for itself, but for its importance to humans. The Draft EIR states that paving a bikeway through the Greenbelt would cause significant and non-mitigable damage to the tarplant.

Bicyclists dealing with traffic on Soquel Avenue might wish that a paved bikeway could be built through Arana Gulch without damage to the environment, but they are wishing, not looking at the facts. The botanists say that the environmental damage would be significant.

I will be embarrassed if our city decides to ignore the science. I will be horrified if this city of mine, a city which has solar panels on its city hall, applies for a permit to “take” (kill) an endangered species. I will be more than disappointed in our City Council members.

But there is another choice. A bikeway on the railroad right-of-way would provide a traffic-free east-west bike route without harming endangered species. That is why I and the Sierra Club wholeheartedly support purchase and construction of the rail trail: A bikeway that would go for miles in a car-free environment, not just the quarter mile crossing Arana Gulch.

I hope you will contact the Santa Cruz City Council and urge them to act on the science not on wishful thinking. Let them know that we may have a legal and, most certainly, a moral imperative not only to preserve the tarplant, but also to restore it by implementing a sound tarplant management plan.

We need more bikeways in Santa Cruz, but we should not erode endangered species in order to get them.

—Debbie Bulger

Debbie Bulger, Editor 6265 King Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95062 e-mail: dbulger@cruzio.com

Debbie Bulger, Vivian Larkins, Dale Nutley

Julie Engell, Debbie Bulger, Bill Magavern


Richard Stover, Wolfgang Rosenberg, Charles Koester, Jim Danaher, Eloise Graham, Vivian Larkins
Actually arboreal

I am writing to you about the salamander pictured in the last issue of The Ventana. The species is actually an arboreal salamander—a common amphibian on the west side of Santa Cruz. Winter is a good time to find them in your yard under wet boards, potted plants and yard clipings. I found one just last week under a kayak that was on the ground in my backyard. In spite of their name, they seem to spend a lot of time down on earth (or maybe I don’t spend enough time climbing big, old oak trees).

In my experience, the ensatina appears to be much less common on the Westside. With their bright orange belly and dark red back, they more closely resemble the California newt. I can usually find them in spring and summer under the duff and downed logs in the sycamore groves along the San Lorenzo River. They are easiest to find in areas with big trees and sandy soil. (After I look at them, I always return the log back to its original location.) I have watched for many years and have not seen the lovely mating dance described by Stebbins. I once heard from a student of Professor Stebbins that he observed the dance only once with a captive pair of ensatina. I keep hoping to see it someday live here in Santa Cruz County. In the meantime, I will keep turning over logs and rocks during wet periods.

—Greg Meyer
Santa Cruz

Editor’s Note:
See p. 9 for comparison photos of the arboreal salamander and the ensatina.-

Largest-ever mercury study finds 1 in 5 women with dangerous levels

Researchers in North Carolina released results in February of the nation’s largest study ever on the effects of mercury on the U.S. population. It analyzed hair samples from more than 6600 women from all 50 states and found that 1 in 5 women of childbearing age exceeded the EPA’s recommended limit of 1 microgram of mercury/gram of hair.

The hair samples came from public mercury-testing events sponsored by the Sierra Club and Greenpeace and individuals who ordered testing kits online and mailed a couple of inches of hair to the lab. The samples were analyzed by Dr. Steve Patch and fellow researchers at the Environmental Quality Institute at the University of North Carolina, Asheville. Researchers found a direct relationship between mercury levels and fish consumption.

Coal burning is the main way mercury gets into waters where it accumulates in fish and makes its way up the food chain. Mercury contamination is especially dangerous for women of child-bearing years because mercury exposure in the womb can cause neurological damage and other health problems in children.

Find out more about what fish are most contaminated with mercury. Visit sierrclub.org/mercury.

Endangered species action heats up in the Senate

F or over 30 years the Endangered Species Act has worked to safeguard America’s fish and wildlife by preventing the extinction of hundreds of animals across the country. Thanks to the Endangered Species Act, the wolf has returned to Yellowstone, wild salmon still spawn in the rivers of the Pacific Northwest, and the bald eagle once again soars from coast to coast.

Representative Richard Pombo (R-TRacy) is working to degrade the Endangered Species Act, sell off millions of acres of national forest and national park properties, open the California Coast to offshore drilling, and drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. A bill that would gut the endangered species act has passed the house and is before the Senate. Sierra Club is working to ensure that the Endangered Species Act remains strong so that future generations of Americans are able to enjoy fish and wildlife just as we have.

How to help

Let Senators Boxer and Feinstein know that you support a strong Endangered Species Act with full public participation.

Volunteer to table in Morgan Hill to educate Pombo’s constituents about his positions. Call Deirdre at 423-6857.

For more information see: www.sierrclub.org/esa.
Sierra Club activists from around California joined Ventana Chapter members at the 13-hour long Coastal Commission meeting on March 10 in Monterey. Nearly 300 people (150 of them Sierra Club members) crowded into the conference room where the meeting was held and listened to over 100 speakers. Members of many other environmental groups also were present.

The day before, the Commissioners had toured the Pebble Beach property to see for themselves just what the development plans would entail. Club activists were on hand to point out the destruction of habitat and threats to 19 species of special concern including the California red-legged frog, the beautiful Monterey ceanothus and the rare, delicate Yadon’s piperia.

At the Commission meeting the next day, the Sierra Club’s attorney, Tom Lippe deftly duelled with Tony Lombardo, representing the Pebble Beach Company. Incredibly, Lombardo described the development plan which includes cutting down 17,000 trees as a “protection plan for the forest.” Lippe, an expert on coastal law, criticized Monterey County for not complying with the Coastal Act and affirmed that the properties earmarked for development are Environmentally-Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA) and as such, subject to protection. “It’s rare to see a project in which there is such a wide gap between the proposal and what the law requires,” he responded to Lombardo’s assertion of protection.

Many speakers from both sides addressed the Commission on various aspects of the plan. Proponents for the project said that Measure A was endorsed by the voters. Opponents pointed out that Measure A was never attached to a specific plan. Many testified they felt “duped” when they learned that Measure A and the plan would in fact cut down over 17,000 trees and destroy one fifth of the remaining native Monterey Pine Forest in the world.

In 1990, the Pebble Beach Company, then owned by Sumitomo Bank of Japan, abandoned those assurances, proposing a fifth golf course. Since actor-turned-real-estate-developer Clint Eastwood and a consortium of golf and business notables purchased the Pebble Beach Company in the late 1990’s, they have continued to lobby furiously for approval of this fifth golf course.

The 1985 approval of the Spanish Bay project had numerous binding conditions including conservation easements on the Sawmill Gulch site. The current plan calls for removal of those conservation easements to build a high intensity equestrian recreation site that would severely impact the adjacent fragile Huckleberry Hill Preserve. There was also to be restoration of sand dunes and forested areas and the existing Haul Road was to be closed. These promises were never kept.

The Coastal Act, of course, prohibits the wholesale destruction of environmentally-sensitive coastal habitat and resources for golf. The Coastal Act requires balance, and implicitly recognizes that humans cannot live on golf alone. Native Monterey pine forests, on the other hand, are a rare and increasingly threatened ecosystem.

How to help
• If you have not already done so, please write the California Coastal Commission and ask that they protect the genetically-diverse native Monterey pine forest ecosystem for future generations. Golf can be played anywhere; once the native Monterey pine forests and the plants and animals they shelter are gone, they are gone forever. Mail your letters to California Coastal Commission, 725 Front Street, Suite 302, Santa Cruz, CA 95060-4508.
• Consider attending the Coastal Commission meeting in June in Santa Rosa where the final decision on this issue will likely be made. For more information contact Coastal Chair D’Anne Albers, 375-1389.
Clean Money for a Clean Environment
by Bill Magavern and Trent Lange

With political corruption scandals bursting out everywhere, Californians now have a real opportunity to turn the tables on polluters and developers by weakening the dominance of big money campaign contributors. AB 583, the California Clean Money and Fair Elections Act, is the best hope in years for a fundamental change that would finally give the environment a more level playing field in Sacramento. To the surprise of many, Assembly Member Loni Hancock’s bill has already passed the State Assembly; now it needs the approval of the Senate and Governor before it can be put on the ballot for a vote of the people.

You know the problem: Environmentalists are frequently up against developers and corporations that contribute millions of dollars to political campaigns. Environmentally-friendly candidates often can’t get elected because they don’t have enough money to compete against corporate-backed candidates.

In Sacramento, good environmental bills are often killed by legislators or a governor that have received large campaign contributions from the polluters or developers we’re fighting. Clean Money public funding of election campaigns would drain the swamp of corruption by providing competitive amounts of public campaign funds to candidates who voluntarily limit their campaign spending and show a broad base of support. In cases where non-participating candidates or attack ads by outside groups exceed Clean Money expenditure limits, additional public funds are provided to Clean Money candidates so that they always have a level playing field.

Arizona and Maine (where Clean Money systems have been operating for six years) have proven it works. Voters’ confidence in government has risen. Not surprisingly, legislators elected with Clean Money in Arizona and Maine have much better environmental voting records than those elected with private money. Legislators in Maine who used Clean Money scored nearly twice as high with the League of Conservation Voters as those who did not.

We need the same reform in California. If passed, AB 583 would put a similar full Clean Money system on the ballot, giving voters a historic chance to change the system. The bill is now in the State Senate, where big money opponents will desperately try to stop a reform they know will make politicians accountable to the voters instead of to them. We can’t let them stop it. Californians need to demand this sweeping reform which will finally let the voters take control of politics.

If we want clean air and clean water, we have to have Clean Money. That’s why Sierra Club California strongly endorses AB 583, and urges you to help us pass it.

Take action
Take action by writing and calling Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata to urge him to support AB 583. John Laird is a co-author of this bill. Go to www.CAClean.org to use its easy online letter-writing and faxing tool, sign the petition, and get calling information.

Bill Magavern is the senior representative for Sierra Club California.

Trent Lange is the Vice President of the California Clean Money Campaign and a longtime Sierra Club member.

Sierra Club Awards $1000 Scholarship at Monterey Science Fair

On March 19 the Ventana Chapter awarded a $1000 college scholarship to Michelle Bush of Soledad for her entry in the Monterey County Science and Engineering Fair. The award, presented by Chapter Chair Rita Dalessio, is designed to encourage students to submit science fair entries which examine environmental issues. The Chapter’s criteria for evaluating a winner is the impact of a project on improving the environment.

Three Chapter Executive Committee Members were volunteer judges for the event. Besides Dalessio, they were Dr. David Epel, recent recipient of the prestigious Ed Ricketts award for lifetime achievement in Marine Biology and Kimberly Marion, a graduate student in International Environmental Policy at the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

“These science projects are outstanding,” Epel said. “I am pleased to see the innovation and ideas that students are generating that may one day help to protect our natural resources.”

Ms. Bush’s excellent exhibit described her study of the silverleaf whitefly which is well known for its resistance to pesticides. Ms. Bush’s field of interest could have lasting importance in the area of pesticide-free farming. The scholarship will go directly to pay tuition at her college of choice.
Santa Cruz

Saturday, May 13

Bike Tour
Join local historian Ross Gibson on this easy-paced ride. 10:00 a.m. Meet at Spokesman Bicycles, 231 Cathcart. Bring water. Helmet required. Light snack provided.

Thursday, May 18

Bike to Work/School
FREE breakfast for those who ride bikes. Various locations throughout county.

Friday, May 19

Movie: Beijing Bicycle
Chinese film with subtitles. 8:00 p.m. parking lot next to Central Library on Church Street. Hosted by Santa Cruz Guerilla Drive-in.

Sunday, May 21

Rail and Trail Day
Ride the train from Santa Cruz Depot Park to Roaring Camp in Felton. Bring your bike for a group ride back to Santa Cruz along scenic Highway 9.

Monterey

Saturday, May 13

Healthy Living Festival
Information on healthy living activities. Live music. free bike rentals. Window on the Bay Park, Monterey. 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 18

Bike to School
FREE breakfast for those who ride bikes. Various locations throughout the county.

Saturday-Sunday, May 20-21

BMX National Olympic Qualifier

Sunday, May 21

Bike for the Kids ride
Sponsored by CASA of Monterey County. For more information contact Siobhan Greene, 455-6800, www.casa monterey.org.

For complete event information visit www.bike2work.com
Celebrate the clean air way to commute or run errands.
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. 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. We work rain or shine, but if things get particularly unpleasant, we call it a day. Contact Linda Brodman, 462-4041, redwdm@pacbell.net. website: www.cruzcnps.org.
April 8, Sunset Beach State Park
April 29, Natural Bridges State Park
May 13, Soquel Creek, Capitola

**Second and Fourth Saturdays**

**Habitat restoration — Watsonville**
Second and fourth Saturdays each month. Sponsored by Watsonville Wetlands Watch. 9:30 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.

**Saturday, April 15**

**That’s My Park Day**
Celebrate and support our State Parks. Sponsored by Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks in partnership with California State Parks. To learn more visit www.scparkfriends.org.

**Saturday, April 22**

**Bird A Thon**
Have fun birding and help raise money for outdoor education scholarships. For more information contact David Hille, 335-3205, hilledavid@gmail.com.

**Tuesday, April 25**

**Astronomy Workshop**
Join Joe Jordan for an evening of stargazing. Start with a talk about constellations, observational astronomy, and equipment. Continue with a hike to view planets, galaxies, and nebulae. Bring binoculars if you have them. Wear warm clothing. To sign up call 459-2807 or via www.ucscrecreation.com. $25 General Admission. Sponsored by UC Santa Cruz Recreation.

**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, April 15, Wilder Ranch
Saturday, May 20, Grey Bears Recycling Facility, 2710 Chanticleer, Santa Cruz
Saturday, June 17, Aladdin Nursery, 2927 Freedom Boulevard, Watsonville
Sunday, July 23, Quail Hollow County Park, 820 Quail Hollow Road, Felton

**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.mprrp.org.

**China Nature & Culture**

Join George Jammal and Judy Yang to explore China's vast natural wonders

**Teachers’ Special: China Highlights**
Beijing, Xi’an, Guilin and Li River cruise, Nine Village Valley, Panda Park, Leshan Giant Buddha and Tibet
15 - 18 days, June 29 - July 16

See our website for details and more tours

Kalantis tours
www.KalantisTours.travel
335-7748
cst # 2076039-40

**Be prepared in an emergency**
Sign up for this fast-paced, hands on class on wilderness first aid. Whether spending time in the backcountry is your passion or your profession, you should never have to ask, “What do I do now?” In this course, you’ll learn how to prepare for the unexpected. In just two days, you’ll have the knowledge, skills and ability to make sound decisions in emergency situations. This course is ideal for trip leaders, camp staff, outdoor enthusiasts and individuals in remote locations. Taught by Wilderness Medicine Institute. 16 hours. $175 General registration.

Class series on April 15 & 16; April 29 & 30 and May 13 & 14. Call 459-2807 or visit www.ucscrecreation.com to register.

**China Club Events**

by a ranger/naturalist. Proceeds from this four-island tour will benefit Sierra Club political programs in California. Other dates offered in summer. Costs include sumptuous meals, snacks, and bunks on the boat. For more information contact Joan Jones Holtz, jholtzhi@aol.com, 626-443-0706.

**Friday, May 12**

**Potluck & Slides: Peru & Ecuador**
This slide show by Cecelia includes photos from Machu Pichu, Cuzco and the Galapagos. 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, April 14**

**Potluck & Slides: Yunnan, China**
“One of the Last Great Places on Earth: A Recent Tour of the Yunnan Province of China” presented by Albie Miles of UCSC. In an area roughly twice the size of California, the Yunnan Province contains over 16,000 native species of plants, 278 species of mammals, 793 species of birds each with high rates of endemism. The slide show is a result of a five-week tour in the summer of 2005 by Ed Grumbine of Prescott College and Albie Miles of UCSC. 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.

**Thursday, May 4-7**

**Channel Islands Cruise**
Visit the Channel Islands National Park with Sierra Club members accompanied
The City of Santa Cruz has released its Draft Master Plan and the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the 68-acre Greenbelt property called Arana Gulch. The City plans to finalize the Master Plan concurrently with the final EIR for the proposed project that would bring bridges, ramps, paved trails and retaining walls to the creeks, riparian woodlands and meadows of this Greenbelt.

Arana Gulch Greenbelt is a biologically unique and fragile environment. It is the only place on earth where a distinct subspecies of the Santa Cruz tarplant grows. This rare plant is listed as "threatened" by the Federal Government and as "endangered" by the State of California.

The Arana Gulch Greenbelt provides irreplaceable habitat for this and many other species, including Steelhead trout, great blue heron, Francisco dusky-footed woodrat, purple needlegrass, California oatgrass, California poppy, yarrow, owl's clover, Indian soap root, yellow Mariposa lily, golden brodiaea, Choris's popcorn flower, San Francisco popcorn flower, Gairdner's yampah, and a multitude of other species, including Steelhead trout, red-tailed hawks, red-shouldered hawks, California voles, Botta's pocket gopher, owls, California native plant society.

The Arana Gulch Greenbelt is the only place on earth where a distinct subspecies of the Santa Cruz tarplant grows. This rare plant is listed as "threatened" by the Federal Government and as "endangered" by the State of California.

The environmental damage of this development would be significant and could not be mitigated according to the draft EIR. It is this biotic destruction which has engendered opposition from the California Native Plant Society. Proposed paved trails would traverse existing tarplant habitat, and the city would have to apply for a permit to "take" these endangered plants if they proceed with the project.

In addition, the retaining walls and ramp required to link the bikeway to Bommer Street would be built in the floodplain north of the Harbor's dry storage yard in an area the Coastal Commission has required the Harbor District to vacate, protect, and revegetate. The Coastal Commission has repeatedly communicated to the City that the resources in this area are protected by the Coastal Act. The Commission has also previously informed the City of its concern that the bikeway project "would not avoid identified biological impacts as required by the Local Coastal Programs and the Coastal Act."

As required by California law (CEQA), Alternatives to the Project are presented in the Draft EIR. These are outlined on page 9. Ironically, only Alternative 2, which would destroy critical tarplant habitat (including seedbed) in a significant and unmitigable way, promises to attract sufficient funding to enable the City to manage the tarplant. The promise that the federal monies received for the paved bicycle connection would provide sufficient funds to develop and implement a Tarplant Management Plan is vague and unenforceable.

None of the proposed alternatives includes a commitment and specific plan to restore and properly manage the endangered tarplant which the city has known about since before it purchased the property.

The facts remain clear: The City has proposed development on Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area in the Coastal Zone on Greenbelt property the public expects to be restored and maintained to enhance its natural resources.

The environmental damage would be significant and could not be mitigated according to the draft EIR.
The four alternatives

Alternative 1: No Project Alternative
Alternative 1 would keep the site in its existing condition. No Master Plan and no Santa Cruz Tarplant Adaptive Management Program would be adopted. Management actions would be limited and the Arana Gulch Interim Management Plan would remain in effect. No new trails would be developed on the site. This alternative would eliminate most of the project impacts but would not contribute to the achievement of any of the project objectives.

Alternative 2: Reduced Creek View Trail Alternative
Alternative 2 would include the same paved trail system as the proposed project but would not include any trail segments within Port District property. Trail access to Arana Gulch would continue to be provided by the existing trail segment along the western edge of the dry storage area at the Upper Harbor. This alternative would include the long-term Santa Cruz Tarplant Adaptive Management Program.

Alternative 3: Unpaved Trail System with Hagemann Gulch Bridge Alternative
Alternative 3 would have the same trail network as the proposed project except that no trails would be paved and no trails would comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Due to unpaved surfaces and gradients, trails would not be accessible to wheelchairs and some street bicycles. Without funding for paved, multi-use trails, there would be uncertainty about funding and implementing the Santa Cruz Tarplant Adaptive Management Program.

Alternative 4: Unpaved Trail System without Hagemann Gulch Bridge Alternative
Alternative 4 would provide unpaved trails and would not include the Hagemann Gulch Bridge. This alternative would provide public access for pedestrians and some bicyclists but would not comply with ADA requirements. Since no bridge across Hagemann Gulch would be constructed, this alternative would not provide a new west entrance or east-west trail connection. As with Alternative 3, all trails would remain unpaved and not qualify for federal funding, resulting in uncertainty about funding and implementing the Tarplant Management Plan.

This alternative would provide the same trails as proposed by the project, but none of the trails would be paved. This alternative would provide public access for pedestrians and some bicyclists but would not comply with ADA requirements. Like the proposed project, this alternative would provide north-south and east-west trail connections. Due to unpaved surfaces and gradients, however, these trail connections would not be accessible to wheelchair users and some types of bicycles.

Sempervirens Fund raising money to purchase Lompico headwaters

The Sempervirens Fund has only until June 30 to raise the remaining funds needed to save the Lompico Creek headwaters and the Malosky Creek Forest.

The Sempervirens Fund has secured an option to buy the Lompico Creek Headwaters from Redwood Empire. The Fund has only until June 30 to conclude this $5,600,000 deal which includes the 425-acre Lompico Creek headwaters and 200 acres in the Malosky Creek watershed.

For years the Lompico Watershed Conservancy and the Club have been trying to save the Lompico property where towering redwoods rise from deeply incised sandstone canyons above the community of Lompico. Lompico Creek is the primary source of water for this small community.

A timber harvest plan for the Lompico Creek Headwaters had been submitted in 2001 and had been approved by the California Department of Forestry. The tree cutting was stopped on appeal due to the leadership of the Lompico Watershed Conservancy which galvanized opposition, convinced the County of Santa Cruz to file an appeal, and organized an unprecedented letter-writing campaign in support of keeping this forest intact.

Undeterred, Redwood Empire submitted a new timber harvest plan which was under review when news of the deal between Sempervirens and Redwood Empire was announced.

The Malosky Creek Forest is a mixed redwood forest carpeting steep ravines above residential areas in the San Lorenzo Valley. This property supplies water to the town of Boulder Creek. This land was slated to be logged by Redwood Empire with helicopters flying logs over neighboring properties to a landing off site. As California struggles to locate new sources of water for people and wildlife, it is vital to preserve forestlands that surround drinking source headwaters.

Fundraising has begun in this most aggressive campaign in the history of the Sempervirens Fund. Please give generously. To donate visit www.semprevirens.org or call 650-968-4509. Donations are tax deductible.

CORRECTION

Will the real ensatina please stand up?

We might get an A in editing but our biology skills could stand improvement. Luckily we have readers who set us straight. The ensatina pictured in our last issue is actually an arboreal salamander. Greg Meyer of Santa Cruz not only corrected our mislabeled photo, he also sent in a picture he took of a real ensatina. Both are pictured below.
New law requires batteries and e-waste to be recycled

It's the law. Batteries can no longer be thrown in the trash. A new state law requires the recycling of household batteries, those ubiquitous power supplies for toys, watches, hearing aids, cell phones, cameras, iPods and more. If it seems as if everything is battery powered now-a-days, that's not far from the truth.

Californians use more than 500 million batteries a year. Currently less than one percent of these are properly disposed of according to the Integrated Waste Management Board. The danger lies in the heavy metals they contain. Batteries can contain carbon zinc, lithium, mercury and other substances harmful to humans. When they corrode, they can leak toxic metals into our soil and groundwater.

The new law also applies to TVs, microwave ovens, printers and computers, fluorescent light bulbs, mercury thermometers, old thermostats and other electronics. If you are in doubt about what is covered, contact your local waste disposal agency.

Researchers learn more than forestry

A short article in the prestigious journal Science in January 2006 has set off a firestorm among salvage logging proponents. Six researchers from Oregon State University investigated whether or not logging after a wild fire diminished or increased the risk of another fire and whether or not salvage logging helped or harmed forest regeneration.

Their conclusion: “Postfire logging, by removing naturally seeded conifers and increasing surface fuel loads, can be counterproductive to goals of forest regeneration and fuel reduction.” That was not what the Bush Administration wanted to hear, particularly as a bill sponsored by Representative Walden (R-Washington) that never got the chance to be heard.

Most residents will need to take batteries and other electronic waste to their community’s hazardous waste facility. Waste Management of Santa Cruz County, serving Scotts Valley, Capitola and the unincorporated county, will pick batteries up at the curb when they are placed in a sealed clear plastic bag in the blue recycling cart. Watsonville, Santa Cruz, and Monterey city residents must take them to a recycling center. Check with your local waste disposal center for details and hours.

Spread the word among your friends and family. Most people are not aware that batteries can no longer be thrown in the trash. Set up a recycling container at your office for batteries, fluorescent bulbs and other e-waste. Help keep these poisons out of our creeks, groundwater and the Monterey Bay.

Environmentalists are currently working on establishing redemption fees, much like the deposit on beverage bottles, to assist in strengthening the e-waste recycling system.
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, leisure pace.
- Easy: No more than 5 miles; slight elevation gain; easy pace.
- Moderate: 5-10 miles; up to 2000’ gain; boots better than average fitness required.
- Strenuous: May involve off-trail hiking; demanding pace; for experienced hikers in good condition only.

MEETING PLACES

DIRECTIONS:

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 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.

APRIL

Saturday, April 8

WALK: PEBBLE BEACH & ASILOMAR

Come along on this 4-mile walk on streets and walkways in Pacific Grove and Pebble Beach, then via a trail between farways to the beach and out to Point Joe. We’ll return on boardwalks with ocean views, finishing at Asilomar. Bring water and a snack. Done about noon. Meet across from the Fishwife Restaurant on Sunset Dr. at Asilomar Blvd. in Pacific Grove at 9:50 a.m. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Saturday, April 8

HIKE: COOK SPRING CAMP

We’ll start hiking from Memorial Park Camp along the Arroyo Seco to Forks Camp, past False Madrone Camp, to Madrone Camp, to Cooks Camp and back. Beautiful river sites, redwoods, pines, madrones and spectacular views of mountains. 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 sub-shelter, water, wear comfortable boots and bring $ for carpool.

April 8

HIKE: PURISIMA CREEK REDWOODS

A 10-mile loop with 1500’ elevation gain, along the Purisima Creek, Soda Gulch, upper Hawkins Ridge, upper North Ridge and Whittomeur Gulch Trails. This 2633-acre preserve has the northernmost major redwood forest in the Santa Cruz Mtns. It also has Douglas fir, madrone, oak and chaparral. Great views of the Pacific and the mountains. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 8:00 a.m. Bring water, lunch and $ for carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Sunday, April 9

HIKE: VICENTE FLATS

We’ll climb steadily, not steeply, by meadows and redwoods to an open spot under huge trees where we saw a giantl groggy 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; wear sturdy shoes. Leaders: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042, suzanneclarin@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, 626-3565.

Tuesday, April 11

HIKE: SENIOR HIKE: FORT ORD

This is a wildflower time, and we usually see a great variety. 4-5 mile hike with some steep uphill on Fort Ord public lands. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at Deer Park Shopping Center in Aptos about 9:45 a.m. Park near gas station. To go direct, take Hwy. 1 south and exit at Reservation Rd. Drive almost to Hwy 68 and park near end of road by the locked gate about 10:45 a.m. Bring water, lunch, $4 carpool. Leader: Joan Bromher, 462-3803.

Saturday, April 15

HIKE: KAHN RANCH

We got rained out in March so we’ll try again! Steep canyons and trails climbing to ridges with great views and good flowers make Kahn Ranch a fine addition to Garland Ranch. Expect steep climbs of about 600–800’ at a slow pace. Not over 4 miles. Because access to the ranch is limited and our permit allows only three cars, you must call by May 19 to reserve a spot. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

Saturday, April 15

HIKE: PINNACLES WILDFLOWERS

We’ll have a slow-paced, 8-mile hike with 1200’ elevation gain to enjoy and identify the wide variety of blooming plants in the park. Bring your flower book, held glasses and camera. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 8:30 a.m. or at the Chaparral parking lot at 10:30 a.m. (that’s the West side, off Hwy. 101). Bring lunch, water, sun protection and comfortable hiking shoes. Leader: George Jammal, 335-7748.

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. We may return down to the park or go back on the north trail to Mid Valley. 9 miles, 1500’ elevation gain. Expect some poision oak, so wear long pants. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Mid Valley shopping center in Carmel Valley next to 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 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

MAY 5–8 Wilderness Responder Recertification For more information go to www.sierraclub.com/outings/training/brochures/wfr_recert.asp.

MAY 12–14 Clair Tappaan Spring Workparty Help spruce up the Lodge you love. Your hard work is rewarded with a complimentary stay at Clair Tappaan for among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

MAY 13 Full Moon Hike Lodge Staff will lead a hike through the forest and up to the ridges behind the Lodge. Price: $5 (Lodge guests), $15 (dinner and hike only).

MAY 26–29 Nature Knowledge Workshop Participate in guided hikes accompanied by geologists, biologists, and local historians. Price per day: $50 member, $55 non-member, $30 child (includes hikes/lodging/meals). JUNE 16–18 Finding Your Way Navigational Workshop Learn or polish navigational skills using such tools as a map, compass, GPS receivers and altimeters. Price: $145 members, $170 non-members (includes lodging, meals and workshop).

For more information about these programs or to receive a full schedule and description of Clair Tappaan programs please visit our website at wwwctl.sierraclub.org or call (800) 679-6775.

Please Recycle This Paper Again
Let’s hike the Ollason Trail to see some beautiful wildflowers. 3 miles with one uphill section. If everyone is anxious about water, sit upon Toro Park is off east Hwy. 68 between Monterey & Salinas. $4 carpool. Leader: Beverly Meschi, 475-4185.

SENIOR HIKE: TORO PARK
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 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, 402-1422.

Tuesday, April 18

SENIOR HIKE: HOLOSA PARK
Let’s hike the Ollason Trail to see some beautiful wildflowers. 3 miles with one uphill section. If everyone is anxious about water, sit upon Toro Park is off east Hwy. 68 between Monterey & Salinas. $4 carpool. Leader: Beverly Meschi, 475-4185.

HIKE: EWOLDSEN TRAIL
From Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park we’ll hike a 5-mile loop up fern-lined McWay Canyon, passing redwood groves to a viewpoint high above the ocean. Last time we saw California Condors. The trail is steep, but we’ll take it at a leisurely pace. Afterwards we’ll take a short stroll along the scenic waterfall trail. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind Britton’s at 9:30 a.m. to carpool an hour down the coast. State Parks now charge an $8 parking fee, so please bring $ for your share. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372-7427, marydainton@juno.com.

Sunday, April 23

BIKE RIDE: FORT ORD
Join us on a 3-hour mountain bike ride through Fort Ord’s East Garrison. We’ll visit a cemetery from the 1800s and then explore the back country via dirt and paved roads. Meet at the East Garrison gate entrance (3 miles east of Marina on Reservation Road) at 9:00 a.m. Helmets mandatory. Pack water and a snack. Contact leader for more information. Leader: Henry Leinen, 655-1948 or Hlein@aol.com.

Tuesday, April 25

SANIENT SAUNTER: LEVEE TO HARBOR
Casual walk along River levee to museum on the Santa Cruz Mtns., Hickory Oak Ridge is scenic country with gently rolling meadows, cool canyons, and panoramic views of forests, meadowsland, and the ocean. At this time of year, it is usually decorated with a nice array of wildflowers. 8 miles with a descent of 810’ to Peter’s Creek and a climb back to the ridge. The hike goes through the Saratoga Open Space Preserve and the Long Ridge Open Space Preserve. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. to carpool. To meet us at the trailhead at 10:10 a.m., park in the lot on the SE corner of the intersection of Hwy. 9 and 35 (Skyline Blvd.). Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Friday, April 21

HIKE: OLD COAST ROAD
This will be an effort to see wild rhododendrons and other wildflowers. 11 miles with 1800’ of elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call Nick for additional information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Sunday, April 30

HIKE: WATSON STATE PARK
A blooming paradise in this flat (though rutted in places) 2-mile trail just south of Pescadero. Over 25 species of coastal wildflowers and a few non-natives on this low coastal bluff. Playful seals may add to the show. Additional options include a visit to Pigeon Point Lighthouse or a short hike up to a telescope. Restrooms available. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at 9:50 a.m. at Shen’s Gallery. Bring water, lunch, $4 carpool. Leader: Janet Schwinn, 425-3845.

Friday, May 5

HIKE: TANBARK TRAIL TO TIN HOUSE
The Tanbark Trail packs a lot of scenery in a fairly short length. From its start off Hwy. 1 south of Big Sur, the trail winds up the side of Parington Canyon, past a rushing creek and through a redwood grove, up through forests of tanbark oak, until it reaches the site of the ruined “Tin House.” Here we’ll have lunch and enjoy the ocean views, before returning via a dirt road. Short car shuttle. 6 miles, 2000’ elevation gain. Leisurely pace. Meet behind Britton’s at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372-7427, marydainton@juno.com.

Saturday, May 6

HIKE: UVA CANYON COUNTY PARK
This 1200-acre park is tucked into a beautiful canyon west of Morgan Hill. The first 1-3/4 miles of this 9-mile hike will ascend 1800’ to Niibbs Knob by way of the Niibbs Knob Trail and then return. This will be followed by a 3-1/2 mile loop up and down the creek sections and many open vistas of Loma Prieta, the Santa Clara Valley and the Diablo Range in the higher, open sections.
of the park. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:00 a.m. Bring water, lunch and $ for car-pool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Sunday, May 7
WALK: POINT LOBOS
4 mile walk, starting from Hwy. 1 to Ischnia Point, then back past Whaler’s Cove, to the top of Whaler’s Knoll and back via Lace Lichen Trail. Wildflowers should be plentiful. Meet at Albertson’s at 9:00 a.m. for a short carpool. Bring snack, water, and binoculars for close-ups of the animal life. Last year we saw baby seals and sea otters. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Sunday, May 7
HIKE: SOBRANES CANYON/ROCKY RIDGE
6-mile loop through the canyon and up to the ridge. Very steep climb that leads to gorgeous panoramic views and hopefully lots of wild-flowers. Bring hat, water, and lunch. Meet at Albertson’s at 10:00 a.m. We’ll be back around 3:00 p.m. Leader: Andrea Phelps, andrea_phelps@csumb.edu.

Sunday, May 7
HIKE: PINE VALLEY
Join us on this strenuous, steep 15-mile loop with about 2,000’ elevation gain. The views of the Ventana are so hypnotic they will stay with you for a lifetime. We’ll start at China Camp, down to Church Creek Divide, past Divide Camp, to Pine Ridge Trail, to Pine Valley, back up to China Camp. We’ll benefit from trail maintenance by the Ventana Wilderness Alliance. Bring food, water, wear long pants, long-sleeve shirt, bring $ for car-pool. Water filter provided. For information, call leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Tuesday, May 9
SENIOR HIKE: POGONI/HARVEY WEST
4 miles with uphill climbs (some steep) from Harvey West parking lot by baseball fields. We’ll walk by Sacred Tree and have lunch at baseball fields. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at Harvey West parking lot at 9:30 a.m. Bring lunch, water, $5 carpool. Leader: Joan Brohmer, 462-3803.

Saturday, May 13
HIKE: EAST WADDELL GORGE
This is a new trail to me. The Gorge is a little-known part of Big Basin. We’ll also have a look at the scenic park waste treatment plant. 8 miles and 1200’ elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call Nick for additional info. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Saturday, May 13
MOONLIGHT HIKE: PINNACLES
Hiking the Pinnacles by moonlight is a thrilling and unique experience. It’s like being on another planet with its boulder formations. It’s serene, calming, peaceful, quiet, soft and therapeutic for the soul. Camping overnight is available but optional. Bring a flashlight, food, water, and wear hiking boots. For meeting place and time, call leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Sunday, May 14
HIKE: UPPPER PEBBLE BEACH
Enjoy 8-mile hike though Del Monte Forest. From Carmel Beach we travel through Pescadero Canyon past Huckleberry Hills. Bring water, lunch, and wear hiking shoes. Meet at Carmel Beach at the west end of Ocean Avenue at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Stacy Smith, 625-5256.

Sunday, May 14
HIKE: MITTELDORF PRESERVE
In a loop that covers the western trails of the Mitteldorf, we’ll ascend Echo Ridge to the top of 2972’high Palo Corona Peak. After lunch, we’ll descend through redwood-filled Williams Creek to the lodge and our cars. We can see the largest redwood tree in Monterey County, 8 miles and 2,000’ elevation gain. Call for reservation & times. Leader: Larry Parris, 622-7455.

Tuesday, May 16
SENIOR WALK: CARMEL CIRCLE
3-mile loop in Carmel. We’ll start at the Carmel Beach parking area, walk past Mission Ranch up Mission Trail Preserve through Carmel and back along the beach. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. To go direct, take Hwy. 1 south to Ocean exit. Turn right, go downhill to Carmello, left on Carmel about 1.5 mi. to beach parking area. Free parking & restrooms. Meet at approx. 10:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch, $5 carpool. At end of hike, those wishing can lunch in Carmel. Leader: Brooke Ewoldsen, 649-1714.

Wednesday, May 17
HIKE: ROCKY RIDGE - SOBERANES CYN
Rocky Ridge is a 1435’ rounded grassy peak between Soberanes Canyon and Malpaso Canyon in Garrapata State Park south of Carmel. Rocky Ridge is a dry, exposed hillside with sweeping views of the ocean. The hike is strenuous, but we will take it slow. There are places to stop and return to the beginning of the hike to relax and sit on a ledge to watch the waves and perhaps a sea otter or two while waiting for the other hikers. Bring lunch and water for this 6-mile hike which seems much longer. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at 9:15 a.m. in back of the gas station at Rio Del Mar exit to carpool. We’ll be at the trailhead 6.8 miles south of Rio Road in Carmel at 10:10 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, May 20
HIKE: CASTLE ROCK
A 10-mile, double-loop hike, with 820’ elevation change, through this state park. From the main park entrance at 1200’ we’ll hike past Castle Rock, 75’ Castle Rock Falls and Russell Point along the Saratoga Gap and Loghery Woods Trails, to the Skyline trail. We’ll return along the Service Road and Ridge trails, past Goat Rock and the Interpretive Shelter. We’ll see some marvelous panoramic vistas. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 8:30 a.m., or at Felton Faire at 9:00 a.m. Bring water, lunch and $5 for carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Saturday, May 21
WIND WOLVES SERVICE TRIP
At the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley the Wind Wolves Preserve was created by the Wildlands Conservancy in order to restore a part of California to the state which existed a century and a half ago. On Saturday we will plant trees, remove invasive plants, or improve visitor facilities as needed. On Sunday we have promised a hike and tour of this astonishingly beautiful landscape and habitat. Contact leader: Craig Deutche, deutche@earthlink.net, (310-477-6670). A Desert Committee Outting.
Sunday, May 21
HIKE: FALL CREEK
Let’s explore this enchanted forest with redwoods, a lovely bubbling stream full of cascades, a lime kiln, barrel mill, fish pond, and dancing springs, 7 miles. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Felton Faire at 10:00 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Sheila Dunningway, 336-2325.

Tuesday, May 23
SENIOR HIKE: POINT LOBOS
One of our favorite spots! We’ll park at Whaler’s Cove and hike the North Shore Trail, Allen Cypress Grove, then Sand Hill Trail to Pinney Wood for lunch. Bring binoculars, 3 miles on good trails. Heavy poison oak!!! Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at Whaler’s Cove parking lot about 10:30 a.m. Bring lunch, water, $5 carpool and share of entrance. Leader: Pat Herzog, 458-9841.

Tuesday, May 30
SENIOR HIKE: HENRY COWELL
Easy 3-mile loop along the river and through the redwoods. Moderate uphill. After hike, we’ll have our annual potluck... To go direct, use the main entrance on Hwy. 9, turn right past the pay station to the first picnic area. Bring water, your potluck dish, $2 carpool and share of entrance fee. Leader: Helena Cantin, 438-4253.

Wednesday, May 31
HIKE: SAM McDONALD COUNTY PARK
This 850-acre San Mateo Co. Park is on Pescadero Rd. between 2 natural environments—lush redwoods and open ridge, grassy knolls. It was named after a descendant of slaves born in 1884, who was employed by Stanford Univ. for 50 years. first as a teamster who eventually became Superintendent of Grounds and later a Santa Clara County Deputy Sheriff. Stanford Convalescent Home for children was his pet project. He left the land for a park. At the lower elevations of the park in moist ravines many fern varieties are found with beautiful mosses and curious mushroom shapes. Meet for this 8-mile hike at 9:00 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or drive north on Hwy. 1 to Pescadero Rd. and turn right onto Alpine Rd. to the parking area near the Heritage Grove. Bring water and lunch. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

JUNE
Friday, June 2
EXPLORATION HIKE: BRAZIL RANCH
For the first time, we are invited to explore this 1200-acre ranch south of Bixby Bridge. Alan Funt of “Candid Camera” restored the old ranch’s buildings when he lived there. Today, the board of directors is working to establish an environmental center to preserve the area for future use by students and nature lovers. Call for a reservation, time, meeting place, and more information. Leader: Annielese Suter, 624-1467.

Saturday, June 3
WALK: SAN JUAN BAPTISTA
We’ll walk about in this historic California town. We’ll visit and learn about the charming streets and houses, including the State Park Plaza. Walk a few miles and spend a few hours in the past and in the sunshine (I hope). Bring lunch, water and dress for weather. Meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Seaside Home Depot parking lot (by the service station) on Canyon Del Rey at Hwy. 1 ramps. For more information, call leader: Joyce Stevens, 624-3149.

Saturday, June 3
HIKE: SUNOL REGIONAL PARK
We were rained out in March so I am rescheduling. There will hopefully be Mariposas by this date. There is a 1-hour hike to Botcher’s Gap up to this trail on the old ranch’s buildings when he lived there. Today, the board of directors is working to establish an environmental center to preserve the area for future use by students and nature lovers. Call for a reservation, time, meeting place, and more information. Leader: Annielese Suter, 624-1467.

Sunday, June 4
HIKE: PICO BLANCO
Hike from Botcher’s Gap down to the Boy Scout camp then up the north flank of Pico Blanco. From the north flank we can hike up the north ridge to the peak. This moderate hike is 9 miles with 2000’ elevation gain. We should have great 360 degree views. Bring boots, lunch and water. Meet at Albertson’s at 8:30 a.m. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

Sunday, June 4
WALK: ASILOMAR/PEBBLE BEACH
A 4-mile walk, along streets and walkways in Pacific Grove and Pebble Beach, then via a trail between fairways to the beach and out to Point Joe and back with ocean views finishing at Asilomar via boardwalks. Bring water and a snack; done about noon. Meet across from the Fishwife Restaurant on Sunset Drive at Asilomar Blvd. in Pacific Grove at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Tuesday, June 6
SENIOR HIKE: BIG BASIN/SLIPPERY RK
A 5-mile moderate hike on the Sequoia Trail to Sempervirens Falls to Slippery Rock to Skyline to Sea Trail. One steep uphill at Slippery Rock. Take at your own pace. We’ll lunch at top of Slippery Rock. Those wishing a shorter hike can turn back at the falls. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave or at Felton Faire at 9:30 a.m. Bring lunch, water, $4 carpool and share of entrance. Leader: Beverly Meschi, 475-4185.

Wednesday, June 7
HIKE: SIERRA AZUL
We’ll traverse part of the Sierra Azul Preserve and Bay Area Ridge Trail, starting from Kennedy Rd. in Los Gatos. Breathtaking views. In March we hiked up to this trail on a clear day and could see San Francisco. Bring water and lunch for this 8-mile hike with some uphill. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave or at Felton Faire at 9:30 a.m. Bring lunch, water, $4 carpool and share of entrance. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

CLASSIFIEDS
Rates: $4.00 per line for Sierra Club members. Payment must accompany all ads. Make checks payable to: Sierra Club. Don’t print advertising copy preferred.

Does your WORKPLACE use good environmental practices? The editor wants to hear about it. Write dbulger@cruzio.com.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO SELL Trail Guides from their home. Requires keeping stock at home, handling phone orders for both individual sales and bulk orders for about 10 main accounts at bookstores, then filling orders. Must be dependable. For more information call Rita Dalesio, 659-7046.

PHOTOCOPY MACHINE needed by Santa Cruz Group. Donate one for a tax deduction. Call Alida, 462-1538.

O U T I N G S
**D I R E C T O R Y  O F  C L U B  L E A D E R S**

Ventana Chapter

Mailing Address – The Ventana Chapter, P.O. Box 5667, Carmel, CA 93921, Phone: 624-8032 (Santa Cruz Group Phone: 426-4453) Website: www.ventana.sierraclub.org

Chapter Executive Committee

Chair: Rita Dalessio 16 Via Las Encinas Carmel Valley, CA 93924 659-7046
Vice Chair: D’Anne Albers P.O. Box 2532 Carmel, CA 93921 375-1389
Treasurer: Joël Menives Dr. 140 Carmel Riveria Dr. Carmel, CA 93923 625-5596
Other Members: David Epel 25847 Carmel Knolls Dr. Carmel, CA 93923 625-3137
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George Jammal 601 Manzanita Ave. Felton, CA 95018 335-7748
Kimberly Marion 310A High St. Monterey, CA 93940 617-5147
Denise Frischmuth 283 Grove Ave. Pacific Grove, CA 93950 624-0707

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Co-Chair: Gustaf Beck 23765 Spectacular Bid Monterey, CA 93940 655-8586
Gillian Taylor 52 La Ranchera Carmel Valley, CA 93924 659-0298

Local Wilderness Committee

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

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Pot Luck Committee

Chair: Marion Chilton 6060 Brookdale Dr. Carmel, CA 93923 624-3510

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

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JoAnn Baumgartner P.O. Box 1766 Watsonville, CA 95077 722-5506

Forestry Chair: Joel Crede 1015 Smith Grade Santa Cruz, CA 95060 426-1697

**Santa Cruz County Group of the Ventana Chapter**

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

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Executive Committee

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Shandra D. Handlely 147 S. River St., Ste 221 Santa Cruz, CA 95060 477-1981
Charles Paulden 500 Indian Avenue Santa Cruz, CA 95062 462-3423
Bojana Fazarinc 25401 Spanish Rnch Rd. Los Gatos 95033 408-353-5536
Denis Davie P.O. Box 651 Capitola, CA 95010 426-7262

Treasurer: Aldo Giacchino 1005 Pelton Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95060 460-1538

Conservation Committee

Chair: Patricia Matejock P.O. Box 2067 Santa Cruz, CA 95063 423-8567

Forestry Task Force Chair: Joel Crede 1015 Smith Grade Santa Cruz, CA 95060 426-1697

Membership Committee

VACANT

Outings Chair: George Jammal 601 Manzanita Ave. Felton, CA 95018 335-7748

Transportation Committee

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Information: 624-8032
Executive Committee: Last Thursday of the month; Call for meeting place & time.
Conservation Committee: Alternate 3rd Saturdays, 2:00 p.m.
Beck’s house: 23765 Spectacular Bid, Monterey. Take Hwy 68 to York Rd. to Spectacular Bid;
May 20, at 2:00 p.m.

Santa Cruz Regional Group

Information: 426-HIKE (426-4453)
Meeting place: Sierra Club Office
1001 Center St, Santa Cruz, Suite 11.
Executive Committee: Wednesday, Apr. 12, at 7:00 p.m.
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Help save these trees

These 3 trees by Arana Gulch may be cut down by the City of Santa Cruz to make room for two more cars.

Will the City of Santa Cruz decide to cut down these three native coast live oaks (including the heritage tree on the right) along Soquel Avenue near Capitola Road? The trees are at the north end of the Arana Gulch Greenbelt.

In March the City Transportation Commission voted unanimously to save the trees and shorten the stacking length of the proposed right turn lane by two cars. Because the right turn arrow will be green most of the time, the extra length is not needed.

Ask City Council members to follow the advice of their Transportation Commission and save these trees. Email them at citycouncil@ci.santa-cruz.ca.us.

See page 8 for more on Arana Gulch.