

The VENTANA

MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

MAR, APR
MAY
OUTINGS

Election Picks

Mike LePage, Carmel City Council
Jane Parker, Monterey Co. Supervisor
Mark Stone, Santa Cruz Co. Supervisor
Anna Eshoo, House of Representatives
Sam Farr, House of Representatives
Joe Simitian, State Senate
No on Prop. 98; Yes on Prop. 99

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Merced River



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All materials for publication must be received by the deadlines listed below. No exceptions.

SUBMISSIONS FORMAT

Please limit articles to 800 words; letters to 300. All submissions may be edited for clarity and length. Email to dfbulger@cruzio.com. Mail hard copy to editor, address below.

PHOTOS

Photos submitted to *The Ventana* must meet the following requirements: No laser copies or inkjet outputs. Electronic photos should be no smaller than 1200 x 1100 pixels or 300 dpi. Cover photos must be 3000 x 2000 pixels. Film photos, slides, or negatives are fine. Please call the editor if you have any questions.

WHERE TO SEND SUBMISSIONS

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Do not call editor! Send address changes to: address.changes@sierraclub.org or use the mail in coupon in each issue.

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CHAPTER CHAIR

Jane Parker is clear choice

Local Republicans did a major disservice to the citizens of Monterey County when they convinced Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to appoint Ila Mettee-McCutchon as Fourth District Supervisor. With this appointment the ostensibly non-partisan Supervisorial race

has been irretrievably politicized.

Fourth District voters had anticipated a heated contest between Marina Mayor McCutchon and Jane Parker, a not-for-profit executive who had narrowly been defeated in her 2004 campaign for Supervisor. McCutchon, a Republican, and Parker, a Democrat, were expected to focus on critical development issues, not party affiliation.

By engineering the Supervisorial appointment just three months before the June primary, local Republicans exposed their fear that Parker was running ahead of her rival. They also may have felt that they needed to get McCutchon out of Marina before any more of her massive development schemes failed.

To be determined is whether such partisan politics will be tolerated by local voters and whether more of Marina's development projects will unravel before June, leaving scarred land and local taxpayers paying the bills.

Parker is the clear choice for the Sierra Club. Her record on health care, fair-paying jobs, education, and the environment is clearly superior to that of her opponent. We are confident that Monterey voters, not Sacramento politicians, will decide the Fourth District race and that Jane Parker will be the next Supervisor.

For more information on Jane Parker, District 4, and how you can help, visit electjaneparker.com.

—Rita Dalessio



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FROM THE EDITOR

How green is your workplace?

After my husband and I had solar power installed on our home in 2001, our electrical use and generation were measured differently by PG&E. In addition to the normal 4-page, 2-sided 11" x 6-3/4" bill which also contained a record of our gas and electric usage, we also received another document.

This new communication came monthly in a white 9" x 12" envelope and was sent to us because we were now an "Industrial Power Unit." The new document ranged from 10 to 13 pages and was printed only on one side. It was labeled "Electric Detail of Bill," and detailed it was. That first statement took 13 pages to let us know that our net electricity consumption resulted in 23¢ unbilled charges which we could choose to pay monthly or annually at our option.

Now, only six and a half years later, we are informed that our new energy statement will be double-sided. In addition, PG&E has managed to reduce the document to one page, front and back, plus a cover sheet with our address to show through the window of their 9" x 12" envelope.

It appears the bureaucratic insanity has, if not stopped, at least slowed to a walk.

The stack of statements for the last six years measures 3-1/4 inches high. About the volume of three reams of paper!

Back in 2001, PG&E apparently had no mechanism in place to deal with a homeowner generating power and feeding it back into the system, so we fell into the same category as an industrial co-generation plant. I imagine it took someone at PG&E a lot of work and convincing of bosses to figure out and implement a more sensible way to handle personal solar electric systems.

Not long ago, one of our readers asked me if I knew of additional ways people who were already living lightly on the earth could further reduce their carbon footprint. This electric bill saga got me thinking. If you are already doing a lot of conservation at home, you might look around at work or at your church or social group.

Whether your work environment is just beginning to become sustainable and just needs a nudge to use recycled paper or whether the problem is more complicated as in the case of the PG&E bill, I'm sure you will find plenty to do.

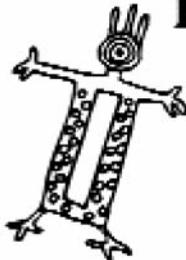
After all, living sustainably must happen 24/7, not just at home. How green is your workplace?

—Debbie Bulger

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The Ventana welcomes letters.

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Santa Cruz, CA 95060

or email to dfbulger@cruzio.com

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

Raising non-consumers

Thank you for the article about the Educational Resource Center in Santa Cruz. We also have had a great experience with the lending library for our two children. We love the quality of toys and resources that are available. And the subtly subversive act of raising non-consumptive children is really appealing as well!

—Rena Dubin

Santa Cruz

Up close and personal

I have seen the condors circling above Big Sur and flying over and roosting at Pinnacles National Monument. But what I saw recently driving up the coast after a weekend at Moro Bay beats ALL! You can see these magnificent birds from



Erica Crawford

above and below so close you can fill your camera viewfinder.

They have a new hangout that provides great viewing from a pullout right on Hwy. 1, about a mile south of Deetjen's Big Sur Inn about 30 miles south of Carmel. There is a pullout with a port-a-potty. Below this there is what appears to be a home being constructed and the condors seem to have discovered that this roof and the few trees there are a great jumping off point to soar.

It is a fantastic viewing spot because you get to see them from above as well as below, and they fly so close.

—Erica Crawford

Soquel

Moving?

Please fill out and mail the change of address form on p. 15 or email:

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The post office charges us 70¢ each if they handle the address change.

Please help the club by using the coupon on p. 15.

Thank you!

VWA to rehabilitate Cone Peak area trails



Richard Popciak

The Ventana Wilderness Alliance will rehabilitate backcountry trails around spectacular Cone Peak in an ambitious year-long volunteer project.

The Ventana Wilderness Alliance (VWA) in collaboration with the United States Forest Service has kicked off an ambitious year-long project to rehabilitate backcountry trails in the spectacular Cone Peak area of the Los Padres National Forest. The Cone Peak Trails Network Project is an all-volunteer effort to improve access to local rugged wildlands.

The following trails will be rehabilitated:

- Vicente Flat trail
- Stone Ridge trail

- Ojito Camp trail
- Gamboa trail
- Cone Peak trail
- North Coast Ridge trail (from the end of Cone Peak Road to the intersection with the Arroyo Seco trail
- Cook Spring trail
- Arroyo Seco trail
- Carrizo trail

Volunteers may join the trail crew for all or part of the dates listed in the next column above. Call 423-3191 to

participate and for future work dates.

April 4-8 - Friday - Tuesday

April 18-22 - Friday - Tuesday

Rain or threat of rain will cancel.

Restoration of these trails will allow people to complete popular loop trips. The VWA Trail Crew has been working on trails in the Ventana and Silver Peak Wilderness areas since 1999. VWA volunteers have contributed over 10,000 hours of trail work in the Ventana Region over the past eight years. Previously, the VWA restored the abandoned 9-mile long Black Cone Trail in the heart of the Ventana Wilderness.

The project is being led by VWA Trail Crew Leader Mike Heard and VWA Trail Crew Chief Dave Knapp.

The Ventana Wilderness Alliance enjoys the full support of the United States Forest Service with this project. The Forest Service is providing training, safety equipment and tools for all VWA trail crew volunteers.

For more information visit www.ventanawild.org.

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U. S. Representative Sam Farr
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(831) 429-1976 (Santa Cruz)

Assembly Representative John Laird
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Santa Cruz, CA 95060; (831) 425-1503
99 Pacific Street, Suite 555D
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Maybe you want to lead a thematic hike or outdoors adventure. Perhaps you can offer a sustainable cooking course or a cultural history class. Are you bursting to share your knowledge of nature photography or to teach students in an art or drawing workshop? Or is there another outdoors topic in which you could be an instructor to children, adults and/or families?

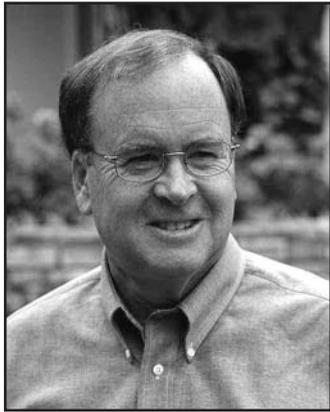
These are paid contract positions.

Submit your program proposal at www.mprpd.org for review. To learn more about our Environmental Education efforts, please contact Jackie Nelson (831) 372-3196.x 109



Election Endorsements for June 3rd Primary

More endorsements in next issue



Sam Farr
U.S. House of Representatives

Representative Sam Farr is endorsed by Sierra Club for his eighth bid for the House of Representatives. A winner of the prestigious National Sierra Club's Ed Wayburn Award in 2003 for his strong leadership in environmental legislation, Farr has been one of the Club's and the environment's most stalwart friends during his seven terms in the House. His lifetime League of Conservation Voters environmental voting record is 95%.

Over the last two years, Farr has been in the forefront of opposition to President Bush's Iraq policy. He has consistently voted against the supplemental funding bills that keep the war raging and opposed the President's "surge" strategy. Since President Bush sent 30,000 additional troops to Iraq, the United States has seen American casualties and, according to all the recent reports, little or no indication that the surge is creating the political environment necessary for a diplomatic solution.

Farr believes that the continued toll this war exacts on our nation is unsustainable and threatens our long-term security. He voted for, and the House passed, HR 2929, to prohibit any permanent military installations or bases in Iraq or U.S. control over Iraqi oil resources.

On the environmental front, Congressman Farr has taken into account

that it has been over 40 years since any significant action was taken to protect our ocean resources, and the degradation has become critical. To remedy this situation, Farr has introduced "OCEANS-21," bill HR 21 (the Ocean Conservation, Education, & National Strategy for the 21st Century Act). OCEANS-21 will improve the stewardship and management of our ocean and coastal resources, and seeks to secure the full range of ecological, economic, educational, social, cultural, nutritional, and recreational benefits of healthy marine ecosystems for current and future generations. The bill is currently on its way to the House floor.

To contact Representative Farr's office, learn more about his record, or help with his campaign, contact sanfarr@mail.house.gov.



Joe Simitian
*California State Senate,
11th District*

As a Mayor, County Supervisor, Assemblymember and now running for his second term in the State Senate, Joe Simitian has been a stalwart advocate for the Sierra Club's mission. Senator Simitian chairs the Senate Environmental Quality committee and recently carried bills that would increase the State's use of renewable energy and require the State to conduct additional studies before approving new liquefied natural gas terminals.

Currently, Senator Simitian is carrying legislation that would mandate climate change to be taught in public schools and would require ocean rangers to monitor environmental compliance aboard cruise ships. Senator Simitian has received awards for his work protecting open space, reducing waste, and fighting to improve air quality. He has been recognized by the Sierra Club for a lifetime of commitment.

We are proud to endorse his re-election to California's 11th Senate District.

Santa Cruz County

Mark Stone
*Santa Cruz County Supervisor,
5th District*

Sierra Club endorses Mark Stone for another term as County Supervisor for District 5.

Stone has ably represented District 5, providing leadership to protect its watersheds, negotiating a settlement of the proposed Lompico headwaters forest logging project. The Lompico watershed has since been permanently protected by its acquisition by Sempervirens Fund. Mark consistently supported Felton citizens' efforts to buy their water distribution system (now under corporate control by German-owned California-American Water/RWE) and transfer its management to the San Lorenzo Water District.

While serving on the Regional Transportation Commission, Supervisor Stone has worked to improve regional transportation planning and options. He understands the interrelationships between environmental issues, transportation infrastructure, and our quality of life. His fairness, vision, and accomplishments merit this endorsement and your vote on June 3.

Monterey County



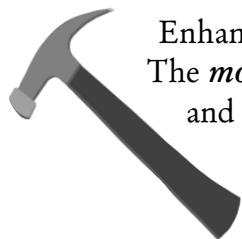
Jane Parker
*Monterey County Board of
Supervisors, District 4*

The Sierra Club Ventana Chapter endorses Jane Parker for the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, District 4. This district was represented by first-term Supervisor Jerry Smith, former mayor of Seaside, until he passed away in office last November. Although the Board of Supervisors is a non-partisan body, Republican Governor Schwarzenegger appointed Ila Mettee-McCutcheon this past month over protests from local Democrats and Independents. In 2004 Jane ran for the District 4 seat on the County Board of Supervisors and came within 200 votes of victory.

The Board of Supervisors has primary responsibility for the mandated General Plan Update (GPU). This process has been wending its way through the County planning process for years. The developer-driven Board has continued to favor a growth-inducing GPU despite the lack of water, infrastructure, health and safety constraints and protection of natural resources. Jane supported and led the voter contact campaign for Measure A, the Community General Plan on the ballot last year favored by the Ventana Chapter and other environmental groups. Her election is key to protecting the County from massive development.

Jane Parker grew up in Monterey and has had a long career in the not-for-profit field. She is currently employed at the ACTION Council of Monterey County as Associate Director. Her duties include establishing a strong donor base for Girls Incorporated (an organization developing leadership skills in girls) and seeking ways to address the need for affordable housing in our county. Jane chairs the MPC Foundation Board of Directors and the Democratic Club of the Monterey Peninsula.

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Thank you!

Jane founded and managed a healthy meal preparation and delivery service for working families and homebound seniors. While employed for nine years by Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, she raised over \$5 million annually in support of essential family health services and honest sex education. She has served on the Monterey Peninsula College Board of Trustees, as President of the Charitable Council of Monterey, and chair of the County Social Services Commission.

For further information or to help elect Jane Parker, contact Campaign Manager Lisa Raville at 831-917-7880 or go to her website, electjaneparker.com.



No on 98; ★ ★ Yes on 99

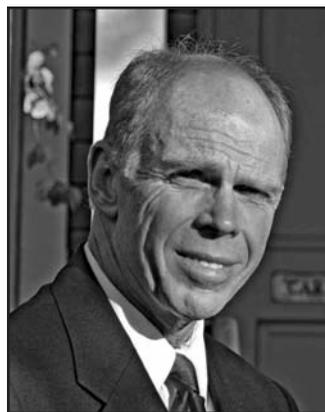
Sierra Club opposes Prop. 98

While Prop. 98 is ostensibly about eminent domain, the fine print threatens local land use planning and environmental protections and was deliberately crafted to challenge affordable housing policies. This measure comes from many of the same wealthy special interests who proposed the defeated Prop. 90 in 2006. Vote NO on Prop. 98.

Sierra Club supports Prop. 99

Prop. 99 is a real eminent domain reform measure intended to constitutionally protect homeowners without the hidden agendas and adverse consequences of Prop. 98. Prop. 99 will prohibit government from using eminent domain to take a home to transfer to a private developer. It is supported by a broad coalition of homeowners, environmentalists, labor, business, cities, and counties who want straightforward eminent domain reform that responds to the U.S. Supreme Court's Kelo decision. Vote YES on Prop. 99

Carmel City Council Election, April 8



Mike LePage
Carmel City Council

The Sierra Club endorses Mike LePage for Carmel City Council. Mike demonstrates a detailed knowledge of the environmental concerns facing the City of Carmel. LePage has served six years on the Carmel Design Review Board, two as Chair. He understands the connection between investing in our natural environment and maintaining the quality of life that makes Carmel "a place that is inspired

by its natural surroundings," to quote Mike.

LePage is concerned about the City's lack of maintenance of Carmel Beach, Carmel's venerable trees, and City parks. Carmel's forestry staff and beach maintenance were drastically cut by the present Council as a budget-saving measure.

LePage is an enthusiastic supporter of California native plants. He would use native Monterey pines and Cypress to help stabilize the bluffs above Carmel beach, among other bluff stability measures. He would work to remove non-native plants from city property and encourage property owners to use drought-tolerant native vegetation.

LePage has pledged to work to ensure a healthy and well-maintained urban forest and to promote and maintain Carmel's parks and open spaces.

On a personal level, LePage believes that, "... concern for the environment begins with personal action." He buys organic produce, landscapes with native plants, and walks and rides a bike to minimize his driving.



EPA finally sets plans for mercury limits on cement kilns

Davenport plant one of biggest polluters

Under intense pressure from states, environmental, and public health groups, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced plans to regulate mercury pollution from over 100 cement kilns across the country by September 2009. The announcement marks a dramatic shift in EPA policy which, until now, had been to resist requiring mercury controls for cement kilns.

Three times in the last 10 years, federal courts have ordered EPA to set emission standards to control cement kilns' mercury emissions. Until now, EPA has ignored these orders or sought to evade them. EPA finally indicated that it would set mercury emission standards in papers filed on February 20 in a fourth case brought by Earthjustice on behalf of Sierra Club and other environmental groups. The States of New York, Michigan, Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Pennsylvania also filed suit.

Cement kilns pumped nearly 12,000 pounds of mercury into the air in 2006, according to EPA's Toxics Release Inventory (TRI). However, the TRI depends on

voluntary emissions estimates that may significantly understate kilns' actual pollution levels. Individual cement kilns in New York, Michigan and Oregon routinely understated their emissions until being required by State officials to conduct emissions tests—at which point it was evident that their actual emissions were approximately ten times higher than previously reported.

"One of California's biggest mercury polluters is a cement kiln in Davenport, California, just across the street from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary," said Kristen Raugust, a member of the Executive Committee of the Santa Cruz County Group of the Sierra Club.

According to a 1991 article in *Science News*, it only takes 1/70th of a teaspoon of mercury to contaminate a 25-acre lake. Over 40 states have warned their residents to avoid consuming various fish species due to mercury contamination; over half of those mercury advisories apply to all water bodies in the states.

Mercury is a dangerous neurotoxin that can impair a young child's ability to walk, talk, read, write, and learn. While the

mercury pollution from these kilns is staggering, they are also major emitters of toxic organic compounds, such as benzene and formaldehyde, known carcinogens. In the court documents, EPA also pledged to set emission standards for these pollutants as well.

It took 10 years

Sierra Club first filed suit in 1998, after EPA failed to meet a November 15, 1997 deadline to issue air toxics regulations for cement kilns. In that case, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia ordered the agency to do so by May 15, 1999.

When the agency issued the overdue regulations however, it refused to include standards to control cement kilns' mercury emissions. Sierra Club, represented by Earthjustice, challenged that decision in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, which found in 2000 that the agency's refusal violated the federal Clean Air Act and ordered the agency to set mercury standards.

EPA ignored the D.C. Circuit's order until 2004, when Sierra Club brought a

third suit, which resulted in an order requiring EPA to issue the required mercury standards no later than December 2006.

In 2006, the agency issued another rule refusing to set mercury standards. On this occasion, it was sued not only by local and national environmental groups, but also the nine states. That case was held in abeyance from 2006 until now, when EPA was forced to indicate whether it wished to set mercury standards or litigate the issue a fourth time. The agency indicated in a motion to the court that it expected to propose mercury standards by "mid-September 2008" and issue them by "mid-September 2009."

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Sierra Club Events

Friday, April 11

Potluck & Slides: Alaska
This slide show featuring Alaskan wildlife



Don Nielsen

will be presented by Don Nielsen. See caribou, Dall sheep, grizzly bears and more. The potluck begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring food to share and your own washable plate, cup, utensils, cloth napkin, and serving utensils. We love home-cooked food, but store-bought items (minimum value \$5) make great contributions too. For directions call George at 706-4233.

Friday, May 9

Potluck & Slide Show: Ireland

The slide show is presented by Chris and Joe from the trip to Ireland last year. The potluck begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring food to share and your own washable plate, cup, utensils, cloth napkin, and serving utensils. We love

home-cooked food, but store-bought items (minimum value \$5) make great contributions too. For directions call George at 706-4233.

Spring, Summer

Channel Island trips

Join other Sierra Club members on 4- or 5-day trips to Channel Island National Park. Informal cruise with bunk and meals. Travel with ranger naturalist. Proceeds from this fundraiser benefit the Club's political program in California. Cost is \$775 or \$925. Dates are May 2-5; July 18-21; Aug. 23-27; Sept. 13-17. All trips leave from Santa Barbara. To make a reservation send \$100 check payable to Sierra Club to Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732, jholtzhl@aol.com.

Volunteers needed for LeConte Lodge

Do you enjoy interacting with the public in beautiful Yosemite Valley? The LeConte Memorial Lodge, the 104-year-old museum, library, and visitor center operated by the Sierra Club in Yosemite is looking for volunteer staff.

If you are interested in volunteering for one or two weeks between May 1 and September 28, contact Bonnie Gisel, the LeConte Lodge curator, at leconte.curator@sierraclub.org or 209-403-6676 before May 1. After May 1 call 209-372-4542.

For more information visit www.sierraclub.org/education/leconte/volunteering.asp.

The lodge is open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday and from 8-10:00 p.m. for weekend evening programs. Volunteers enjoy free entrance to Yosemite National Park and free camping at the group campsite during the time they volunteer.

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.

Saturday, April 5

Marine Sanctuary Symposium

Oceans of Change: Our Climate, Our Sanctuary, Our Future. What will be the effect of climate change on the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary? Hear the latest from experts about climate change and oceans. FREE. CSUMB, University Center, Seaside. 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more info, www.montereybay@noaa.gov or contact Liz Love, 647-4255, liz.love@noaa.gov.

Saturday, April 19

Multimedia presentation

Observe Earth Day by attending this Kenan & Karen Ward presentation of "Endangered" at the Rio Theater in Santa Cruz. Sponsored by UCSC Recreation. Tickets \$16 and \$14 in advance at www.ucscrecreation.com. Tickets \$18 and \$16 day of show. 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 3

Environmental films

Reel Work for the Environment. Vegetarian potluck, music and films. Live Oak Grange, 1900 17th Ave., Santa Cruz. 4:00

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The Ventana

p.m. Please bring your own cup, plate, utensils, and dish to share. Desserts provided. Films include Sierra Club shorts about solar, wind power, biodiesel, and community gardens. Local expert speakers. FREE/donations. For more info call Karen Kaplan, 335-3342.

Saturdays

Habitat restoration sponsored by CNPS Santa Cruz

Volunteer to restore native habitat in State Parks in Santa Cruz Co. Wear layered work clothes. 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, redwdn@pacbell.net, 462-4041. Website: www.cruzcnps.org.

March 29, Quail Hollow County Park
April 19, Sunset Beach State Park
April 26, Quail Hollow County Park

FREE Wormshops

Learn how worms can eat your food scraps and make beautiful compost for your garden. Master composters will teach you everything you need to know. Pre-registration required. Free and below wholesale worm bins for residents of unincorporated Santa Cruz County and Scotts Valley. \$50 charge for residents of Capitola, City of Santa Cruz, and Watsonville. Call 427-3452 to register. Classes on April 19, May 17, June 7, July 27. Sponsored by S.C. County Board of Supervisors; produced by County Public Works Recycling and Solid Waste Services.

Weekends

Habitat restoration sponsored by CNPS - Monterey

Volunteer to restore native habitat in State Parks in Monterey Co. Wear layered work clothes. Bring water & snacks. Tools & gloves provided. Carpools meet at Black Bear Diner Park and Ride. Rain or shine. Contact Jan Shriner, jshriner@mbay.net, 236-0905. Website: www.montereybaycnps.org.

April 5, Pt. Lobos, 1-4 p.m.
April 20, Garrapata, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
April 25, Garrapata, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
May 3, Pt. Lobos, 1-4 p.m.
May 18, Garrapata, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Fourth Saturday

Habitat restoration - Watsonville

Sponsored by Watsonville Wetlands Watch. 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Meet at the Fitz Wetlands Educ. Resource Ctr. at Pajaro Valley HS. Gloves, tools, and snack provided. Call Jonathan Pilch, 728-4106, for more info. No experience necessary.

Saturdays

Garland Ranch Hikes

The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District docents lead hikes at Garland Ranch every Saturday. An updated list of all hikes may be found on their website: www.mprpd.org.

Help monitor local creeks

The Coastal Watershed Council and the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network are currently recruiting volunteers to help with the 9th annual Snapshot Day event being held Saturday, May 3. Snapshot Day is a one-day event that seeks to provide a "snapshot" of water quality throughout the Central Coast. Snapshot Day volunteers monitor water quality in over 100 streams flowing into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Volunteer trainings will be conducted on Saturday, April 19 in Santa Cruz and on Saturday, April 26 in Monterey. Volunteers will be provided with a three-hour training in the methods of physical, chemical, and biological water quality monitoring.

Snapshot Day began on Earth Day 2000 and has become a widely-recognized volunteer event in which important water quality information is gathered. Data collected by volunteers is used to influence water-resource management, public policy decisions, and to educate the general public, with the goal of improving water quality. Last year, 164 volunteers monitored water quality at 180 sites.

For more information and to volunteer contact:

Santa Cruz County:
Debi Chirco-Macdonald, 464-9200, volunteer@coastalws.org

Monterey County:
Anna Holden, 647-4227, Anna.Holden@noaa.gov.

Club involvement greens up Marina development



Steve Zmak

Phase 8 along the east side of Hwy. 1 contains the highest concentration of critical habitat, including two vernal ponds, which will form the 25-acre cornerstone of onsite restoration connecting to 83 additional acres of restoration to the north. Marina State Beach is just out of frame to the west (left).

by Steve Zmak

Marina Station is a 320-acre, 1,360-home Creekbridge Homes project on Armstrong Ranch north of Marina and adjacent to the east side of Hwy. 1. The project includes retail, light industrial, residential over retail, and commercial components. The new urbanism design exceeds Marina's park-to-residents ratio threefold, includes three town centers within a five-minute walk of most residents, solar power for all the single-family homes (60% of the residential component), rain gardens that filter

storm water runoff and pump it back into the aquifers, and a number of other green design and building practices that give it Silver and Gold LEED ratings.

This is just the type of project the Ventana Chapter has been seeking to use as an environmentally-sensitive model of community development. The catch is that the project requires the transplanting of 51 acres of federally-endangered Monterey spineflower (1:1), 33 acres of coastal dune scrub (2:1), and 21 acres of native grassland (2:1) for a total of 108 acres to be restored.

Lompico forest to benefit from PG&E program

The 425-acre Lompico Headwaters Forest will benefit from a new program of emissions reductions (carbon credits) offered by Sempervirens and Pacific Gas and Electric as part of PG&E's Climate Smart™ program. The program will purchase 14,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emission reductions under California's rigorous forest carbon sequestration project protocols.

"This project sets significant precedent by establishing an economic value for redwood forestland other than timber harvest or development potential. Forest lands have traditionally been given a value based on what can be extracted from them. Our project is groundbreaking in that it places an economic value on preserved forests without sending them to the lumberyard," said Brian Steen, Executive Director of Sempervirens Fund.

Scientific evidence indicates redwood

forests have the highest carbon density per acre of any ecosystem in the world. Older redwood forests, under a management regime of preservation, sequester much higher amounts of carbon than younger forests that are often subject to regular timber harvests. This makes redwood forest protection key to any overall strategy to stabilize atmospheric CO₂ concentrations.

"By partnering in the Lompico Headwaters Forest Carbon Project, PG&E and Sempervirens Fund are responding creatively to the global warming challenge," said Gary Patton, General Counsel of the Planning and Conservation League. "I'm proud that their precedent setting initiative is occurring in Santa Cruz County. It's a model of bringing together forest preservation and emissions reduction."

To learn more visit www.sempervirens.org/lompicocarbonproject.htm.

The Ventana Chapter presented Creekbridge Homes with the following criteria that would have to be met for us to possibly endorse the project. The California Native Plant Society concurs.

- 1) No net loss of sensitive habitat.
- 2) Sensitive habitat is kept in or adjacent to the City of Marina.
- 3) Sensitive habitat is contiguous, not broken up.
- 4) Hwy. 1 scenic views are preserved.

Marina City Councilmember Ken Gray proposed the purchase of an additional 125 acres by Creekbridge Homes adjacent and north of the project from the Armstrong family to create a regional park and restoration site, for which we advocated. That idea has evolved into negotiations among the Ventana Chapter,

Armstrong family, Creekbridge Homes, and a number of other local environmental and conservationist organizations to create an 83-acre conservation easement. This, along with the 25 acres of onsite restoration, would allow for the 108 acres of restored habitat to meet the first three points of our criteria.

Creekbridge Homes has agreed to redesign the western-most element of the project (Phase 8) to eliminate approximately 20 homes to preserve scenic views from Highway 1, and allow for the preservation and restoration of two vernal ponds that would have otherwise been graded over. Phase 8 contains the highest concentration of critical habitat that will form the 25-acre cornerstone of onsite restoration.

On March 4, the Marina City Council approved the project with conditions of approval addressing the criteria that were agreed upon by the Ventana Chapter, LandWatch, Councilmember Gray, and Creekbridge Homes. The next step will be for city staff to analyze the changes to Phase 8, hold public hearings in the Planning Commission and City Council, and approve the amendments. Stay tuned.



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Ready . . .



Debbie Bulger

Getting off the bus.



Debbie Bulger

Unfolding her bike.

Unfolding a Commute Solution

by Debbie Bulger

After 18 years of commuting over the hill in her car, Anni Maver took a big step last May. Or rather a big pedal. She now combines bicycling with riding the bus thanks to her purchase of a folding bicycle and monthly bus passes.

In May 2007, Maver attended an environmental event in Santa Cruz to stop Global Warming. "The speeches at the rally were inspiring," Maver recounts. It was an epiphany. Something clicked for her. "Wow," she realized, "I could start taking the bus and bike to work."

It took her two weeks to organize her plan of action. She scouted the route and looked up bus schedules. She discovered she could purchase a monthly bus pass for \$90, \$20 of which is reimbursed by her employer for taking public transit. She enrolled in the Folding Bike Program through Ecology Action, took the required bike safety class, and received additional discounts on her bus pass for the first few months. She also became eligible for the program's discount on a folding bike.

Maver, 53, a longtime recreational cyclist, works the graveyard shift as an emergency dispatcher for the City of Santa

Set . . .

Clara. Luckily the Hwy. 17 bus schedule works out perfectly. A Boulder Creek resident, she bikes one mile into town where she catches a Metro bus to Santa Cruz where she transfers to the Hwy. 17 bus. Once at Diridon in San Jose, she hops on her bike and pedals the 6 to 7 miles to the 911 Center where she works. On the way back, she gets off in Scotts Valley and bikes approximately 10 miles home.

A petite woman, Maver had no trouble carrying her 30-pound folded bike off the bus. Upon disembarking, she quickly unfolded the bike. If she chooses to walk, the folded bike can be pushed much like a stroller. When she purchased her folding bike, she selected a special saddle and added a powerful headlight for commuting after dark. Maver also uses flashing red lights both on her bike and on the back of her helmet.

Maver's environmental choice is sup-

ported by her employer's program of encouraging workers to take public transit. Employees are assured the free use of a City vehicle if an emergency should arise. Additionally, the City subsidizes her bus pass purchase.

About once a week, Maver still drives so she can visit her mother in San Jose and do necessary shopping on the way home.

"I have a sedentary job," Maver explains. "By biking to work I get a good workout and a fun ride. This year my kids gave me an MP3 player, so I can listen to books while I'm on the bus."

"I am committed to not driving alone," Maver notes. "I'm thrilled to no longer commute in a car. Cycling feels so wonderful."

Folding bike program

Ecology Action of Santa Cruz offers a Folding Bikes in Buses program which gives financial incentives for Santa Cruz County residents who wish to commute by bus and bike instead of by car. The incentives provide a rebate up to \$200 off a folding bike and also provide up to \$70 on two monthly bus passes. Program participants are required to take a two-hour bicycle safety course.

The goal of the program is to reduce single-occupant automobile travel and resultant air pollution, traffic congestion, and parking demand. It is funded by a Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District grant through the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission.

Folding bikes may be taken on buses even when the exterior racks are full and are easier to store at many work sites.

To learn more call Ecology Action at 426-5925, x 128 or visit

www.ecoact.org/Programs/Transportation/Folding_Bikes_Buses.

Bike Week 2008

May 10 -17

"I'm thrilled to no longer commute in a car. Cycling feels so wonderful."

Ready to ride.



Debbie Bulger

Go!

Selected Bike Week event listings only. For complete event information visit www.bike2work.com.

Santa Cruz County

Saturday, May 10

Kid's Bike Safety Obstacle Course

Kids 4-8 receive on-bike traffic safety instruction. Helmets required. Bring your bike. 10:00 a.m. Depot Park, 119 Center Street.

Thursday, May 15

Bike to Work/School Day

FREE breakfast for cyclists at sites around the County. See website for listings.

Saturday, May 17

Train and Bike Ride

10:00 a.m. Depot Park. Celebrate train and bike travel with a train ride to Felton. Bring your bike for a group ride back to Santa Cruz. CHP escort (road will not be closed to motor vehicles). Roundtrip train ride available to those unable to cycle back. Tickets \$6 adults one way; \$3 kids one way. Tickets at the HUB, 703 Pacific Ave. and Bike to Work office, 223 River Street. 7 and under must be in kid's seat, trailer, or tag-a-long. Helmets required.

Monterey County

Monday, May 12

Bike Week Challenge

Pledge your organization to compete. Employees log number of days they bike to work. Organization with highest percentage wins prize and award.

Tuesday, May 13

Bike to City Council Meeting

Ride with elected officials and city staff from Steinbeck Library to City Council Chambers. Call James Serrano, 758-7195 for more details.

Thursday, May 15

Bike to Work/School Day

FREE breakfasts for cyclists at participating schools and work sites.

NEWSCLIPS

What's in it?

Senator Joe Simitian has sponsored a bill (SB 509) which would require manufacturers of consumer products to publish on the Web a list of ingredients. Current ingredient laws pertain only to food and cosmetics. Knowing what is in a product will enable purchasers to evaluate claims of greenness.

What's your transportation footprint?

How much CO₂ do your transportation choices produce? You can calculate the amount at this website: safeclimate.net/calculator. It has been estimated that most Americans can decrease their motor vehicle trips by one fourth without difficulty by combining trips, walking and biking for shorter trips, using transit, and carpooling.

Clean coal?

Representatives Henry Waxman and Edward Markey have introduced a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives that would require all new coal plants to address global warming by capturing and storing at least 85% of their CO₂ emissions. The bill also prohibits free pollution allowances. The coal industry has announced it is spending \$35 million to convince Americans that coal can be burned cleanly. This bill holds their feet to the fire. For more info visit www.sierraclub.org/coal.

Want cancer with those fries?

Sierra Club is supporting a bill in Sacramento that would ban Teflon chemicals in food packaging. Greasy foods such as french fries or pizza are being served in boxes lined with carcinogens. SB 1313 would eliminate this chemical feast.

Trailwork opportunity

Mark Readdie, director of the Landels-Hill Big Creek Reserve in Big Sur, reports that trailworkers are needed on Saturdays until May. Be prepared to work hard on steep terrain starting at 10:00 a.m. Bring gloves, wear work clothes, bring water, lunch, sunscreen. Tecnu provided. Hiking and camping traded for work. Email bigcreek@ucsc.edu with dates you can work.

Club to sue over dunes

The Santa Lucia Chapter has notified the California Dept. of Parks and Rec. of its intent to sue for allowing vehicles on 584 acres of Oceano Dunes in San Luis Obispo County. Despite prohibition of vehicles on the dunes by the Local Coastal Plan, the County and State have allowed off-road vehicles to varoom over snowy plovers and other threatened and endangered dune species.

Will the State protect the Carmel River?

Cal Am overpumps by 7,000 acre feet/year

For years, the California American Water Company has been extracting more water than it has legal right to from the Carmel River. State wildlife officials now consider the Carmel River watershed a "priority watershed." Cal Am's overpumping contributes to low water levels that threaten steelhead and other wildlife in the river corridor.

Now, the State Water Resources Control Board has issued a draft Cease and Desist order over California American Water Company's failure to comply with the 1995 order to find legal sources of water. Cal Am gets about 75% of the water for its Peninsula customers from 18 wells along the lower Carmel River. The 1995 state order said Cal Am has the legal right to only 3,376 acre-feet of river water a year. But over the last 10 years, Cal Am's annual diversion of river water has ranged from 9,538 to 11,178 acre-feet, exceeding the company's legal limit by an average of 7,150 acre-feet annually.

In 1995, the utility was using about 14,100 acre-feet of river water a year to supply about 100,000 residents. Today, Cal Am's Peninsula service area has about

112,000 residents, and the water company used 10,540 acre-feet from the Carmel River in 2006, the most recent water year for which figures are available. Water savings resulting from conservation efforts have been redirected to support marginal increases in development. The draft order says the current water strategy employed by Cal Am and the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District hasn't significantly reduced the illegal take from the Carmel River since 1998.

The Carmel River once had a substantial steelhead population, probably runs in the tens of thousands. The run size now is a few hundred. Dams, diversions, and mismanagement of the Carmel River lagoon account for most of the decline. The Carmel River was perennial until diversions began, and the mouth of the river closed each summer to form a lagoon. The river now goes dry in the summer, and stranded steelhead are rescued by the Carmel River Steelhead Association and Monterey Peninsula Water District.

The draft order would compel Cal Am to reduce its take from the Carmel River in stages over the next seven years from

15 percent to 50 percent. At that level of reduction Cal Am would still be taking more river water than is legal.

Cal Am has requested a hearing before the State Water Resources Control Board on the draft order. The hearing is scheduled for June 19 and 20. The Sierra Club, Ventana Chapter will testify in support of the order. In addition, we have authorized a 60-day letter warning of an Endangered Species Act suit against Cal-Am asking for a reduction in diversions similar to what the Water Control Board has proposed. We are suggesting that the reductions be based on conditions in the river to avoid "administrative drought" during periods when the river has ample water and are asking the court to order Cal-Am to provide adequate fish passage over Los Padres. Other environmental organizations may join us in this potential lawsuit.

How to help

Write the State Water Resources Control Board, P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100, attn: Chair, Tam Doduc. Mail your letter by June 1 so it will arrive in time to be included in the packets.



Jeff on Pico Blanco in June 2003.

Jeff Norman warmly remembered

The Big Sur community as well as friends and family gathered together to give an emotional farewell to a much-loved resident and local historian on Saturday, March 8. Over 300 people met at Post Ranch to celebrate the life of a brilliant naturalist who had compiled oral histories, copious notes, and several books on the early settlers of Big Sur and their descendents. Jeff Norman, 56, passed away following complications from heart failure last October 31.

Jeff grew up in Pebble Beach and attended Pacific Grove High School. He was interested in biology from a very young age. He is credited with discovering a rare fern at Pico Blanco at 14 and is the youngest person to serve as a lab technician at Hopkins Marine Lab at 15.

Jeff was always drawn to Big Sur and became close with the homestead families such as the Posts, Pfeiffers, Ewoldsens, Harlans and Trotters. As a young man he lived in Palo Colorado and Post Ranch before acquiring his beloved sanctuary, Alta Vista, a remote cabin built in the 1920s where he lived for 28 years. Alta Vista sits on 20 acres off the Tan Bark Trail about 3 steep miles up from Hwy. 1 with no road access.

Throughout his life, Jeff acquired a staggering amount of cultural and biological knowledge of Monterey County and especially the coast. He was considered an expert botanist and worked as a consultant and editor for various nonprofit and government organizations. He collaborated with several local authors on books relating to nature and history and, most recently, authored *Images of America: Big Sur*, a collection of historic photos with commentary on the region and its families.

Jeff was a great friend to many Club members and often provided background and expert advice on projects and natural history in the Ventana Wilderness and the Big Sur coast. His passion and commitment to the area inspired Representative Sam Farr to dedicate a section of U. S. Forest Service land with a rich inventory of maritime chaparral at Pfeiffer Point as the Jeff Norman Botanical Reserve.

Cannery Row project threatens peninsula water supply

Letters needed to Coastal Commission

The California Coastal Commission met on March 6 in Carmel Valley to discuss the future of the Ocean View Plaza project slated for development on the waterfront at Cannery Row in Monterey. This massive project, approved in 2004 by the Monterey City Council, proposes a 92,000 square foot mixed-use development that would include 87,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space, 38 "market-rate" condominiums, 13 inclusionary housing units, 377 parking spaces, and reproductions of historical features.

The Coastal Commission staff report opposes this project on several grounds including the lack of water. In the years since this project was planned and approved, the

water crisis on the Monterey peninsula has worsened. The City of Monterey can offer no water entitlements because the State has ordered Cal Am to reduce withdrawals from the Carmel River in a document known as Order 95-10.

In the absence of a Cal Am hook-up, the developer proposes to build a desalination plant to provide water to the project. This scheme has come under harsh criticism from the Coastal Commission as well as the Ventana Chapter, the League of Women voters and other groups and residents.

Desalination plant water is not proven. The plant could fail completely or in part, requiring the project to tap into Carmel

River water through a Cal Am hookup. In addition, the Monterey Local Coastal Plan has not been updated since 1980 long before the 1995 Department of Water Resource's court order to Cal Am to stop over pumping the Carmel River. The Coastal Plan clearly is out of date.

If development is allowed to proceed using water from private, for-profit plants, Order 95-10 will not get implemented while the Peninsula keeps growing. Efforts to solve overdrafts from the Carmel River will be diluted. Resources that could be spent solving the water crisis would be spent on private water supplies. When and if the Peninsula ever addresses Order 95-10, the residents could be left holding the bag, responsible for the costs.

At the March 6 hearing the developer requested that the matter be rescheduled for July 9 - 11 in San Luis Obispo. At press time this date was not confirmed.

This massive project would be very detrimental both to the coastal zone and the water supply for the Monterey region. Please write letters opposing this project and in favor of the staff report to California Coastal Commission, 725 Front Street, Suite 300, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. Attention: Susan Craig. Susan Craig's email is scraig@coastal.ca.gov.



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OUTINGS

OUTINGS RATINGS

GENERAL INFORMATION:

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

EXPLANATION OF RATINGS:

The outings described vary in difficulty from leisurely walks to strenuous hikes. The following explanation is a general guideline. (For more information about the difficulty of a particular outing, 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 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:

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

Save-Mart / Bagel Bakery: (formerly Albertson's) South of Monterey on Hwy. 1. One mile past Ocean Ave., turn L on Carmel Valley Rd. Almost immediately, turn R at the light. Save-Mart/ Bagel Bakery on the R.

Santa Cruz County Government Center: The large grey building at the corner of Ocean & Water in Santa Cruz. We meet at the corner of the parking lot nearest to the intersection.

Felton Faire: The shopping center at the junction of Graham Hill and Mt. Hermon Rds in Felton. 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 Ave. exit. Go toward the ocean on 41st Ave. Pass the main Mall entrance and turn right into the next entrance near Sears. We meet behind the bank located at 41st and Capitola Road.

MPC Parking lot: Monterey Peninsula College Parking Lot. From Hwy. 1 take the Fisherman's Wharf exit, go straight one block, turn L and L again into the first parking lot—A. This is the site of the Thurs. Farmers Mkt. Plenty of parking with no fee on weekends.

carpool news

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

Santa Cruz: County Gov't Center
Monterey: K-Mart Seaside

In the interest 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, ridesharing, or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

Participants will be required to sign a liability waiver. To read it before choosing to participate on an outing go to www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/.

NOTICE

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

MARCH

Sunday, March 30

HIKE: BUTANO STATE PARK

Celebrate the Spring equinox with a 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 parking lot to carpool. Bring lunch and water. Call leader Peter Scott, 423-0796 (or drip@ucsc.edu) for details.

Monday, March 31

HIKE: PINNACLES

Join me on my birthday at my favorite hiking place. Pinnacles National Monument has approximately 30 miles of hiking trails and we will be doing a little over 11 miles with 2,000' elevation gain/loss. We will be enjoying rock spires, ramparts, and crags that form the pinnacles of this park that have been created by erosion, faulting, and tectonic plate movement. Condor sightings always a possibility. Must contact me a week in advance or I'll not be able to respond. For more information call me. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

APRIL

Tuesday, April 1

HIKE: TAN BARK TRAIL TO TIN HOUSE

Our moderately-strenuous 8-mile in-and-out hike with 2000' elevation gain snakes along Partington Cr then thru redwoods to the Tin

House. Stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Lunch with spectacular views of Big Sur; we'll peek inside the crumbling old house. Meet at the Black Bear Diner Park & Ride by 9:00 a.m. Bring water and lunch. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Tuesday, April 1

HIKE: PLEASANT SURPRISE RIDGE

Join me for one of the best kept secrets in Santa Cruz County. We'll leave our meeting place by limo for a short ride to the trailhead. Hike thru open meadows, oak woodlands, pine and redwood forests and sandy beaches—all at a moderate downhill grade. Expect 45-55 wildflower species and almost guaranteed condor and rare bird sightings. Views of the mountains and bay. Lunch at the winery catered by famous local chef, with a mini foot massage after, before we resume our all downhill hike. Pack light. Water and snacks will be provided every 1-1/2 miles. Limit 12. Call for reservation. Leader: John Howerton, 476-4253.

Wednesday, April 2

HIKE: PICCHETTI RANCH & STEVENS CREEK COUNTY PARK

This preserve is named for Italian immigrants Vincenzo and Secondo Picchetti who homesteaded here in 1882. It has been restored and is listed in the National Register of Historic places. Seasonal wetlands, pond, and trails through orchards, vineyards, and meadows. 10 miles and 600-1000' elevation gain. Views over Stevens Cr. Reservoir where we might see soaring birds. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Sears

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OUTINGS

41st Ave. to carpool (\$4) or at the parking area off Hwy. 280 on Foothill Blvd. to Stevens Canyon Rd. to 0.5 miles on Montebello Rd. at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, April 5

HIKE: PICO BLANCO PUBLIC CAMP

We'll hike to Pico Blanco Camp on rough trails. Strenuous, 11 miles with 2000' elevation gain. See the best waterfall in the area; bring a bathing suit! First, we walk through redwoods and will cross the south fork of the Little Sur River. Wear boots, bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet at Save-Mart at 9:00 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

Saturday - Monday, April 5 - 7

CARRIZO PLAIN SERVICE

On Sat. we'll remove fence to allow pronghorn antelope freer access to the range. Sun. is reserved for sightseeing. The views from the Caliente Mountains are spectacular; if rain has been sufficient, there will be spring flowers; the monument is known for the number and variety of raptors. Mon. we'll continue our work. Contact leader Craig Deutsche, 310-477-6670, or deutsche@earthlink.net.

Sunday, April 6

HIKE: SOBERANES CREEK/ROCKY RIDGE

5-mile loop with 1650' elevation gain. We'll follow the Soberanes Creek Trail into a verdant redwood grove, then climb steeply to grassy knolls for great views at lunch. We'll descend Rocky Ridge with fine views. Boots recommended; hiking poles helpful. Bring water and

lunch. Meet at Black Bear Diner Park & Ride at 9:00 a.m. to carpool. Call for reservation. Leader: Dwight Goehring, 277-9908.

Tuesday, April 8

HIKE: TORO PARK

This 5-1/2 mile hike with 800' elevation gain takes us through a forested valley along the Ollason Trail then up to oak-dotted grasslands possibly covered with lupine. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Meet at the north end of Whole Foods by 9:15 a.m. or at the dirt parking area outside Toro Park by 9:45 a.m. Bring water & lunch. Call for reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Tuesday, April 8

SENIOR HIKE: TORO PARK

We'll hike the Ollason Trail and hopefully see great wildflowers. Three miles with one uphill section. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at Toro Park at the next to last parking lot near the bathrooms about 10:40 a.m. Bring water, lunch, sit upon, and \$4 carpool. Toro Park is off East Hwy. 68 between Monterey and Salinas. Leader: Bev Meschi, 475-4185.

Wednesday, April 9

HIKE: ROCKY RIDGE/SOBERANES CYN

Rocky Ridge is a 1435' rounded grassy peak between Soberanes Canyon and Malpas Canyon in Garrapata State Park south of Carmel. The Rocky Ridge is a dry, exposed hillside with amazing wildflowers and sweeping views of the ocean. The beginning of the hike is up a narrow canyon of redwoods. Strenuous, but we'll

take it slow, and there are places to turn around or to watch the waves and perhaps a sea otter or two while waiting. Bring lunch and water for this 6-mile hike which seems much longer because of the intense elevation gain. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at 9:15 a.m. behind the gas station at Rio Del Mar Hwy. 1 exit to carpool. We'll be at the trailhead off Hwy. 1 6.8 miles south of Rio Rd. in Carmel at 10:10 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Friday, April 11

HIKE: VEEDER TRAIL / REDWOOD CYN

In spring the Veeder Trail in Garland Park hosts a profusion of wildflowers. Meet at the Black Bear Diner Park & Ride at 10:00 a.m. to carpool. Our loop hike will be only 4-5 miles but is very steep both up and downhill. Bring water and lunch to enjoy at the wildlife pond at the high point of our leisurely walk. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372-7427. Rain cancels.

Sunday, April 13

HIKE: TERRACE CREEK

Hike the Pine Ridge Trail to Terrace Creek and then down to the Ventana Inn. This 10-mile, 2000' elevation gain strenuous hike in Big Sur has views of a beautiful creek as well as the Big Sur coast. Meet at the Save Mart in Carmel Valley at 9:00 a.m. Bring boots, water, and lunch. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Steve Legnard 402-1422.

Tuesday, April 15

SENIOR HIKE: BIG BASIN

A 5-mile hike on the Skyline to Sea Trail down Slippery Rock to Sempervirens Falls & Sequoia Trail. One of our favorites. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at Felton Faire at 9:50 a.m. To go direct, use the main entrance to Big Basin to Visitor's Center. Restrooms available. Bring lunch, water, \$5 carpool, and share of entrance fee. Leader: Bev Meschi, 475-4185.

Tuesday, April 15

HIKE: POINT LOBOS

Our 6-mile grand loop with minimal elevation gain takes us along tree-clad headland trails with magnificent views. We are certain to see a variety of wildlife including harbor seals with pups and many wildflowers which we'll stop to enjoy. Bring water & lunch. Meet at the Black Bear Diner Park & Ride by 9:30 a.m. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Wednesday, April 16

HIKE: CANDELABRA TREE TO BUTANO

We'll see a special old growth redwood tree that measures 20 feet in circumference at the base and has 5 massive stems rising from 1 trunk. It looks like a giant candelabra. It is located on a recently-acquired addition to Butano State Park near Pescadero. We'll begin our hike from a turn-out on Gazos Creek Rd. exactly



Irvin Lindsey

0.4 miles from the junction of Gazos Creek Rd. and Cloverdale Rd. The trail to Gazos Creek Trail and Año Nuevo Trail in Butano is through a gently-sloping wooded area with ferns and wildflowers. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. to carpool. Or we can pick you up at 9:15 a.m. by Shen's at King and Mission. Bring lunch, water, and \$4 carpool. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, April 19

HIKE: WILDER RANCH

An 8-1/2 mile loop hike, with 900' elevation gain along the Engelsmann, Long Meadow, Chinquapin, Eucalyptus, Old Cabin and Wild Boar Trails in the eastern and northern sections of this state park. We'll traverse several riparian forests and open meadows with beautiful ocean vistas. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Gov-



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



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OUTINGS

ernment Center parking lot at 9:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch, share of park entrance fee and \$1 carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Sunday, April 20
HIKE: FORT ORD

Spring is flowery at Fort Ord, so let's check out what's blooming. Less than 5 miles, leisurely pace; we'll stop to smell the posies! Bring water, lunch, good walking gear, and a smile. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the parking lot by the new bathrooms just across Toro Creek near the intersection of Hwy. 68 and Reservation Rd., off Portola Dr. For better directions, Google it or call leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

Monday, April 21
HIKE CARRIZO TRAIL AND CONE PEAK

See beautiful rock formations; breathtaking views guaranteed. The Ventana Wilderness Alliance has worked very hard on these trails. Unfortunately more needs to be done, so bring loppers for some nipping along the way. Trail is overgrown and rough in parts, so please wear long sleeves and no shorts. You must be an early bird for this hike, have endurance and stamina. It will take all day to hike this treacherous trail. Must call leader, Esperanza Hernandez, a week in advance or she will not be able to return your call, 678-1968.

Tuesday, April 22
SENIOR HIKE: PARADISE PARK/RINCON

Enjoy beautiful flowers in Paradise Park. We'll walk a fire road to Hwy. 9, cross over to Rincon Trail, then cross back to San Lorenzo River. About 4 miles. Some steep uphill on fire road and up from the river. But you can do it!!! Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. To go direct, take Hwy. 9 to Paradise Park entrance. Follow signs 1 mile to picnic grounds. Lunch at picnic area. Restrooms. Bring water, lunch, \$2 carpool. Leader: Pat Herzog, 458-9841.

Tuesday, April 22
HIKE: GLEN DEVEN RANCH

Our 7-mile hike with 800' elevation gain takes us into a lovely cyn and along redwood-lined Garrapata Creek. After lunch, we'll explore the ranch house, a writer's studio, and then go onto a ridge for spectacular views. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Meet at the Black Bear Diner Park & Ride by 9:30 a.m. Bring water & lunch. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Wednesday, April 23
HIKE: TORO PARK

Forget the high peaks, and let's enjoy forested groves along the base of the hill, parallel to the stream bed. We'll follow the near-level grade of the old ranch rd. through the rolling grasslands dotted with oaks hoping to find fields of lupine. Return on the Gilson Gap Tr. with views of the Devil's Throne. Bring lunch, water, and \$4 carpool. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. or behind the gas station at Rio Del Mar exit in Aptos at 9:15 a.m. We start from inside the gate of Toro Park to the right of entrance at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, April 26
HIKE: MARIN HEADLANDS

We'll carpool to the south end of the Golden Gate Bridge to take the bus over the bridge to the Point Bonita Lighthouse. Then we'll hike back along the Marin Headlands and over the bridge to San Francisco. Experience coastal views, wildflowers, and walking the bridge. 10 miles. Dinner in S. F. up to drivers. Space limited, call for details. John Howerton: 476-4253.

Saturday, April 26
HIKE: RANCHO SAN ANTONIO CO. PARK

We'll walk up the ridge from the main entrance to the windmill pasture above the Duveneck Farm on Rhus Ridge. 9 miles; 1500' elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Gov. Ctr. to carpool. Call Nick for additional info. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Saturday, April 26
WALK: POINT LOBOS

We'll start this 4-mile hike around beautiful Point Lobos at the hwy, to Whaler's Cove, to the top of Whaler's Knoll and back via southern trails. Wildflowers and wildlife. Meet at Save Mart at 9:00 a.m. to carpool. Bring snack, water, and optional binoculars for close-ups of animals. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Saturday, April 26
KAYAKING TRIP: ELKHORN SLOUGH

Witness wave after wave of migratory birds landing in Elkhorn Slough amidst otters and seals on their way to polar regions. Depart 10:00 a.m. from Moss Landing, Kayak Connection's dock. Using favorable tides in both directions, expect to be back about 4:00 p.m. Required: previous kayaking experience, seaworthy equipment. Bring lunch, water, sun protection. During lunch we may have a question/answer session with an Elkhorn Slough docent. Kayak rental available at Kayak Connection. If rent-

ing, arrive by 9:30 a.m. to leave on time at 10:00 a.m. For info, call only between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Leader: Jukka, 429-8513.

Sunday, April 27
HIKE: FALL CREEK

Join me as we explore this enchanted forest with redwoods, a lovely burbling 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 Dunniway, 336-2325, co-leader: Andy Burgess, 335-4779.

Sunday, April 27
HIKE: POST SUMMIT

A steep, strenuous climb via trail and fire road to dramatic viewpoint overlooking Big Sur Coast. Ten miles, 3,500' elevation gain. Bring lunch and at least one quart of water. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Black Bear Diner Park and Ride. Rain cancels. Leader: Eugene Sobka, 449-0873.

Tuesday, April 29
HIKE: NISENE MARKS WEST RIDGE

Join us for this 7-mile hike with 1000' elevation gain through a lovely shaded forest of redwoods, tan-bark oaks, maples and ferns. Bring water & lunch. Meet in Seaside at the Home Depot near the gas station by 8:45 a.m. or in the parking lot behind Aptos Station by 9:30

a.m. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

MAY

Saturday, May 3
HIKE: UVAS CANYON

This 1200-acre park is tucked into a beautiful canyon west of Morgan Hill, near the summit of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Our 6-mile hike will follow a 3-1/2 mile loop up Swanson Creek to view Black Rock Falls, Basin Falls and Upper Falls. Side trip up the Alec Cyn Trail to Manzanita Point, Alec Creek, Triple Falls and an old logging camp. The park provides deep and shady second-growth redwoods along the creek. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch, share of park entrance fee and \$5 carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Sunday, May 4
HIKE: PREWITT LOOP

This seldom-done hike has great wildflowers and interesting terrain. We'll start at an old fire station south of Kirk Creek. 12 miles with 2000' elevation gain. We have seen Douglas Iris, Scarlet Larkspur, Columbine and other great flowers in past years. Meet at the Save Mart in at 8:00 a.m. or call for carpool information. from Santa Cruz. Bring lunch, water, and sturdy shoes. Leader: Steve Legnard 402-1422.

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Tuesday, May 6

SENIOR WALK: CAPITOLA SECRET PATHS

We'll go up and down stairs (short and long) in Capitola from Opal Cliffs to Depot Hill. Approx. 4 to 5 miles. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. Lunch at Jade Street Park. Restrooms along the way. Bring water and lunch. Leader: Margaret Fitzgerald, 475-0857.

Tuesday, May 6

HIKE: JULIA PFEIFFER BURNS/EWOLDSSEN

This gorgeous 4-1/2 mile lollipop loop with 1600' elevation gain follows McWay Creek through dense coastal redwood forest. Lunch at a panoramic overlook of the Big Sur coastline. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy flora including red clintonia & possible condors. Bring water & lunch. Meet at the Black Bear

Diner Park & Ride by 9:00 a.m. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Friday, May 9

HIKE: EWOLDSSEN TRAIL

Starting at Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park, we'll hike a 5-mile loop up fern-lined McWay Cyn, passing redwood groves to a viewpoint high above the ocean. Last time we saw California Condors from this spot. The trail is steep but we'll take it at a leisurely pace. After, we'll take a short stroll along the scenic waterfall trail. Bring lunch and water; meet at the Black Bear Diner Park & Ride at 9.30 a.m. for hour-long carpool. State Parks now charge an \$8 parking fee, so please bring some \$ for your share. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372-7427.

Saturday, May 10

HIKE: PURISIMA CREEK REDWOODS

We should find wildflowers in this San Mateo County Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Park. About 7 miles and 1400' elevation gain. Possible car shuttle. 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.

Saturday, May 10

WALK: CARMEL RIVER BEACH

How about a Saturday morning saunter from Carmel River Beach to Monastery Beach, returning via the Bluff Trail? Enjoy the breathtaking views of Point Lobos and listen to the surf. 3 miles. Wear comfortable shoes and dress for weather; wind breaker recommended. Bring water and snack. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the parking lot at Carmel River Beach at the lagoon (south end of Carmelo). Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Sunday, May 11

HIKE: MT. MANUEL AND POST SUMMIT

Always a great workout with great views and wildflowers! 12 miles with 4000' elevation. Looking for a tougher hike? This is the one! Be sure to dress in layers and bring plenty of water. Varied terrain and elevation gain lead to great views and flowers. Meet at Black Bear Dinner Park & Ride at 8:30 a.m. or Sears 41st Ave. at 7:35 a.m. or call for carpool information. John Howerton: 476-4253.

Sunday, May 11

HIKE: GARZAS CANYON

The Terrace Tr. at Garland Ranch has good flowers all spring. This trail climbs to a nicely-contoured walk above the creek. Then a steep drop down to the creek, nice walk downstream, and finally a steep climb back out. Slow pace. Bring lunch, water, good footgear, and a stick for steadying on steep hills. Meet at the Garland Ranch parking lot on Carmel Valley Rd. at 9:30 a.m. to get organized; hike will start by 10:00 a.m. Leader Mary Gale, 626-3565.

Monday, May 12

HIKE PINNACLES

We'll hike to North Chalone Peak, which has a 360° view with 218-mile visibility on a clear day. Breathtaking vistas of the San Joaquin, Gabilan, Santa Lucia Mtn. Ranges as well as views of beautiful Salinas and San Benito Val-

leys. The Pacific, Moss Landing Power Plant and Santa Cruz can also be seen from here. From the summit we'll hike up to the boundary of South Chalone Peak and return to our start. This very strenuous all-day hike is only for early birds. Call leader, Esperanza Hernandez a week in advance, 678-1968.

Tuesday, May 13

SENIOR WALK: BEAN HOLLOW/PIGEON POINT

A blooming paradise in this flat 2+ mile trail south of Pescadero. over 50 species of coastal wildflowers. Optional 2-mile hike at Pigeon Point. Restrooms. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or near Shen's Gallery at Mission & King at 9:50 a.m. Bring water, lunch, \$4 carpool. Leader: Janet Schwind, 425-3845.

Tuesday, May 13

HIKE: POINT LOBOS

See Tuesday, April 15 for description.

Sunday, May 18

HIKE: PAT SPRINGS

This is a classic Ventana hike with fantastic views of the back country and the actual "window" that the area was named after. Strenuous 14-mile hike and 1700' elevation gain. Water at Pat Springs. Bring water, lunch and sturdy shoes. Meet at Save Mart in Carmel Valley at 8:30 a.m., or call for carpool information. from Santa Cruz. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

Saturday, May 17

HIKE: GARLAND RANCH

Garland has lots of wildflowers on the ridges above Garzas Creek to the east of the main entrance. 5 miles with 1300' elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Hwy. 1 Mar Monte exit in La Selva to carpool. Call Nick for additional information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Saturday, May 17

HIKE: PESCADERO CREEK

A 10-mile hike through a 6500-acre redwood-forested watershed along one of the major creeks in the Santa Cruz Mountains. We'll hike the Old Haul Road Trail, and sections of the Pomponio, Bear Ridge, Canyon and Tarwater Loop trails. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center parking lot at 8:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch, and \$5 carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

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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

Chapter Chair	Rita Dalessio	16 Via Las Encinas	Carmel Valley, CA 93924	659-7046
Treasurer	Joel Weinstein	140 Carmel Riviera Dr.	Carmel, CA 93923	625-5586
Other Members	Julie Engell	15040 Charter Oak Blvd.	Prunedale, CA 93907	633-8709
	George Jammal	601 Manzanita Ave.	Felton, CA 95018	706-4233
	Beverly Bean	39 Calera Cyn Rd.	Salinas, CA 93908	484-2451
	Steve Zmak	3200 Crescent Ave.	Marina, CA 93933	883-4459
	Heather Zissler	615 Lobos Ave. #B	Pac. Grove, CA 93950	541-337-7511
	Eva Haase	842 Pine Ave., Apt. 3	Pac. Grove, CA 93950	541-510-0309
Admin Chair/Sec	Mary Gale	25430 Telarana Way	Carmel, CA 93923	626-3565

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Computer Database

	Stephanie Kearns	740 30th Ave. #67	Santa Cruz, CA 95062	475-1308
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	Patricia Matejcek	P.O. Box 2067	Santa Cruz, CA 95063	768-8187

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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	722-5556

Forestry Chair

	Jodi Frediani	1015 Smith Grade	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	426-1697
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Group Office: 1001 Center St., Santa Cruz, next to Actors' Theatre Website: www.ventana.sierraclub.org
 Mailing Address: Sierra Club, Santa Cruz Group, P.O. Box 604, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0604
 Phone: 831-426-HIKE (426-4453), Fax: 831-426-LEAD (426-5323), email: scscrg@cruzio.com

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	Charles Paulden	415 Palisades Ave.	Santa Cruz, CA 95062	462-3423
	Paul Elerick	1960 Jennifer Dr.	Aptos, CA 95003	688-2304
	Dennis Davie	P.O. Box 651	Capitola, CA 95010	427-2626
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MEETING SCHEDULE

Ventana Chaper (Monterey Co.)

Information: 624-8032

Executive Committee:

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

Conservation Committee:

As needed.
 For dates and times call 655-8586

Santa Cruz Regional Group

Information: 426-4453

Meeting Place: Sierra Club Office, 1001 Center St., Santa Cruz, Suite 11.

Executive Committee:

Wednesday, April 9 at 7:00 p.m.
 Wednesday, May 14 at 7:00 p.m.

Conservation Committee:

Call Conservation Chair for meeting times and dates: 768-8187

The VENTANA

MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

Lemon fawn lily

Election pics pp. 4-5



**MAR, APR
MAY,
OUTINGS**

Ventana staff photo

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The VENTANA

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The gentle art and pleasure of gardening for butterflies is one way to light a slender candle of hope as the relentless forces of humanity disturb, fragment, homogenize, and destroy the natural habitat, snuffing out the shining lights of individual species one by one.

—STANWYN G. SHETLER, "BUTTERFLY GARDENING AND CONSERVATION," BUTTERFLY GARDENING, CREATING SUMMER MAGIC IN YOUR GARDEN, XERCES SOCIETY, 1990.



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