Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Upper Yosemite Falls in March
Spring pleasures

Spring wildflowers are in bloom and adding so much enjoyment to our outings program. The hills in our region are covered with breathtaking displays of poppies, lupine, goldfields and a wide variety of old flower friends we only see a few weeks of the year.

Another one of my favorite things about this season is the variety of fruits and vegetables that become available at the farmers markets and grocery stores. Like the wildflowers, some things come into season at their peak flavor for only a few weeks. This month I began a program I had been interested in for a while but wasn’t available until now in Carmel Valley. Our local version is called Community Supported Agriculture or CSA but such programs are offered throughout Monterey and Santa Cruz counties.

The concept involves subscribing for a weekly box of certified organic vegetables delivered the day they are harvested. My first box was really enormous, maybe too much for us to finish, so I may share a box or give some to neighbors. But the selection of berries, beets, greens and herbs was delicious, and I found I was actually reaching for these goodies instead of empty calories.

Community Supported Agriculture is a real boon to small farms. Receiving the money ahead of time allows them to seek fewer loans, better plan a budget, and gauge their production to requests and popular produce items. The program is sustainable, grown locally, and eliminates driving to distant farmers’ markets.

Consider supporting Community Supported Agriculture in your locale. The more subscribers there are for agricultural programs like this, the more resources we save.

And don’t forget to vote on Tuesday, June 3!

—Rita Dalessio

Meaty decision

Lately the news is full of reports of the rapidly rising cost of food and projected food shortages in some countries. One way I markedly lowered my family’s food bill years ago was to decease the amount of meat I purchased and prepared. Now, I discover that cutting back on meat not only saves money and is good for your health, it also helps fight global warming.

For the most part, I am a vegetarian. It kind of crept up on me. It started in the 1970s as an economy move. My husband and I were a graduate student and I was home with two babies. I decided not to buy any meat that cost over $1/pound.

Little by little cuts of meat dropped off the shopping list. Then, after I joined the Sierra Club, I saw the famous photograph of the veal calf looking with sad eyes at the camera, separated from its mother, and unable even to turn around in the tiny pen where it was confined. Who could eat veal after learning that it came from torturing baby calves?

By the time the 1980s rolled around, I was eating only fish, a little chicken, and turkey at Thanksgiving. In the 90s I learned about the cruelty to chickens, jammed into cages like prisoners in a concentration camp, with much of their beaks cut off so they didn’t destroy each other.

Meanwhile, I had become a fan of Molly Katzen. When I was living in Ithaca, New York in the early 70s, Katzen and others opened the now-famous Moosewood restaurant. I was already using recipes from Diet for a Small Planet by Frances Moore Lappe. Lappe’s point was that there would be a lot more food to go around in a hungry world if we cut back on eating meat. Then John Robbins took up the torch with his 1987 book, Diet for a New America.

In 2006 the landmark U.N. report, Livestock’s Long Shadow pointed out that meat production is responsible for 18 percent of greenhouse gas emissions—more than transportation!

While I still eat fish occasionally (from the list approved by the Monterey Bay Aquarium), even in these times of expensive groceries, I am still astounded by how far my grocery dollars go when I buy mostly fresh fruits and vegetables in season and few processed foods.

Eat your way to health and help save the earth at the same time. Bon appetit!

—Debbie Bulger
Sierra Club endorses Bill Monning for State Assembly

Bill Monning is endorsed by the Sierra Club for the 27th Assembly District. Bill’s work as an environmental and civil rights attorney, and his unique skill at bringing people together make him the clear choice to carry on the work of Assemblymembers John Laird and Fred Keeley.

As an attorney with the United Farmworkers Union (UFW) and later California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA), Bill worked to protect farmworkers and the public by helping to limit the use of toxic chemicals on food. To further protect the public, Bill advocated for agricultural buffer zones around schools and neighborhoods. Recently, Bill opposed spraying for the Light Brown Apple Moth without proper environmental review.

Bill co-founded the Monterey County Pesticide Coalition (later the Central Coast Pesticide Coalition). This group mobilized residents and workers in campaigns to require field posting for toxic entry levels, spoke at special EPA hearings on environmental and worker impacts from toxic chemicals, fought pesticide application companies from dumping Class I toxins into the Salinas River, and opposed methyl bromide use.

Bill strongly supported Measure A, the citizens’ Community General Plan Initiative favored by the Chapter, and worked with us to gather labor and community support for it. At the state level, Bill will introduce legislation to see that General Plans are regularly updated as required by law and that they meet standards for ensuring the protection of farmland and sensitive habitat.

Bill shares the Chapter’s opposition to widening Highway 1. He recommends improving alternative transportation including expansion of bus systems and extending Caltrain rail service from Gilroy to Pajaro, Castroville, and Salinas. His action plan is to see that the state requires local jurisdictions to meet strict goals for reduction of greenhouse gases.

Logging and forestry issues are a statewide concern for the Sierra Club. Bill recognizes that the 27th Assembly District has an immense diversity of rare forest habitats that are in need of far greater protection than they are currently receiving. He favors state acquisition of the highest value forestland habitats for preservation as parkland and will work to ensure adequate funding for State Parks and other agencies entrusted with public lands. Bill and his family have been regular users of the regional park system and the state and federal parks and trails. With strong roots in the Central Coast region, Bill will work for protection of our region with passion and conviction.

Through his experience as a conflict mediator, Bill knows how to build support for an adequate long-term water supply—one that will be in place before new development is approved.

Sacramento is a tough place for those who seek to protect our dwindling natural resources. As the only Spanish-speaking candidate, Bill is best qualified to bring all stakeholders to the table for dialogue, both locally and statewide. Given Bill Monning’s strong environmental record and advocacy for the health and wellbeing of residents and wildlife, the Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club is pleased to endorse his candidacy.

Bill Monning
California State Assembly, 27th District

Contact Your Representatives

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Thank you!
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.

Congressmember 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.

Anna Eshoo
U.S. House of Representatives

Anna Eshoo has earned the Sierra Club endorsement for reelection to the House of Representatives for the 14th Congressional District. In Washington Eshoo has exercised leadership in proposing increased fuel efficiency standards for automakers resulting in the Fuel Economy Reform Act which raises fuel standards to 35 mpg by 2018. She has fought to end clearcutting, protect old growth forests, and is an original sponsor of the Safe Climate Act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

Of particular interest to Santa Cruz County residents, Eshoo worked tirelessly with others to protect Sand Hill Bluff from future development. The California Congressional delegation led by Eshoo and Senator Feinstein secured $2 million from NOAA toward the $9.6 million purchase price. The 154-acre property immediately north of Coast Dairies was transferred to State Parks last year.

Eshoo also secured funding to purchase Bair Island and thousands of acres of bay wetlands in South San Francisco which have been added to the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Anna Eshoo has earned a 2007 League of Conservation Voters rating of 90%. Her lifetime LCV rating is 97%.

Re-elect Anna Eshoo on June 3.

National and State Races

Vote NO on 98
YES on 99

Sierra Club California’s top priority for this election is to defeat Prop. 98 and to help pass Prop. 99.

Prop. 98 is a constitutional amendment generated by the same special interest funded “property rights” groups that have been working for years to wipe out environmental protections under the guise of “eminent domain reform.” These groups supported the environmentally destructive Prop. 90 in 2006 which was defeated.

Prop. 98 would embed in the state constitution a provision to allow a property owner to sue to obtain compensation for or to invalidate any regulation that imposed costs on the owner—regardless of whether the regulated activity is a nuisance, a threat to public health or safety, or harmful to the environment—if the regulation would provide economic benefit to one person. Since nearly all regulation provides an economic benefit to someone, most regulation of property would be put at risk.

Ordinary zoning rules such as restrictions on polluting industries clearly provide economic benefits to area residents and so would be put in jeopardy. Safeguards that protect coastal areas, forestland, farmland, or cultural and historic sites would be put at risk too, and so would curbs on greenhouse gas emissions.

Voting no on Prop. 98 may be your most important contribution to the environment this June. We also ask you to vote for Prop. 99, a real eminent domain reform measure that would protect homeowners without the adverse consequences of Prop 98.

Prop. 99 would limit the government’s ability to use eminent domain to take a home for transfer to a private developer. It would constitutionally protect homeowners without jeopardizing California’s environmental laws or renter protections, and would take away the excuse of extreme property rights advocates to run deceptive measures like Prop 98.

The Sierra Club opposes Prop. 98 and supports Prop. 99. We need you to spread the word.

Vote no on 98. Vote yes on 99.
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. Jane ran for the District 4 seat on the County Board of Supervisors in 2004 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 the county. Jane chairs the MPC Foundation Board of Directors and the Democratic Club of the Monterey Peninsula. 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.

Sierra Club California’s priority bills for 2008

Smart Growth/Global Warming. SB 375 (Steinberg) would require certain regional transportation plans to include a sustainable communities strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It would provide incentives for more compact development, reduced driving, greater housing choices and conservation of farmland and habitat.

Clean Energy. SB 411 (Simian and Perata) would require investor-owned utilities to meet a Renewables Portfolio Standard of at least 33 percent by 2020.

Cleaner Air at Ports. SB 974 (Lowenthal) would charge containers shipped through the ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach and Oakland in order to raise money for air quality and transportation improvements.

Land Use/Fire Protection. SB 1500 (Kehoe) would allow the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to require local governments to guarantee adequate structural fire protection before approving development in high-fire-hazard State Responsibility Areas.

Fire Protection. SB 1617 (Kehoe) would establish a fair and equitable new fee on homes in State Responsibility Areas to fund some of the costs of their fire protection. The fee would be tiered to give incentives for reducing fire risks, and would also fund proactive prevention activities.

Safer Products. AB 1879 (Feuer and Huffman) would give the Department of Toxic Substances Control the authority to establish safeguards to protect people and the environment from consumer products containing known toxins like lead, mercury, and arsenic.

Recycling Mercury Thermostats. AB 2175 (Laird and Feuer) would establish numeric water savings targets for urban and agricultural water use and require a 20% reduction in statewide urban per capita water use by 2020.

Outdoor Education. SB 2989 (Fuentes) would require the Department of Parks and Recreation to fund some of the costs of outdoor education and recreational opportunities for youth.

To change address by email: address.changes@sierracal.org
Membership inquiries: membership.services@sierracal.org
**Sierra Club Events**

**Outings Leader Training**
Learn about trip planning and outings leadership at the Club’s own Clair Tappaan Lodge in the beautiful Tahoe area. $45 cost includes meals and bunk. Register online at www.sierraclub.org/outings/training/brochures/2008_california.asp.

**Friday, June 13**

**Potluck & Slide Show: Ireland**
The slide show is presented by Chris and Joe from a 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 Chris at 429-8389.

**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 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.

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**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.

**FREE Workshops**

**Transportation/Land Use Forum**
People are less automobile dependent in communities where residents live close to work, school, shopping, and recreation. Learn about land use designs for a green future, Live Oak Grange, 1900 17th Ave., Santa Cruz. 7-9 p.m. Speakers are Lois Fisher of Fisher Town Design, Christopher Pizzi, Senior Urban Design Associate with Solomon E.T.C., and Amanda Eaken of the National Resources Defense Council. FREE. Valet bike parking. Sponsored by Campaign for Sensible Transportation, People Power, Ecology Action, and others.

**Thursday, May 22**

**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, redwdrn@pacbell.net, 462-4041. Website: www.cruccnps.org. May 24, Quail Hollow Country Park

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**Monterey CNPS**

**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.

May 18, Garrapata SP, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. June 15, Garrapata SP, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. June 20, Garrapata SP, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. RSVP required by 7/15 July 5, Pt. Lobos 1-4 p.m. July 18, Garrapata, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. RSVP required by 7/15 July 25, Garrapata, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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**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.
Global warming rekindles debate over nuclear power in California

by Virginia Draper

I myself think that nuclear power has a great future,” said Gov. Schwarzenegger in March at a national conference on the economics of reducing global warming. He went on to decry environmentalists who use “scare tactics” to “frighten everyone.”

The governor’s remarks were surprising (he had never mentioned nuclear power before) and quickly challenged by an LA Times editorial (3/25) and by a letter from Assemblymember Lloyd Levine, Chair, Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee. The letter was co-signed by Sierra Club California’s Senior Advocate, Jim Metropulos, and representatives from three other environmental groups.

Acknowledging that nuclear safety has improved since the 1979 Three Mile Island meltdown, the editorial said that given the highly toxic nuclear waste that lasts for millennia, “It’s flatly wrong to conclude that this means nuclear plants are safe.” Other negatives include significant carbon emissions from uranium mining, costs, and building time. Many estimate that it would take more than ten years to get a new nuclear power plant up and running. The editorial concluded, “It would be impossible to build nuclear power plants quickly enough to make an impact on global warming.”

Assemblymember Levine’s letter challenged the claim that nuclear plants emit no greenhouse gases by describing nuclear power’s “vicious pollution cycle,” and urged the governor to reject nuclear power in favor of “the safer, quicker, cheaper and cleaner alternatives such as solar and wind power.”

Levine also reminded the governor that in 1976 the Warren-Alquist Act banned the construction of new nuclear power plants in California until the federal government developed a technology for safe disposal of the spent nuclear fuel the plants produce. In 2006, the California Energy Commission (CEC) found that such a technology still does not exist. Given that lack and the debate over the location for a national repository (Yucca Mountain), CEC Vice Chair James D. Boyd recently said “California utilities must expect to retain spent fuel in storage facilities at nuclear plant sites for an indefinite time to come.”

“It’s flatly wrong to conclude that this means nuclear plants are safe.”

Spent fuel is now stored at four sites: at plants that were shut down over two decades ago (Rancho Seco and Humboldt Bay) and at currently operating plants, Diablo Canyon and San Onofre.

Though Diablo Canyon (near San Luis Obispo) and San Onofre (south of LA) supplied about 8% of California electricity in 2006, their continued operation is also up for debate because of the unexpected need to store nuclear waste, the age of the plants, possible seismic activities, and coastal water pollution. In 2007, the legislature directed the CEC to assess the cost, benefits, and risks of the state’s reliance on the two aging plants. Due in November 2008, the study will also compare the “cradle-to-grave” costs and environmental impacts of nuclear power to other baseline plants.

The study may have some influence on re-licensing proceedings. The 40-year licenses of the two reactors will expire between 2022-2025. In the next year or two both operators plan to ask the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to extend their licenses another 20 years. The NRC has never denied a license extension according to Nuclear Power in California 2007 Status Report. In addition, states and other interested parties have had “limited success” getting the NRC to include public concerns in their hearings.

Legislative committees have also entered into these debates. In December the Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Communications invited public testimony on the present status and future of nuclear power in California. On April 7 the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources voted down (6-3) two bills proposed by Chuck DeVore (R-Irvine) that would have lifted the ban and permitted construction of new nuclear power plants. Sierra Club California testified before both committees arguing that nuclear power is not the answer to global warming.

Last year Assemblymember DeVore considered a ballot initiative to revoke the ban on new nuclear plants. He decided against it when a poll sponsored by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation found that 54% of Californians oppose and 37% support the building of new nuclear power plants.

Save the date to lobby in Sacramento in Aug.

Come join Sierra Club for our annual Lobby Day on Sunday and Monday August 10-11. You will be part of a team to help pass our priority bills during the most exciting and challenging time of the year at the State Capitol.

Sunday afternoon will consist of training by our lobbying team about how to lobby and learning about our priority bills so that you can effectively advocate for them. On Monday, you will work the halls of the Capitol as teams. Hot issues this year are global warming, renewable energy, outdoor education, toxic chemicals, and reform of transportation and land use planning.

Have fun and save our environment at the same time! A co-pay of $25 upon registration will be used towards your lodging and food; some travel reimbursement will also be provided.

For more info contact Annie Pham, Legislative Aide, at 916-557-1100 x 107 or lobbyday@sierrclubcalifornia.org.

The Wild Trees, A Story of Passion and Daring

reviewed by Debbie Balger

At first glance, the cover of this book appears to be a photo looking up the trunks of very tall redwoods. It is only on closer inspection, that one sees the tiny human figures ascending on ropes. The size of the humans dwarfed by these giants is humbling.

Until recently, the ecosystem in the canopy of old growth trees was unknown, undescribed, and ignored. This book is the story of a college student, who in 1987 foolishly and impulsively climbed a big tree without using any climbing protection. What he discovered and the research botanist that he ultimately became changed our knowledge of big trees forever.

I got sweaty palms more than once while reading this nonfiction narrative which uses the writing techniques of novels. The climbing descriptions rival that of mountain climbing narratives. The author himself got carried away with the subject and in the course of writing the book became proficient in climbing trees and ultimately accompanied the researchers into the high canopy.

Here are plant communities looking like tiny Japanese gardens, bonsai trees, ripe huckleberries, voles who never touch the ground in their lives, and amazingly, amphibians living more than 350 feet above the ground. Here too are huge, deadly hanging branches which could come crashing down at any moment.

The unfolding mystery of the big trees, the search for the tallest redwood in the world, and the daily lives of the people living among, studying, and loving the redwoods makes for good reading. A tree-mendous book.

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Eating for a Healthy Planet

The planet simply cannot sustain our wasteful lifestyle indefinitely. In the U.S. we consume ten times more resources per capita than the median for all other countries, and about double that of the other industrialized nations. But that’s not all. Goaded by U.S.-driven globalization, the rest of the world is scrambling to catch up. Take, for instance, the 1.3 billion Chinese—over four times the U.S. population—who also are striving to drive Hummers, eat fast-food jumbo burgers, and refrigerator their homes in summer. China has made it a top priority to surpass the U.S. economy by about 2020.

What can we, as individuals, do about this? A lot, it turns out. The Union of Concerned Scientists states that individuals can make a big difference by shifting a few basic consumption choices. Not surprisingly, the number one choice involves energy, especially in transportation or in heating and cooling our homes. But a clear number two involves our diet. Three times a day we can help the planet by shifting our food choices towards more:

- Plant-based
- Organic
- Locally-grown

The more you make these choices the better. How much better, you ask? The Club’s True Cost of Food campaign wants you to know that:

- For each a pound of beef you pass up, you save a gallon of oil, 2500 gallons of water, five pounds of grain and an acre of land that went into its production.
- By choosing certified organic food, you keep a toxic brew of pesticides and chemicals out of the soil, water, and air.
- The average U.S. meal travels 2000 miles to reach our tables. If you avoid imported foods or support farmers markets, you can prevent thousands of pounds of emissions from polluting the atmosphere.

These choices protect not only the environment’s health but your own. The highest mortality in the U.S. now stems from an epidemic of degenerative diseases linked to all the saturated fats, empty calories, pesticides, and chemicals that we ingest. On the other hand, numerous studies have shown that a diet high in whole grains, legumes, fresh vegetables, and fruit prolongs both length and quality of life. Buying organic, moreover, decreases our exposure to toxins, while locally-grown foods retain more nutrients along with flavor.

American agribusiness trumpets our diet as the most plentiful, tasty, and affordable in history, and pushes it relentlessly through saturation advertising, fast-food outlets, and hundreds of supermarkets. We have seen, however, that this “cheap” food has an exceedingly high (and largely hidden) cost to our health and to our planet.

To learn more visit www.sierraclub.org/sustainable_consumption.

Sorensen’s

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

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Check’s in the mail
On Earth Day, Sierra Club launched its Buy Green to Save Green campaign, calling on taxpayers to spend their economic stimulus check on energy-efficient products and services such as home insulation and solar hot water.

Green jobs ahead
A study of 12 eastern states by the Renewable Energy Policy Project found that nearly 170,000 new jobs in wind turbine manufacturing and almost 93,000 jobs in solar power equipment manufacturing could result from investing in clean, renewable energy. The independent study was funded by the Blue Green Alliance, a partnership of the United Steel Workers and the Sierra Club.

List growing
The County of Santa Cruz joins the growing list of local jurisdictions which have approved a ban on polystyrene food take-out containers. The ban will be effective this fall.

Way to go
Cabrillo College has joined the ranks of local users of RideSpring, an innovative program that uses a simple web-based interface to encourage and facilitate carpooling. RideSpring enables users to track how much gas, money and CO2 they are saving by not driving alone. For more info visit www.ridespring.com.

Reducing exposure
The Government of Ontario, Canada’s most populous province, introduced legislation on Earth Day to outlaw homeowners’ use of lawn and garden pesticides starting next year. The new law would not apply to golf courses, farms, and forests. The province of Quebec already has a similar ban. No state in the U.S. has such a ban in place. Observers were asking why the double standard was allowed. The Canadian Cancer Society said it was happy with the ban.

Hispanic voters concerned
The first national poll of Hispanic voters on energy and environmental issues reveals that Hispanic voters are informed and concerned about global warming and the environment and are ready to take action to ensure the health of their families and their communities. “This is no surprise given that minorities are 73 percent more likely to live near air polluting facilities,” said Representative Hilda L. Solis, Vice Chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee’s Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials. To view detailed poll results, visit www.sierracclub.org/ecocentro/survey/.

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Monterey project could set dangerous precedent for single-project desal plants.

by Barbara Bass Evans

A 92,000-square-foot mixed-use project called Ocean View Plaza with 45-foot tall buildings is proposed for Cannery Row between El Torito and the Chart House and reaching from the Recreation Trail to Monterey Bay.

This massive project would be very detrimental to both the coastal zone and the water supply for the Monterey region. Its sole source of water would be a desal plant with a 3- to 6-day backup water supply. The project’s desal technology is not reliable and creates impacts to coastal waters. If the plant fails, the huge development would tap into Carmel River water through a Cal Am hookup.

If approved, Ocean View Plaza (OVP) would set a statewide precedent for similar single-site desalination projects, cumulatively inducing growth and precluding a well-planned regional allocation of limited water resources. The California Coastal Act requires that desalination plants be publicly owned and operated. That is why the City of Monterey, on behalf of the OVP project, applied and received approval from LAFCO to form a Community Services District for the sole purpose of conferring “public” status to an on-site desalination plant for a single private developer. If this project is approved, the California coast could be dotted with desal plants in small community service districts.

Strong opposition to OVP project was expressed in the Coastal Commission staff report (available on the CC website), as well as by the Ventana Chapter, the League of Women Voters, Save Our Waterfront Committee, CA Surfrider Foundation, CA Desal Response Group, and many residents.

The Ocean View Plaza developer requested a postponement of the Cannery Row Marketplace project hearing at the March Coastal Commission meeting in Carmel Valley. The hearing will be scheduled for a future meeting. For more information contact Barbara Bass Evans, bsb@evansmonterey.com or 372-8323.

How to help

Please write letters opposing this project and supporting the staff report to: California Coastal Commission, 725 Front Street, Suite 300, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. Atten: Susan Craig.

Come on a wildflower walk with us

This Fort Ord Pink Star Tulip (Calochortus uniflorus) was spotted on a wildflower walk at the former military base in April.

You might spot something equally wonderful.

Check out the outings schedule starting on page 11.
Lawsuit settled

Major redesign of Butterfly Village and County commitment to policy changes bring end to conflict

by Julie Engell

Parties to the long-simmering legal and political conflict over Rancho San Juan, the largest development proposal in Monterey County history, settled their differences on April 8.

The Rancho San Juan Opposition Coalition and LandWatch Monterey County agreed to drop their CEQA suit against the project and promised not to challenge the project again. Their agreement was based upon a vastly improved project and a commitment by county supervisors to adopt protective policies in the new general plan.

As first approved in 2004, Rancho San Juan was a 2500-acre, 4000-home city wedged between Salinas and Prunedale and located along the often-gridlocked Hwy. 101 and in the severely water-short Salinas Basin. Opponents filed a CEQA lawsuit against the project and also defeated it in a public vote in November 2005. However, one day before the election, Supervisors side-stepped the issue by approving Butterfly Village in the larger project’s stead.

Butterfly Village, at 671 acres, comprised the golf-course/luxury home component of Rancho San Juan. Conditions of Butterfly Village’s approval and General Plan policies made it clear that Butterfly Village was merely phase one of the larger Rancho San Juan. Those conditions and policies also made it clear that Monterey County Supervisors intended to piecemeal Rancho San Juan into existence.

Undaunted by the piecemeal tactic of the Supervisors, project opponents began gathering signatures to submit Butterfly Village to a public vote. Additionally, a lawsuit was filed against Butterfly Village. Then, even though more than enough signatures had been gathered to require a vote, the County Supervisors removed the measure from the ballot because the referendum petition had not been translated into Spanish. It took another year and a half of legal wrangling before voters were allowed to reject Butterfly Village by a 65% majority.

Finally, in late fall, 2007 Supervisors committed to a set of General Plan policies that offer protection for the area’s water resources, roads and farmland. These policies also allayed public concerns that the originally-proposed project would be built bit by bit.

These policies include:

• Limiting subdivision to the first single-family home on a legal lot of record in the Greater Salinas Area Plan Area north of Williams Road;
• Limiting subdivision to the first single-family home on a legal lot of record in the inland North County Area Plan Area;
• Allowing subdivision of prime farmland and farmland of statewide importance only when the subdivision is for exclusive agricultural purposes.

In addition, the new Butterfly Village is a vastly improved project including:

• Eliminating the golf course and replacing it with a regional park and open space. This greatly reduces project water use, assures storm water retention on site, and reduces visitor traffic. The park and open space is expanded to 342 acres—more than half the project’s total 671 acres;
• Eliminating the golf club house and time share units; replacing them with senior residences and a community health and wellness center;
• Increasing the affordable housing level from 15% to 32%;
• Providing a 10-acre school site;
• Doubling the amount of commercial space to include a complete, neighborhood grocery store resulting in expanded job opportunities and reduced traffic in and out of the project.

The revised Butterfly Village project also retains important features such as:

• An on-site waste water treatment plant,
• A sheriff’s substation,
• A county library,
• A fire station,
• Green building incentives.

Public hearings on the revised Butterfly Village are anticipated sometime in early June.

Hike with Diane Cornell in Italy

Our own Diane Cornell will be leading a Sierra Club National trip in Umbria, Italy, June 10-21. At press time there were two spaces left.

Participants will walk the Franciscan Trail, visit Etruscan tombs and caves, walk through the countryside and hill towns of Spello, La Spella, and Mount Subasio, and visit a bird sanctuary on the island of Polvese in Trasimeno Park.

Hikes are 3-8 miles/day with up to 200’ elevation gain. To see the trip brochure or sign up visit www.sierraclub.org/outings. The trip number is 08646A.
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:

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.
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 Graham Hill Rd.
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.

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 risk 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.

MAY

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.

Sunday, May 18
HIKE: PAT SPRING
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 Spring. 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, 482-1422.

Monday, May 19
HIKE: PINNACLES
Thousands of people come to see the beauty of the remnants of this 23 million-year-old volcano that has been moving at about 1/2” a year, 195 miles northwest of its origin because of the tectonic plates. People come to see the diversity such as the endangered condors, talus caves with big-eared bats, wildflowers, and much more. Hiking the crags, spires, massive monoliths and ramparts by moonlight leaves you with a feeling of being on another planet. For info you must call a week in advance or I will not be able to return your call. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Tuesday, May 20
HIKE: GARZAS CREEK
This is my favorite hike with its meadow & hillsides of wildflowers, forests with woodrat nests, dark redwood canyon, and Garzas creek with 6 crossings & young steeple conifer. 4 1/2 mile loop with 800’ elevation gain. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Meet at the Black Bear Diner Park & Ride by 10:00 a.m. or at the trailhead by 10:20 a.m. Bring water & lunch. Call for reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Saturday, May 24
WILDFLOWER WALK: POINT LOBOS RANCH
This easy 3-mile walk will give us a sneak peak of a future state park. There should be an amazing selection of wildflowers including hillsides covered with towering foxglove. Meet at the Black Bear Diner Park & Ride by 10:00 a.m. Bring water. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Outings Ratings

Easy:
No more than 5 miles; slight elevation gain; easy pace.

Between 2-5 miles, leisurely 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.

Notice

Club events such as potlucks, slide shows and other get-togethers are on page 6 in the Calendar listings.
HIKE: EAST GARLAND LOOP
Lately, we have neglected the beautiful East Garland region in upper Carmel Valley. 8-mile loop with 1800’ elevation gain. We’ll start from Garzas Road, up the canyon, Veeder, East Ridge and Saddle Trails to the highest point, Vasques Knob, 2000’, with great views all around. After lunch, down Vasques, Spring, Gabilan and River Trails to our cars. I hope there still will be many wildflowers, at least in shady areas. Bring water and lunch. Two hiking poles for the steep parts suggested. Wear sun hat and sun protection. Meet at Save Mart in Carmel at 8:00 a.m. (no leader) or in Mid Valley Shopping Center near Washington Mutual at 8:15 a.m. to carpool. Call to make sure the hike is on. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Tuesday, May 27
SENIOR WALK/PICNIC: HENRY COWELL
Our loop hike is along the river and through the redwoods. Easy 3 mile with slight uphill. Following hike is our annual potluck picnic. BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave, or at Felton Fair by Safeway at 9:50 a.m. To go direct, use main entrance to Cowell on Hwy. 9, turn past the pay station to the first picnic area on the right. Bring water, potluck dish, $2 carpool and share of entrance fee. Leader: Helena Cantin 438-4253.

Tuesday, May 27
HIKE: JULIA PFEIFFER BURNS/EWOULDESEN
This gorgeous 4/1/2 mile lollipop loop with 1602’ elevation gain follows McWay Creek through dense coastal redwood forest to a panoramic overlook of the Big Sur coastline. We hope to see red clinotonias & 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.

Saturday, May 31
HIKE: SUNOL REGIONAL WILDERNESS
I do this walk for its Mariposa lilies. Some won’t like the 8 miles of steep elevation gain up and over sun-kissed ridges in what is usually 80-90 degree temperatures. If you can’t take the heat, this kitchen is not for you. It also is a rather long carpool to this East Bay preserve. Bring enough water, sunscreen and 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 31
HIKE: BIG BASIN
A 13-mile loop hike with 1330’ elevation change, starting from the Park HQ area at 1000’. We’ll hike the Howard King Trail, up the overlook on Mt. McAbee at 1730’ and down to the viewing platform at beautiful 70’ Berry Creek Falls at 400’. We will then hike up the Berry Creek Trail, past Silver, Cascade, and Gold Crest Falls, to the Sunset Trail for our return to the park HQ. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center parking lot at 8:00 a.m. or at Felton Fair at 8:20 a.m. Bring water, lunch, share of park entrance fee and $5 carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

June
Sunday, June 1
HIKE: VICENTE FLAT
I saw 50 kinds of flowers on this hike last June 1 and am sure this year won’t disappoint us. Great coastal views and different terrain make this hike especially interesting. Expect brush with poison oak. Wear long clothing, bring plenty of water and a good lunch. 10 miles and 2000’ elevation gain. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Black Bear Park & Ride or Sears 41st Ave at 7:35 a.m. in Santa Cruz. Call for carpool help. Leader: John Howerton, 476-4253.

Tuesday, June 3
HIKE: POINT LOBOS
Our 6-mile grand loop with minimal elevation gain takes us along tree-clad headland trails with magnificent views. We hope to see nesting great blue herons and late wildflowers. 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.

Friday, June 6
HIKE: TANBARK 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, it winds up the south side of Partington 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 an old dirt road. Car shuttle to save walking the last mile on Hwy. 1. 6 miles and 2000’ elevation gain. Leisurely pace. Meet at the Black Bear Diner Park and Ride at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372 7427.

Saturday, June 7
HIKE: EAST GARLAND TO KAHN RANCH
Exploratory, strenuous 10-mile hike with 2500’ elevation gain starting from the Little League ball fields in Carmel Valley Village. We’ll go up on Laurelas, Vasques and Cougar Ridge Trails into the Kahn Ranch for the Hitchcock loop. Suggest wearing light long pants and a long sleeves and bringing 2 hiking poles. I don’t know how the trails will be. As always, enough water and lunch, sun hat and sun protection. Meet at Save Mart at 8:00 a.m. (no leader) or in Mid Valley shopping center near Washington Mutual at 8:15 a.m. to carpool. Call to make sure the hike is on. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Sunday, June 8
HIKE: MAL PASO TO ROCKY RIDGE
We’ll meander up a wildflower-studded private road above Mal Paso Canyon, eventually crossing the Creek, and then up a steep ridgeback, and finally through some redwood groves to the Rocky Ridge Trail. We’ll end our circuit near Soberanes Creek. A beautiful, rugged, 5 miles with 900’ of elevation gain. Bring lunch, water, and sturdy hiking boots. Call for reservation, time & place. Leader: Larry Parish, 622-7455.

Tuesday, June 10
SENIOR HIKE: COSTANOA
4-mile hike on trails above Costanosa Resort. We will reverse our usual beginning spot. Lots of gradual uphill with spectacular views. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at 9:50 a.m. at Shenn’s Gallery at Mission & King. Go direct, park in rear of parking lot at General Store. Hiking boots and tick repellent recommended. Bring lunch, water, $5 carpool. General Store no longer has a good deli. Leader: Pat Herzog 458-9841.

Tuesday, June 10
HIKE: MITTELDORF PRESERVE
On this 7-mile loop with 2000’ elevation gain we hope to find the rare ‘Golden Ear Drops.’ Moderate pace into a redwood forest along a lovely creek up to vistas overlooking the rugged Garrapata and Big Sur coastlines. 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.

Saturday, June 14
HIKE: SARATOGA GAP & LONG RIDGE
A 10-mile double-loop hike starting from the parking lot at the intersection of Hwy. 9 and Skyline Blvd. We’ll hike along the Saratoga Gap Trail into Upper Stevens Creek County Park. There we’ll look for the Oblone Grinding Stone before crossing Skyline Boulevard into Long Ridge along the Hickory Oak Trail with its magnificent vistas over the mountains to the ocean. Then, we hike north to the 3.6 mile Peters Creek and Long Ridge Trails Loop. Along the Peters Creek Trail, we’ll pass a beautiful lily pad pond bordering the private Jakosi Zen Buddhist retreat. Western pond turtles and wild turkeys are often seen along this loop. We’ll hike back to the Hickory Oak Trail to the Achistaca Trail and the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail to our cars. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:00 a.m. or at Felton Fair at 9:20 a.m. Bring water, lunch and $6 carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.
**O U T I N G S**

**Saturday, June 14**

**WALK: SOBERANES CANYON**
On our 5-mile walk with 600' elevation gain, we’ll explore the wildflower diversity of Soberanes Point coastal shrub flowers and then the riparian and redwood forest plants of Soberanes canyon. Wildflower enthusiast Bob Hale will be along to discuss the various plant communities and flowers. 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.

**Tuesday, June 17**

**SENIOR HIKE: LOCH LOMOND**
We’ll start at Glen Corrie picnic area which is the first parking lot on the right after entrance, then walk down to the launch ramp area, walk along the lakeside to a picnic area, and return after lunch. Some steep hills. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave, or at Felton Fair by Safeway at 9:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch, $5 carpool and share of entrance fee. Leader: Joan Brohm 462-3803.

**Tuesday, June 17**

**HIKE: GARZAS CREEK**
See Tuesday, May 20, for details.

**Saturday, June 21**

**HIKE: PINES VALLEY**
This hike starts on Tassajara Rd. and drops down to beautiful Pine Valley. 11 miles with 1200' elevation gain. There is water at Pine Valley and an old cabin occupied by an interesting character named Jack English. This hike has the downhill in the morning and the uphill in the afternoon. Bring water and lunch, and wear sturdy shoes. Meet at Save Mart at 8:30 a.m. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

**Sunday, June 22**

**HIKE: POGONIP**
We’ll meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center for this 6-mile hike. Bring lunch and water. We’ll see the haunted meadow, sacred oak, kilns, and other thrilling sights. Leaders: Sheila Dunnavy, 336-2325 and Andy Burgess, 335-4779.

**Sunday, June 22**

**WALK: ASILOMAR TO PEBBLE BEACH**
A 4-mile loop, mainly on flat terrain at an easy pace, starting on neighborhood streets and then through dunes, out to Point Joe and back along the beach boardwalk. Beach wildflowers, possible wildlife. Meet across from the Fishwife Restaurant on Sunset Dr. and Asilomar Blvd., Pacific Grove at 9:00 a.m. Back about noon, bring snack and water. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

**Tuesday, June 24**

**SENIOR HIKE: NEW COWELL HIKE**
About 3-mile loop with only one steep hill. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or go direct, park across the street from Graham Hill Plaza (horsegrounds across the street). No restrooms. Bring water, lunch, $2 carpool. Leader: Brooke Ewoldsen, 475-6188.

**Tuesday, June 24**

**HIKE: POIN LOBOS**
See Tuesday, June 3 for details. We hope to see nesting black crowned night herons, western gulls, and cormorants.

**Friday, June 27**

**HIKE: WEST MOLERA**
Meet at the Black Bear Diner Park and Ride at 9:30 a.m. for this 8-mile hike with 1200' elevation gain. We’ll hike up Hidden Trail and Ridge Trail, enjoying views of Pico Blanco and Post Summit. After lunch we’ll descend via the Panorama and Bluff Trails with views of the ocean and Point Sur. Bring lunch, water, and a sweater or windbreaker as the ocean breeze can be cold even at this time of year. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372-7427.

**Saturday, June 28**

**HIKE: NISENE MARKS**
An 8-mile loop hike beginning on the Porter trail, ascending the Loma Prieta Grade trail past Hoffman’s Camp, down the Big Stump Gap escalator, and out through beautiful Bridge Creek canyon, with a rugged one-mile in and out side-trip through the ravine to 45' Maple Falls. 600' elevation gain. Many unbridged creek crossings on rocks. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m. or at the parking lot of the Station at 9:45 a.m. Bring water, lunch, and $2 carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

**Saturday, June 28**

**HIKE: GARZAS CREEK**
See Tuesday, May 20 for details.

**Sunday, June 29**

**HIKE: BIG BASIN**
The trailhead for this walk is above headquarters on Hwy. 236. We’ll do a loop including Trail Splendid (old name, no longer on maps), Meteor Trail, Middle Ridge Fire Rd, Hollow Tree Trail, 1500' elevation gain and 9 miles. 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, July 5**

**SWIM/HIKE: ARROYO SECO**
This outing has been called an amphibious hike. We start at the Arroyo Seco parking lot and hike about 3 miles to get into the water. We’ll wade and walk upstream through several small waterfalls, then have to swim through deep ponds and the narrow gorge to reach the big waterfall. When we are lucky, we’ll climb it and enjoy lunch further up in the sun. Only real good swimmers and energetic hikers are encouraged. Kids over 12 years old with parents are welcome. Put your food in double plastic zip lock bags in an old rucksack. Wear tennis shoes or water sandals with toe protection and a bathing suit underneath your hiking outfit. A rubber mattress or a floating device is nice to float downstream. Bring water, lunch, sunblock, a hat, and wear a white shirt in the water. Bring $ for carpool. Reserve the whole day. Call for appointment and time. Leader: Annelle Suter, 624-1467.

**Sunday, July 6**

**HIKE: PALO CORONA RANCH**
We’ll hike up and down ranch roads and arrive, via one route or another, at the Corona Cabin for lunch. If we’re lucky, we may still witness wondrous wildflower displays and breathtaking views along the splendid Santa Lucia foothills—the crown jewel of the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District. Be prepared for 10-12 miles and 2000’ elevation gain. Call for reservation and other information. Leader: Larry Parish, 622-7455.

**Tuesday, July 8**

**HIKE: MITTELDORF PRESERVE**
Our lollipop loop of 6 miles with little elevation gain winds along Williams Creek through a serene redwood forest. We will see a nice variety of ferns and flowers including spectacular tiger lilies. Meet at the Black Bear Diner Park & Ride by 9:30 a.m. Bring water and lunch. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

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**J U L Y**

**Tuesday, July 1**

**HIKE: MITTELDORF PRESERVE**
See Tuesday, June 10th for details.

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**The Sierra Club/Ventana Chapter, Volume 47, Number 3, 2008**
Outings

Saturday, July 12
HIKE: HENRY COWELL
A 9-1/2 mile loop hike beginning and ending at the park entrance along Graham Hill Road, just past the horse shoe grounds at 800’ elevation. This hike follows many different trails. Up and down elevation gain of 600’. Enjoy a panoramic forest view from an observation tower, the Cathedral Grove, and the Redwood Grove Loop-Trail with its over 17’ diameter tree that stands more than 300’ tall. Lunch at Roaring Camp railroad village. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:30 a.m. or at the Graham Hill Road entrance at 9:40 a.m. Bring water, lunch and $2 carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Sunday, July 13
HIKE: FALL CREEK
Join me as we explore this enchanted forest with redwoods, a lovely bubbling stream full of cascades, a lime kiln, barrel mill, fish pond, and dancing springs. About 7 miles. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Felton Fair at 10:00 a.m. to carpool to the trailhead. Leader: Sheila Dunnavy, 336-2225.

Tuesday, July 15
SENIOR HIKE: NISENE MARKS
Shady 3-mile hike beginning at Marcel’s Trail, cross the creek and view twisted tree & hidden garden. Some moderate ups and downs. Lunch at George’s picnic area. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. To go direct, park at kiosk near park entrance. Primitive restroom. Bring lunch, water, tick repellent, $1 carpool, and share of entrance fee. Leader: Joan Brohem, 462-3803.

Saturday, July 19
WALK: POINT LOBOS
We’ll start this 4-mile hike around beautiful Point Lobos at the Highway, to Whaler’s Cove, then on to the top of Whaler’s Knoll and back via southern trails. There will still be wildflowers in shady spots and some wildlife to watch. Meet at Save Mart at 9:00 a.m. for a short carpool. Bring snack, water, and optional binoculars for close-ups of animal life. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Saturday, July 19
HIKE: TERRACE CREEK
Hike the Pine Ridge Tr. approximately 5 miles and then up beautiful, shady Terrace Creek. Lunch at the top and then down to the Ventana Inn. This 10-mile 2000’ elevation gain strenuous hike in Big Sur has views up and down the coast. Meet at Save Mart at 9:00 a.m. Bring water and a big lunch, wear sturdy shoes, optional hiking poles. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

Sunday, July 20
HIKE: SAN FRANCISCO
Let’s celebrate the 40th anniversary of the summit of love with a hike through Golden Gate Park. We’ll start at the Panhandle on the east end of the park and see what we can find. Possible stops at the De Young museum observation floor, the arboretum, any wild party we can fund. Suro Baths, or maybe the Palace of the Legion of Honor. Don’t forget your tie dyes and bell bottoms for this very hip and groovy event. 10 miles, no hills. Call for meeting place and time. Leader: John Howerton, 476-4233.

Tuesday, July 22
SENIOR HIKE: ROARING CAMP/COWELL
We’ll walk from the railroad cars thru Roaring Camp to trails and climb to top of Bear Mountain for lunch. Finish at Cowell visitor’s center. Restroom available. Moderate 3 miles with gradual uphill. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. To go direct, take Graham Hill Rd to Roaring Camp. Drive past Roaring Camp entrance to Roaring Camp Dr. on your right to park. Bring water, lunch, $3 carpool. Leader: Helena Cantin, 438-4253.

Saturday, July 26
HIKE: BYRNE FOREST
For a new adventure, we’ll explore, over a 700’ elevation change, the many roads and trails of this 122-acre mixed redwood forest, located off of Brown Valley Road, above the village of Corralitos. 5-6 miles. The Byrne Forest has been under the protection of the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County since 1984, and we are privileged to be allowed restricted access for this hike. Along the trail, we’ll experience vistas of the Pajaro Valley from the western ridge of the forest, and we’ll look for the “Eagle in the Tree” at the 1500’ apex of our hike. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m. or at the intersection of Hames Road and Corralitos Road in Corralitos at 9:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch, and $3 carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Sunday, July 27
HIKE: SOBERANES CREEK AND COAST
Shall we mosey around the bluff or saunter up the creek? Let’s let the weather and our whim direct our footsteps. Either way, Soberanes Point and Creek are gorgeous in all conditions, and we’ll enjoy an easy pace with little elevation change. Wear layers, carry water, lunch; bring binoculars in case of fauna to observe. Expect to be back in town by about 2:00 p.m. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Black Bear Diner Park and Ride. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3585.

Tuesday, July 29
SENIOR HIKE: WILDER BLUFFS
We’ll walk the bluffs from the parking lot to 4 mile beach. Easy, flat trail with great ocean views. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at Shen’s Gallery at Mission & King at 9:50 a.m. Restrooms. Bring lunch, water, $3 carpool and share of entrance fee. Leaders: Pat Herzog, 458-9841 and Janet Schwid, 425-3845.

Saturday, August 1
HIKE: PINE VALLEY
Let’s get away from the coastal fog and into the heart of the Ventana Wilderness. This long and rather strenuous hike starts at China Camp, leads up and very much down to Church Creek Divide. From there mildly up and down to the beautiful Pine Valley for a long lunch break. Unfortunately, the hard upward part comes on the way home, about 1000’ up from the Divide to the high points with beautiful views of the Big Sur mountains and back to China Camp. Bring water and lunch, wear good shoes, light long pants and long sleeves (possible Poison Oak), hat and sun protection. Meet at Mid Valley in Carmel, near Washington Mutual Bank at 7:30 a.m. for a long car shuttle. Call me for reservation. Leader: Amelie Suter, 624-1467.

Sunday, August 3
HIKE: MITTELDORF TO PALO CORONA
We’ll traverse up the well-maintained redwood-lined trails of the Mitteldorf Preserve, ascending to 2972’ high Palo Corona Peak. After lunch, we’ll complete our 8-mile loop with some fabulous views of the coastal foothills along Echo Ridge. Expect 2000’ elevation gain. Dress for a possible cool morning and a warm afternoon. Space is limited for this hike, so make your reservation early. Call for meeting time & place. Leader: Larry Parrish, 622-7455.

Tuesday, August 5
HIKE: GLEN DENCH RANCH
Our 7-mile hike with 800’ elevation gain takes us into a lovely canyon and along redwood-lined Garrapata Creek. After lunch, we’ll explore the ranch house, a writer’s studio, and then out onto a ridge for spectacular views. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Meet at the Black Bear Diner Park & Ride in Carmel by 9:30 a.m. Bring water & lunch. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

ATTENTION: Potential Advertisers!

Sierra Club Member Profile

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

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Sierra Club Members are Great Prospects

Median Age: 41
Female/Male: 62% / 37%
Median Household Income: $56,227
Attended/Graduated College: 81%
Professional/Technical/Managerial: 36%

Outdoor Sports Enthusiasts

Backpacking/Hiking 4 times more active
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Source: 1996 MRI Doublebase

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HOW IS CLIMATE CHANGE YOUNG?
How are you changing your lifestyle to cope with Climate Change? The editor wants to know. Email: dbulger@cruzio.com.

CLASSES

O U T I N G S

A U G U S T

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2
HIKE: PINE VALLEY

AUGUST

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5
HIKE: GLEN DENCH RANCH

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

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Ventana Chapter
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Meeting Schedule
Ventana Chapter (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, June 11 at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, July 9 at 7:00 p.m.
Conservation Committee: Call Conservation Chair for meeting times and dates: 768-8187

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