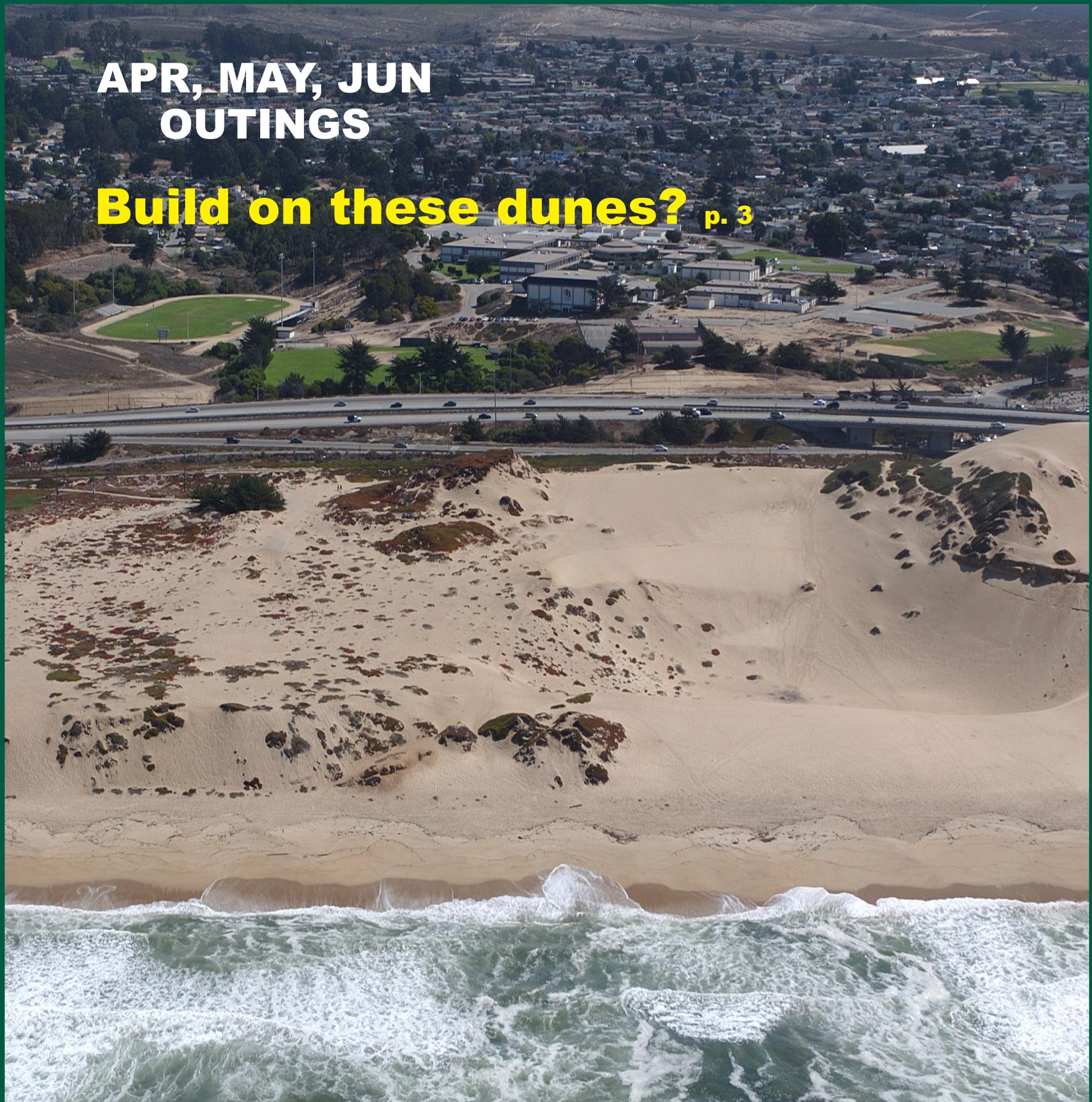


The VENTANA

MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

**APR, MAY, JUN
OUTINGS**

Build on these dunes? p. 3



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Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet



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DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

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

Send submissions to Debbie Bulger, Editor, 1603 King Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, dfbulger@cruzio.com.

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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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2009

Ventana Publication Schedule

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#3	May 18	Jun. 3
#4	Jul. 20	Aug. 5
#5	Sep. 21	Oct. 7
#6	Nov. 30	Dec. 16

Articles received after deadline
may not be published.

CHAPTER CHAIR

Chapter fighting development on Monterey Bay dunes

Your Chapter is highly focused on coastal issues this year. Several projects that have been planned for the Monterey Bay shoreline for a decade or more may come before the California Coastal Commission or other regulatory boards this year.

The first one the chapter faced this year was the massive redo of Security National Guaranty's (SNG) perpetual effort to build a mega complex in the coastal dunes at Sand City. (See story, p. 3). This project consisting of 341 units, pools, spas, restaurants and conference facilities was heard before the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District for approval of a water distribution permit last month. The Water District denied the application and directed SNG to do a Subsequent EIR as required by the California Environmental Quality Act.

SNG and their paid consultants, Rana Creek, are currently working hard to get around this decision and begin building their project. The Chapter has opposed development on this 39-acre site for many years because of federally-listed and sensitive species on site, coastal erosion concerns that could require seawalls to protect the structures, and the dwindling water supply in the Seaside Aquifer.

What was not discussed at the hearing before the Water Management District was another project in the pipeline near the SNG property proposed by King Ventures. This developer is now in the process of preparing an EIR due to be released this spring

for still another sprawling resort in the coastal dunes in Sand City. The proposed resort would also impact sensitive dune species, be subject to coastal erosion, and draw on the same dwindling water supply in the seaside Aquifer.

In addition, the long-time presence of a sand mining plant just a little further north in Marina is removing hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of sand that is shipped out of the county for industrial uses.

The Chapter has retained legal counsel and scientists to address all of these projects, both as separate entities and for their

cumulative impacts. To lose any of these scarce beaches to development would have disastrous effects on sensitive species such as the federally-endangered nesting western snowy plover, disrupt natural coastal rhythms, and siphon off water supplies that exist only on paper.

Protecting the Monterey Bay shoreline and its unique habitat and resources takes activists and money. If you have interest in helping the Chapter with coastal issues or making a donation towards legal and/or scientific expert fees, please contact me at puffin@mbay.net.

—Rita Dalessio



FROM THE EDITOR

Battery assault

Where do they come from? Do they drop from the sky? I am speaking about batteries.

Those of you who are personally acquainted with me know that walking is my main form of transportation. From my home on the Westside of Santa Cruz, I walk 1½ miles downtown to the bank or the post office or the Sierra Club office. I walk to nearby grocery stores, the drug store, and the book shop.

On my way every week I find batteries: Double A, Triple A, small disk batteries for hearing aids or cameras, lithium batteries, once a cell phone battery. Usually they are in the street, often damaged by having been run over by vehicle tires. I pick them up as a dog owner might with a plastic bag and every couple of weeks deposit them in the specially-marked containers in the public library or at City offices.

If left on the street, these batteries would eventually wash into the storm drains and find their way into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. I pick them up because they are bad for the Bay. Batteries are considered hazardous waste in Califor-

nia and are not supposed to be thrown in the trash. They contain a variety of harmful materials including lead, nickel, mercury, and lithium—all of which can contaminate soil and water, not to mention harm children, pets, and wildlife.

How do these batteries get in the street? I imagine kids dropping flashlights or toys which explode on impact leaving batteries behind. The batteries are not the kind for iPods. Is it because so many of us can't leave home without carrying a battery-powered device or two? Can someone out there help me solve this mystery? Are they thrown out of car windows? When the user drops them, why don't they pick them up themselves?

Readers might not be aware of what they are supposed to do with spent batteries. Each municipality has sites to drop them off for recycling and proper disposal. Contact your local waste disposal service for additional drop off places, hours of service, or if your jurisdiction is not mentioned below.

Marina: Monterey Regional Waste Management District.

Monterey: City Hall, Monterey Public Library, Whole Foods, Casanova Oak-Knoll Park Center, Hilltop Park Center, Monterey Senior Center.

Salinas: Crazy Horse Canyon Landfill.

Santa Cruz: City Hall, Public Libraries, Public Works Dept., Loudon Nelson Center, Resource Recovery Facility (Dimeo).

Scotts Valley: The Battery Store.

Seaside: City Hall, Seaside Public Works.

UCSC: Battery bins on campus, check UCSC website.

Watsonville: Waste & Recycling drop off (Harvest Dr.).

Don't throw your used batteries in the trash. Bring them to the various locations where they can be safely handled. Other options include using rechargeable batteries (these eventually wear out and must be taken to a hazardous waste site) and using devices that operate without batteries such as hand-crank flashlights and solar-powered calculators.

Mother Earth will do better without being assaulted with batteries.

—Debbie Bulger

Harriet Brown Attorney at Law JD; LLM in Taxation



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harrietb@sbglobal.net

Thank You Ex-Com!

You may not notice any difference in this issue of *The Ventana*, but we have made some big changes thanks to the generosity of the Chapter Ex-Com.

We have changed the layout program we use from Quark to InDesign. We love the greater ease of importing graphics from Illustrator and Photoshop and the greater ease of lining up columns and creating "spreads"—layouts which spread across two pages.

The change involved hours of work including producing a new template and style sheets, writing a new program to format the outings, and learning how to use InDesign.

In the coming issues as we become more proficient, we'll be working to give you an even better-looking *Ventana*.

—Debbie Bulger, *Ventana* Editor

LETTERS

TheVentana welcomes letters

Send to:

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Ventana, 1603 King Street,
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

email: dfbulger@cruzio.com

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



Hydro-illogical cycle

Back in the late '70s and afterwards, I gave numerous lectures on water conservation and spoke of the hydrologic cycle, showing a slide of it, accompanied by a slide of the "Hydro-illogical Cycle": Drought ➔ Awareness ➔ Concern ➔ PANIC ➔ Rain ➔

Apathy ➔ Drought.

Round and round it goes.

Russ Beatty, Prof. Emeritus, UC Berkeley
Bonny Doon

Bigger problem in our garages

Thank you for your article in the last issue, "Clean coal is a myth," pointing out that so-called "clean coal" is still a major environmental problem. While the article was generally accurate in describing the very real environmental damage coal does ("clean" or otherwise), it may have left some readers with the misimpression that coal is the largest source of global warming gases. Not so. Nationwide petroleum accounts for 44% of CO₂ emissions from energy consumption, while coal accounts for 36%.

When we focus on California, petroleum is the bigger climate change problem by an even wider margin. Coal is burned mainly for electricity generation, petroleum mainly for transportation. Nationwide coal generates about 52% of the electricity, but only about 17% of the electricity we consume in California. Looking at California's emission of global warming gases, the biggest share (38%) comes from transportation, which is virtually all petroleum, while only 25% comes from electrical generation (even including electricity generated elsewhere and imported into California). And since only 17% of that 25% comes from coal, that means only about 6% of California's greenhouse gas emissions come from coal. That's 6% for coal vs. 38% for petroleum/transportation.

We are quite right to tell coal-burners, mainly in the eastern half of the country, to break their coal habit. But we are ducking our own responsibilities when we don't at the same time acknowledge that we have an even bigger problem parked in our own garages. The biggest global warming problem in the US, and even more so in California, is our excessive dependence on motor vehicles. Reducing that dependence on motor vehicles therefore needs to be our highest priority, if we are serious about climate change.

Paul Schoellhamer
Watsonville



Sierra Club opposes Coastal Dunes Resort



The huge development proposed for these Sand City dunes would impact endangered and sensitive species such as the western snowy plover and the Monterey spineflower.

For over 11 years, the Ventana Chapter has opposed projects planned for the sand dunes west of Highway 1 in Sand City. These parcels were used in the past for mining sand and other commercial activities. Since their closure, several plans have been proposed that would heavily impact coastal erosion, federally-listed, endangered and sensitive species such as the nesting western snowy plover, Monterey spineflower, black legless lizard and Myrtle's Silverspot butterfly.

The most aggressive plan for development has been the Security National Guarantee (SNG) proposal for a mega mixed-use complex called Monterey Bay Shores Resort. The site plan designed by Rana Creek would incorporate 341 units of hotel rooms and condominiums, restaurants, pools, spa, and conference facilities on 39 acres of beachfront property. The project would require removal and disposal of over 400,000 cubic feet of sand and impact our severely-diminishing water supply.

The project had a serious setback in late February when SNG came before the Monterey Peninsula Water Management Board to request approval of an application to exercise water rights. Following an intensive public relations campaign and lobbying efforts by the developer, Ed Ghandour, and Rana Creek, the consultants for the project, the Board denied SNG's request to access its allotted water. The Water Board ordered Ghandour to prepare a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report to address all water-related concerns.

The last EIR was over 10 years old, having been circulated in 1998. Water Board members specifically cited the fact that sig-

nificant new information about the over pumping of the Seaside basin in the last eleven years made denial the only possible decision. As a result of the denial of water rights, SNG withdrew the resort proposal from the Coastal Commission agenda for mid-March.

The Chapter has retained professional ex-

perts to represent us in opposing the resort. Attorney Larry Silver of CELP (California Environmental Law Project) has prepared detailed responses to the flaws in the project based on water law and CEQA. Botanist and coastal ecologist Peter Baye has reviewed impacts on sensitive species and the infeasibility of the project's proposed mitigation and management plan.

In addition, the Monterey Dunes Coalition sent a letter to the Coastal Commission regarding technical review of coastal erosion predictions for the proposed resort. Citing the Regional Sediment Management Plan for Southern Monterey Bay that was released in November, 2008, the letter notes that the coastal dunes between the Salinas River and Wharf II in Monterey are predicted to erode between 1 to 6 feet per year over the next 50 years. Such erosion would put the eight existing oceanfront facilities at risk and certainly suggests that the proposed resort site is in a hazard zone.

All the documents cited above were submitted to the Coastal Commission in opposition to the Monterey Bay Shores Resort and are available for viewing on the Chapter website, www.ventana.sierraclub.org.

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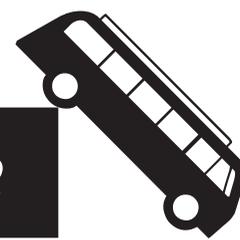
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Our transit district is in trouble



Debbie Bulger

Demand far exceeds supply on the popular Highway 17 route from Santa Cruz to San Jose. With global warming, we need more public transit, not less.

by Peter Scott

The Highway 17 Express bus service between Santa Cruz and San Jose—a service that began following the 1989 earthquake and has been consistently improved since then—provides the essential public transportation link to the outside world for Santa Cruz County. If you want to go to San Jose, or San Francisco, or their airports, or for that matter, anywhere else in the world, this is your bus. Providing 26 round trips on every weekday and 15 round trips on weekends and holidays, the Highway 17 Express is increasingly popular. It's so popular, in fact, that on many trips there are more passengers than seats on the bus, so riders must either stand or sit on the floor for the 50-minute ride to San Jose.

But don't expect this service to improve any time soon.

As a result of demands by Governor

Schwarzenegger and minority members of the State Legislature, the State budget adopted on February 20 eliminates major support for public transit systems statewide. The result is a loss for the Santa Cruz County Transit District (METRO) of approximately \$46 million over the years 2009 through 2013, an amount that is far from being offset by the expected \$5 million in Federal Economic Stimulus funds. Particularly egregious is that the State Transit Assistance Program, which would have provided approximately \$24 million to METRO, is being phased out statewide.

In addition, METRO will not receive \$22 million from the Public Transportation Modernization, Improvement and Service Enhancement Account, which derives from Proposition 1B, a \$3.6 billion bond measure passed in 2006 to benefit public transit, but which has yet to provide any money to public transit owing to diversion

of funds by Governor Schwarzenegger and lack of the sale of the bonds.

The transit funds that are being cut would have gone primarily toward completing the MetroBase maintenance, storage and administrative facility (\$22 million) and replacing 30 diesel buses (\$15 million) with cleaner compressed natural gas vehicles. Additional maintenance and improvement projects make up the remainder.

METRO is currently under order from the California Air Resources Board to replace its diesel buses with less-polluting compressed natural gas buses by 2012. However, unless that deadline is extended, METRO will have to reduce its fleet from the current 83 buses to 52 buses, which would mean a 38% decrease in METRO bus service and the loss of jobs for 150 METRO employees.

Halting construction of the MetroBase facility will not only mean that our bus

fleet will not be efficiently and effectively maintained; it will also mean the elimination of some 325 jobs in 2009.

Without funding, progress toward complying with statewide global warming laws—AB 32 and SB 375—will just not happen.

What you can do

- Write to State Senator Joe Simitian and Assemblymember Bill Monning. Urge them to work to ensure the sale of the Transit Bonds as soon as possible, so that work can continue on the MetroBase facility and that our aging and polluting diesel buses can be replaced. Also urge them to advocate for effective long-term State funding for public transit.

- Keep up to date regarding developments on this issue. For updates visit <http://sensibletransportation.org>.

Septic tanks affect coastal water quality

California Sea Grant* researchers have strong evidence that septic tanks in Northern California are leaking nitrogen and phosphate into coastal waters that can trigger algal blooms.

Reporting in the journal *Limnology and Oceanography*, they report finding elevated levels of these "nutrients" in the surf zone during periods of high groundwater flows to the beach.

Following one of these freshwater pulses, they observed a four-day elevation in chlorophyll-a levels—a proxy for phytoplankton concentrations. Though it is extremely difficult to attribute any single algal bloom to the presence of higher than normal nutrient levels, the general link between eutrophication and algal blooms

is widely recognized for both marine and freshwater ecosystems.

"Our project is one of the first in California to show definitively that septic tanks can affect coastal water quality through submarine groundwater discharge," says Alexandria Boehm, a professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Stanford University. Most research on septic systems has focused on effects on terrestrial ecosystems, Boehm explains. The value of this project is that it shows septic systems also can impact marine ecosystems via polluted groundwater discharging directly to the ocean.

In theory, the nutrient spikes detected in Northern California could have come from polluted creeks or runoff. This, however, is not what the scientists believe is happening

because their fieldwork was conducted in summertime when, they say, groundwater is the only source of freshwater to the coast.

Fertilizers spread on lawns and crops could also potentially be sources of the nutrients they detected. Again, however, scientists rule out this possibility because of the concomitantly high levels of human fecal indicator bacteria detected in groundwater samples collected between the septic systems and shoreline.

Interestingly, bacteria counts in beach water samples did not rise and fall with changes in groundwater fluxes, suggesting the beach aquifer removes pathogens, says Stanford doctoral student Nicholas de Sienes, the lead author of the journal article.

All of the fieldwork, which will continue into the summer of 2009, was conducted at

Stinson Beach in Marin County because of the community's interest in protecting its beach water quality. "We don't think our findings are unique to Stinson Beach," de Sienes says.

In recognition of the potential environmental implications for beach, ocean and river ecosystems, the California legislature has directed the State Water Resources Control Board to establish regulations on septic systems. California and Michigan are the nation's only two states without statewide regulations on septic systems.

**The National Sea Grant College Program is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce.*

WATER

The Santa Cruz side of the Bay

by Gary A. Patton

In *The Ventana* last month, Julie Engell provided a disturbing picture of the water problems facing North Monterey County ("Straight talk needed about North County water supply"). There are real water problems on the Santa Cruz County side of the Bay as well.

In Santa Cruz County, critical groundwater overdraft exists throughout the Pajaro Valley. There are also groundwater overdraft problems in central Santa Cruz County, and there are very significant water supply constraints (mostly involving surface water) in the City of Santa Cruz water service area.

The City provides water not only to residents and businesses within Santa Cruz itself, but also to Live Oak, portions of Pa-

satiempo, and the UCSC campus. Some North Coast farmers are also dependent on City water. On March 10, the City Council adopted a "Water Shortage Contingency Plan," which outlines how water rationing will proceed in the case of a drought.

Recent rains have made things better, but this is still, officially, a "critically dry" year, so some mandatory water cutbacks can be

The City's application, if approved, would commit at least half, and maybe all, of the City's remaining water capacity.

predicted, starting in late spring or early summer. This is, of course, to be expected; it may even become normal.

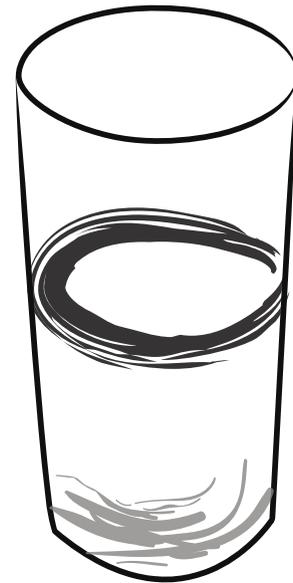
Global warming is likely to reduce surface water supplies, and convert what used to be "dry" years into "normal" water years, so that rationing becomes "normal," too. With this likelihood, it's clear that the City should be very cautious about committing its scarce remaining water capacity to support new development. Unfortunately, the Council does not seem to be taking such a precautionary approach.

To the contrary, the City Council is now leading the charge for a major expansion of the City's Water Service Area, by applying to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) for permission to provide water for UCSC's proposed expansion into its "north campus" area, now largely a natural resource reserve. The City's application, if approved, would commit at least half, and maybe all, of the City's remaining water capacity.

Currently, UCSC uses about 132 million gallons of water each year. The City's application would allow the University an additional 152 million gallons of water (more than half of the City's remaining supplies). This water would allow the University to build over 3,000,000 square feet of new buildings.

In November 2006, 80% of Santa Cruz voters adopted a measure that said: "In order to preserve the limited remaining water capacity that is available to current utility users . . . the Council shall not initiate an expansion of the City's water service area . . . unless authorized to do so by majority vote . . ." The University sued and overturned this mandate, and the City Council was thus not legally bound to follow its requirements.

The LAFCO proceedings that will take place later this year will ultimately deter-



mine what happens. Reading between the lines, the City is counting on a highly controversial desalination proposal to deal with the water crisis that the University expansion will almost certainly cause.

You'll see more on this story in future editions of *The Ventana*.

What happened to Freedom Lake?

As you make your way down Freedom Boulevard west of Five Mile Corner, a once rich and beautiful lake looks now like a brown meadow. This 25-acre lake is completely covered by invasive water hyacinth, (one of the fastest growing plants in the world).

Freedom Lake, known also as Corralitos Lagoon and Scott Lake, has been a popular fishing spot and home to over 130 species of birds. The lake is unusable for boating or fishing, be you bird or mammal. This infestation also poses increased danger to area homes from flooding, and the stagnant water could cause a spike in the mosquito population.

Freedom Lake and the adjacent Scott Park land was given to the County of Santa Cruz in 1971 by Bert Scott, former CEO of Granite Construction. He wanted this valuable resource maintained as a public park and wildlife habitat. The bequest also included the Scott's home on 35 acres across Freedom Boulevard from the lake.

The water hyacinth growth has gone unchecked for over 4 years. The cost to remediate the lake was bid at close to \$1 million by a reputable Sacramento firm. That kind of money is not easy to find and the County staff has been in search of grants and other agency funding to cover the expense.

A group of Friends of Freedom Lake has come together to advocate for the lake and support County staff in restoring the lake. If you would like to help bring the recreational and wildlife value back to Freedom Lake, contact the group at 724-5526, 426-9777, or nitahertel@gmail.com.

Volunteers needed for water testing

On May 2 volunteers from all over the Central Coast will descend on local creeks and streams to test the water. The event, called "Snapshot Day" because it provides a snapshot of water quality in over 100 streams spanning more than 300 miles of our coastline, is sponsored by the Coastal Watershed Council and the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network.

The water quality information collected is used by resource and local government agencies and community groups to assist in protecting and improving local streams. Last year nearly 200 volunteers participated in water quality monitoring at more than 180 sites along the California Coast.

Volunteers may be of any age and should sign up for one of the training classes listed below. To sign up visit www.coastalwatershed.org.

Santa Cruz County:

Saturday, April 25, 9:00-12:00 p.m., Natural Bridges State Beach Interpretive Center.

Monterey County:

Sunday, April 26, 12:00-3:00 p.m. MBNMS Main Office, 299 Foam Street, Monterey.

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Sierra Club Events

Friday, April 10

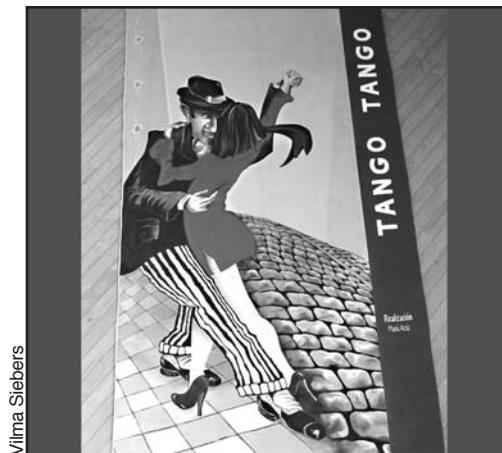
Potluck & Slides: India

Nancy will present this slide show from her travel to India. The potluck begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring food to share and your own washable plate, cup, utensils, and serving utensils. We love home cooked meals or dessert, but store-bought items (minimum value \$5) make great contributions too. For directions call Nancy, 423-6373 or George, 335-7748.

Friday, May 8

Potluck & Slides: Argentina

"Argentina - Tango and High Mountains" is a slide show by world traveler Vilma Siebers. The potluck begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring food to share and your own washable plate, cup, utensils and serving utensils. We love home cooked meals or dessert, but store-bought items (minimum value \$5) make great contributions too. For directions call George, 335-7748.



Make a difference
 Join Sierra Club
 California's
 Legislative Action
 Network
<http://cal-legalert.sierraclubaction.org>

**Volunteers needed
 for Sierra Club
 Earth Day booth**

Saturday, April 18, 11-4.
 Serve a 2-hour shift and meet new friends. Talk to people about the Club and hand out literature. To volunteer call Dennis Davie, 566-7447.

Spring and Summer

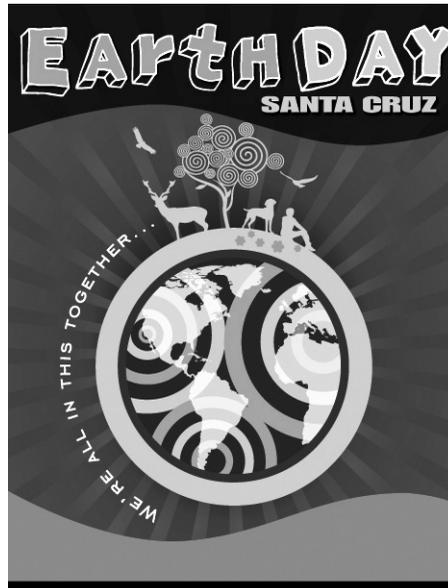
Channel Islands trips

Planning a vacation this May or during the summer? Consider a trip to the Channel Islands with a ranger/naturalist who will lead hikes and give talks. Fundraising event for Sierra Club political programs in California. Dates are May 1-4, July 17-20, August 7-10, and September 11-14. Cost is \$950 which includes bunk and all meals. For more info contact Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye Street, El Monte, CA 91732, jholtzhl@aol.com.

Friday, June 12

Potluck & Slides

The topic of this slide show could not be determined at press time. Please check our website for details. The potluck begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring food to share and your own washable plate, cup, utensils and serving utensils. We love home cooked meals or dessert, but store-bought items (minimum value \$5) make great contributions too. For directions call George, 335-7748.



April 18 Earth Day activities will be solar powered

Earth Day Santa Cruz 2009 will be celebrated on Saturday, April 18, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at San Lorenzo Park. A fun environmental celebration for the whole family is planned with tons of cool activities for kids, live music, food, eco-friendly vendors, workshops, master composting contest, clean-up events, e-waste collection, and much more. The event will be solar powered and aims to create no waste. Food packaging will be compostable or recyclable.

The Sierra Club will be participating with a booth. If you want to help staff it, call Dennis Davie, 566-7447.

Walk, bike, bus, or carpool in a hybrid/electric or biodiesel vehicle to show your support for our Planet Earth. Valet bike parking. The event is sponsored by the County of Santa Cruz, the City of Santa Cruz, Ecology Action of Santa Cruz, and Save Our Shores. For more information visit www.ecocruz.org.

Non-Sierra Club Events of Interest

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

Saturday, April 18

Earth Day Santa Cruz

Food, fun, music, workshops, and more. Solar powered and waste free. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., San Lorenzo Park Benchlands, Santa Cruz. Sponsored by the County of Santa Cruz, the City of Santa Cruz, Ecology Action of Santa Cruz, and Save Our Shores. For more information visit www.ecocruz.org.

Wednesday, April 22

Voting Integrity Talk

Are California voting systems secure, accurate, recountable, and accessible? Secretary of State Debra Bowen will speak followed by a Q & A session. Hyatt Regency Hotel, Monterey, 7:30 - 9 p.m. FREE. Sponsored by League of Women Voters, Monterey Peninsula. Call 484-2451 for more info.

Saturday, May 2

Growing Food and Fuel

The Reel Work Labor Film Festival will feature films and speakers on a host of green topics. Afternoon program at 3:00 p.m. Vegetarian potluck at 6:00 p.m. Evening program at 7:00 p.m. FREE. Films include "My Backyard Bounty" and "Growing Awareness." Speakers include Peter Beckmann, Ray Newkirk, and David Blume. Live Oak Grange, 1900 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz. Bring plate, cup, and serving utensils for potluck. For more info, call 335-3342.

May 12 - 17

Spring Bike Week

Group rides, bike to work and school, races, safety events, and more in both Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties. For more information visit bike2work.com.

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 Co. and Scotts Valley. \$50 charge for residents of Capitola, City of Santa Cruz, and Watsonville. Call 427-3452 to register. Sponsored by S.C. Co. Board of Supervisors; produced by County Public Works Recycling and Solid Waste Services.

Sunday, April 26, 1-3 p.m. Quail Hollow County Park, 800 Quail Hollow Road, Felton.

Saturday, May 30, 1-3 p.m. Cabrillo College Horticulture Center, Room 5110.

Saturday, June 20, 1-3 p.m. Grey Bears Recycling Center, 2710 Chanticleer, SC.

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.

Santa Cruz CNPS

Habitat restoration

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, redwdm@pacbell.net, 462-4041. Website: www.cruz.cnps.org.

April 4, Twin Lakes State Park
 April 18, Quail Hollow Ranch County Park
 May 2, Sunset Beach State Park

Monterey CNPS

Habitat restoration

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

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.

Catching some rays



Contributed photos

The City of Santa Cruz completed the installation of a 127.53 kW photovoltaic array on its Graham Hill Water Treatment Plant in November, 2008. The project, funded by the City Water Department, cost \$1,373,900. The City is expecting an estimated \$338,000 rebate from PG&E over the first five years of system operation.

The array consists of 420 flush-mounted and 234 tilt-mounted solar panels and will generate about 180,000 kWh of electricity/

year. This project is expected to offset about 223,000 lbs. of CO₂ emissions each year.

Also in 2008, the City installed a 73.6 kW solar array on the roof of the former Georgiana Kirby School building in downtown Santa Cruz. This building now houses City Water Department and Library staff. The remodel project earned a LEED Gold certification. The cost of the solar array was \$593,180 with an expected rebate of \$130,000. Annual CO₂ emissions offset is estimated at 155,000 lbs.

County changes policy on instream wood

In a victory for fish, the Santa Cruz County Supervisors unanimously agreed at their March 3 meeting to change the County policy of removing logs that fall into area streams. As reported in our last *Ventana*, fallen logs create fish habitat and stabilize stream banks.

Under the amended program, "County staff will not remove, cut-up or otherwise modify accumulations of large woody material (LWM) in county streams that support salmonids or other special status species unless it is determined that such accumulations pose a clear and immediate threat to public safety, public infrastructure or aquatic habitat." Any modification or removal of LWM will be carried out only as directed by a state or federal agency or by Water Resources Division Director follow-

ing a consultation with a geomorphologist, fishery biologist, Department of Fish & Game, and/or NOAA Fisheries.

Private property owners will need permits from the Department of Fish & Game to remove or modify large instream wood. The County will disseminate information to the public on the value of LWM for habitat and natural stream function and the terms of the county policy. The county

will also document, including photos, the large wood that is modified or removed and that which is retained as is.

Thanks to everyone who contacted the Supervisors and worked to make this policy change happen.

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Membership inquiries:
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- John Muir

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Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

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Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

F94Q W 1500 1

Unique farmland within city limits may be paved

by Celia Scott

Do you think that agricultural land should be protected and preserved within the City of Santa Cruz to encourage and support local food production close to home? Do you think that dense housing development should be encouraged on the borders of the Pogonip Greenbelt lands in the Golf Club Drive Area? Or should it be located instead on major transportation corridors?

If you care about these choices, it is time to pay attention. These questions and many other local planning issues are up for community decisions as the draft 2030 General Plan for the City of Santa Cruz finally moves forward again. An Environmental Impact Report on the proposed General Plan revision of our existing 1990-2005 General Plan is now underway. Public hear-

ings before the City Planning Commission and the City Council are anticipated later in 2009, with no firm dates yet.

The Golf Club Drive area off Highway 9 is a semi-rural sanctuary on the edge of the City and serves as an important gateway to the Pogonip Greenbelt with its many hiking trails. The productive agricultural soils of the gateway lands are designated by the State Department of Conservation as unique farmland, and have, in fact, been commercially farmed until this year by local farmers who lease land from the property owners. Other natural resources in the gateway area include a high water table, riparian lands along adjacent Pogonip Creek, and wildlife habitat connected to the Pogonip Greenbelt.

The risk of these productive agricultural soils being paved and/or surrounded by dense residential development has been

increased in the draft 2030 General Plan. The potential number of residential units ultimately allowed in the 17-20 acre Golf Club Drive area has been raised from 100 (maximum) permitted in the current General Plan to 200 plus in the proposed 2030 General Plan. At present, there are four residential units in the area.

In addition, the area to be protected for open space, community gardens, and buffer to the Pogonip Greenbelt has been reduced from seven acres (current General Plan) to five acres (proposed General Plan) in any future plans for increased residential development in the Golf Club Drive area.

The questions facing the Santa Cruz community are

1. whether this increased residential development in a highly sensitive environment is a good idea, and
2. how to reach a solution that accom-

modates both the needs of the current property owners and the need for a sustainable community.

Many communities in California and elsewhere are now recognizing that protecting suitable lands for local food production, whether in backyards, community gardens, or on agricultural land suitable for small-scale commercial farming, is an essential part of planning for a sustainable future. The City of San Francisco, for example, has had a Sustainability Plan for over 10 years, with detailed provisions on food and agriculture, including a goal of maximizing local food production within the city limits.

Unfortunately, the City of Santa Cruz, 2030 General Plan does not focus on local food production and has dropped (compared with the current General Plan) any detailed policies or programs for encouraging community gardens, and is silent on the question of local food production with no inventory of our local agricultural resources.

To follow these issues as the planning process evolves and become familiar with the draft 2030 City General Plan, visit the City of Santa Cruz website at www.ci.santa-cruz.ca.us and click on General Plan Update 2030. Two local groups focusing on food and agriculture issues include Transition Santa Cruz (www.transitionsc.org) and the Open Space Alliance (www.santacruzosa.org).

Investing in the future.



Debbie Bulger

Pictured from L to R are attorney Marsha Shanle, office manager Linda Williams, attorney Nick Wyckoff, and attorney Jack Ritchey.

Three Santa Cruz attorneys are not waiting for other people to do something about global warming. Law partners Nick Wyckoff, Marsha Shanle, and Jack Ritchey have planted a young oak tree in front of their building on Water Street in Santa Cruz. The native Coast Live

Oak will need no summer water once it is established. "It's the perfect choice for us, because we are lousy gardeners," quipped Nick Wyckoff, who is also a Sierra Club outings leader. As the tree grows it will beautify the street and sequester carbon for generations to come.

Labor and enviros join forces

Andrew Christie, Chapter Director for the Santa Lucia Chapter, was one of 250 Sierra Club members who attended the Blue-Green Alliance's Good Jobs/Green Jobs national conference in Washington, D.C. in February. More than 2000 business, labor, and environmental advocates gathered to bring national attention to the policies and investments needed to accelerate growth of the green economy, illustrate the job growth potential of global warming solutions, and highlight the potential of the coalition to lift Americans out of poverty.

The Blue-Green Alliance is a national partnership between labor unions and environmental organizations including the Sierra Club.

During conference sessions author Robert Pollin noted that "... the transition to a clean energy economy has the capacity to merge the aims of environmental protection and social justice to a degree that is unprecedented."

Rich Trumka, Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO remarked, "We reject the notion that you have to choose between good jobs and a green environment." Teamster President, James Hoffa, said, "We are no longer in favor of drilling in ANWR."

Closing speaker, Van Jones, observed, "This is a profound movement, a noble movement; something that's been torn apart too long coming back together."



Kansas Governor, Kathleen Sebelius keynotes

Andrew Christie

All the ground was covered with radiant corollas



Photographed in the Central Valley by Ventana staff.



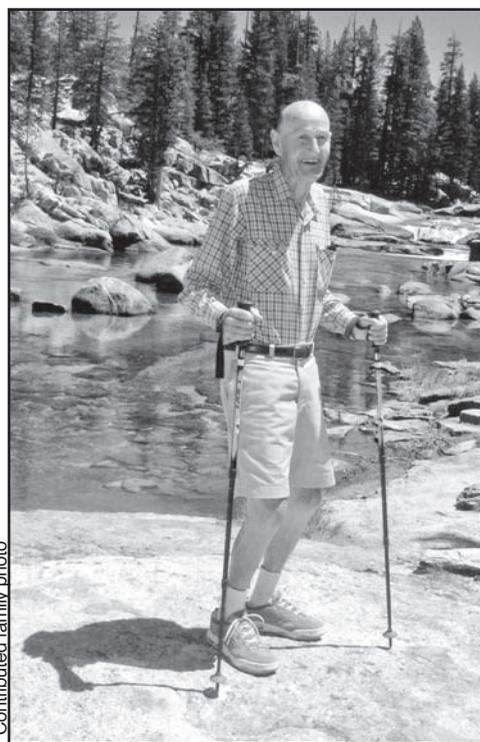
Fiddle Neck's many small trumpet flowers are coiled in a shepherd's crook.

“**W**hen I first saw this central garden . . . it seemed all one sheet of plant gold, hazy and vanishing in the distance . . . I at length waded out into the midst of it. All the ground was covered . . . with radiant corollas, about ankle deep next to the foothills, knee-deep or more five or six miles out . . . Sauntering in any direction, hundreds of these happy sun-plants brushed against my feet at every step, and closed over them as if I were wading in liquid gold.”

—JOHN MUIR, 1869



Popcorn flowers under oaks.



Contributed family photo

Kirk Smith in his late 80s near Tuolumne Meadows.

Longtime hike leader and former Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee member Kirk Smith passed away on March 1 at the age of 92. Alan Kirkham Smith was born on September 14, 1916 in Portland, Oregon and grew up in San Rafael and Marin County.

After retiring in 1973 and then serving in the Peace Corps in Ghana, Kirk and his wife Pat moved to Santa Cruz in 1975 where he became active in the local Sierra Club. Kirk served as Vice Chair of the Group Executive Committee in 1976 and 1977 and was Group Chair from 1978-1980. Later he was Chair of the Group State Parks Committee and served on the Group Nominating Committee. His affability and good nature served him well and earned him many friends.

Restore Hetch Hetchy moves HQ to San Francisco

Restore Hetch Hetchy, the national advocacy group dedicated to restoring the Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National park to its original natural splendor, has moved its headquarters from Sonoma to San Francisco and has hired a professional political strategist, Mike Marshall, to lead its efforts.

Marshall explained, "The Tuolumne River is the source of San Francisco's water sup-

Throughout his life, Kirk had a deep connection to the Sierra. As a child he spent summers at Lake Tahoe. Family vacations included backpacking and hiking with Pat and his three daughters.

Kirk is remembered fondly as an enthusiastic and fun hike leader. Gabrielle Stocker recalls a backpack trip to Miter Basin with him and others just one month before Kirk's 80th birthday! "Kirk was a master fire builder," Gabrielle remembers. "Years before, Kirk encouraged me to become a local hike leader and also to serve on Ex-Com."

Nick Wyckoff was lucky having Kirk as his leadership mentor:

"I knew Kirk through the outings he led for the Ventana Chapter. We first met in the 1990s on his annual Long Ridge hike near Saratoga Gap. After I returned for a couple of years, he asked me to co-lead it thereafter because he wanted to be sure it remained in the Ventana inventory after he retired from leading. Kirk always liked telling the story of two of his participants who met one year on the hike and returned the following year to announce their marriage.

"He had a longstanding friendship with Bud McCrary of Big Creek Lumber. Because of that relationship, Bud allowed Ventana members to go on an annual hike led by Bud and Kirk on the Big Creek and adjacent Lockheed properties. We not only experienced the forest, multiple creek crossings and double waterfalls at the confluence of Boyer and Big Creeks, but also learned of the family history of the four generations of McCrarys who have made that Swanton property their home. Those who were able to participate will always remember what a unique and special event it was.

"Kirk also worked with Tony Look and Verle Claussen of Sempervirens Fund and as President of the Waddell Creek Association in conservation efforts in that critical area of Big Basin Redwoods State Park."

ply—not Hetch Hetchy Valley. We simply use the valley as one big storage locker. We can meet San Francisco's water needs and restore this national treasure."

The mission of Restore Hetch Hetchy is to return the Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park to its original splendor without disrupting water delivery.



NEWSCLIPS

Foam ban expands

The city of Monterey has joined the growing list of jurisdictions that have banned polystyrene take-out containers. The ordinance will go into effect in late August. As we go to press, the City of Watsonville was working to follow suit. This effort, however, is encountering opposition from the American Chemistry Council and the Plastics Food Packaging Group who have written letters to Watsonville against the ban. Other local jurisdictions which have already banned Styrofoam are Capitola, Santa Cruz, Pacific Grove, Scotts Valley, and the County of Santa Cruz.

On the edge

A Pinnacles condor is in intensive care in the Los Angeles Zoo after suffering from lead poisoning and also having been shot. Condor #286 was approaching maturity and starting to make courtship displays before the incident which is seen as a major setback to the plan of establishing breeding pairs in the wild.

Spy on eagles

Caltrans has set up an "eagle-cam" near Redding focused on a Bald Eagle nest, hopefully containing chicks by the time you read this. To take a peek visit turtlebay.org.



Wind, water, and sun best

A Stanford University researcher has conducted the first quantitative, scientific evaluation of various energy sources and has determined that wind, water, and sun are the best ways to improve energy secu-

rity, mitigate global warming, and reduce deaths caused by air pollution. Mark Z. Jacobson recommends against nuclear, coal, and both corn and cellulosic ethanol. For details check out www.rsc.org/delivery/ArticleLinking/DisplayHTMLArticleforfree.

Reducing waste

The City of Toronto, Canada has banned the sale of bottled water on city premises such as golf courses by 2011. Other waste reduction measures enacted by their City Council include a 5¢ charge on plastic bags from grocery and retail stores starting in June and a ban on biodegradable and compostable plastic bags. Cities across Canada are planning restrictions on bottled water.

Top lop must stop

Film star Ashley Judd has teamed up with the Sierra Club to fight mountain-top removal coal mining. Judd, who grew up in Kentucky, said, "Our mountains are our heritage and our legacy to future generations. But big coal companies are using explosives to literally blow the tops off the mountains, extract the coal and destroy Appalachia."

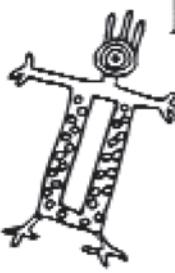
Coordinating change

How will changes in stream temperatures affect fish populations? What will sea level rise do to endangered species? To address and coordinate the answers to these and other questions, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has established a new National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center to better understand the effects of climate change on fish and wildlife and to help agencies adapt management strategies. To learn more visit <http://nccw.usgs.gov>.

Dumping coal

Governors are changing their minds about coal. New coal power plants planned for South Carolina, Michigan, and Wisconsin have been opposed by officials. States, businesses and local officials are increasingly focusing on newer, cleaner, more efficient technologies that can help both our economy and our climate.

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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:

Rio Road 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.

APRIL

Saturday, April 4

HIKE: FT. ORD OPEN SPACE

There may be some early wildflowers on this walk starting from the Reservation Rd. entrance to this park. It won't be difficult with 7 miles and 900' elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Mar Monte exit in Aptos to carpool. Call Nick for additional information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff 462-3101.

Saturday, April 4

WALK: PEBBLE BEACH/ASILOMAR

A 4-mile loop, starting on neighborhood streets, then thru dunes between fairways out to Point Joe and back along the beach boardwalk. Quiet neighborhood, beach wildflowers, possible wildlife. Meet across from the Fishwife Restaurant on Sunset Dr. and Asilomar Blvd., Pacific Grove. Call to reserve a place. Bring snack and water. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Sunday, April 5

HIKE: SOBERANES CREEK/ROCKY RIDGE

We'll follow the Soberanes Creek Trail into a beautiful redwood grove, then climb steeply to grassy knolls for great views at lunch. Flowers should be out! We'll descend Rocky Ridge with more fine views. 5-mile loop with 1700' elevation gain. Boots recommended; hiking poles helpful. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Rio Road Park & Ride at 9:00 a.m. to carpool. Call for reservation. Leader: DJ Goehring, 277-9908.

Sunday, April 5

HIKE: EAST GARLAND TO KAHN RANCH

This strenuous 10-mile hike with 2000' elevation gain will start from the Little League ball fields in Carmel Valley Village. Car shuttle. We'll ascend Laureles, Vasques and Cougar Ridge Trails into the Kahn Ranch to do the Hitchcock loop. Wear light long pants and a shirt in case of poison oak; bring two hiking poles. Bring 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 WaMu at 8:15 a.m. to carpool. Call to make sure the hike is on. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Tuesday, April 7

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 wildflowers and possibly baby sea lions. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we leave at 9:30 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Wednesday, April 8

HIKE: RANCHO SAN ANTONIO CO. PARK

This county park adjoins the 3800-acre open space preserve and has diverse environments including

riparian, oak woodlands, and grassy meadows. We especially love the huge bay laurel tree and the large bobcat that roams the trails and usually shows himself at some point in the hike. We'll hike through the Deer Hollow Farm and along the Rogue Valley Trail to the Upper Meadow Trail. Views of the entire bay area are great from Vista Point before we finish our 9-mile hike going down the PG&E Trail. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. to carpool (\$5), or at the park parking lot near the restrooms at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, April 11

HIKE: COASTAL HIKES

This is a series of shorter hikes to take in the beauty of our coast. First, we'll drive up to Pescadero Marsh and walk the trails looking for birds, then drive down to Wilbur's Watch for a hike up the hill for great views of the coast. (We may see grey whales!) Followed by a walk out to Franklin Point where the Sir John Franklin shipwrecked in the 1850s. Depending on time, we'll head to the northern end of Año Nuevo. 8 miles. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. Bring lunch

and binoculars. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Pamela Burnham, 915-2475.

Saturday, April 11

WILDFLOWER WALK: POINT LOBOS RANCH

This easy 3-mile walk will give us a sneak peek of a future state park. There should be an amazing display of poppies and other wildflowers. Arrive early; we leave at 10:00 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Bring water. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Easter Sunday, April 12

WILDFLOWER WALK: POINT LOBOS RANCH

See Saturday, April 11 for details.

Sunday, April 12

HIKE: PINNACLES

Join me for the fourth not-so-annual Easter hike and potluck (mostly veggie). Always a favorite hiking locale, should be perfect for wildflowers and lighter clothing. 12 miles, 1500' elevation gain. Call me for food and carpool options. Leader: John Howerton, 476-4253.

Tuesday, April 14

SENIOR HIKE: PARADISE PARK / RINCON

Enjoy many spring flowers. We'll walk a fire road to Hwy.9, cross over to the Rincon Trail and then downhill to the river. About 4 miles. Steep uphill on fire road and river. 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.



Built by Sierra Club members in 1934, this rustic, hostel-style lodge stands atop historic Donner Pass, just an hour and a half from Sacramento.

Springtime in the Sierra is a magical time. In early spring you can take advantage of longer and warmer days with extended ski and snowshoe tours or using the Lodge's own groomed trails. Later in the spring you can experience the explosion of wildflowers as you hike miles of trails behind the Lodge or on the Pacific Crest trail just 1.5 miles from the Lodge.

Guests enjoy excellent family style meals, a friendly staff and a casual and communal atmosphere.

See you on Donner Summit...



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

Tuesday, April 14

HIKE: SILVER PEAK'S LION'S DEN

Silver Peak Wilderness is as beautiful as the Ventana Wilderness. Please join me on this strenuous 12-mile hike. Requires a very early start, so if you are not an early bird, please do not call. \$5 for a very long carpool. Must call a week in advance to leave message, or your call will not be returned. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Thursday, April 16

HIKE: TORO COUNTY PARK

This 5½ mile hike with 800' elevation gain takes us through a forested valley then up to oak-dotted grasslands. We hope to see a beautiful display of lupine. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we leave at 9:45 a.m. sharp from the dirt parking area outside Toro Park. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Sunday, April 19

HIKE: SALINAS RIVER STATE BEACH

We'll hike 4 miles south along the pristine Salinas River State Beach to the mouth of the river in the Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge. After a short break, we'll hike back for an optional lunch at Phil's seafood restaurant in Moss Landing. Excellent opportunities to view shorebirds and marine mammals. From Hwy. 1, take Moss Landing Rd. to Sandholdt

Rd. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot on the left after crossing the bridge. (Do not take Potrero Rd. to the wrong parking lot!) 8 flat miles. Rain cancels. Leader: Eugene Sobka, 449-0873.

Tuesday, April 21

HIKE: VEEDER POND

We'll hike up to the pond for lunch then back along the Terrace Trail. Expect a stunning display of wildflowers. 5 miles with 1300' elevation gain. Easy pace. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 10:00 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Wednesday, April 22

HIKE: PESCADERO CREEK COUNTY PARK

This is the largest of the 3 county parks in the stream-and redwood-studded canyons south of La Honda. We'll hike a 9-mile loop with a 1000' elevation gain on the Pomponio Trail and Old Haul Rd. The amount of old-growth trees is surprising, perhaps because the loggers found it too difficult to haul the logs out. The Granger's Bridge crosses Jones Gulch, but if the seasonal bridge is not in at Pescadero Creek we may get cold ankles making the crossing. Not to worry, it's a beautiful park to hike in with fern-filled canyons, meadows, and open ridges with views. We may make a quick stop at the end of the day to buy artichoke bread at Pescadero Market. Bring lunch and water, \$5 carpool. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Sears

41st Ave. or at the corner of King and Mission at 9:20 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Wednesday, April 22

HIKE: TORO PARK

THIS IS ON A WEDNESDAY. We'll walk the Oliason Trail and hopefully see wildflowers. 3+ 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 restroom at 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.

Saturday, April 25

HIKE: TORO COUNTY PARK

We'll start the wildflower season in this warm area of Monterey County. 8 miles with 1200' elevation gain. I think we'll do Harper's Canyon. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Mar Monte exit in Aptos to carpool. Call for more information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Sunday, April 26

HIKE: WILDCAT CANYON/TORO PARK

This climb up a narrow path takes us to the Toyon Trail, where we'll find a sunny spot for lunch and great views as we circle back down to the park entrance. The trails are steep in spots, but we'll take an easy pace. Not to exceed 5 miles. Dress in layers (chilly in the morning, windy up on top), wear shoes with good tread, and take optional hiking stick. Bring lunch and water. Meet outside the entrance to Toro County Park (just off Hwy. 68 at Portola Drive exit) at 9:45 a.m. Rain cancels. For detailed directions, call early in week. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

Sunday, April 26

HIKE: BIG BASIN TO THE SEA

For a slightly delayed celebration of John Muir's 171st birthday and Earth Day, please join us for this popular all-day, car-free hike. We'll take advantage of the special Big Basin Bus to get us to the starting point, so meet at the Santa Cruz Metro Center to catch the 8:30 a.m. bus for Big Basin. (The bus will NOT wait for stragglers). Please bring your favorite John Muir story or quote to share during lunch. We'll end up at the mouth of Waddell Creek to catch the No. 40 bus, arriving back in Santa Cruz at 5:55 p.m. The total distance is 13 miles, but it is a moderate hike, what Muir would have called a "saunter." Bring a good lunch, water, \$3 for bus fare, and boots that don't give you blisters. Please call leader, Peter Scott, 423-0796 or drip@ucsc.edu to reserve a space. Limited to 20 people. NOTE: Do NOT bring your car. It will only be an encumbrance.

Tuesday, April 28

HIKE: WILDER / ENCHANTED FOREST

We'll begin at Wilder Ranch parking area on right side of Hwy. 1 just past "Quilted Fish" sign, about 2 miles past Wilder entrance. Steep climb up thru Enchanted Forest Canyon and then back. 3+ miles. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at Shen's Gallery at Mission & King St. at 9:50 a.m. Lunch mid hike. Bring water, lunch, sit upon, \$3 carpool. Leader: Brooke Ewoldsen, 475-6188.

Tuesday, April 28

HIKE: POINT LOBOS

See Tuesday, April 7 for details.

Wednesday, April 29

HIKE: SANBORN SKYLINE COUNTY PARK

Sanborn Skyline County park is on the steep east side of the coastal range and has scenic trails, campgrounds, one of the best hostels (the historic Welch-Hurst House built 1908 as a hunting lodge), and an interpretative nature center. We'll start this downhill 9-mile hike from the Castle Rock Parking lot, go across Skyline Blvd. to the Skyline Trail, then down the Sanborn Trail, and then circle back up after walking to the park headquarters in the urban section of the park near Saratoga. Walking sticks will be helpful. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. to carpool (\$5), or at Castle Rock parking lot at 10:10 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

MAY

Friday, May 1

HIKE: GARLAND RAMBLE

We'll explore several of Garland Park's wildflower-studded (we hope) trails. The leisurely loop will include Waterfall, Oak View and Maple Canyon, with stops at Mesa Pond and Fern Pond. 5 miles with 500' elevation gain. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Rio Road Park and Ride at 10:00 a.m. to carpool, or at Garland Park Visitor Center on Carmel Valley Road at 10:20 a.m. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372 7427.

Saturday, May 2

HIKE: MCNEE RANCH

A fairly steep hike to the top of Montara Mtn. will reward us with spectacular views of the ocean to the west, Mt. Diablo to the east, and possibly a bobcat or two. If the weather is clear, views of the Golden Gate, Mt. Tam and the Point Reyes Peninsula are possible. 7.5 miles; close to 2000' gain. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:00 a.m. to carpool.



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Saturday, May 2

HIKE: MITTELDORF PRESERVE

Join me on this wonderful hike around the Mitteldorf Preserve, administered by the Big Sur Land Trust. This is the grand loop, 9 miles and 2000' elevation gain. Expect great views, gorgeous old trees (the largest redwood in Monterey County), and masses of wildflowers. Bring lunch and water, wear a hat and bring sun protection. Meet at the San Carlos Ranch Gate, 1 mile off Carmel Valley Road at 8:30 a.m. Call me for a reservation. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Sunday, May 3

WALK: POINT LOBOS

We'll start this 4-mile hike around beautiful Point Lobos at the highway, to Whaler's Cove, out to the Pit and back, to the top of Whaler's Knoll, and return via southern trails. There are usually wildflowers out and some wildlife to see. Meet at the Rio Road Park & Ride to carpool. Call leader to reserve a space and for meeting time. Bring snack, water, and optional binoculars. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Sunday, May 3

HIKE AND BIKE: BIG BASIN

Starting at Waddell Beach, we'll ride 5 miles to near Berry Creek Falls. Then hike the Sunset Trail to park headquarters and return to our bikes on the Skyline to Sea Trail. Expect varied weather, good views, awesome wildflowers and a great workout! 10 mile ride, 10 mile hike. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 8:00 a.m. to carpool. Call for more info. Leader: John Howerton, 476-4253.

Tuesday, May 5

SENIOR HIKE: BIG BASIN/SLIPPERY ROCK

5-mile hike down Slippery Rock to Sempervirens Falls & Sequoia Tr. Lunch at top of Slippery Rock. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at Felton Faire at 9:50 a.m. To go direct, use main entrance to Big Basin. Restrooms. Bring water, lunch, \$5 carpool and share of entrance \$. Leader: Joan Brohmer, 462-3803.

Tuesday, May 5

HIKE: MITTELDORF PRESERVE

This 4½ mile loop with 900' elevation gain has 8 bridged creek crossings, a redwood forest and spectacular views. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 9:30 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Sunday, May 10

HIKE: GARZAS CANYON

The Terrace Trail at Garland Ranch should have good flowers now. We'll climb from the trailhead to a nicely-contoured walk above the creek, then drop steeply to the creek, walk downstream, and finally a steep climb back out. Short distance and slow pace. Bring lunch, water, good footgear, and a stick if you need steadying on steep hills. Meet at the Garland Ranch parking lot on Carmel Valley Road at 9:30 a.m. Hike starts from Garzas Road trailhead at 10:00 a.m. More info: Leader Mary Gale, 626-3565.

Sunday, May 10

HIKE: SOBERANES CREEK/ROCKY RIDGE

The wildflowers should be great for this 5-mile loop with 1700' elevation gain. We'll follow the Soberanes Creek Trail into the verdant redwood grove then climb steeply to grassy knolls for the spectacular view at lunch. We'll descend Rock Ridge with more fine views. Boots recommended; hiking poles helpful. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Rio Road Park & Ride at 9:00 a.m. to carpool. Call for reservation. Leader: DJ Goehring, 277-9908.

Tuesday, May 12

SENIOR WALK: BEAN HOLLOW/PIGEON PT

A blooming paradise on this 2-mile hike south of Pescadero. Over 25 species of coastal wildflowers. The walk can be extended. Restrooms. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at Shen's Gallery at Mission & King at 9:50 a.m. Bring water, lunch, \$3 carpool. Leader: Janet Schwind, 425-3845.

Tuesday, May 12

HIKE: MOUNT MADONNA

This 6-mile loop with 900' elevation gain includes a lovely redwood forest and lunch with a view. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 8:45 a.m. sharp from Shell station by Home Depot in Seaside or from the east parking area of Mount Madonna at 9:40 a.m. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Tuesday, May 12

HIKE: GLORIA ROAD

Car shuttle will be needed for this beautiful, 12-mile, narrow, winding, mostly downhill, country road. Lots of wildflowers grow here along with spectacular views of the Salinas Valley, south county cities, Santa Lucia Mountains, including a peek into the Ventana Wilderness. Bring a bag to pick up trash along the way. Must call a week in advance to leave message or your call will not be answered. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Saturday, May 16

HIKE: EAST GARLAND, GARZAS CREEK

This is another wildflower effort, 4½ miles, but quite steep with 1500' gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Mar Monte exit in Aptos to carpool. Call Nick for additional info. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Sunday, May 17

HIKE: SALINAS RIVER STATE BEACH

See April 19 for details.

Sunday, May 17

HIKE: BIG BASIN

Time for the Sea to Tree Trail again. The wildflowers of this unique ecosystem and the varied terrain make for a diverse display. We'll take the bus from downtown Santa Cruz to park headquarters and take a return bus from the coast. Always a great, mostly downhill hike to the sea, through the redwoods to the waterfalls. Meet at the Santa Cruz Metro Center at 8:20 a.m. You will need exact change for bus fare. Bring water and food. Call for details. Leader: John Howerton: 476-4253.

Tuesday, May 19

HIKE: CARMEL TO PEBBLE BEACH

This nice lollypop loop begins in Carmel and leads to the quiet forest of Pebble Beach. Lunch gives us the

option of a Poppy Hills sandwich. 6½ miles, 750' elevation gain, moderate pace with flora & fauna stops. Arrive early; we depart at 10:00 a.m. sharp from the Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Getting to outings

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



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OUTINGS

Saturday, May 23

HIKE: UCSC TO POGONIP

Walk thru UCSC, with its great variety of habitat, checking out The Farm enroute, then head over to Pogonip. We'll trek down to the San Lorenzo River for lunch. 9 miles. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:00 a.m. to carpool. Bring lunch, water, comfortable shoes. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Pamela Burnham, 915-2475.

Saturday, May 23

HIKE: EAST GARLAND LOOP

We'll start from Garzas Rd., up the canyon, Veeder, East Ridge, and Saddle Trails to the highest point (Vasques Knob, 2000') for great views all around. After lunch, down Vasques, Spring, Gabilan, and River Trails. I hope there still will be many wildflowers. 8-mile loop with 1800' elevation gain. Bring water, lunch, optional hiking poles for steep parts. Wear sun hat and sunscreen. Meet at SaveMart at 8:00 a.m. (no leader) or in Mid Valley shopping center near WaMu at 8:20 a.m. to carpool. Call me to make sure the hike is on. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Tuesday, May 26

SENIOR WALK & PICNIC: HENRY COWELL

Our 3-mile loop hike is along the river and through the redwood forest. Slight uphill. After hike, we'll have our annual picnic. BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at Felton Faire by 9:50 a.m. To go direct, use Cowell entrance on Hwy. 9, turn right past the pay station to the first picnic area. Bring water, potluck dish, \$2 carpool and share of entrance fee. Leader: Helena Cantin, 438-4253.

Tuesday, May 26

HIKE: NISENE MARKS

This 6-mile hike with 700' elevation gain takes us along beautiful creeks and eventually to serene Maple

Falls. Some agility is required. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 8:45 a.m. sharp from Shell station by Home Depot in Seaside or from parking lot behind Aptos Station at 9:30 a.m. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Friday - Sunday, May 29 - 31

SERVICE TRIP: DEATH VALLEY NP

Work project in Middle Park/South Park area of the Panamint Mountains. We'll help repair vehicle trespass damage by installing wilderness restoration signs and using rock or vertical mulch. If there are enough participants, we might also help clear up trash and debris from the vicinity of a couple of the old cabins in the area. Requires 4WD; possibility of carpooling at trailhead. Meet Friday afternoon and drive up Pleasant Canyon to campsite. Work Saturday and Sunday. Happy hour/potluck on Saturday night. Contact leader for more information. Kate Allen, kj.allen@wildblue.net, 661-944-4056.

Saturday, May 30

HIKE: SUNOL REGIONAL WILDERNESS

Mariposa lilies (*calochortus*) and other wildflowers will be our focus in this hike of McGuire Loop. 7 miles with 1000' elevation gain. It's a 1-hour ride to the start. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call for more information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

JUNE

Tuesday, June 2

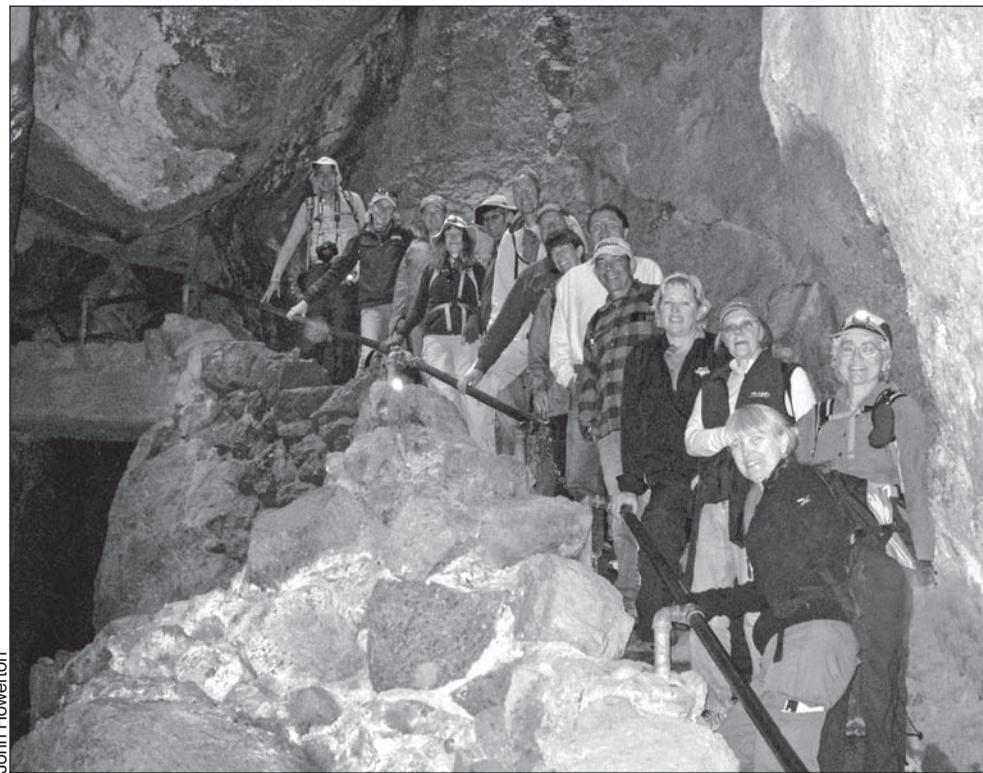
HIKE: MILL CREEK REDWOOD PRESERVE

This 5½ mile hike with 250' elevation gain takes us along a beautifully terraced trail to a spectacular coastal overlook. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 10:00 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Friday, June 5

HIKE: WEST MOLERA

We'll hike up Hidden Trail and Ridge Trail, enjoying views of Pico Blanco and Post Summit. After lunch we descend via the Panorama and Bluff Trails with views of the ocean and Point Sur. Bring lunch, water, and a windbreaker as the ocean breeze can be cold even at this time of year. Optional: bring sandals or aqua shoes for possible river crossing. Meet at the Rio Road Park and Ride at 9:30 a.m. 8 miles with 1200' elevation gain. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372 7427.



John Howerton

Hikers descend into the Bear Gulch Cave on a February 8 hike to the Pinnacles led by John Howerton.

Saturday, June 6

HIKE: MT. MADONNA COUNTY PARK

Find more mariposas in our local foothills behind Watsonville. 6 miles with 1200' elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Mar Monte exit in Aptos to carpool. Call Nick for additional information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Sunday, June 7

HIKE: PINNACLES BY MOONLIGHT

Hiking Pinnacles by the light of the moon is a very euphoric experience, like being on another planet. It is therapeutic for the mind and soul. It is mesmerizing. The weather will be perfect for an ancient volcano hike. Call a week in advance, so your call can be answered. 10-12 miles. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Sunday, June 7

WALK: CARMEL RIVER BEACH

How about an early morning walk from Carmel River Beach to Monastery Beach via the hill and back via the Bluff Trail. Enjoy views of Point Lobos and listen to the surf. 3 miles. Wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather; wind breaker recommended. Bring water and a snack. Meet at the parking lot at Carmel River Beach at the lagoon. Call leader to re-

serve a space and for meeting time. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Tuesday, June 9

HIKE: MITTELDORF PRESERVE

On this 7-mile loop with 2000' elevation gain we hope to see the unusual "Golden Ear Drops." We'll take our strenuous hike at an easy pace into a redwood forest along a lovely creek up to vistas overlooking the rugged Garrapata and Big Sur coastlines. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 8:30 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

JULY

Thursday - Sunday, July 16 - 19

BACKPACK: YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Experience the amazing Cathedral Lakes region, among the most sublime high-country areas in the park. This three-night, base camp outing is suitable for first timers as well as experienced backpackers. Individual commissary. Space for 8 only. Contact leader for details. Leader: DJ Goehring, 277-9908, djgoehring@yahoo.com.

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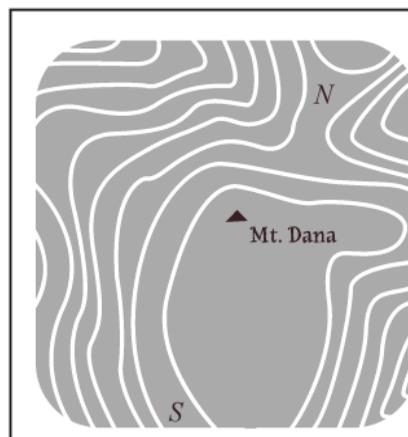
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MEETING SCHEDULE

<p>Ventana Chapter (Monterey County) Information: 624-8032</p> <p>Executive Committee: Last Thursday of the month; Call for meeting place and time</p> <p>Conservation Committee: For dates and times, call 655-8586.</p>	<p>Santa Cruz Regional Group Information: 426-4453</p> <p>Meeting place: Sierra Club Office, 1001 Center Street, Santa Cruz, Suite 11</p> <p>Executive Committee: Wednesday, April 8 at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 13 at 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Conservation Committee: Call for meeting times and dates, 761-3263.</p>
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The VENTANA

MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

seedpod of a spokepod (Thysanocarpus radicans)

APR, MAY,
JUN
OUTINGS

More flowers
p. 9

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A bumblebee searches for nectar in a Flannel Bush blossom.

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“What bees ask of us is simple: a world free from poisons and other stressors, with places where they can nest and a sweet, season-long supply of flowering plants. In return, they offer to teach us their deepest lesson yet. Much as a honeybee belongs to her colony, so we humans belong to the living community of the Earth.”

—CANDACE SAVAGE,
BEEES: NATURE’S LITTLE WONDERS



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Ventana staff