

The VENTANA

MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

**OCT, NOV,
DEC
OUTINGS**



Ventana staff

Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet

Filmy Dome spider and its web.



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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.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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

Issue	Deadline	Mailing Date
#6	Nov. 30	Dec. 16

Articles received after deadline
may not be published.

CHAPTER CHAIR

Good news for the Central Coast

The winds of political change are bringing good news to the Central Coast. After requests from dozens of public benefit and environmental organizations representing tens of thousands of Californians, Assembly Speaker Karen Bass appointed Mark Stone, Santa Cruz County Supervisor, to the California Coastal Commission.

Mark replaces Dave Potter whose conservation rating on the Coastal Commission was below 13%. Potter's record included repeated prodevelopment votes including support of the Sunridge Views development in North Monterey County and the massively destructive Pebble Beach project slated for the Monterey Pine Forest. Potter also opposed protection of environmentally-sensitive habitat in Big Sur. In contrast, Mark has an excellent grasp of the intricate

legal and scientific bases for the Coastal Act and will no doubt use these guiding principals to make informed decisions regarding our valuable natural resources.

In August, Assembly member Bill Monning graciously opened his office to Sierra Club members on our annual Lobby Day in Sacramento. Putting aside a heavy workload as the Legislature wound to a close, Monning described his marine mammal and seafood labeling legislation and his hopes for a phase-out of toxic chemicals in food production. (See related article on page 4.)

In the November 3 elections in Monterey County, the Chapter has made several endorsements. Judi Lehman is running for reelection to the Monterey Peninsula Water Management Board where she has been a stalwart defender of our dwindling water supply and an advocate for environmental priorities. In Carmel, we oppose Measure I in order to preserve native plant species in

Mission Trail Park.

The Chapter also supports Measure G which would allow Carmel Valley to incorporate as a town and give local control to residents. Carmel Valley, currently an un-



incorporated area of the county, has been besieged by inappropriate growth and oversized projects approved by the pro development County Board of Supervisors. A YES vote on Measure G will help protect the area's water supply and safeguard natural resources.

Let's reelect Judi Lehman, defeat Measure I, and approve Measure G to provide additional good news for the next issue of *The Ventana*.

—Rita Dalessio

Free online course on Clean Water Act

Want to be more effective in fighting water pollution? The River Network is offering a free online course on the Clean Water Act. The course is divided into lessons so learners can choose topics.

Lessons include water quality standards, impaired waters listing, nonpoint source pollution control, enforcing the Act, and much more. Future plans call for adding powerpoints and other tools to the course. Check it out at www.cleanwater.org.

Use the power of the Clean Water Act to protect and restore your watershed.

Only 11 states have bottle laws

Did you know that California is one of only 11 states in the country that have returnable bottle laws? The deposit return system, invented by the beverage industry itself, gets containers out of the waste stream and back into use much more efficiently than municipal programs can. Refillable bottles are even better for the environment than one-way bottles and cans.

If you have family or friends in a state without a bottle law, ask them about it. Returnable bottle laws not only reduce roadside litter, they conserve energy used to manufacture new bottles and extend the lives of landfills.

States with bottle deposit laws: California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Oregon, Vermont.



FROM THE EDITOR

Under our noses

A tale of discovery

There are miraculous happenings and amazing natural wonders right in our own backyards that oftentimes we miss or don't notice because we are not looking closely enough or perhaps because we are going too fast.

Last spring one of the *Ventana* staff photographers was on the UCSC campus trying to photograph deer. He went down into one of the ravines on campus, and instead of deer, stumbled upon something more amazing. Something he had never seen before, and I would venture to say, something most of us have never seen even though they are not rare and even though they have likely been right in front of our eyes on numerous hikes in the woods.

I had to go see for myself.

What he found, hanging from bushes and small trees about five feet off the ground, were filmy dome spiders (*Neriene*

radiata) and their webs. The domed web, pictured on our cover, looks like an upside-down bowl, about the size of a cereal bowl. Its weaver, a small spider, hangs upside down in the center under the dome and waits for dinner.

Spiders are among nature's finest architects. I marvel at the lovely traps they weave, artfully combining form and function.

I have since learned many things about this and other spiders. Filmy dome spiders are found throughout the United States. I learned that spider silk is stronger than steel thread of the same thickness. And despite the existence of a few venomous spiders, most are as sweet as Charlotte (remember *Charlotte's Web?*).

But the most important morsel that I've taken from this chance encounter is the knowledge that sometimes the extraordinary is all around us. We just have to take the time to really see it.

—Debbie Bulger

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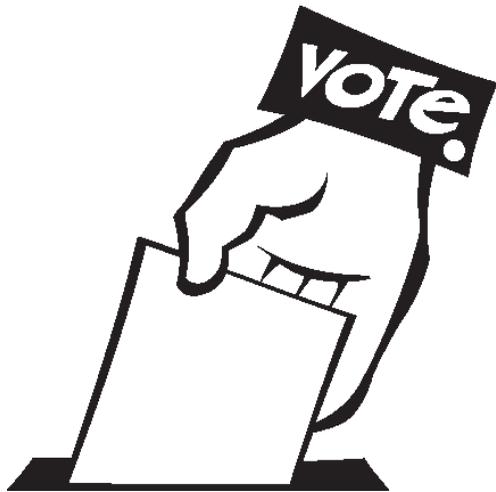
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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.



Vote NO on Measure I

Preserve Mission Trail Park

For 10 years the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea has sought to sell 1.25 acres of parkland including the National Historic Register property, Flanders Mansion. This lovely building is located in the middle of an Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area in Mission Trail Park/Nature Preserve. The proposed sale is on the ballot in Carmel-by-the-Sea on November 3 under the title of Measure I.

If sold, the property would create an in-holding within the nature preserve resulting in a large number of conflicts in use. The sale is in clear violation of state laws and city policies in the General Plan/Local Coastal Plan, which speak to the preservation, protection, and enhancement of city parkland and open space. Sierra Club recommends a NO vote on Measure I.

Mission Trail Park is the largest park in Carmel-by-the-Sea and is very popular with hikers, birders, artists, dog walkers, etc. Three of its five trails cross the Flanders property. A sale would result in a loss of trails, views, park ambiance, as well as result in fragmentation of habitat threatening both environmental and recreational resources.

Fiscally, it is not prudent to sell treasured parkland for a one-time short-term gain. In 10 years the City has sought no grants or donations for Flanders Mansion or the park and has denied an important grant for the Memorial Native Plant Garden. In 10 years the City has sought no adaptive uses for the structures.

This park is also a county asset. There are monthly walks with cultural and natu-



Bill Englander

Looking toward the Flanders Mansion (hidden in the trees) from the Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area in Mission Trail Park.

ral history talks. This nature preserve is a unique regional asset and must be protected for future generations.

Vote no on Measure I.

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Re-elect Judi Lehman

District 2, Monterey Peninsula Water Management District

The Sierra Club enthusiastically endorses Judi Lehman, incumbent for the board of directors of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District. Judi represents Division 2, which includes Monterey east of downtown, Del Rey Oaks, Sand City, the southern part of Seaside, and unincorporated County north of Highway 68.

"Judi Lehman has been wonderful in representing our concerns about protecting the environment. She received our endorsement when she first ran in 2001, and again when re-elected in 2005. We think she has been fabulous," stated Rita Dalessio, Chair of the Ventana Chapter.

The State Water Resources Control Board has just issued a new draft Cease and Desist Order on the California American Water Company (Cal-Am). The order would require Cal-Am to reduce its annual pumping from the Carmel River by 549 acre feet, effective October 2009, continuing into the year 2014, when Cal-Am would reduce its annual pumping by 242 acre feet.

Judi has taken a leadership role in actively supporting "banking" river water from peak winter flows in the Seaside Aquifer for summertime withdrawal. Judi advocates replacing Cal-Am's old leaking pipes and promoting water recycling.

Please vote for Judi Lehman on November 3. Her re-election is critical to our conservation efforts.

Monterey Voting Guide

- ✓ **Judi Lehman**
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
- ✓ **NO on Measure I**
- ✓ **YES on Measure G**

Moving?

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

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Lobby Day in Sacramento was fantastic!

by Nicole Charles

In August, I attended Sierra Club National Lobby Day at the Sacramento State Capitol. During Lobby Day Sierra Club volunteers flooded the Capitol and lobby for bills backed by Sierra Club California. This year the Club lobbied for strong renewable energy portfolio standards and two pieces of legislation dealing with state parks.

I truly enjoyed this experience. As a young Sierra Club member (I'm 22), it was exciting to walk through the hallways of the Capitol and speak to Assemblymembers and Senators. It felt wonderful to be with other passionate volunteers and to be trained to lobby by the Club.

Representing the Sierra Club was an honor for me. We received warm greetings from most California officials and people passing in the hallway. Visiting our Assembly Representative Bill Monning was the highlight of my day. Monning is not only a lifetime member of the Sierra Club, he is also an environmental pioneer within the political realm.

Monning is a Monterey County native and expressed gratitude toward the Ventana Chapter for tackling some of the area's most critical environmental issues. My experience at the Capitol was fantastic!

Please consider attending Lobby Day yourself next year.



Ventana Chapter member Nicole Charles lobbies Assemblymember Bill Monning at the Club's annual Lobby Day in Sacramento. Joining Nicole are Club members Steve Quist (on left) and John Cordes (behind Nicole).

Report proposes sustainable water solutions for California

Amid all the talk of building more dams, canals, and desal plants, a coalition of 23 fishing, public health, conservation, environmental justice, and tribal organizations including the Sierra Club have issued a report on sustainable water solutions for California. Based on multiple scientific and engineering studies, the report demonstrates how California can provide the water to serve its projected population growth through 2050 and improve the environment at the same time.

Most of the actions suggested would provide water to people quicker and at far lower costs and with significantly fewer greenhouse gas emissions than new dams and other similar projects. The actions include groundwater cleanup, water recycling including graywater use, storm water capture, and conservation.

The 10 strategic goals in the report include increasing water supply efficiency, restoring instream flows, providing fish passage above and below dams, integrating floodplains with rivers and streams, and maximizing regional water self sufficiency. In essence, living within our means while providing water for the environment.

To download a copy of the full report visit <http://ewccalifornia.org>.

UCSC makes list of "Coolest" Schools

For the second year in a row, UCSC has been named one of the nation's top 20 "coolest" schools for their efforts to stop global warming and operate sustainably by *Sierra* magazine.

The magazine's September/October cover story spotlights the schools that are making a true impact for the planet, and marks *Sierra's* third annual listing of America's greenest universities and colleges. The complete scorecard is available online at www.sierraclub.org/coolschools.

This year's top-20 coolest schools are taking dramatic steps to curb climate change. Harvard has 17 LEED-certified buildings; all new buildings at Emory University in Atlanta must meet LEED requirements. UCSC students tax themselves to issue bus passes, organic food is served on campus, and athletic field sprinklers have moisture sensors that prevent overwatering among other measures.

Mark Stone appointed to Coastal Commission

Sierra Club welcomes the appointment of Mark Stone, Santa Cruz County Supervisor to the California Coastal Commission. Both Stone and Oceanside City Council Member Esther Sanchez were appointed by Assembly Speaker Karen Bass in August.

"The Club deeply thanks Speaker Bass for considering the environment in her new appointments to the CCC. It will be a pleasure to work with someone with Mark's depth of knowledge of the Coastal Act," said Rita Dalessio, Chapter Chair.

Mark Stone has served as Santa Cruz

County's 5th District Supervisor since 2003, leading efforts to protect water quality and endangered species. Previously, he served on the Scotts Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees from 1998 to 2003 and has maintained a private law practice in Scotts Valley.

"The Coastal Act makes clear that appropriate 'development' can be permitted in the Coastal Zone, but only when that development is accomplished in a way that maintains long-term protection for coastal resources," Stone said. "We have learned, from more than 30 years experience with



the Coastal Act, that following the resource protection and management policies spelled out in the Coastal Act not only

protects the integrity of our natural environment, but helps ensure the economic health of coastal communities and the state as a whole."

Mark is concerned with ocean health and recently successfully completed a swim of the English Channel.

Sierra's top 20 coolest schools of 2009

1. University of Colorado at Boulder
2. University of Washington at Seattle
3. Middlebury College (Vermont)
4. University of Vermont
5. College of the Atlantic (Maine)
6. Evergreen State College (Washington)
7. University of California at Santa Cruz
8. University of California at Berkeley
9. University of California at Los Angeles
10. Oberlin College (Ohio)
11. Harvard University
12. University of New Hampshire
13. Arizona State University at Tempe
14. Yale University (Connecticut)
15. University of Florida at Gainesville
16. Bates College (Maine)
17. Willamette University (Oregon)
18. Warren Wilson College (NC)
19. Dickinson College (Pennsylvania)
20. New York University

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Our yard has been certified as wildlife habitat

by Celia Scott

When the deer came down the hill behind our house and made a meal of our almost ripe tomatoes last summer, we knew that our yard in the midst of Santa Cruz was a *de facto* wildlife habitat. Not that we were totally surprised, after discovering that early crops of persimmons and walnuts disappeared without a trace (raccoons, squirrels?) and pears not picked promptly became bird food. We have an extraordinary number of bird species that arrive at our feeders throughout the year and inundate our garden during the fall migrations to consume as many red berries as their little bodies can hold.

Birds nest in our yard; bees and butterflies make themselves at home; and a few days ago a gopher snake slithered down our driveway. We also have gophers!

By chance I read an article in *On Earth*,

the magazine of the Natural Resources Defense Council, about a property owner in Arcata, CA who had her 6000 square foot urban home site certified as a wildlife habitat by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). Since 1973 NWF has certified over 113,000 habitats nationwide, including private properties, more than 3100 schools, restaurants, hospitals, places of worship, community parks, corporate buildings, and municipal facilities.

The new knowledge spurred me to action. I obtained a habitat certification application from NWF, filled it out, and sent it in with a \$15 fee. In order to be certified, a property must provide four basic elements: food, water, cover, and places to raise young. The property must also be cared for with sustainable gardening practices. We were certain our yard would qual-



Peter Scott

ify. We had the four basic elements, and for years we have avoided the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, used native plants as much as possible, have no lawn, and

practice composting.

A few weeks later our Certified Wildlife Habitat certificate (suitable for framing) arrived, and we ordered a weatherproof, recycled aluminum sign which is now posted along our driveway. We now put netting over our tomatoes and line our herb and vegetable beds with wire to protect from gopher intrusion. The pleasure we gain from sharing our yard with our wildlife friends easily compensates for the loss of some edibles. Additionally, there is the satisfaction of knowing that we have taken some small steps toward ecological balance and a healthy, livable planet for all creatures.

If you are inspired to seek certification for your own corner of the world, explore the certified wildlife habitat program of the National Wildlife Federation at www.nwf.org/habitat or call 1-800-822-9919.

Assembly resolution puts pressure on Feds to enforce Marine Mammal Act

Last month, the California Legislature passed AJR 8, a resolution authored by Assemblymember Bill Monning (D-Carmel), urging the National Marine Fisheries Service to immediately ban imports of foreign-caught swordfish that do not meet federal standards for marine mammal protection.

"By enforcing existing law, the federal government will encourage importers of swordfish to reduce their marine mammal bycatch," said Assemblymember Monning. "This bill sends a strong message to the federal government to do the right thing."

Under Section 101 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, any country wishing to export fish products to the United States must provide proof that their fishing practices do not harm or kill marine mammals

in excess of U.S. standards. Unfortunately, the U.S. government has not enforced this provision for over 35 years, despite evidence showing that foreign fishing fleets kill hundreds of thousands of marine mammals every year.

Nevertheless, the U.S. government has allowed the importation of swordfish from more than 40 countries without requiring any proof of impacts on marine mammals.

Scientists estimate that global fisheries catch approximately 300,000 marine mammals, including whales, dolphins, seals, and sea lions, each year. Foreign swordfish fleets, which generally use gillnets and longlines, are particularly deadly to marine mammals.

The Marine Mammal Protection Act was designed to ensure that U.S. fishers are not put at a competitive disadvantage to poorly-regulated foreign fleets, and to put market pressure on foreign nations to reduce impacts on marine mammals. Nevertheless, the U.S. government has allowed the

importation of swordfish from more than 40 countries without requiring any proof of impacts on marine mammals.

AJR 8 was approved with the goal of building momentum to change federal policy and allow domestic swordfish fishers to compete on an even playing field with foreign importers of swordfish, as well as to protect marine mammals around the world.

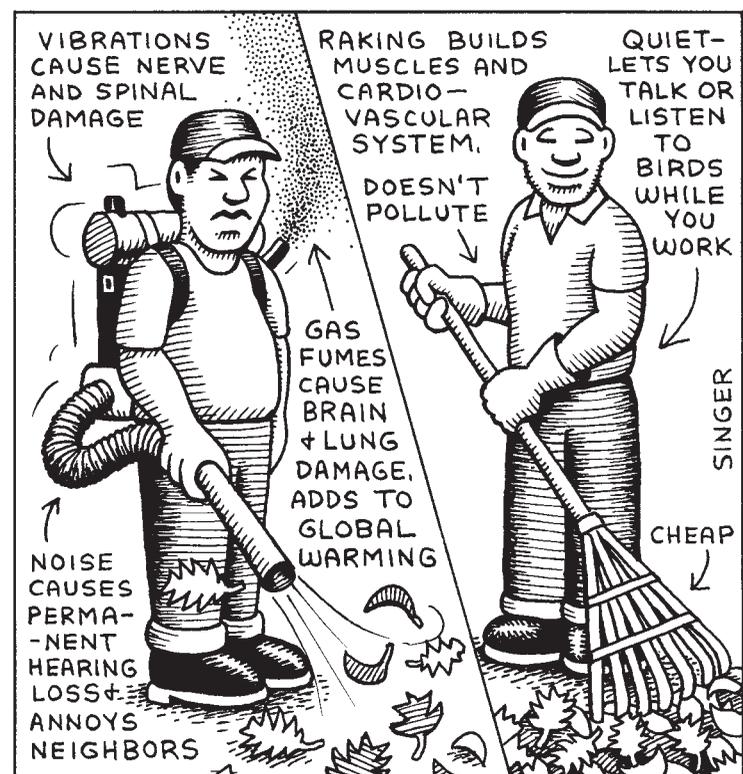
Every hour you idle, you waste up to 0.7 gallons of gas (depending on your engine type). . . . In a given year, U.S. cars burn some 1.4 billion gallons of fuel just idling. Not to mention trucks, which waste another 1.5 billion gallons. Collectively, we emit about 58 million tons of carbon dioxide while we're essentially doing nothing.

Bo b Schildgen (Mr. Green)

NO EXIT

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Sierra Club Events

Friday, October 9

Potluck & Slides: The Future of Walking

With climate change on the horizon, what will walking be like in the future? *Ventana* editor, Debbie Bulger is also a member of the Santa Cruz Group Transportation Committee and a pedestrian advocate. 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. Donations of \$1 or more for projector maintenance would be appreciated. For directions call George, 335-7748.

Saturday, October 31 - Sunday, November 1

Day of the Dead Weekend fete

Enjoy a costume parade, games, a piñata, and other fun. Explore another cultural view of remembrance of someone in your past at

Save the date

Western Wilderness Conference 2010

by Vicki Hoover, Chair Sierra Club CA/ NV Wilderness Committee

For those who care about the wild places of the West, mark your calendars now for the Western Wilderness Conference, April 8-10 at UC Berkeley.

Western Wilderness Conference 2010 will:

- inspire interested new advocates, including students, to preserve our nation's remaining wild places;
 - re-inspire longtime dedicated wilderness advocates to vigorous new advocacy with renewed motivation;
 - offer a forum to discuss and debate timely wilderness-related topics, particularly as they relate to global warming changes;
 - explore how to incorporate Native American traditional land-ethic and cultural values into wildlands advocacy;
 - promote getting children *outside* into Nature's wild places!
 - provide training sessions to help activists become more effective advocates for wild places;
 - and have fun!
- Speakers, plenary sessions, workshops, music, meals, outings.

Sierra Club, California Wilderness Coalition, and Northwest Parks and Wilderness Conference are the main planning organizations. The *Ventana* Chapter has donated \$2500 toward the expenses of this conference. Check out the conference website: www.westernwilderness.org.

Clair Tappaan Lodge in the Tahoe Sierra. For information and reservations, call the lodge at 1-800-679-6775 or click on ctl.sierraclub.org.

Wednesday, November 4

Outing Leaders Meeting Monterey

Please come and check out our new meeting place at the Monterey Public Library at 7:15 p.m. No snacks or drinks; bring your own water. Hope to see you. Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Friday, November 13

Potluck & Slides: Potpourri

Several people will present favorite slides. If you have a few slides (1-10 or more) to contribute let George know in advance of the show. 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. Donations of \$1 or more for projector maintenance would be appreciated. For directions call George, 335-7748.

Friday, November 20

Potluck & Pics:

John Muir Trail Survivor

Join us for a video presentation of John and Julie's backpack in the Sierras this past summer! Potluck starts at 6:30. Bring food to share and your own washable plate, cup, utensils and serving utensils. Call for details after November 6. John Howerton, 476-4253.



John Howerton and Julie Hitchcock admire the view from the Bighorn Plateau along the John Muir Trail.

Tuesday, December 8

Senior Holiday Lunch

This year, we'll lunch at Jalisco's in Watsonville, a long time favorite with great food. Prices, entree selection to follow later. Meet before 11:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or go direct to Jalisco's on Main Street. Leader: Pat Herzog, 458-9841.



Non-Sierra Club Events of Interest

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

Saturdays

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, redwdrn@pacbell.net, 462-4041. Website: www.cruzcnps.org.

October 10, Younger Lagoon

October 24, Natural Bridges State Park

November 7, site to be determined

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.montereybaycnps.org.

Watsonville 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 Center at Pajaro Valley HS. Gloves, tools, and snack provided. Call Jonathan Pilch, 728-4106, for more info. No experience necessary.

Saturday, October 24 - Sunday, October 25

Wilderness First Aid

If you plan to spend time in the backcountry, you need to be prepared. Fast-paced and hands-on, this two-day course covers a wide range of wilderness medicine topics for people who travel in the outdoors.

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. both days. Register online at ucsc recreation.com. \$200.



The unraveling of Elkhorn Slough

These comparison photos and the topographic map below show the changes which have occurred in Elkhorn Slough over the years. The railroad line can clearly be seen on the map and then identified in the photographs. In the 1931 photo the expansive extent of the salt marsh matches the marsh indicated

on the 1914 map, but by 1956, one can see that the marsh had been drained and farm fields established. In the 2005 photo, the farming has ceased, but the land has subsided and water is displacing marsh. To learn about the causes and a proposed solution, turn the page.



1914



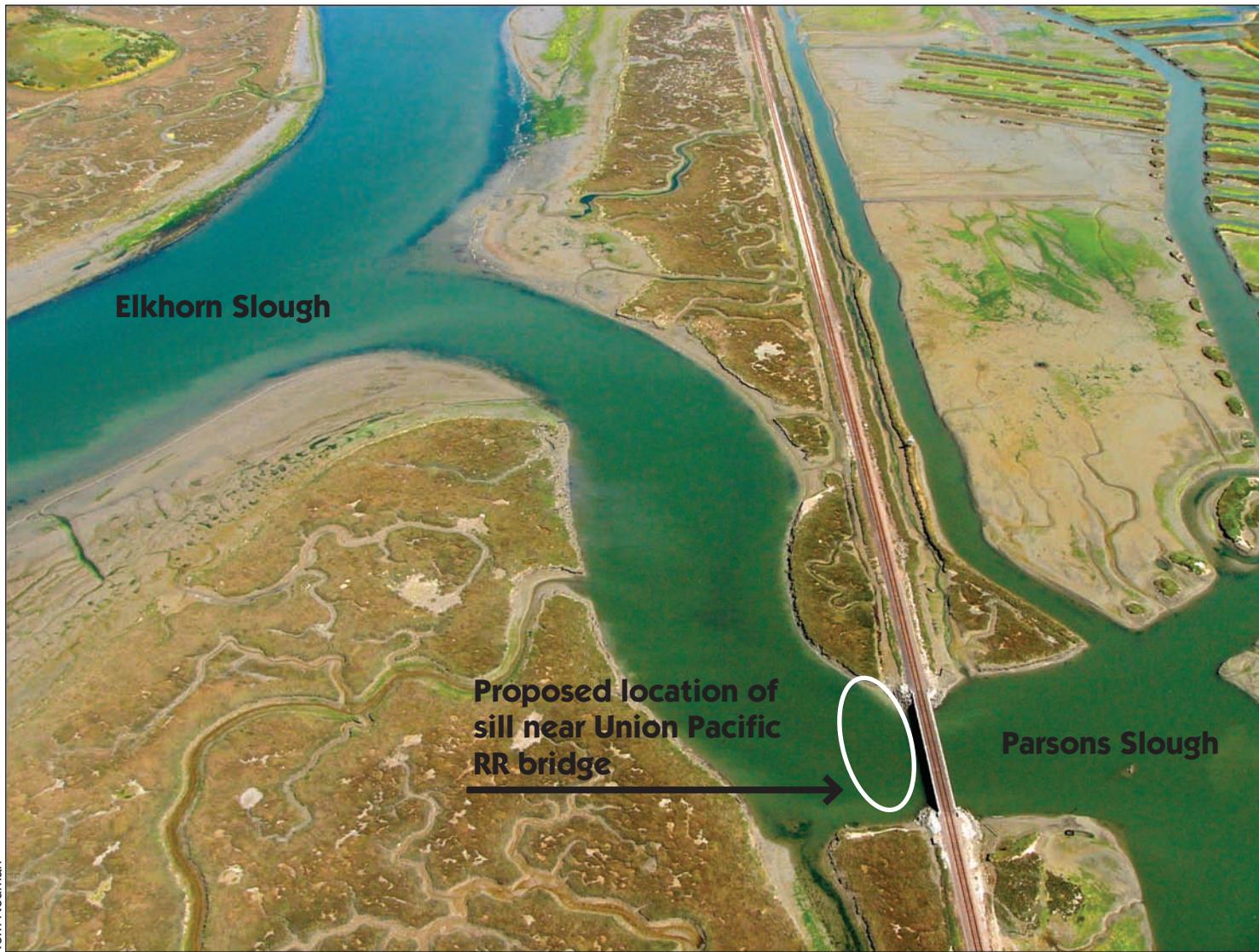
1931



1956



2005



Tom Neuman



Ventana staff

Pickleweed grows around the edges of the salt marsh. It is able to thrive in environments too salty for many other plants.

See page 7 for other aerial photographs of Elkhorn Slough.

Parsons Slough project could restore tidal marsh

The Elkhorn Slough salt marsh habitat is unraveling. The deterioration has many causes including the construction of Moss Landing harbor in 1947 (which allowed tides full access to the Slough scouring away soft mud), the yearly breaching of the sandbar at the mouth of the Salinas River to protect farmland from flooding, and the diking and draining of large areas of the slough for farming in the early 20th century.

Elkhorn Slough consists of 800 acres of salt marshes with tidal creeks and 1600 acres of mudflats. In the 1800s there was twice as much salt marsh as mud flats. Today, the salt marsh is dying off because it is wet too much of the time. Additionally the depth of the water channel has changed. In the 1800s the depth of the channel ranged from 5-10 feet; today it is 20 feet deep. The tidal scouring has resulted in a hardened bed which makes it more difficult for clams and other invertebrates to burrow.

Working over the last five years, a group of 100 scientists and conservationists have developed plans to slow down the deterioration and preserve the tidal marshes and other estuarine habitats in Elkhorn Slough. They are planning a test project in Parsons Slough, a branch of Elkhorn Slough.

This project, called the Tidal Wetlands Project, has three goals:

- Conserve estuarine habitat,
- Restore lost estuarine habitat, and
- Restore the processes that sustain the system.

The solution proposed is an adjustable tidal barrier at the entrance to Parsons Slough with detailed monitoring so appropriate adjustments could be made. Almost \$4 million has been granted from Federal Stimulus Funds for an analysis of alternatives and partial design of the project which is not expected to inhibit movement of marine mammals or alter the Leopard shark nursery created since the building of the harbor. The beauty of the project's conceptual design is its reversibility should any impacts be adverse.

Restoration is a delicate balancing act. The Slough needs tidal action to maintain high levels of dissolved oxygen to sustain a healthy invertebrate community. Yet, too much tidal action can scour the Slough, cause erosion of the banks, and keep the salt marsh submerged too long. Restoration managers must also balance the existing needs of the harbor, agriculture, and other users.

Parsons Slough historically supported



Barb Peichel

Mud flats are increasing at Elkhorn Slough. In the 1800s there was twice as much salt marsh as mud flats. Today the ratio of salt marsh to mud flats is reversed. The salt marsh is dying because it is wet too much of the time.

400 acres of tidal march, but now only 35 acres remain. In the first half of the 20th century the area was diked off and drained for farming. When the dikes broke in 1982, the tides returned but the salt marsh did not because the land surface had dropped making the area too wet for salt marsh plants.

If the tidal exchange could be reduced, the salt marsh plants would be exposed to salt water for shorter periods of time, increasing the area where salt marsh plants could survive. Reducing the tidal ex-

change at Parsons Slough slightly would slow currents in many other parts of Elkhorn Slough, increasing the viability of salt marsh and soft mud habitats throughout the estuary.

Ninety-seven percent of salt marshes in California have been lost. If nothing is done to restore natural processes, we are may lose the remainder.

Elkhorn Slough is largely owned by the California Department of Fish and Game.

Measure G would give home rule to Carmel Valley



An artist's depiction of what the Rancho Cañada subdivision would look like, if approved. The project includes placing 220,000 cubic yards of fill in the flood plain of the Carmel River.

Measure G would create the Town of Carmel Valley and give local citizens control over land use and development. The Sierra Club believes local control would provide far greater stewardship of this narrow river valley than the County now exercises. The Club has endorsed Measure G.

The Monterey County Board of Supervisors has not been a responsible steward for Carmel Valley. A small and delicate ecosystem, the Carmel River valley has been overrun with development approvals in recent years despite being under a state court order for 14 years to curtail water use. In the last few years the County has approved 1,183 new housing units in Carmel Valley—an increase of about 20% in Carmel Valley's current housing stock. These units have not yet been built, so their impact is not apparent to most residents.

Additionally, Monterey County is currently processing applications for another 1,052 housing units including, most ominously, the Rancho Cañada subdivision. If approved, these proposed housing units would increase the total housing stock in Carmel Valley by still another 20%.

Rancho Cañada consists of about 300 housing units. The project includes placing 220,000 cubic yards of fill in the flood plain of the Carmel River. The developers would do this in order to raise the subdivision above the 100-year flood plain. Thus, in a 100-year flood, 220,000 cubic yards of water would be newly displaced with unknown but likely unpleasant consequences. The last 100-year flood occurred 95 years ago.

The Rancho Cañada subdivision would also detrimentally affect the award-winning Hilton Bialek Biological Sciences Habitat at Carmel Middle School. Wildlife corridors that connect the habitat with the Carmel River would be paved over and densely packed with housing units, effectively destroying the corridors. The thicket in which bird banding now occurs would be replaced by a two-story condo complex.

Carmel Valley has neither the water nor the road infrastructure to accommodate all this new development. The combined 40% increase in housing stock together with other development projects would generate about 28,000 new daily car trips in Carmel Valley, or greater than a 50% increase in traffic.

If you live in Carmel Valley, we urge you to vote **Yes on G**. If you live elsewhere, we urge you to help the campaign. For more information, please visit www.CitizensForCarmelValley.com.

Vote YES on Measure G

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Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

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Hiking trail and wildlife corridor from Nisene to Cabrillo nearing finalization

by Kathryn Britton

Nisene 2 Sea, a mid-Santa Cruz County grass roots organization, has been working since 1998 to keep a corridor of public lands between the summit of the Santa Cruz Mountains and Monterey Bay open for public use. A key link in this corridor is the privately-owned but undeveloped 142-acre Koch Property which has been used for decades by the public for access between Cabrillo College lands and The Forest of Nisene Marks State Park.

In 1998, the property was purchased from the Koch family by two San Jose real estate development companies, S&P Carmichael Enterprises, Inc. and Men-Chy Properties, who hoped to build a number of estate homes there and block all historic public access.

To date the developers have not succeeded in their development effort and have not yet restricted public use of the extensive

trails on this property. The developers continue to state that when they start development, they will block all public access.

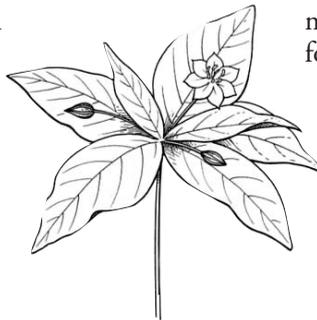
In April 2008, the County of Santa Cruz approved a large view home and barn on the property. This approval was granted in return for the developers' transfer of the "County Trail Easement," a public trail route across their acreage connecting Cabrillo College property to the Vienna Woods Trail in The Forest of Nisene Marks. Second District Supervisor, Ellen Pirie, was pivotal in securing this trail easement.

In late April 2009, the developers finally filed their application for a building permit to build the hillside home but, to date, have delayed

in clearing up deficiencies in the application which must be approved before building can begin.

Since grading cannot proceed during the winter months, the earliest building can start is after April 15, 2010. As a result, it is likely that the entire 142 acres will continue to remain open for public use until then.

Nisene 2 Sea has successfully raised the estimated \$7500 needed to complete the formal survey of the County Trail Easement. The County is ready to move forward without delay when the trail easement is formally conveyed to the County. The ultimate goal is to have the trail completed and available for public use before the developers block public access through the 142 acres.



NEWSCLIPS

Coffee too hot

If global warming weren't bad enough, now we learn that rising temperatures might favor the coffee berry borer which is bad for the beans. The good news is that this threat might encourage more coffee growers to cultivate shade-grown coffee. Shade harbors the borers' predators.

Our first step

New fuel economy standards issued in September by the EPA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration are the Nation's first plan to regulate greenhouse gases. The rules will accelerate the adoption of the 35.5 mpg standard four years ahead of schedule. The rules must be finalized by March 2010.

Cars, light trucks, and SUVs emit almost 60% of our transportation-related green-

house gas emissions. While a significant change from actions of the previous administration, the new standards still fall short of what Europe, Japan, and China have right now. The plan will increase fuel efficiency gradually with the 35.5 mpg goal being achieved by 2016 models.

Dirty tricks

Representative Ed Markey (D-MA), Chair of the House Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, expressed outrage at forged letters urging legislators to vote against the climate and energy bill. The forgeries purported to be from prominent civil rights groups, an American Legion Chapter, and other groups but were actually from coal lobbyists.

PG&E quits Chamber

PG&E has quit the U.S. Chamber of

Commerce because of the Chamber's extreme views on global warming. This announcement comes on the heels of the Sierra Club's petition to the Chamber, which garnered 31,000 signers asking the member businesses to tell the Chamber to reflect their majority viewpoint that the science on global warming is settled and action must be taken.

Walkable worth more

A study of home prices in Seattle revealed that people are willing to pay more for houses that are in walking distance of stores and services. Of course they are. Walking saves money and keeps you in shape!

Blow the whistle

If you know of any staged events, forged letters, or other unethical or criminal behavior designed to kill the clean energy bill, here's your chance to blow the whistle. Call the free hotline created by the AAUW, NAACP, National Wildlife Federation, Center for American Progress Action Fund, and the Sierra Club. 1-866-363-4648.

Farr seeks upgrade of Pinnacles to National Park

Representative Sam Farr has introduced legislation that would upgrade the status of Pinnacles National Monument to a National Park. The bill would also add 2,905 acres to Pinnacles wilderness. The new park would encompass more than 26,000 acres.

Well known to local hikers, Pinnacles was designated a National Monument by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908. This landscape of towering pinnacles, steep cliffs, huge monoliths, and talus caves is half of the ancient Neenach Volcano that has migrated up the San Andreas Fault from southern California over millions of years.

Since 2003, Pinnacles has served as a release site for the endangered California condor and has become an important part of the California Condor Recovery Program. These magnificent birds may be viewed from observation points near the monument entrance or spotted soaring over the High Peaks area.

Within the monument, an existing wilderness area now protects approximately 16,000 acres. The current legislation will permanently protect another 2,905 acres from the possibility of roads or other intrusions. Lower Chalone Creek, as well as the slopes of Chalone Peak, are included in the new wilderness proposal. Prior to wilderness designation in 1976, the Ventana Chapter was instrumental in stopping an extension of Highway 146 through Pinnacles which would have bisected the monument.

The bill would also rename the Pinnacles Wilderness as the Hain Wilderness in honor of brothers Arthur and Schuyler Hain who were early homesteaders in the area. Their tireless efforts led to the creation of the original 2,500 acre National Monument.

Fishing rods donated to youth programs

Sierra Club and Trout Unlimited will work together to get kids outdoors and fishing. As part of the new partnership, Sierra Club will donate 700 fly fishing rods and reels to Trout Unlimited to use for their youth programs and outreach.

The new partnership is part of an effort that started in 2008 when the Sierra Club began working with the Federation of Fly Fishers to encourage children to fish. The groups donated 2,800 fishing rods to programs that so far have taken over 98,000 kids fishing.

The Club believes that outdoor experiences will help build the next generation of conservationists who will continue working to protect clean water and natural lands.

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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.

Moving?

Please fill out and mail the change of address form on p.15 or email address.changes@sierraclub.org. The post office charges us 70¢ each if they handle the address change. Please help the Club by handling address changes in a timely fashion.

Thanks!

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.

OCTOBER

Sunday, October 11

HIKE: SOBERANES CREEK/ROCKY RIDGE

This 5-mile loop with 1700' elevation gain features great terrain variety. We'll follow the Soberanes Creek Trail into the verdant redwood grove then climb steeply to grassy knolls for the spectacular view at lunch. Then we descend Rocky 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, October 13

HIKE: MAPLE FALLS

This 6-mile Nisene Marks hike with 700' elevation gain takes us through a lovely forest along beautiful creeks and eventually to serene Maple Falls. Some agility is required. 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. sharp. Call for reservation. Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Tuesday, October 13

SENIOR HIKE: WADDELL / BIG BASIN

5-mile hike on tree-lined dirt roads, sun & shade. Some uphill. We'll take the Marsh Trail to Nature Center for lunch. Prepare for sun/heat/dust/fog/wind. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Avenue or at 9:50 a.m. at Shen's at Mission & King Streets. Bring lunch, water, \$4 carpool. Leader: Pat Herzog, 458-9841.

Friday, October 16

BIKE RIDE: PACIFIC GROVE TO MARINA

Let's explore the links in the Coast Trail through Monterey and Sand City and see how they connect with the Monterey/Pacific Grove Rec. Trail and the Fort Ord Dunes State Park. Meet at Lovers Point in Pacific Grove at 10:00 a.m. at the start of the Rec. Trail. Please arrive with your bicycle in working condition with the tires properly inflated. Our route will be almost all on paved bike trails with some street work at the Marina end and behind Costco in Sand

City. Expect a relatively flat ride with a few short, sharp hills. Be prepared for headwinds and some congestion on the trail, especially around the Fisherman's Wharf area on the return trip. Total distance is about 30 miles, but we'll take it at a leisurely pace. Helmets mandatory. Bring water and lunch which we'll eat at Locke Paddon Park in Marina. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372 7427.

Saturday, October 17

HIKE: MAL PASO TO ROCKY RIDGE

We'll meander up a private road above Mal Paso Creek 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 5-6 miles with 1000' of elevation gain. Bring lunch, water, and wear good hiking boots. Call early for reservations, meeting time and place. Leader: Larry Parrish, 622-7455.

Tuesday, October 20

SENIOR HIKE: MT. MADONNA

Moderate 3½-mile hike. We'll return via Gizdich Farms for dessert. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. To go direct, meet by 10:00 a.m. just beyond the park's kiosk entrance by restrooms or call leader. Bring lunch, water, \$3 carpool, and share of entrance fee. Leader: Joan Brohmer, 462-3803.

Saturday, October 24

HIKE: MEDICINE BUDDHA

This loop does not enter Nisene Marks proper but loops back to the west along Bates Creek to our start. 7-8 miles with 1200' elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Home Depot parking lot in Soquel farthest area away from the store and closest to 41st Ave to carpool. Call if this new meeting place is confusing. Leader: Nick Wyckoff 462-3101.

Sunday, October 25

HIKE: MT MANUEL TO POST SUMMIT

Another look into the areas burned by the fires last year along with outstanding coastal views. We'll climb 3000' up Mt Manuel before dropping then climbing 1000' to Post summit ending at Molera State Park. A long hot hike with some brushy trails. 12 miles; expect to spend all day. Bring hat, sunscreen, lunch and snack, sturdy boots, 2 liters water minimum. Leaving Sears 41st Ave. 7:30 a.m. sharp. Leaving Rio Road Park and Ride at 8:30 a.m. Leader: John Howerton, 476-4253.



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.

Clair Tappaan Lodge is the perfect autumn base camp for anyone who enjoys the wide variety of activities offered by the Tahoe area. Autumn is the secret season in the Sierra when the summer crowds go home, temperatures cool off, and the fall colors come out. Short hikes to secluded mountain lakes are perfect for introducing the family to the mountains. The nearby Pacific Crest Trail offers expansive views for both novice and advanced hikers. Donner Lake offers great kayaking and fishing while Donner Summit has long been a destination for rock climbers and mountain bikers.

Guests enjoy excellent family style meals, a friendly staff and a casual and communal atmosphere. See you on Donner Summit...



For more information about the Lodge 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.

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

OUTINGS

Tuesday, October 27

SENIOR WALK: NEARY LAGOON/WHARF

3-mile walk from Lighthouse Field to Neary Lagoon to Santa Cruz Wharf. Bring lunch or eat at one of the wharf's restaurants. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at 9:50 a.m. at the Lighthouse Field parking lot across the street from the museum. \$2 carpool. Leader: Jean Harrison, 425-5447.

Tuesday, October 27

HIKE: GARZAS CREEK

Our 4½-mile loop with 900' elevation gain takes us through a redwood canyon and along Garzas Creek with six picturesque crossings. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early, we depart at 10:00 a.m. sharp from Park & Ride on Rio Road. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Saturday, October 31

HIKE: MILL CREEK

The trail at Mill Creek takes us 5 miles round trip on the best-engineered trail in Big Sur, so we'll call it moderately easy at our slowpoke pace. We'll walk out to a high point above the ocean for great views of the coast and return by the same well-graded trail. The requirement for parking permits means you must reserve a space, so call leader by Friday the 29th. Dress in layers and wear sturdy shoes; bring lunch and water. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Park and Ride on Rio Road. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 1

HIKE: TERRACE CREEK

Let's see the surroundings of the August 2008 fires and the new growth. We'll hike up the Pine Ridge Trail for about 5 miles, then go up beautiful Terrace Creek Trail to the old Coast Road and walk back down via the Ventana Resort. 11 miles with 1600' elevation gain. We will take it very slowly! Great views up and down the coast from the Road. Bring a big lunch and lots of water. Meet at Save Mart for a car shuttle. Call before to confirm and for meeting time. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Friday - Sunday, November 6 - 8

MOJAVE NAT L PRESERVE SERVICE TRIP

Help the Mojave National Preserve clean up a large illegal dump that has built up over the years. Work all day Saturday and until noon on Sunday. A barbecue will be provided by Preserve staff Saturday evening. A hike is planned for those arriving in the morning on Friday. There will be a Ranger talk about the Preserve on Friday. Camping will be rustic, with a portable restroom. High clearance vehicle is recommended to access the site, but we can shuttle people and gear if needed. Email or call leader for reservation information. Leader: Rich Juricich, rich.sac@packbell.net, 916-492-2181.

Saturday, November 7

HIKE: CASTLE ROCK, SAN LORENZO RIVER HEADWATERS

Starting at the park boundary at Hwy. 9, we'll cross the San Lorenzo River within 100 yds of the spring that is its true headwaters and walk to the campgrounds we visited 2 months ago. 8 miles and 1300' elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call Nick for additional information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Saturday, November 7

HIKE: WILDER RANCH

This is a reschedule of the hike I had to cancel due to smoke! We will hike through open meadows and several beautiful forested areas. Lunch at the top of the Eucalyptus Loop with sweeping ocean view. 10-mile loop, 900' elevation gain. Bring water, lunch, and wear comfortable shoes. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Pamela Burnham, 428-2796.

Sunday, November 8

HIKE: PT. LOBOS

We'll start this 4-mile hike around the edges of beautiful Point Lobos at the highway, go to Whaler's Cove, to the top of Whaler's Knoll via North Shore Trail and return via southern trails. There is usually wildlife to see and the Whaler's Cabin (if open). Meet at the Park & Ride on Rio Road, for a short carpool. Call leader to reserve a space and for meeting time. Bring snack, water, and binoculars if you like for close-ups of animal life. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Tuesday, November 10

SENIOR HIKE: JACKS PEAK

We'll hike a Monterey Pine forest atop the highest point of the Monterey Peninsula. Great views. Some hills, but not too steep. NOTE - WE WILL MEET BEFORE 10:00 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. as park opens at 11:00 a.m. To go direct, take Hwy. 1 then 68 east. See sign for park entrance across from airport entrance. Restrooms. Bring lunch, water, \$4 carpool, and share of entrance fee. Rain cancels. Leader: Pat Herzog, 458-9841.

Sunday, November 15

HIKE: SOBERANES CREEK/ROCKY RIDGE

This 5-mile loop with 1700' elevation gain features great terrain variety. We'll follow the Soberanes Creek Trail into the verdant redwood grove, then climb steeply to grassy knolls for a spectacular view at lunch. Then we descend Rocky Ridge with more fine views. Boots are 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.

Getting to outings

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



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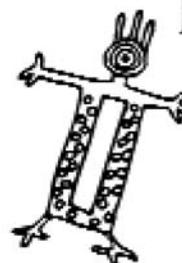
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Tuesday, November 17
**SENIOR WALK: LIGHTHOUSE FIELD/
 WEST CLIFF DRIVE**

3-mile walk from Lighthouse Field to Natural Bridges. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at 9:50 a.m. at Lighthouse Field at parking lot across street from museum. Bring lunch, water, \$2 carpool. We'll lunch at Natural Bridges. Leader: Jean Harrison, 425-5447.

Thursday, November 19
WALK: ELKHORN SLOUGH

There should be plenty of migrating birds to enjoy. Bring your binoculars & \$2.50 entrance fee for this 5-mile walk around the National Estuarine Research Reserve. Sack lunch is optional as great restaurants are nearby. Arrive early; we depart at 9:00 a.m. sharp from the Visitor's Center parking lot. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Saturday, November 21
HIKE: LOMPICO CREEK HEADWATERS

Lompico Creek Headwaters was acquired recently by Sempervirens Fund. It is located in an old and scenic area near Felton. 4-5 miles with 800' elevation gain. Some steep and difficult trails. Wear boots. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call for more information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Sunday, November 22
HIKE: BIG BASIN, TREE TO SEA

Fall colors should be strong, although there is never a bad time to do this hike. 14 miles from park headquarters to Waddell Beach. Meet at the Santa Cruz Metro Bus Center at 8:20 a.m. to catch the 35A for the ride to the park. The bus leaves on time. Exact change needed for bus. (\$1.50 adult, 75¢ over age 62.) Leader: John Howerton, 476-4253.

Tuesday, November 24
SENIOR HIKE: HARVEY WEST

An easy 3 miles through the redwood forest and the historic Evergreen Cemetery. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at 9:50 a.m. at the Harvey West parking area by the ball fields. We'll lunch there. Bring lunch, water, \$2 carpool. Leader: Janet Schwind, 425-3845.

Wednesday, November 25
**BACKPACK/HIKE:
 THANKSGIVING AT PINE RIDGE**

If you do not have plans for Thanksgiving Day, come spend it with us in Pine Valley with Jack English. Backpack to Jack's Cabin and join him and his guests for a great Thanksgiving Dinner. Stay as many days as you like. It will be a holiday you will not forget. If you have not been to Pine Valley in the Ventana Wilderness, it is a must! The mountain ranges are spectacular. The rock formations are incredible. The meadow above Jack's place is soothing for the soul. For information and reservation, call leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

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



Saturday, November 28
HIKE: COASTAL HIKES

A more gentle walk to get rid of some of our Thanksgiving indulgences. A series of shorter hikes, totaling 8 miles that take in the beauty, nature and history of our coast. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center parking lot at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. Bring lunch, water, binoculars, and wind protection. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Pamela Burnham, 428-2796.

Saturday, November 28
**HIKE: OLD COACH ROAD TO
 SAN JUAN BAUTISTA**

We'll hike on Old Coast Road all the way over the hills and down to San Juan Bautista. After lunch at one of the many restaurants or our own packed lunch, and after exploring the Mission and old town, we'll go back the same way, more uphill now. 12 miles and 1000' elevation gain at a leisurely pace—a good work-out after Thanksgiving. Bring a hat, water, and lunch or \$ for a restaurant. Wear good shoes and bring your hiking poles. Meet at Home Depot in Seaside near the gas station at 8:30 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Call to confirm the hike. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Tuesday, December 1
**WALK: ASILOMAR BEACH/
 PACIFIC GROVE LIGHTHOUSE**

A 4-mile hike along the Coast Trail to Pacific Grove Lighthouse with frequent stops to view birds, tide pools, otters, and maybe dolphins or whales. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the Fishwife Restaurant (Sunset Dr. and Asilomar Blvd) at 11:00 a.m. Those wishing to carpool from Santa Cruz meet at Sears 41st Ave. and leave there by 10:00 a.m. or sooner (no leader). Leader: Phyllis Hilton, 372-1714.

Saturday, December 5
HIKE: FT. ORD

We'll enter from the Reservation Rd. parking area. 6-8 miles and 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.

Saturday, December 5
HIKE: GARLAND RANCH

Come along on this 4+ mile hike. We'll walk up to the Mesa via Buckeye and Waterfall Trails, come back via Fern, Mesa, and Lupine Loop Trails. Nice valley views; trails may be muddy. Meet at Save Mart to carpool. Please call leader to reserve space and for meeting time, or if wanting to meet at Garland Ranch parking lot. Bring snack/lunch, and water. Rain cancels. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Sunday, December 6
HIKE: GARLAND RANCH

Do we need to work off some of that stuffing and pie we ingested back on Turkey Day? Let's hope for a clear day and puff up and down a few hills somewhere around Garland Ranch. Slow pace; under 5 miles. Dress in layers; bring lunch, water and hiking stick to help on tricky trail spots. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the main parking lot (*downhill from the shoulder of Carmel Valley Road!!!*) or if coming from town, check for carpools at the Rio Road Park and Ride at 9:40 a.m. No leader there, so just wave your rucksack around and see who responds. Real Rain cancels! Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

Tuesday, December 8
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 Park & Ride on Rio

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

Friday, December 11
HIKE: PACIFIC GROVE & BUTTERFLIES

Have the Monarchs returned to PG? Let's find out on this easy coastal walk of 5-6 miles. Meet at 10:00 a.m. outside the Fishwife restaurant, 1996 1/2 Sunset Drive. We'll walk around Spanish Bay and might even be lucky enough to spot a grey whale on its southern migration. From there we'll head along the coast to Rocky Shores, then up to the Butterfly Sanctuary, retuning via the old railroad trail. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy in the leaders' back yard near the end of the walk, or treat yourself to a late lunch at the Fishwife. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372 7427.

Saturday, December 12
HIKE: FALL CREEK

Enjoy the late fall colors in Fall Creek. This 9-mile hike is always spectacular no matter when you're there. 1200' elevation gain. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center parking lot at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. Bring water, lunch, and sturdy shoes or hiking boots. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Pamela Burnham, 928-2796.

Saturday - Sunday, December 12 - 13
**SERVICE AND HIKING
 IN A SOUTHERN DESERT**

This is the cooler season to visit the southern deserts. Our project on Saturday will be on the east side of the North Algodones Dunes Wilderness, approximately 20 miles east of Brawley, CA, where we will rebuild facilities at the Watchable Wildlife Site. Saturday evening is a carcamp with potluck dinner. Sunday we will take a recreational hike either from our work site or else in the nearby Indian Pass Wilderness. For information contact leader Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670.

DECEMBER

Harriet Brown
 Attorney at Law
 JD; LLM in Taxation



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Sunday, December 13

HIKE: WILDER RANCH

A nice long meander around the park taking the Engelsman, Long Meadow, Eucalyptus, Enchanted,

Baldwin and Ohlone Bluff Trails. A perfect place for a cooler fall day! Bring food and water; dress in layers. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:00 a.m. or Wilder Ranch at 9:20 a.m. Leader: John Howerton, 476-4253.

Monday - Saturday, December 28 - January 2

HOLIDAY SERVICE IN THE CARRIZO PLAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT

The Carrizo Plain, near San Luis Obispo, is a vast grassland home to pronghorn antelope, tule elk, kit fox, and a wide variety of birds. A welcome hike Dec. 28, three and a half days of service modifying barbed wire fencing, and a full day for hiking and exploring are planned. Use of accommodations at Goodwin Ranch included. Limited to 14 participants, \$30 covers five dinners. For more information, contact leader: Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, (310-477-6670), or co-leader Melinda Goodwater, mgoodwater@sbcglobal.net, (408-774-1257).

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

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Sierra Club Members are Great Prospects

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- Median Household Income: \$56,227
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- Cross-Country Skiing: 5 times more active
- Whitewater Rafting: 5.5 times more active

For Rate Information, Contact:
Debbie Bulger - 457-1036



Statement of ownership, management, and circulation

1) Publication title: The Ventana. 2) Publication number: 015-057. 3) Filing date: 9-24-2008. 4) Issue frequency: bimonthly. 5) Number of issues published annually: 6. 6) Annual subscription price: included with membership. 7) Complete mailing address of known office of publication: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 604, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0604. Contact person: D. Bulger, phone number: 831-457-1036. 8) Complete mailing address of headquarters or general business office of Publisher: P.O. Box 604, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0604. 9) Full names and complete mailing addresses for Publisher, Editor and Managing Editor: The address for the Publisher: Ventana Chapter Sierra Club, c/o P.O. Box 604, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0604. Publisher: Ventana Chapter. Editor/Managing Editor: Deborah F. Bulger, Address: 1603 King Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. 10) Owner: Ventana Chapter Sierra Club, P. O. Box 604, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0604. 11) Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities: none. 12) Tax status: has not changed. 13) Publication title: The Ventana. 14) Issue date for circulation data below: Vol. 48, No.4.

Extent and nature of circulation	Average # of copies each issue during preceding 12 months:	# of copies of issue published nearest to filing date:
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a) Total number of copies	7300	7000
b) Paid and/or requested circulation		
1) Outside County subscriptions	2200	2015
2) In-County subscriptions	3200	2832
3) Sales thru dealers, etc.	0	0
4) Other mailed	0	0
c) Total paid Distribution	5400	4847
d) Free distribution outside the mail		
1) Outside County	0	0
2) In-County	0	0
3) Other mailed	0	0
e) Free distribution outside the mail	1200	1400
f) Total free distribution	1200	1400
g) Total distribution	6600	6247
h) Copies not distributed	700	753
i) Total	7300	7000
j) Percent paid/requested circulation	82%	77.5%

16 Will be printed in Vol. 48, No.5
17. Signature of editor, 10/21/09
Deborah F. Bulger, Editor

Deborah F. Bulger

State releases climate change adaptation plan

California is the first state in the nation to release a comprehensive plan to guide adaptation to climate change. The Climate Adaptation Strategy Report summarizes the latest science on how climate change could impact the state and what we should do to manage these impacts.

The country's longest continuously operating gauge of sea level, at Fort Point in San Francisco Bay, recorded a seven-inch rise in sea level over the 20th century. That rise is expected to greatly accelerate in the present century.

How will climate change affect California? With rising temperatures wildlands fires will become more virulent and more frequent, water supplies will shrink, and almost half a million people will be threatened by sea level rise. The projected replacement value of property from sea level rise

and related storm events could reach a billion dollars in Santa Cruz County, \$10 billion in San Francisco and as high as \$24 billion in San Mateo County.

Key recommendations of the plan include

- Appointment of a Climate Adaptation Advisory Panel to lead the adaptation process.
- Reduce water consumption statewide by 20% per capita by 2020.
- Rethink development on areas at risk to sea-level rise, storm surges, or coastal erosion.
- Start planning for climate change in General Plans and Local Coastal Plans.
- Beef up fire fighting plans to include increased risks.
- Increase energy conservation.

A supporting assessment on projected sea level rise is being prepared by the California Resources Agency. This report, which will take into account coastal erosion rates, local uplift and subsidence, tidal impacts and other factors, will be available in December 2010. For more information visit www.climatechange.ca.gov/adaptation.



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HOW ARE YOU REDUCING YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT? Polar Bears want to know. Email dfbulger@cruzio.com.

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MEETING SCHEDULE

<p>Ventana Chapter (Monterey County) Information: 624-8032</p> <p>Executive Committee: First 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, October 14 at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 11 at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Conservation Committee: Call for meeting times and dates, 761-3263.</p>
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The VENTANA
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Suzie Bulger Silverman

The VENTANA
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 Voting Guide**

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- ✓ **NO on Measure I**
- ✓ **YES on Measure G**

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