Hikers enjoy Fall Creek with its intact riparian canopy, well vegetated soils, and second-growth trees along the creek banks.
We are ready to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

By the time you read this the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change will be winding up and we will know if we have the world's leadership in agreement on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This conference is an opportunity to negotiate a successor treaty to the Kyoto Protocol climate pact of 1997 and put the world on track for sustainable energy solutions. The global economy downturn has created a small window of opportunity for change by plunging current and near future energy demands, but this reduction is unlikely to remain as the economy rebounds.

According to world news reports, some major powers are taking strides to reduce carbon emissions. China has already been making investments in clean energy technology, and in the last two years has emerged as the world's leading builder of more efficient, less polluting coal power plants. While the United States is still debating whether to build a more efficient kind of coal-fired power plant that uses extremely hot steam, China has begun building such plants at a rate of one a month.

India and the United States signed an agreement last month to collaborate on energy security, energy efficiency, clean-energy technology, and research to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions. Both countries will work together on wind- and solar-energy development and clean-coal technology, including carbon capture and storage. Indonesia, the third biggest emitter of greenhouse gases after China and the US, is exploring several options to curb deforestation and peat emissions. South Korea has committed to adopting a 2020 emissions cap and plans to spend $85 billion over the next five years on initiatives that will encourage energy efficiency, renewable energy including solar and wind power, carbon credit trading, hybrid cars, and biofuels.

There is evidence that the United States is actually decarbonizing its economy at a remarkable rate. Only three years ago, projections were that U.S. emissions of CO2 would increase from 6 billion tons to 7.5 billion tons by 2020. Instead of increasing, they flattened out and then fell. But a national preoccupation with the slow economy and competing issues such as the health care crisis could delay or thwart continuing progress or prevent urgently needed legislation. Another impediment is the shortage of money flowing to basic energy research and large-scale demonstrations of non-polluting energy technology. While the Obama administration and Congress have directed some stimulus money to these objectives, such spending comes only after decades of declining investment in newer energy-saving practices.

If you are interested in working on these issues with a national focus, go to the Sierra Club National website for more information and updates: www.sierraclub.org.

—Rita Dalessio

It's not about polar bears; it's about people

You may have seen the film Earth which poignantly portrayed the plight of the polar bear. Because of climate change, these powerful animals may become extinct. The film showed footage of a stranded polar bear on too-thin Arctic ice unwittingly swimming out to sea and certain drowning. Completely dependent on sea ice for survival, the polar bear's very existence is threatened by a warming earth and consequent melting of that ice. Rising global temperatures also threaten the existence of the pica, a cuter than cute high-altitude mammal seen in the Sierra and other areas. The pica has fur so dense it overheats easily in warm temperatures. Since they live at high elevation, they have no place to go upward to cool off.

Scientists report that global warming threatens numerous other species including the lovely Bay checkerspot butterfly, emperor penguins, and ribbon seals. But there's shocking news that most of the films and fund appeals don't tell you. It's not just about polar bears and picas. These animals are only the symbolic canaries in the coal mine. It's about people.

Vote in the Chapter election

Ballot on page 15

Haven't we had enough elections lately? No!! The Sierra Club strives to provide members with opportunities to participate in both activities and policy decisions. Since it is difficult to bring all members together to vote on policies, we ask all members to vote for Executive Committee members who will represent the membership as issues arise.

This year we also ask you to vote on three bylaw changes designed to bring our Ventana Chapter bylaws into compliance with the National Sierra Club's guidelines. These are fairly minor changes, having to do with Ex-Com meeting frequency and the nominating process for chapter candidates. They are self-explanatory, as shown on the ballot on page 15, and the current chapter Ex-Com has voted to endorse them.

Please take the time to read the statements of the candidates and to mark and mail your ballot as directed.

Articles received after deadline may not be published.
**Why salmon are going extinct**

**Cumulative impacts devastating**

by Kevin Collins

It can be confusing to hear that expensive projects are being conducted to benefit an endangered species, but at the same time be told that the animals are continuing to die out. The reasons are both simple and complex. Depending on where you look in California, the problems for salmon may be an issue of a dam built in 1955 or a stream pumped dry in the summer of 2009. All these impacts combine to harm these animals.

First it is necessary to understand that vast regions of the state were forever eliminated as salmon habitat during the dam building frenzy of the first 70 years of the 20th century. The Sierra Nevada and Cascade mountains once provided thousands of streams where salmon could reproduce. Salmon are now blocked from huge parts of their former range.

It was assumed that fish hatcheries could replace streams for the spawning and rearing of young fish. In the long run this strategy has not worked, but it has taken decades for people to learn this. The salmon that remain in the Sacramento, the Feather, and other interior rivers where dams were built, are nearly all hatchery origin fish. Their genetic diversity has been severely reduced. These artificial fish populations do not have the strength and adaptability to replace wild fish because natural selection was not at work in the hatchery to allow only the fittest offspring to survive.

Heavy fishing pressure has also affected the life cycle of Chinook (king) salmon. Some of these big salmon once spent up to five years in the ocean, but few Chinook live five years in the ocean, but few Chinook live past three years before being caught prior to reproducing. The Chinook life cycle is now less diverse making these fish more vulnerable to droughts and poor ocean condition. Hatchery fish may go out to sea but fewer and fewer return to spawn. Many people tend to think of fish as automations. They are actually complex wild animals. Salmon must possess the ability to navigate, to evade predators, to find food, and reproduce in constantly changing environments. Life in a hatchery concrete trough being fed food pellets does not select for survival traits. In only a few generations, many fish from a hatchery have reduced ability to survive in the wild.

As major rivers and their tributaries are dammed and diverted, fish disappear. The tiny number of tributaries still accessible to wild fish on the Sacramento River may not be enough to sustain these animals. The San Joaquin River was turned into a dry riverbed decades ago. It is now supposed to be restored, but this is an experiment, and the headwaters will remain inaccessible to salmon. Diversion projects, such as the pumps in the Delta that send water south, cause considerable juvenile salmon mortality.

The many coastal rivers that are still open to the ocean are often severely damaged by both current human actions and destruction that occurred long ago. Large rivers in parts of Northern California that appear wild and remote from human disturbance are not healthy for salmon either. Most have been dramatically impacted by humanity. We have few true refuges for salmon left. Every creek remaining that supports salmon is important.

The Salmon River in Northern California is a major Klamath tributary. It was dammed by dynamite and placer mining long ago. Huge amounts of rock were dumped into its channels. Now this excess rock in the river captures too much heat from the sun. This heat is transmitted into the water during the low stream flows in the summer. Salmon die in warm water. The river still looks beautiful. The water is clear blue, but the river channel is severely damaged in complex ways that took scientists a long time to understand. It takes a long time for the river to move out this excess rock and sediment. This river may not recover.
Salmon join the mountains to the oceans and tie together a web of life that connects grizzly bears to mayflies.

Salmon breeding program on the north county coast. Our steelhead rainbow trout are in a little better shape. Steelhead are part of the family of salmon fishes, but they are different in important ways that make them more adaptable to adverse changes in their environment. Steelhead still occupy streams from Carmel south. Up until the early 1970s the San Lorenzo River in Santa Cruz was a famous steelhead sport fishing stream. Coho vanished from this river during the early 1980s except for an occasional stay adult.

Decades of intensive stream-side development, road building, logging, sand mining, agriculture, and water extraction have added and intensified impacts upon fish. In Santa Cruz County salmon are subject to every impact, even dams. The headwaters of Newell Creek was once salmon habitat. This site is now Loch Lomond Reservoir. Several North Coast streams in Santa Cruz County have diversion dams that supply water to the City of Santa Cruz. These dams reduce streamflow and block fish access.

Water pollution is a problem almost everywhere. Polluted runoff roars off streets and into our creeks. The lower San Lorenzo River is a disaster area for fish. It is hot and polluted with very little fresh water in the summer. Much of the water is taken by the City of Santa Cruz.

River-mouth lagoons are very important nursery habitat for steelhead but this need has been virtually ignored in the way our rivers are “managed” for flood-control. The Soquel lagoon still works for steelhead due to good management by the City of Capitola, but it is hardly pristine. The soil erosion rates in the Santa Cruz Mountains are truly intense. The San Lorenzo River alone transports massive volumes of sand and silt every year. Every time anyone carves up the landscape, this erosion rate increases. Every driveway, logging skid trail, and bare spot adds to the flood of sediment entering local streams. Salmon egg mortality is high when gravel is laden with sand and silt. It is amazing that they manage to spawn at all.

The federal agency charged with protecting salmon is the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) which is part of NOAA. This agency is actually very small, and its people are spread thin. It is subject to political constraints similar to those that affect DFG, but it seems to be taking more steps to deal with the threat of dam removals. Some biologists recommend removing dams that prevent salmon from spawning. In many cases, dams were built to control floods. They may need to be replaced with fish ladders or structures that allow fish to pass.

The governor appoints the Director of Fish and Game (DFG) which is part of the Department of Fish and Game only to discover that their superiors have joined the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is supposed to “manage” our wildlife for their intrinsic value. This agency is expected to protect habitat. Unfortunately for salmon, DFG is not about to do what is necessary to protect and restore salmon populations. DFG allows important rivers to be pumped dry for agriculture as has happened repeatedly on important salmon rivers such as the Scott River, a Klamath tributary. DFG will not intervene to stop agricultural diverters from taking too much water. Bad state water policy is also involved. Many farmers hold adjudicated “water allocations” to water that does not actually exist.

This July DFG recommended that the forest agency do what is necessary to protect and restore salmon in this river. Salmon have no political voice. They are not part of the human family of salmon rivers such as the Scott River, a Klamath tributary. DFG will not intervene to stop agricultural diverters from taking too much water. Bad state water policy is also involved. Many farmers hold adjudicated “water allocations” to water that does not actually exist.

The governor appoints the Director of Fish and Game and the Water Boards. It matters little whether the governor is a Republican or a Democrat. Salmon have never received the protection they need from DFG or any other state agency. Many dedicated and conservation-minded people have joined the Department of Fish and Game only to discover that their superiors will not allow them to protect California’s wildlife.

The federal agency charged with protecting salmon is the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) which is part of NOAA. This agency is actually very small, and its people are spread thin. It is subject to political constraints similar to those that affect DFG, but it seems to be taking more steps to deal with the threat of dam removals. Some biologists recommend removing dams that prevent salmon from spawning. In many cases, dams were built to control floods. They may need to be replaced with fish ladders or structures that allow fish to pass.

The governor appoints the Director of

Salmon join the mountains to the oceans and tie together a web of life that connects grizzly bears to mayflies.

Salmon join the mountains to the oceans and tie together a web of life that connects grizzly bears to mayflies.
What Coho need to recover
by David Kossack

There are both short-term and long-term actions that can be taken to improve coho, salmonid, and anadromous fish survival. These actions need to be taken by public entities including the National Marine Fisheries Service, the State Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and City/County Planning Departments.

Short term actions
- Enforce existing laws which were passed to protect fish and fish habitat. There are many good laws already on the books to protect endangered species, water and air quality, and watersheds. They need to be enforced.
- Return water diverted without permit to creeks and rivers. Up and down the Central Coast water that is needed for fish survival is being diverted without permit. In many cases this activity has been documented by the California Water Resources Control Board during the investigation of water complaints. Examples include Carmel River (Monterey), San Vicente Creek (Santa Cruz) and Russian River (Sonoma/Mendocino).
- Modify city and county policies which automatically remove fallen logs and large woody debris from waterways without consideration of fish habitat needs.
- Require before and after “Upslope Erosion Assessments” as conditions of approval for certain land use permits that are at high risk of putting excess sediment in waterways. Such assessments could help quantify the amount of sediment generated from silt-producing land uses including logging, road building, mining, and agriculture. Guidelines for conducting such assessments are in the Fish and Game’s California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual.
- Require a project applicant to pay for the staff review of an application and follow-up assessments and monitoring. At present, permits may be issued without adequate environmental assessments because of underfunding or other reasons. Project applicants should be required to post a bond for remediation should habitat damage occur. Such fees are part of the true cost of land use.

Long term actions
- There are also critical long-term changes necessary to complement immediate protection and restoration actions. These longer-term changes would allow watersheds to recover from human-caused impacts.
- Remove many human-made features from river floodplains, estuaries and lagoons in order to restore streams to a more natural state and increase stream complexity.
- Build full span bridges over rivers, estuaries, and lagoons to restore the natural watershed hydrology and land form. When old bridges are replaced, full span bridges which do not harm fish habitat need to be built.
- Permanently protect and restore trees in riparian zones through acquisition, carbon trading, conservation easements, or other methods. New programs to sequester carbon could be used to protect salmon habitat contributing to stream and river health. Public agencies (state and federal), as well as private entities that receive federal funding should be required to dedicate existing and historic forest lands to such a carbon sequester old-growth forest restoration program.

The Ventana needs an office

The Sierra Club is closing its Santa Cruz office, and The Ventana needs a place to put out your newsletter. We are looking for 100-200 square feet in Santa Cruz, either downtown, Harvey West, or on the westside. Must be ADA accessible. Shared space OK. We must have access 24/7.

If you know of space to rent or have extra space to share in your workplace, please call Paul Elezick, 688-2304.

The Rebirth of Environmentalism, Grassroots Activism from the Spotted Owl to the Polar Bear


Douglas Bevington’s new book, The Rebirth of Environmentalism, provides a fresh and much-needed look into the world of environmental activism. As we sit on the brink of global climate chaos, rethinking our strategies and applying successful methods will be key to ensuring planetary salvation.

Bevington, who received his PhD in sociology from the University of California Santa Cruz, takes us back to the first Earth Day in 1970 and explores in-depth the relationship between the national environmental organizations and the grassroots biodiversity activists from then until now.

Focusing on three case studies (Headwaters Forest Campaign, Zero Cut Campaign, and several grassroots biodiversity lawsuits on endangered species), Bevington leads us into the underbelly of the environmental movement. He examines the role of volunteers and radical activists, movement culture, organization, tactics and strategies, and funding, noting the pitfalls and successes associated with each.

Bevington fleshes out the differences between the insider strategies employed by the nations versus the outsider tactics of the grassroots biodiversity groups. He holds a magnifying glass to the radically differing approaches of two operational models: those that rely largely on political access versus those that primarily engage in litigation, direct action, or other “radical” tactics.

Bevington peels back the layers of the onion to reveal the historical actions of politicians, agencies, and organizations and their backroom deals, which rarely receive coverage by the media. He shines a light on many environmental groups including Sierra Club, Earth First! (the infamous forest defenders), and the Center for Biological Diversity (which uses compromise aided by the big stick of litigation).

This book is a must read for those who care about protecting planet earth. It could be the road map to the environmental salvation we all need.

Former Yosemite Supervisors call for restoring Hetch Hetchy

Two former Yosemite Supervisors have joined the Advisory Board of Restore Hetch Hetchy, the national advocacy campaign to bring the Hetch Hetchy Valley back to life. B.J. Griffin and Bob Binnewies are the new board members. Dave Mihalic, Yosemite Superintendent from 1999 to 2003 has been a board member since 2006. Griffin served as Superintendent from 1995 to 1997; Binnewies served as Superintendent from 1979 to 1986.

Griffin, who is a San Francisco resident, said, “I am delighted to join the fight to restore this unique ecosystem in Yosemite National Park. As our nation responds to the challenges of climate change it is important to focus on environmental restoration as part of the solution. . . . I am confident that the studies performed by Environmental Defense Fund, the State of California, Restore Hetch Hetchy, and UC Davis provide ample evidence that restoration is possible while continuing to meet San Francisco’s water and power needs.”

Initial restoration of the Hetch Hetchy Valley would take 10-12 years and cost from $1.5-$3 billion. After 75 years there would be no trace of past destruction. The State estimates that a restored Hetch Hetchy Valley would be worth about $6 billion annually and would provide habitat to more than 10,000 plant and animal species.

Make a difference
Join Sierra Club California’s Legislative Action Network

http://cal-legalalert.sierraclubaction.org

The Sierra Club & Ventana Chapter, Volume 48, Number 6, 2009
Watsonville Wetlands Watch looking for docents

The Watsonville Wetlands Watch 2010 Docent Training Program will begin on February 24. Docent trainees will be treated to an inside look at the Pajaro Valley and its wide network of wetlands. Local experts will share the ecology, history and restoration of the wetlands during this 7-week program, which includes Wednesday evening presentations and Saturday morning field trips.

New docents will be prepared to lead walks and assist with field trips. Docents also have the opportunity to help with community events, participate in wetlands restoration, work in the library or greenhouse at the Fitz Wetlands Education Resource Center, and work on special projects.

The Watsonville Wetlands Watch is a nonprofit community-based organization dedicated to the protection, restoration and appreciation of the wetlands of Pajaro Valley. For more information, visit www.watsonvillewetlandswatch.org.

To enroll in the 2010 Docent Training Program, please contact Kathy Fieberling, 345-1226 or kathyfieb@yahoo.com. The deadline for enrollment is February 10.

To change address by email: address.changes@sierraclub.org
Membership inquiries: membership.services@sierraclub.org

Sierra Club Events

Friday, January 8

**Slides: Australia**

Don Nielsen will present this slide show from his trip to Australia last summer. He will cover Southern Australia and the Red Center.

Note: this is not a potluck. We will gather beginning at 7:00 p.m. and the slide show will begin at 7:30 p.m. For directions call George, 531-2909.

Friday, February 12

**Slides: Washington, DC**

Vilma Slobins will share her gorgeous pictures of monuments and cherry blossoms. Most of us have seen our stunning capital only on TV. It is something else to be there in person and see our nation’s history close up. Note: this is not a potluck. We will gather beginning at 7:00 p.m. and the slide show will begin at 7:30 p.m. For directions call George, 531-2909.

Spring and Summer

**Channel Islands Trips**

California’s Channel Islands are Galapagos USA! Marvel at the sights of whales, seals, rare birds, and wildflowers. Hike the wild, windswept trails. Kayak; snorkel. Discover remnants of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or just relax. Three and 4-day fundraiser cruises in May, July, August, and September are sponsored by Sierra Club. All depart from Santa Barbara. Fees range from $590 to $785 and include bunk, meals, snacks, beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist. For more info contact jholzeln@aol.com. To make a reservation mail a $100 check payable to Sierra Club to leaders: Joan Jones Holtz & Don Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732.

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.

**Wednesday, January 13**

**Climate Change Legislation**

Jason Keestrel Burnett will speak on implementing climate change legislation. Burnett has served as Deputy Administrator of the EPA where he coordinated energy and climate change policy and as an EPA Senior Policy Advisor on air quality standards and power plant regulations. Elks Lodge, 150 Mar Vista Drive, Monterey. $18 includes buffet lunch. 12 noon. Reservation required for lunch (375-8301). Lecture at 12:30 free. Sponsored by League of Women Voters of the Monterey Peninsula.

**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 or register online at www.compostsantacruzcounty.org. Sponsored by S.C. Co. Board of Supervisors; produced by County Public Works Recycling and Solid Waste Services.

Saturday, April 10, 1-3 p.m., Grey Bears Recycling Center, 2710 Chanticleer Ave., S.C.

Sunday, May 2, 1-3 p.m., Quail Hollow Ranch County Park 800 Quail Hollow Road, Felton

Saturday, June 19, 1-3 p.m., Grey Bears Recycling Center, 2710 Chanticleer Ave., S.C.

For more info: Karin Grobe, 427-3452, kgrobe@wormdoctor.org.

**Wilderness Conference**

Save the date for the Western Wilderness Conference planned by the Club and others. It will be held at UC Berkeley. Speakers, music, food, more. Visit www.westernwilderness.org.

April 8-10

**Monterey CNPS**

**Habitat restoration**


**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.

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Underwater trash

NOAA researchers have discovered huge amounts of trash under the waters of the Central Coast. Most of the rubbish revealed by the underwater survey was recreational fishing gear. Dana Watters of NOAA’s Fisheries Service in Santa Cruz estimates that there are 7000 pieces of trash per square kilometer. Now that’s disgusting.

Success story

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has removed the brown pelican from the Endangered Species list due to its recovery. The pelican is still protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, but is no longer deemed likely to become extinct in the foreseeable future. The brown pelican was decimated by the use of the pesticide DDT which was banned in 1972.

Richardson Grove threatened

Caltrans wants to widen Highway 101 at Richardson Grove State Park just north of the Humboldt County line. These huge trees provide crucial habitat for endangered birds like the marbled murrelet and threatened salmon and steelhead.

The cathedral groves by this State Park are too important to cut down to enable even bigger trucks to rush through. To sign a petition, visit the website of the Center for Biological Diversity, www.biological-diversity.org/ and click under “Action” at the top of the site.

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!

Everything’s connected

When trees fall into a creek and eventually find their way to the ocean, they not only provide habitat for salmon and steelhead, they also provide food for deep-sea, tree-eating crustaceans. These wood munchers, Munidopsis andamanica, look rather like lobsters and, despite living in the deep sea, eat trees. To learn more, google Munidopsis andamanica.

Proximity saves $ 

A new study concludes Californians could save money and cut greenhouse gas emissions by living near transit and shopping. The study found the 1.8 million Sacramento area residents living close to transit and shopping spend $2 billion less/year on cars and related costs than those living in less convenient areas. To learn more visit http://transformca.org. Residents of other urban areas saved even more.

Florida panther in trouble

The endangered Florida panther will need migration corridors and additional protected habitat to adapt to predicted sea level rise from global warming. The Sierra Club has petitioned the US Fish and Wildlife Service for a critical habitat designation for land that will help the panther migrate to new ground. Loss of habitat is the greatest threat to the survival of the estimated 90-120 remaining panthers.

End mountaintop removal

A new report, “Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining, Too Costly to Appalachian’s Economies,” highlights the benefits for Appalachia from ending mountain top removal mining and developing clean, renewable energy sources. Read the report at www.sierraclub.org/coal/factsheets.aspx.

Rare ringtones

Want your phone to sound like the cry of a Mexican gray wolf or a beluga whale? Download free endangered species ringtones at www.rareearthtones.org/ringtones.

Lawsuit looms over fish-killing water diversions

The Center for Biological Diversity and others warned the State Water Resources Control Board of intent to sue if it doesn’t stop authorizing water diversions that are killing imperiled salmon and steelhead in the Russian River and Gualala River watersheds. Water diversions and pumping from streams for vineyards in the area deplete rivers and creeks of water needed by fish. Coho and Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, which are protected under the Endangered Species Act, need adequate water for spawning.

When freezing temperatures hit California’s coast, vineyards pumping water for grape “frost protection” can dry up rivers and their tributaries, stranding and killing young fish. The Center asserts the Water Board is violating the Endangered Species Act by allowing these water diversions.

Two bills supported by Club are passed

Governor Schwarzenegger signed only two of the twelve bills supported by Sierra Club in the last legislative session. The signed bills were AB 975, which requires corporations with more than 500 service connections to install water meters, and AB 920, which requires utilities to pay owners of solar and other renewable energy systems for surplus electricity generated.

Vetoed bills included SB 372, which would have prohibited disposition of state park lands unless approved by the Legislature; AB 1173, which would have continued the phase-down of mercury in lighting and provided incentives for recycling of fluorescent; and SB 406, which would have added one or two dollars to vehicle registration to be used to reduce greenhouse gasses.

Become a master composter

The County of Santa Cruz is now accepting applications for the 2010 Master Composter Training Program. Master Composter training provides hands-on experience managing compost piles and worm bins and exposes participants to Santa Cruz County recycling, composting, and landfill facilities. In exchange for the training, Master Composters volunteer to teach others about composting and recycling at community events.

When: The training includes five weekday evening classes and four Saturday field trips, February 3–March 24, 2010. Application deadline is February 2, 2010.

Where: Weekday evening classes take place at The Live Oak Grange, 1900 17th Ave. in Santa Cruz. Field trip locations vary.

Contact: To request a class agenda and application, call the Rotline at 423-HEAP or apply online at www.compostsantacruzcounty.org.

The Sierra Club  Ventana Chapter, Volume 48, Number 6, 2009
Habitat Trust Fund producing results in Marina

by Steve Zmak with excerpts from the Dune Habitat Restoration Plan

It is the goal of the Ventana Chapter, City of Marina and Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District (MPRPD) to work cooperatively to preserve and enhance Marina’s native coastal habitat for the enjoyment of all and as an invaluable natural asset for future generations.

In 1986, the Ventana Chapter, City of Marina and the first two hotel developers in Marina’s Coastal Zone reached agreements to create the Marina Coastal Habitat Protection, Conservation, and Restoration Trust Fund as a mitigation measure to provide ongoing habitat improvements. All seven hotels in Marina’s Coastal Zone pay a 35¢ transient occupancy tax per occupied room per night into the trust fund. With accrued interest the fund has reached close to $400,000.

In August 2008, MPRPD applied for a grant to partially fund their master plan for the 62-acre Marina Dunes Preserve. In April of 2009, the City and Chapter mutually agreed to grant MPRPD $75,000 to fund weed eradication, the containment of non-native trees, sand stabilization / recontouring, and the planting of native coastal species to augment the existing dune community.

The Marina Dunes Preserve is located on the city’s northern border at the end of Dunes Drive and adjacent to Marina State Beach. “Ten acres of the Marina Dunes Preserve has been owned and managed by the MPRPD as a public access corridor since 1990, and in 1998, an additional 52 acres were acquired by the Big Sur Land Trust and conveyed to the Park District.

“The site is located within an environmentally sensitive area known as the Marina Dunes, which includes approximately 626 acres west of Highway 1 within the City of Marina. The Marina Dunes are part of the more extensive Monterey Dunes, which extend from Monterey harbor north to the Salinas River mouth. The different geologic histories of these dunes give rise to an unusual mosaic of vegetation found nowhere else along the Pacific Coast of North America. The Monterey Dunes contain a unique blend of coastal species from northern and southern California and a large number of endemic species (native species of restricted distribution), resulting in areas of remarkable plant diversity.”

Since the trust fund’s creation, it has only been accessed once, in August 2001 by the Park District, in the amount of $9,800 to implement the gateway for the Preserve. This second grant continues the Chapter’s and City’s commitment to fully realize the Park District’s vision for the Preserve.

“Successful restoration will provide limited public access to an extraordinary showcase of coastal dune habitat, and provide an opportunity to connect the southern corridor of sand dunes (Marina State Beach and Fort Ord Dunes State Park, more than 1,000 acres in various stages of restoration), with quality dune habitat north to the Salinas River. Native plant species stabilize the sand with deep, extensive root systems, as well as enhance habitat quality. Plant restoration supports native wildlife populations (especially special status species) by providing a variety of species-specific food and shelter.”

On September 16, 2009, the Chapter also awarded a grant of $35,100 from the Trust Fund to the City of Marina for biological surveys of the five vernal ponds within the city limits as the first phase of their restoration. The Chapter is currently reviewing a second application from the city for $52,000 for phase 2 of the restoration effort: hydrologic studies of the largest of the city’s vernal ponds (Locke-Paddon), and updating the 1994 coastal vernal pond restoration and management plan. Phase 3 will be implementation of the updated restoration plan guided by MPRPD’s vision for the Locke-Paddon Park as an active education center showcasing a variety of local coastal habitats including grassland, scrub and oak woodland. The Park District also intends to increase the trail network, install raptor boxes, and expand picnic and passive recreation areas.

Excerpts from the Dune Habitat Restoration Plan, Marina Dunes Preserve, prepared by Joey Dorrell-Canepa, Native Solutions, San Juan Bautista, CA are used in this article. These excerpts are indicated by quotation marks and italic type.
Coho Recovery Plan long overdue

by David Kossack

Coho were listed under the Endangered Species Act as "Threatened" in 1996 and the Central California Coast population relisted as "Endangered" in 2005. A draft recovery plan as part of the endangered designation was scheduled for June 2007 with a final plan to be completed by December 2007. Now, at the end of 2009, with local coho populations at the edge of the abyss, a Recovery Plan remains elusive. In 2009 alone the Coho Recovery Plan has been delayed at least four times.

Repeated delays under the Bush Administration were expected, though unwelcome. At least at one point the Obama Administration expressed a willingness to address the important values of endangered species and habitat protection. Does that commitment still hold?

To make matters worse, there is no federal requirement to follow a Coho Recovery Plan once it is issued. Such a plan would establish target population sizes, which until met, would maintain the endangered status of coho in this area; however, it would lack regulatory power.

Congressional representatives Sam Farr and Anna Eshoo have been helpful with previous efforts to motivate protection and restoration for anadromous fish and their habitat. In June 2009 the Chapter asked Farr and Eshoo for assistance in determining why the plan is taking so long.

On the positive side, Farr's Washington office in has expressed an interest in preparing a letter from multiple members of Congress to the National Marine Fisheries Service addressing the need to return water diverted without permit and/or spilled as waste to creeks and rivers which coho depend upon.

Farr's office was also intrigued by the opportunity to apply carbon sequester efforts to the protection and restoration of streamside habitat necessary for coho through the protection of coastal old-growth forests. At the request of Farr's office, the Chapter has prepared background material for a second congressional letter to the appropriate agencies.

At press time the Chapter is continuing its contact with Farr's and Eshoo's offices on this issue.

Ballot initiative could raise money for State Parks

Funding for State Parks has reached a crisis. Governor Schwarzenegger proposed closing most parks to balance the budget. To remedy this, Sierra Club, California State Parks Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and Save the Redwoods League will be circulating a ballot initiative for signatures beginning in January.

The purpose of the initiative is to provide reliable funding to the 278 California state parks in order to protect California's natural resources and wildlife for future generations. Past underfunding of the State Park system and wildlife conservation has resulted in a backlog of more than a billion dollars in maintenance and improvements, threatening our natural and cultural resources, recreational opportunities, and wildlife habitat.

Rebuilding the State Park system and protecting the State's wildlife resources would grow California's economy and create jobs by drawing millions of tourists each year to contribute to the State's multibillion-dollar tourism economy. More funding would help with operation, maintenance, and repair of facilities including park visitor centers, restrooms, campites, and ranger stations. It would also expand public access to state parks and natural areas and enhance the safety and security of park visitors.

If enough signatures are obtained and the ballot initiative is passed by the voters next November, the State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund will be established. Monies would be raised from an annual $18 surcharge imposed on most vehicles after January 1, 2011. Vehicles subject to the surcharge and all occupants of those vehicles would receive free day use admission for all State Parks throughout the year.

To view a draft of the language of the initiative or to volunteer to gather signatures, please go to the Chapter website at www.ventana.sierraclub.org.
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 208/776-40. 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.sierrclub.org/outings/chapter/forms.

### December

**Saturday, December 19**

**HIKE: SANTA CRUZE GARDENS AND ARANA GULCH**

We'll start at Santa Cruz Gardens Park near the beautiful Chaminade Resort and hike the trails around upper Arana Gulch passing some of the historic buildings and orchards of the area. Some of the trails are narrow and might be slippery if there has been a lot of rain, so boots recommended. Bring water and lunch for this 7-mile hike. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m. to carpool ($1), or drive up Thuerber Lane, take a left on Katherine and park along the street in front of Santa Cruz Gardens Park. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

**Wednesday, December 23**

**HIKE: CARMELO TO PEBBLE BEACH**

This lollypop loop begins in Carmel and leads into the quiet forest of Pebble Beach. Lunch gives us the option of a Poppy Hills sandwich. 6½ miles with 750' elevation gain. Meet at 10:00 a.m. sharp from the Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

**Tuesday, December 29**

**HIKE: DELAVEAGA PARK**

Tour one of Santa Cruz's local parks. 6-7 miles including the east side. 1000' elevation gain. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call Nick for more information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

### January

**Friday, January 1**

**HIKE: GARLAND TO MY PLACE**

Missing the traditional New Year's Hike? Let's try a new tradition: from the parking lot at Safeway Mid-Valley, we'll carpool to Garland Ranch, climb to Snively's Ridge, at a moderate pace and still a little higher to a sunny spot for lunch. Then we'll turn west above Carmel Valley, down to Holz Road and back to most of our cars. After, you are all invited to "Kaffee und Kuchen" at my place, Mid-Valley Garden Homes #53, to celebrate the New Year. 8 miles and 1500' elevation gain. Bring water and lunch, optional hiking sticks; wear sturdy shoes. Meet at Mid-Valley parking lot opposite Chase Bank at 10:00 a.m. Call for a space. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

**Saturday, January 2**

**HIKE: GARZAS CREEK COMPLEX**

Let’s burn off some of that Holiday excess and maybe today’s hangover too. We’ll do the entire portion of East Garland Ranch in and around Garzas Creek. That includes Terrace Trail, Veeved, Garzas Creek, Redwood Canyon, and some of East Ridge Trail. 7-8 miles with 2500’ elevation gain. Great for newcomers or those looking for a good workout. Shorter and longer versions possible. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Mid-Valley Shopping Center at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Larry Parrish, 622-7777.

**Saturday, January 9**

**HIKE: SANTA CRUZ GARDENS**

Tour one of Santa Cruz's local parks. 6-7 miles including the east side. 1000' elevation gain. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call Nick for more information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

**Sunday, January 11**

**HIKE: GARZA CREEK**

Let’s burn off some of that Holiday excess and maybe today’s hangover too. We’ll do the entire portion of East Garland Ranch in and around Garzas Creek. That includes Terrace Trail, Veeved, Garzas Creek, Redwood Canyon, and some of East Ridge Trail. 7-8 miles with 2500’ elevation gain. Great for newcomers or those looking for a good workout. Shorter and longer versions possible. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Mid-Valley Shopping Center at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Larry Parrish, 622-7777.

**Monday, January 12**

**HIKE: SNOWY DAY at GARLAND RANCH**

Meet at 10:00 a.m. sharp from the Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

**Tuesday, January 20**

**HIKE: SANTA CRUZ GARDENS**

Tour one of Santa Cruz's local parks. 6-7 miles including the east side. 1000' elevation gain. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call Nick for more information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

**Saturday, January 30**

**HIKE: SNOWY DAY at GARLAND RANCH**

Meet at 10:00 a.m. sharp from the Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

### 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 Fair:** 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@sierrclub.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!**

**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

Wednesday, January 6

SENIOR HIKE: WATSONVILLE SLOUGH

We'll begin the New Year at the Wetlands of Watsonville Nature Center and walk 3+ miles along parts of the Watsonville, Ohlone & Struve Loop Trails. Facilities & lunch back at Ramsay Park. There should be lots of beautiful birds & ducks along the way. Bring water, lunch & binoculars. Meet at 9:30 a.m., at Sears 41st Ave. or 9:50 a.m. at the Nature Center, 30 Har-kins Slough Rd. Leader: Beverly Meitchi, 475-4185.

Saturday, January 9

WALK: PEBBLE BEACH & ASILOMAR

4-mile loop, starting on neighborhood streets and then thru dunes, between fairways, out to Point Joe and back along the beach boardwalk. Quiet neighborhood, possible spouts from migrating whales. Meet across from the Fishwife Restaurant on Sunset Drive and Asilomar Blvd., Pacific Grove. Call to re-

Tuesday, January 12

HIKE: CARMEL RIVER BEACH

Short 3-4 mile hike along the Carmel River Beach Trail, abundant with birds, small rodents, and marine mammals such as otters and whales. Bring binoculars, if possible, lunch and water. Meet at Rio Road Park and Ride at 11:00 a.m. to carpool. Santa Cruz people meet at the Sears carpool site at 11:00 a.m. (no leader) and meet the rest of us at Rio Road Park and Ride at 11:00 a.m. Leader: Phyllis Hilton, 372-1714 or 869-9811 (cell).

Saturday, January 16

HIKE: FORT ORD GRASSLANDS

Come explore Fort Ord Public Lands. Moderate 8-mile loop partly on trails and road. Bring water and lunch. Meet at the Creekside Trailhead parking lot (corner of Reservation Road and Hwy. 68) at 9:00 a.m. Rain cancels. Call for a reservation or directions. Leader: Monique Fargues, 384-3234.

Sunday, January 17

HIKE: JACKS PEAK

We'll walk around Jacks Peak clockwise, starting at the elementary school on Old Coach Road (near Monterey airport). 6 miles with less than 1000’ elevation gain. Beautiful views of Monterey and Point Lobos. Bring water and lunch. Heavy rain cancels; dribble doesn’t count. Wear clothes for the winter weather. Confirm by calling. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Tuesday, January 19

SENIOR HIKE: NATURAL BRIDGES

We'll walk the trails at Natural Bridges through woods, grassland and along the beach, for an easy, 2 miles. After lunch at the picnic tables, we can take an optional extension along part of West Cliff Drive and back. Bring lunch and optional binoculars. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. ($2 carpool) or at the Delaware Ave. entrance to Natural Bridges at 9:50 a.m. Leader: Jean Harrison 425-5447.

Thursday, January 21

HIKE: LAND OF MEDICINE BUDDHA

This 6-mile loop with 500’ gain includes a redwood forest, a beautiful creek, and Fetid adder’s tongue. Bring water but no lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 8:30 a.m. sharp from Shell station by Home Depot in Seaside or from the back parking lot of the Congregational Church of Soquel at 9:20 a.m. sharp. Call for reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

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

See you on Donner Summit...

The Sierra Club © Ventana Chapter, Volume 48, Number 6, 2009
Friday-Sunday, January 22-24

WILDERNESS RESTORATION: DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

Come help protect Death Valley National Park from abuse by illegal off-road traffic. This restoration project along the park’s scenic eastern boundary in the Amargosa Valley involves the installation of signs, taking out of vehicle tracks and moving rocks. Meet late Friday afternoon, or early Saturday morning, work Saturday and part of the day on Sunday. Camping Friday and Saturday night will be in a Park Service camping area (no water, portable toilets). Leader: Kate Allen, kj.allen@wildblue.net, 661-944-4056.

Sunday, January 24

HIKE: PINNACLES

Cool weather is the best time to visit my favorite place to hike! Always wonderful views, amazing geologic formations, and usually dryer than the coast. 12 miles, 1200’ elevation gain. Call me for carpool information. No rain cancellation! Leader: John Howerton, 476-4253.

Tuesday, January 26

SENIOR HIKE: RIO DEL MAR BEACH

Hike up one hill or stay on flat ground as we enjoy our own backyard. You can stop at two miles or continue for four. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at 9:45 a.m. at the Rio Flats parking lot. Bring lunch & water. Leader: Beverly Meschi, 475-4185.

Thursday, January 28

Hike: MOLEIRA BEACH

To view the many colorful and fanciful ocean-created rock sculptures along Molera Beach, this West Molera loop hike is timed to an especially low tide, allowing a return walk along the sandy beach after traversing the Ridge and Panorama Trails. 8 miles and 1200’ elevation gain. Be prepared to wade Big Sur River. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Carmel Save Mart. Returning around 5:00 p.m. Heavy rain cancels. For more information call me. Leader: Jack Glendening, 484-6029.

Friday, January 29

HIKE: HENRY COE STATE PARK

It’s a longish drive to Henry Coe State Park, in the hills east of Morgan Hill, but it’s worth it for the green rolling hills, oak studied meadows, and interesting visitor center. We’ll hike a moderate loop of 5-6 miles and have time to look around the old ranch buildings to learn about the history and conservation of the area. Bring lunch, water, and wear sturdy shoes. Call leaders ahead of time just in case the park has been closed due to funding cutbacks. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Home Depot parking lot in Seaside, Santa Cruz hikers may meet at 41st Ave. Sears (no leader) at 8:30 a.m. and make their own way to the Park. (Take the East Dunne Ave. exit from Hwy. 101 and follow signs to the Park’s main entrance.) We should be at Henry Coe parking lot by around 10:00 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Leaders: Cath Ferranti and Mary Dunton, 372 7427.

FEBRUARY

Tuesday, February 2

SENIOR HIKE: ANTONELLI POND

We’ll walk along the west side of Antonelli Pond then through the Homeless Garden, across Terrace Point to the Seymour Center which we’ll visit briefly. We’ll return through DeAnza to the picnic tables by the beach at Natural Bridges for lunch. An easy, flat 3 miles. Bring lunch, and optional binoculars. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at 9:45 a.m. at the Rio Flats parking lot. Bring lunch & water. Leader: Beverly Meschi, 475-4185.

Wednesday, February 3

HIKE: SANBORN COUNTY PARK

Sanborn Co. Park, ½ mile from Saratoga, has a rich history from the Ohlones, through 1850 homesteaders, to the site of the famous hostel and an environmental education center today. It is the third largest of the Santa Clara County Parks. We’ll walk around the historic house within the park that was built by Judge Welch in 1904. Last spring we walked down from Castle Rock State Park into Sanborn, but this time we’ll start in the park and walk up Sanborn Trail to Skyline Blvd. and return down the Petersen Trail. Bring water and lunch and wear sturdy shoes for this 8-mile hike through redwood groves and past walk-in campsites. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. to carpool at 9:00 a.m. or at 9:50 a.m. in the Sanborn Co. Park parking lot off Hwy. 9 above Saratoga. Leader: Diane Cornell 435-5925.

Saturday, February 6

HIKE: GARLAND PARK

This is a 4+ mile hike up to the Mesa via foothill trails, Buckeye and Waterfall. Back via Fern, Mesa, and Lupine Loop Trails. Nice valley views, Trails may be muddy. Meet at Save Mart, Carmel Ranch Blvd., to carpool. Please call leader to reserve space and for meeting time, or if wanting to meet at Garland Park. Bring snack/lunch and water. Rain cancels. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Sunday, February 7

HIKE: CHALK MOUNTAIN

Starting at Whitehouse Canyon Road we will ascend to Chalk Mountain, then up to the Henry Creek Trail, returning via the Tree to Sea Trail. Outstanding views, wildlife, and fungi make this a great winter hike! 12 miles, 1200’ elevation gain. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 8:00 a.m. to carpool. Leader: John Howerton, 476-4253.

Sunday, February 7

HIKE: TODO OR FORT ORD?

From high in Toro Park we see great views of Ft. Ord, and vice versa—so which shall we do? Both hikes are not more than 5 miles, easy pace, and take us up and down moderate hills where early spring flow- ers like Zygadene might be seen. We’ll take a vote when we meet and see what folks favor. Wear sturdy shoes; bring a walking stick if you have one, and water and snack or lunch. Hard rain cancels. Meet at 10:00 a.m. near the bathrooms in the BLM parking lot at Fort Ord, near the intersection of Hwy. 68 and Reservation Road. For more info google Fort Ord Public Lands to look at a map or call the leader by Saturday, Feb. 6! Leader: Mary Galy, 626-3565.

Tuesday, February 9

SENIOR HIKE: CAPITOLA JEWEL BOX

Have you ever noticed that some streets in Capitola are named after jewels? Join us in the Jewel Box as we walk down to the wharf and along the esplanade. Then we’ll explore Depot Hill. About 4 miles. Bring
VENTANA Chapter
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For Rate Information, Contact: Debbie Bulger - 457-1036

MEETING SCHEDULE
Ventana Chapter (Monterey County)
Information: 624-8032
Executive Committee: First Thursday of the month; Call for meeting place and time
Conservation Committee: For dates and times, call 655-8586.

Santa Cruz Regional Group
Executive Committee: Second Wednesday of the month; Call 460-1538 for meeting place and time.
Conservation Committee: Call 761-3263 for meeting dates and times.
Forestry Task Force: Third Wednesday of the month, 7:30 p.m.; Call 566-7447 for meeting location.

Classified
Rates: $6 per line for Sierra Club members. Payment must accompany all ads. Make checks payable to: Sierra Club. Approx. 35 characters per line. Spaces and punctuation count as characters. Typewritten or computer generated copy only.

OFFICE SPACE—The Ventana is seeking office space in Santa Cruz. Downtown, Harvey West, or Westside. Need 100–200 square feet. Will need access 24/7. Must be ADA accessible. Will consider shared space. Do you need someone to help pay the rent? Call Paul Elrick, 688-2304.

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

The Sierra Club  Ventana Chapter, Volume 48, Number 6, 2009 13
Ventana Chapter Candidates

David S. Kossack

I always enjoyed the outdoors: giant kelp to giant sequoia, it didn’t matter to me. I just liked watching things do what they do. I wasn’t much past five when it happened: the wildlands and rivers that I enjoyed were being lost; the results were not the wonderland promised, and I found myself a conservationist.

In the late ’70s I spent a couple of years in Central America experiencing the reefs, mountains and forests of this region; my interests in how things work led me to academic degrees from Berkeley and Davis; the mixed blessing of seeing that things aren’t working has led me to invest myself in projects to protect and restore the last pieces of functioning ecosystems.

I enjoy both Sierra Clubs: as a participant on hikes and outings and addressing the challenges of effective conservation through Sierra Club leadership and activism. I have served on the Santa Cruz Group Ex-Com for the past three years. Presently there is minimal representation from Santa Cruz County on the Ventana Chapter Executive Committee. Providing necessary representation is essential for Santa Cruz issues and improved communications as well as the depth and breadth of the Chapter. It would be a privilege to serve on the Ventana Chapter Ex-Com.

Marika Martin

At a young age I was introduced to nature and immediately fell in love and have been hooked ever since. Growing up in California’s Central Valley, I was immersed in the San Joaquin Delta with the bountiful Pacific Ocean to one side and the majestic Sierra Nevada Mountains on the other. Not only did my location play a large role in the relationship I have developed with the outdoors, but my parents did as well. Yearly family outings took place in Yosemite, Mount Diablo and the Monterey Peninsula.

I was captivated by the diversity of the ocean and its coastal communities. Once I learned that there was a California State University in the area, I decided to move to Monterey. Upon graduating with a B.S. in Environmental Systems and Science Policy, I went to work at the Monterey Bay Aquarium as an educator in order to inspire ocean conservation.

By living in the Central Valley and on the Central Coast, I have seen firsthand what a precious resource both fresh water and salt water are. I would be honored to serve on Ex-Com. Thank you for your consideration.

Julie Engell

I’m asking for your vote to another term on the Chapter Executive Committee. It has been an honor to represent you in the past.

Santa Cruz Group Candidates

Charles Paulden

With an intimate relationship and commitment to preserving the natural world, I promote preservation of open spaces, forests, and farmland through green business, building and urban planning. I support land use where the natural environment’s health is the primary focus of planning.

The Sierra Club’s Growth Guidelines call for urban centers close to civic amenities and along transportation networks while preserving outlying lands.

I support our General Plan’s ideal of watersways as parks and open space.

I advocate Rodeo Gulch as a mid-county regional park with porous trail systems for bikes and walking and storm water directed into retaining areas being cleansed and filtered by the earth while recharging our water tables.

I worked with Save Lighthouse Field, Nisene to the Sea, No on J, Rail Trail, Stop the Seawall, and bike supporters to help preserve our beautiful area.

Your vote will keep me on the SC Executive Committee.

Kristen Raugust

I came to Santa Cruz County from San Francisco in 1967 and have lived in the Davenport area since then. I love living in the country. As a boy and a young man, I spent much time in the Sierras.

My intersection with the Sierra Club came through my grass roots involvement in coastal viewedish and beach access issues on the Davenport Coast. There have been many development projects that fortunately have not come to fruition on the North Coast thanks to local environmental organizations and the Sierra Club.

I have previously served on the Executive Committee for two terms. Since I first started serving, I have come to realize that many parts of the environment are at risk. From global warming to fish extinction to water conservation, there is a lot to do.

I will support efforts by other Club members in the goal of preserving and restoring as much of the natural environment and habitat as possible. We need to be sustainable in order to protect this planet. We have to make our urban areas more human and earth friendly. I oppose widening Highway 1 and support the purchase of the rail line.

I am not only asking for your vote but your help and participation. Thank you.

Michael Guth

I look forward to the opportunity to serve on the Executive Committee. I have been involved as a citizen activist in the areas of coastal water quality, coastal lagoon conservation, riparian corridor protection, and storm water runoff management. Although the struggle for resource conservation is a broad one and I work pro-actively to shape policy, the battle is often fought defensively on a project-by-project basis. To that end, I have been able to participate regularly at County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors meetings and to critique environmental review of projects to reduce the negative aspects of developments.

I feel that I have been very effective on the conservation front, and if elected, I hope to continue my ongoing efforts in these areas, and also be a resource to support the work of other Committee members. I have previously served on the County Housing Advisory Commission, the County Planning Commission, and numerous working groups involving County, regional, and Monterey Bay Sanctuary issues. That experience, my passion for protecting the environment, and my background as an attorney have combined to empower my personal contributions. I now ask for your support as I seek election to the Executive Committee.
Voting Instructions and Executive Committee Ballot

Review candidate statements on page 14 and mark your ballot below. Mail this entire page using a recycled envelope from junk mail with a new label you affix. (Be sure to mark out the computer code on the envelope bottom if there is one). The ballot must be postmarked by January 2.

Monterey County members may vote for bylaw changes and for Chapter candidates only. Santa Cruz County members may vote for bylaw changes and for BOTH Chapter and Group Candidates.

For joint memberships, mark a vote in both columns.

After you complete your ballot, TEAR OFF THIS ENTIRE PAGE and mail your completed ballot to Mary Gale, Chapter Secretary, 25430 Telarana Way, Carmel, CA 93923, Call Mary at 626-3565 if you have any questions. Your mailing label on the back of this page ensures that the vote has come from a valid member of the Club. Ballots and mailing labels will be separated by the Chapter Secretary to ensure a secret ballot.

Bylaw Changes: The Chapter is updating its bylaws to comply with National Sierra Club guidelines and proposes the changes below. Please vote yes or no on each one.

### 3.10 Ex-Com Meetings
The Ex-Com shall hold regularly scheduled meetings at least 4 (changed from 12) times per year at times and places communicated in advance to all Chapter members.

### 3.11 Special Meetings
Ex-Com business may, if necessary, be conducted at a Special Meeting. A Special Meeting may be called by the Chair or any 3 (changed from 2) Ex-Com members with at least one week’s notice, unless all Ex-Com members waive this notice requirement.

### 4.3 Petition Candidates
The name of any Chapter member proposed in writing by at least 50 (changed from 25) Chapter members prior to the deadline for submission of petitions, and who gives consent, shall also be included on the ballot.

Bylaw Changes: The Chapter is updating its bylaws to comply with National Sierra Club guidelines and proposes the changes below. Please vote yes or no on each one.

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<td>4.3 Petition Candidates</td>
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### Ventana Chapter
Both Santa Cruz and Monterey members may vote for these candidates. Write ups on p. 14 •• Vote for up to 3

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>candidate</th>
<th>1st joint member</th>
<th>2nd joint member</th>
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### Santa Cruz Group
Only Santa Cruz members may vote for these candidates. Write ups on p. 14 •• Vote for up to 3

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<td>Kristen Raugust</td>
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### What does the Executive Committee do?

The members of the Executive Committee make Chapter and Group policy for the Club. These representatives meet to discuss issues and hear reports from subcommittees such as the Conservation Committee, Transportation Committee, and the Forestry Committee. Executive Committee members make financial decisions and supervise local Club operations such as budget and fundraising.
IMPORTANT NOTICE: THIS PLANT WAS INCORRECTLY IDENTIFIED IN THE PRINT VERSION OF THE VENTANA AS A RED CURRENT - IT IS NOT. It is in fact a BANEberry and it's fruit is POISONOUS. Eating its fruit can make you very ill. Please note this in your printed issue.

Will we GET SERIOUS about saving Coho?