Planning decisions will affect County’s future

The Ventana Chapter has been involved in the General Plan process in Monterey County for over 11 years. On October 26, the Board of Supervisors approved the plan, now known as GP 2010, despite objections from the environmental community over several issues related to biological resources, traffic, and water supplies. Based on projections by the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), the GPU provides guidelines for adding up to about 10,000 new housing units, as well as new commercial and other development. It predicts the impacts of that growth on the County’s traffic, water, open space, public services, agriculture, and biological resources through the year 2030.

This month the Board of Supervisors will also be considering an interim ordinance designed to allow new development to proceed under the new growth policies before a long list of ordinances have been created to enact the policies into law. This “urgency” ordinance would take effect immediately and last for 45 days. It could be extended twice for up to two years after public hearings.

At least two organizations have filed lawsuits to protect the County’s environment. The Carmel Valley Association’s suit is a complaint that the County has adopted a new method of monitoring traffic that will allow a huge increase before measures to lessen the impacts could be enforced. The Open Monterey Project’s (TOMP) lawsuit is described in an article on page 8. TOMP has filed a legal challenge covering three of the most important interrelated policy failures of the GPU: steep slope conversion which would spread vineyard cultivation and development into nearly half a million acres of wildlife and sensitive species habitat; inadequate protection for wildlife corridors; and lack of proof of adequate water supplies for growth.

—Rita Dalessio

Reusing can be fun

Every morning I watch the goldfinches and sparrows splash around in my birdbath. Besides the delight of seeing these colorful creatures drink and tidy up, I have the added joy of knowing that our family has put some discarded metal pieces to a very good use.

Birdbath constructed by Richard Stover.

You see, the birdbath was constructed by my very talented husband from, well, junk. One day a few years ago, as Richard and I were walking along King Street in Santa Cruz, we spotted an old metal table lamp base, about three feet high, which someone had put out with the trash. It was ornate, decorated with garlands and leaf motifs. I had been wanting a bird bath for some time, and this base was perfect.

We lugged the heavy piece home. It sat in the garage for over a year until we found the bowl—a floor lamp base. This time the base was from a floor lamp. We purchased it along with several other lamp bases and some brass pieces at a close-out sale for a store that was going out of business. Turned upside-down, the brass floor lamp base was just the right depth and diameter for a birdbath. When attached to the table lamp base, voila! The finest bird accessory money can’t buy.

Have you found a creative reuse for something? Let us know. Email your description and photos to dfbulger@cruzio.com. Perhaps we can feature your creation in a future Ventana.

—Debbie Bulger
Moving Beyond Oil!

As Governor-Elect Jerry Brown prepares to take office, we need to urge him to put increased transportation and mobility options, air quality, and Californian’s quality of life at the top of his priorities.

We need your help; write a letter to Gov- ernor Elect Jerry Brown and ask him to be a leader on these important issues.

A recent statistic stated that transportation is responsible for 30% of greenhouse gas pollution in the United States. As we move forward, we need to make sure that we reduce this source of pollution through creating livable communities, making public transportation options more accessible, and building a 21st century transportation system in California.

Having livable communities where people do not need to rely on driving will reduce pollution and household expenditures and move us away from our dependence on oil. All Californians will benefit with alternative transportation choices and the option to not spend 20% of their income each year on transportation.

Transportation consumes more than 70% of the 19 million barrels of oil used daily in the U.S.—that’s roughly 557 million gallons of oil used for transportation each day.

Urge Governor-Elect Jerry Brown to put transportation reform and livable, walkable and bikable communities on top of his list of things to accomplish.

—Annie Pham, Sierra Club California Sacramento

Sempervirens Fund saves more redwoods

The Sempervirens Fund is celebrating two new land acquisitions in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The first, a 33-acre parcel surrounded on three sides by Castle Rock State Park, eventually will become the new entrance to the park. Planned are better access to the park, bathrooms, campgrounds, and a visitor center.

In September Sempervirens closed escrow on the 35-acre Lagomarsino property in San Mateo County. There are over 60 old growth redwoods and over 2000 redwoods and Douglas firs on the property.

The Midpeninsula Open Space District has expressed interest in ultimately acquiring the land.

Diane Cornell to lead trip to Sicily in March

Tired of hiking the same trails? Are you looking for adventure? Do you enjoy traveling in other countries? Why not accompany one of our local leaders on a trip to Sicily?

On March 26 local hike leader Diane Cornell will lead a Sierra Club International trip to Sicily, Italy. If you would like to walk along beautiful seacoasts, view Greek temples, tour archeological parks, cruise out to the island of Lepari, and walk around a volcano on the island of Vulcano, this may be the trip for you. The trip is for 12 days in small hotels and countryside villas with delicious food. For more information contact Diane Cornell, 423-5925, info@osefun.com.

Pogonip hearing delayed

A City Council hearing regarding a proposed new multi-use (equestrians, bicyclists, hikers) trail in the Pogonip will be delayed until February or later, according to Dannettee Shoemaker, Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Santa Cruz. The City had previously announced that the hearing would be held in late November.

As reported in the August issue of The Ventana, the proposed trail would extend from Golf Club Drive north to the U-Con trail. The new trail would require amendment of the Pogonip Master Plan which was adopted in 1998 after extensive debate regarding mixing bicyclists, equestrians and hikers on Pogonip trails. Currently the U-Con and Rincon Connector (leading to Henry Cowell State Park) Trails are the only trails where bikes are allowed in the park.

The postponement of action regarding the proposed multi-use trail provides an opportunity for the community to encourage the City Parks Department and the City Council to give a more in-depth consideration of the proposal, which was fast-tracked by the City in two weeks at the end of July.

The Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) prepared by the City on the trail project is considered by many critics to be an inadequate environmental review. Although the official window for comment on the document closed on November 5, the City has announced that recommendations may still be made to the City Parks Department and City Council (see below).

Critics of the proposal have urged the City to consider an alternative route by the rail line which parallels the Pogonip as a more effective route for discouraging illegal activities such as drug dealing within the southeastern edge of the Pogonip. The rail alternative, which would also provide a more direct bicycle connection to the U-Con trail from Highway 9 and the river levee, was not thoroughly investigated in the MND. Some have also called for a hikers-only trail as an alternative.

The MND also has revealed many serious environmental impacts from the proposed new trail through the Pogonip, all of which will require the further expertise of scientific consultants to (possibly) mitigate.

The Sierra Club opposes the new trail as currently proposed. To learn more, see the MND at www.cityofsantacruz.com/index.aspx?page=1543.

Key contacts:
Patricia Matrejek (Sierra Club): patachek@juno.com
Dannettee Shoemaker: dshoemaker@cityofsantacruz.com
City Council members:
citycouncil@cityofsantacruz.com.
Trail blocked

The long-awaited trail and wildlife corridor from Nisene Marks State Park to Cabrillo has hit a snag. Proponents thought an easement had been worked out by the County with the present owners, but now the trail is blocked off. Negotiations are continuing. The organization Nisene2Sea is working with Santa Cruz County Supervisor Ellen Pirie to get the developers to live up to what they agreed to when their building permit was issued.

Solar returns

At last, solar panels are going back on the White House. The solar panels installed by Jimmy Carter and then abandoned by Ronald Reagan will be reinstalled on the White House. Well, not the original ones—updated ones. They won’t save the planet by themselves, but they are a powerful symbol. Now it’s time to put them on all federal buildings.

Parsons Slough update

Work is in progress on the Parsons Slough Project reported on in the October 2009 Ventana. The project consists of the construction of an underwater sill, a structure that acts like a submerged speed bump to slow the outgoing tide. The sill is designed to reduce erosion in the Elk Slough and conserve wetlands and protect wildlife. Marine mammals, fish, and other wildlife will be able to pass through the sill safely.

Construction is expected to last through mid-February.

Better building standards

The International Code Council, a group of American state, county, and city building and fire code officials, voted in November on a series of proposals to increase energy efficiency standards for newly constructed homes and businesses. The approved proposals achieve a model code that is at least 30% more energy efficient than the 2006 version of the code. Changes will take effect in the 2012 model building code and should result in lower utility bills for new homeowners. Forty-seven states base their building codes on these national model standards.

Creek watch

A new free phone app can help you report trash in California waterways. An iPhone application called Creek Watch, developed by the State Water Resources Control Board and IBM, will allow you to take a photo and report the amount of water, flow rate, and amount of trash in a stream.

Gulf spill scorecard

Seven months after the disastrous oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico the government has yet to deal with the significant risks offshore drilling poses to wildlife and the environment. The animal death toll is high. More than 6,100 birds, 605 sea turtles, and nearly 100 mammals have died. It is estimated the spill killed 20% of juvenile Atlantic bluefin tuna in the area.

A December 3, 2010, article in the Wall Street Journal discusses the “deeply flawed inspection program” for offshore drilling. The Center for Biological diversity has initiated seven lawsuits to hold the government and BP accountable.

Watershed toolkit online

The Coastal Watershed Council has updated its website and its Watershed Stewardship Toolkit. Take a look to learn ways you can protect local watersheds. There are pictures and instructions on ways to manage stormwater runoff from your property. Visit www.coastal-watershed.org and click under Community Stewardship for the toolkit.

Legislative report card

Of the 10 high-priority bills for Sierra Club California, 6 passed the Legislature. Governor Schwarzenegger signed three of those bills: AB 1947 (Solar Energy), AB 2289 (Reducing Smog), and SB 51 (Salton Sea Restoration) and vetoed three: AB 1405 (Global Warming/Environmental Justice), SB 1157 (Less Toxic Schools/Pesticides), and SB 1207 (Fire-Safe Planning).

Staying a Healthy Hiker

by Don Hoernschemeyer, Ph.D.

Sierra Club people keep physically fit and take care of their health because it’s part of their ethos, and because they want to continue to enjoy hiking and camping in nature.

Each of us knows the recipe for maintaining good health—it’s in the news all the time. Eat a balanced diet, and limit your calories. Get enough exercise, of any form. Keep your stress level down—one of the hardest things to do. Have an affectionate and supportive marriage or partnership. Have friends whom you see regularly and have fun with. Take time out for relaxation and simple pleasures. But it is often frustratingly difficult to consistently do what we know we should do.

Would attention to all these commonsense and well known actions keep us healthy? No! They are necessary but not sufficient for our long-term health. There is one more important ingredient needed in order to have a vital, healthy life, free of disease well into later years. Our bodies must be kept free of toxic chemicals. Most Sierra Club people are aware of high profile environmental toxic, for example, Polychlorinated biphenyls, Bisphenol-A, and Phthalates. But there are more, for example, Polychlorinated diphenyl ethers (PBDE), Polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), Perchlorates, and new pesticides that are always being produced. Where are these toxics found? PBDE flame retardants are in household dust and foam cushioning, pillows, and mattresses; PAH is coated on microscopic particles of soot; PFOA is on the packaging of microwave popcorn and on carpeting (therefore also on household dust); Perchlorates are in some leafy produce and some drinking water in the West.

Each of us can raise the odds of being free of diseases that result from ubiquitous, invisible toxic chemicals in the environment. All that is required is knowing how we are normally exposed to these toxics, and keeping them out of our bodies. It is possible; it merely requires knowledge and intention and good habits.

A few examples of what you can do right now to keep toxics out of your body:

• Buy produce that, according to published lists, has the least residue of pesticides.
• See the report by The Environmental Working Group, www.foodnews.org/reportcard.
• Use organic cooking oils (avoid non-organic cottonseed and soybean oils).
• Vacuum carpeting frequently.

For further information visit the author’s blog site, http://toxicfreehealth.net.

Santa Cruz Sierra Club member Don Hoernschemeyer is a retired research chemist.

Jobs Created for Each Billion Dollars Invested

If we invest in green energy or energy conservation instead of continuing to rely on fossil fuels such as coal, would we decrease jobs in the United States? Not at all. Retrofitting buildings creates more than seven and a half times more jobs than the coal industry. Wind power employs almost four times as many people as the coal industry.

If we invest in green energy or energy conservation instead of continuing to rely on fossil fuels such as coal, would we decrease jobs in the United States? Not at all. Retrofitting buildings creates more than seven and a half times more jobs than the coal industry. Wind power employs almost four times as many people as the coal industry.
Planning Department proposes zoning changes with no environmental review

by Kevin Collins

A series of changes has been proposed by the Santa Cruz County Planning Department that could change the zoning code in unpredictable ways. The Sierra Club opposed parts of these changes in 2007-08. The new set of important changes to the zoning code is being presented as minor; we disagree. They are not minor changes.

Zoning rules interconnect in complex ways to impact not only water resources and wildlife but virtually all environmental considerations. County Planning is also claiming that these zoning changes are exempt from CEQA environmental review. Sierra Club disagrees with this position as well. The entire reasoning behind the California Environmental Quality Act is based upon the need for policy makers and the public to understand the potential environmental impacts of projects, including “projects” that change land use code. If Planning wants to change the code, it needs to study the consequences of the changes and not simply claim that they are “minor” and exempt from review. Also, it would be possible for an applicant to ask for several minor exceptions, which when taken together, could amount to a very big exception.

The changes themselves involve what are called “site standards” and include building height, lot coverage, setbacks from property lines, and floor area ratio, which is a standard that limits the volume of a building relative to its lot. These proposed changes also would affect solar access, accessory structures, structural encroachments, and buildings constructed without permits.

Public hearings would be eliminated

Variances from current codes require a public hearing. In order to grant a variance, a hearing is currently required wherein the reviewing body must make a set of findings. Typically, variances are only granted based upon special circumstances of the site’s geometry.

Planning is now proposing a new category of “minor exceptions” to these codes to be processed by Planning Department staff with no public hearing and notification only to adjacent houses or those directly across a street. This lack of wider public notification cuts deeply into our democratic traditions and is insufficient to protect the environment and wider neighborhood. Moreover, the “findings” necessary for staff to approve these “minor exceptions” to existing code appear subjective and open-ended creating the possibility that under the proposal virtually every “exception” requested could be granted. This is a very significant change from current regulations. The proposed new exceptions have no avenue of appeal except back to the Planning Department which granted them initially, and no possibility of higher level appeal.

Zoning code, like subdivision law, is fundamental to all other land use regulations. In many ways zoning is the most important class of regulations that determine the future physical nature of the County. Such decisions need to be made only after considerable deliberation and certainly should not be left to staff with no public review or clear right of appeal.

Historic reasons for planning complexity

There are many reasons why the Santa Cruz County Planning and building codes are complex. Santa Cruz Mountain properties are earthquake and landslide prone. There is a crucial need to protect surface water supplies from septic leaks and silt accumulation in creek beds caused by landslides and building.

No building permits were required until the 1950s. Many, if not most, of the real problems people face with building permits have to do with the fact that Santa Cruz County was largely subdivided before there were any standards for the creation of residential lots. Originally the County accepted virtually all subdivision proposals without review. This foolish lack of foresight created thousands of lots that do not meet logical standards for setbacks from adjoining buildings or roads, for septic systems, and for emergency access or parking.

By the early 1970s it became clear that unbridled development in the county could result in urbanization similar to what happened in Fresno and the Santa Clara Valley. Several reforms have occurred at the Planning Department since the 1980s. There are numerous stories about the difficulties of the permit process, but many of these stories are distortions of fact. The real problems with the planning codes should be addressed by careful analysis and revision of specific provisions, not by a general weakening of zoning standards that protect residents and neighborhoods.

Although there may be room to allow for some “minor exceptions” when remodeling on lots legally built to prior code, such as allowing a pre-existing four-foot setback to a lot line when the code has since changed to five feet, the situations covered by the proposed code changes have no such limitations. Expanding the opportunities to build upon formerly unbuildable lots is not in the public interest. The existing County code was developed to prevent new problems from arising. It is not in the public interest to develop new problematic house sites on lots that should never have been subdivided to begin with.

How to help

- Contact Kevin Collins for more information, 234-7306.
- Come to the January 25 meeting of the County Board of Supervisors where this issue will be discussed.

Docent training begins in January for Watsonville Wetlands Watch

The Watsonville Wetlands Watch 2011 Docent Training Program will begin on January 26. Local experts will provide an inside look at the wetlands of Watsonville, including the ecology, history, and restoration of the wetlands. This 7-week program 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 Fitl 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.

Contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Kathy Fieberling, 345-1226 or kathyfiеб@ yahoo.com for details and to enroll.

Please recycle this paper again

The Sierra Club © Ventana Chapter, Volume 49, Number 6, 2010 5
Ventana Chapter Candidates

Ballot on page 15
Vote for up to three candidates.

Barbara Bass Evans

I am honored to be asked to run for Executive Committee of the Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club. Since retirement from education, I have been dedicated to preserving and expanding public access to our unique and exceptional Monterey coastline. I have served as co-chair of Save Our Waterfront Monterey Committee (SOWMC) since 1994. (http://www.evansmonterey.org)

I bring to the Sierra Club connections and communication with Organization of Coastal Advocates (ORCA), an environmental lobbying group for the Coastal Commission; the Natural Resources Committee of the League of Women Voters; Surfrider; CA Desal Response Group; and my work with Save Our Waterfront Committee Monterey, I hope to enhance the Sierra Club’s opportunities to align with like minded groups as we work towards achieving common goals.

Joel Weinstein

My concern about the environment first arose in my childhood with the permanent closure of a nearby beach. Love of the Monterey area’s natural environment drew me here. I’m strongly motivated to protect our beautiful area.

My engineering studies and career gave me the opportunity to pioneer in pollution control in the electroplating and foundry industry. We demonstrated that clean practices were both profitable and effective, leading other plants to emulate our example.

As Ventana Chapter board member and treasurer, I have enjoyed working to achieve the Sierra Club goals. As treasurer I have used the knowledge gained from an MBA in Finance and Accounting and in numerical analysis to keep our chapter finances in good order. I have put our accounting system on Quick Books to make it compatible with Sierra Club National’s accounting and have increased the return on our assets 5-fold.

Tom Moore

As a Sierra Club member since 1978, my primary concerns have been related to the preservation of wilderness and parklands, the maintenance of biodiversity on the planet, and the consequences of population growth, particularly rapid population growth. I’m an advocate of thinking globally and acting locally. In the latter regard, I’ve served three years on the Marina City Planning Commission, three years on the MCWD Water Conservation Commission, 17 years on the MCWD Board of Directors and two years on the Monterey County LAFCO.

I’ve also participated in a number of Sierra Club trail maintenance outings and hikes over the years. If elected to the Executive Committee, I’d bring to the table knowledge of local planning, water and wastewater issues.

Iris Peppard

I am the Executive Director and co-founder of Everyone’s Harvest, an non-profit organization. We manage four Certified Farmers’ Markets in Monterey County, www.everyonesharvest.org. The organization was started by five Marina women. We all believed that everyone deserves the right to access local, fresh, organic produce. In addition, I am the Garden Coordinator for the Service Learning Institute of California State University Monterey Bay. In the past five years, we have built the first ever community garden in Salinas, the Chinatown Community Garden to assist with the renewal efforts of Salinas Chinatown http://service.csumb.edu/sites/x19104.xml. Currently, we are gearing up under a USDA grant to start two more gardens in Marina in 2011 and a composting enterprise.

I have a personal interest in the Sierra Club because I was born and spent the first 10 years of my life in Tahoe City, located in the Sierras. I value the forest with my heart and soul. Going hiking in the forests of the Monterey Peninsula, I find harmony and inspiration I can’t find anywhere else. I hope to learn more about the Ventana Chapter and do my part to assist in the Chapter’s efforts.

Natalie Zayes

I am honored to be asked to run for Executive Committee of the Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club. As an educator, I have been devoted to teaching about the environment and facilitating workshops for early childhood through secondary educators using environmental education curriculum. I volunteer with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary involving students in the water quality programs such as First Flush and Snapshot Day.

I bring to the Sierra Club connections with California State University, Monterey Bay and Citizens for Sustainable Marina. My passion not only lies in environmental and science education but specifically in water issues, and water quality monitoring & solutions to water problems locally and globally. I have conducted water quality studies in Mexico and locally and have my students involved in monitoring and learning about the issues of the Peninsula.

I look forward to working with the Sierra Club toward goals of educating the public and working toward a better environment for the future.
Santa Cruz Group Candidates

Ballot on page 15
Vote for up to three candidates.

Patricia Matejcek
I ask for your vote so I may continue to serve on the Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee. I believe the experience I’ve gained while serving on the Executive Committee, as the Group Conservation Chair, as a current member of the Pajaro River Watershed Committee, as past Political Committee member, as delegate to the CNRCC and annual Convention, as a member of the CA Coastal Committee and the CA ExCom Nominating Committee, and the national Marine Action Team will continue to be useful to Club members in addressing the numerous and increasingly complex resource issues facing our county. There are also several administrative tasks I’d like to complete, so I would appreciate your vote.

Deirdre Des Jardins
I moved to Santa Cruz in 1987 and have lived in the Santa Cruz mountains for the last 12 years. I have learned to love the mountains in all their seasons and the many unique and beautiful plants and animals on the Central Coast. Although much has been done to preserve this heritage, I have also seen the slow degradation of habitat from land clearing, logging, road building, and development.

In California, we’re facing continuing challenges from population increase and development and the resulting impacts on both land and water. In the next decade, we’ll also begin to see impacts from global warming. It’s a critical time for many species and their habitats, including Central Coast Coho salmon and steelhead trout, red-legged frogs, and tiger and long-toed salamanders.

John Howerton
As a lifelong outdoorsman, I have always felt the need to connect to nature. From my first backpack as a Boy Scout to being a mentor as a Big Brother and now as a Sierra Club hike leader, I have helped others connect and acknowledge their role in our environmental responsibilities. As an Executive Committee member I hope to connect our members with their representatives so that we may fully represent the desires of our group.

My interests are varied but transportation and membership would be my focus. New membership and outreach is key to accomplishing the future goals of the Sierra Club. I hope to help us embrace the digital age of environmental activism.

David Casterson
I graduated from UCSC cum laude in Environmental Studies, my thesis: “The Effect of Clear Cut Logging on the Redwood Ecosystem.” A high school biology and nature photography teacher of 34 years, I have served as a member of the Santa Cruz County RTC’s Transportation Task Force and its Bicycle Committee.

My family has lived on a small apple farm in the Aptos Hills for the past 25 years. We have installed solar hot water and photovoltaic systems on our home. I connect deeply with Santa Cruz County through a variety of activities including hiking, cycling, kayaking, writing, photography and teaching. People who have a strong bond with the earth are much more likely to take actions to defend it.

Our local Sierra Club needs to give people a reason to join us, through our activities, our fundraising, and media exposure. Now, more than ever, we need a more powerful, more diverse and positive voice for the environment. Sierra Club members should vote for me because of the enthusiasm, openness and experience I demonstrate in welcoming others to share our commitment to protect and improve the natural environment of Santa Cruz County.

Keresha Durham
I’ve been a bilingual educator for 23 years; environmental education is my passion and central to my curriculum.

As a fifth generation Californian, I inherited a fierce sense of preserving our wild, natural beauty. I joined the Sierra Club in high school in the 1970s, and I continue to make profound life choices to protect the natural environment—choosing not to have children and to sell my car.

I have demonstrated leadership skills, being appointed to serve on The Environmental Council, Chair of Santa Cruz City Transportation Commission, Vice Chair of the Monterey Bay chapter of Population Connection and others.

Locally, the impact of unchecked growth is negatively affecting our quality of life. How do we live within our habitat’s carrying capacity?

One answer is to create an efficient multi-modal transportation network of bike, pedestrian, bus and rail facilities. Fossil-fuel vehicles cause climate change, health problems, permanently pave over habitat and divide our communities with noise and pollution. I support water conservation, not an energy-intensive desalination plant.

My vision for our chapter is to encourage participation: have regular general membership meetings and public events so we are recognized by youth and our community as its voice for environmental stewardship.

Certified Green Building Professional
One-Day Room Re-Design
Repurpose and restyle what you already own for a look that’s easy on the checkbook and the environment

Residential Design Services
For your remodel, addition, kitchen or bath
www.sheltondesign.com  831.479.0796

www.sheltondesign.com
831.479.0796
For nearly 12 years your Chapter representatives have fought to defend Monterey County’s incredible plant and animal ecology through the General Plan Update (GPU) process. Unfortunately, the Plan recently approved by the County Supervisors severely weakens existing regulations that have for decades protected much of this county’s natural landscape, described by The Nature Conservancy as “a globally-important hot-spot of biological diversity.”

What is at stake?
Over 2000 species of plants, 37 of which are found nowhere else on earth, at least 178 species of birds, and myriad other species call Monterey County home. The County provides core habitat for many declining and threatened species. It is one of just five Mediterranean-type regions on the planet, which cover just 2% of the earth’s surface, yet harbor over 20% of the species diversity. However, extensive habitat loss and fragmentation and loss of critical wildlife corridors will result if key Plan policies are not successfully challenged. We are focused on three of the most important, interrelated policy failures of the GPU which must be addressed:

Steep slope conversion
Under the new plan, development regulations have been eviscerated that have long protected steep hill sides and their fabric of life. The new regulations would allow the conversion of hundreds of thousands of acres of unspoiled steep hillsides for vineyards and other intensive uses, which would displace wildlife as well as its habitat. Other harmful impacts of this change include those to water supplies (from new water demand), erosion, and sedimentation of our already severely compromised streams and rivers; air and water quality (from heavy equipment and chemical use); and the destruction of the natural viewshed.

Wildlife corridors
Animals require movement linkages for dispersing, foraging, and breeding, and yet these linkages have not been protected in the GPU. In addition, the County occupies a critical location relative to regional wildlife movements between major coastal and interior mountain ranges. Locally- and regionally-significant wildlife corridors are already threatened by development, roadways, and agricultural intensification. The Plan’s Environmental Impact Report (EIR) failed to adequately identify and address the harm that its policies would cause to these essential linkage corridors. In addition, the Plan’s “Winery Corridors” would allow significant development of vineyards, fencing, restaurants, lodgings, wine tasting facilities, and large scale wineries. The direct overlap of these proposed Winery Corridors and identified regionally-important wildlife movement corridors will cause serious environmental harm to habitats, species, and wildlife corridors.

Water supply
Critically, the EIR also fails to include a thorough and legally-adequate factual analysis and mitigation of the general plan’s impacts on the County’s limited water supplies. Incredibly, in light of Monterey’s long-standing water crises, the County also failed to bite the bullet and provide criteria for a definition of a long-term sustainable water supply, by which to analyze proposed new development—leaving that very essential task undone. It is highly irresponsible for the County to force the residents themselves to repeatedly defend their dwindling water supply each time another subdivision is promoted.

What’s next?
The Open Monterey Project (TOMP) has just filed a legal challenge against the County, based on these and other key issues. TOMP is an unincorporated association of residents established in 2002 to promote open and accountable government and sound environmental decision-making throughout Monterey County. The Chapter Executive Committee has voted to endorse this litigation. Stay tuned for future updates!
State of the air


Although results showed improvement over previous air quality levels, much remains to be done. Not unexpected, findings were that people living in poverty face higher risks of harm from air pollution.

Most polluted cities in U.S. by ozone
LA/Long Beach/Riverside
Bakersfield
Visalia/Porterville
Fresno/Madera
Sacramento area
Hanford, CA/Corcoran
Houston area
San Diego/Carlsbad/San Marcos
San Luis Obispo/Paso Robles
Charlotte area North Carolina

Particle pollution, year round
Phoenix
Bakersfield
LA area
Visalia/Porterville
Pittsburgh, PA area
Fresno area
Birmingham area
Hanford area
Cincinnati area
St Louis area

Short term (24 hr.) particle pollution
Bakersfield
Fresno
Pittsburgh, PA
LA
Birmingham
Sacramento
Salt Lake City
Visalia
Modesto
Hanford
Merced

Antibacterial soap affects fish reproductive behavior
Are you using antibacterial soap? You might change your mind after learning what scientists reported in November at the meeting of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry in Portland, Oregon.

Chemist Melissa Schultz studied the effects of low concentrations of triclosan and triclocarban on minnows in laboratory aquariums. The concentrations studied are levels found in the environment. Schultz found that even low levels of these chemicals affected the behavior of male minnows who normally defend their nests from rivals. Exposed males were less interested than non exposed controls.

“Even at the low concentrations found in the wild, these chemicals can alter reproductive behavior,” noted Heiko Schoenfuss, an aquatic toxicologist.

Next time you go to the store, you might want to read the label on the soap container.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season
FDA ponders genetically engineered salmon

As California’s native salmon teeter on the brink of extinction, ocean-based salmon farms attempt to keep salmon on the menu. While doing nothing to further the survival of native fish, the farms are guilty of the exact opposite. Lice from farmed fish are infecting the natives, concentrated waste litters the ocean floor beneath pens where fish are stuffed like sardines in a can, and escapees are crossbreeding with native strains weakening their genetic suitability for survival. Farmed salmon are fed dye to give them the rosy pink color we expect, pesticides to rid them of lice, and antibiotics to keep them alive.* Their adverse impacts on the environment and human health are believed to be considerable.

But a potentially larger threat to native salmon and human health looms on the horizon: genetically engineered (or modified) salmon. Frankenfish, if you will. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is poised to approve a plan by AquaBounty Technologies to produce genetically engineered salmon that grow twice as fast as native salmon, so they can “feed the world.” These fish start as Atlantic Chinook with genes of Pacific Chinook and “ocean pour” spliced into their DNA.

As we are reminded, Monsanto and other bio-tech corporations did not start creating genetically-modified seeds to “save the world,” but to privatize genetic information. In other words, their goal was to corner the market and make fistfuls of money.

If the FDA approves the sale of GE salmon for human consumption, this will be a first for genetically-modified food animals and will open the floodwaters for other experimental creatures on our dinner plates. Little research on health effects to humans has been conducted, and the FDA may not even require labeling of these genetically altered (GMO) fish so consumers can decide for themselves.

The FDA is in receipt of studies conducted by AquaBounty, the company that wants to feed you GE salmon, which show the following: GMO salmon have higher allergenic potencies, they are more carcinogenic—producing 40% more of a hormone linked to prostate, breast, and colon cancers in humans—, have the lowest omega-3 to omega-6 ratio of any salmon, and may change the bacteria in our intestines.

The GE fish themselves show an increased frequency of skeletal malformations such as “humpback” spinal compression and jaw “erosion.” In comparative photos, they look like salmon on steroids, and, like all farmed fish, they eat lots of fish-meal from the oceans which further depletes ocean fish stocks.

Claims that these fish will save wild salmon by reducing pressure on wild fish simply don’t hold up, as loss of habitat is the greatest threat to native salmon. Farmed fish, whether GMO or not, simply allow us to continue ignoring the huge problem of habitat destruction and loss. Dams, water use, sediment, logging, urbanization of stream channels and riparian corridors all contribute to degraded freshwater habitat. Climate change is altering the oceans in ways we have yet to understand. Salmon need both streams and the ocean. These iconic fish are born in coastal fresh water streams and rivers, and migrate into the oceans for a significant portion of their lives. They then return to the stream of their birth to spawn and begin the cycle anew.

While GMO salmon would initially be raised in inland ponds, escape is still a possibility, as eggs would get distributed worldwide. The effects of cross breeding between these engineered fish and their wild brethren are completely unknown. Will we take the risk? According to Gregory Moyer, Regional Geneticist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, “The environmental impact of escaped GE salmon is of great concern.” “I do think the chance of escapement is huge,” says Deborah Burger, Manager, Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The FDA veterinary advisory committee, rather than the food advisory committee, will be making the final decision. In November, Sen. Mark Begich (D-Alaska) introduced legislation that would ban genetically engineered salmon if approved by the FDA. But the biotech industry has a lot riding on FDA approval and has lobbied long and hard, pouring lots of money into the midterm elections.

Non–Sierra Club Events of Interest

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

Saturday & Sunday, January 29-30
Wilderness First Aid
This 16-hour certified course is hosted by UCSC Recreation and the Wilderness Medicine Institute of NOLS. It is from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day at Stevenson College, UCSC. Register online at www.ucscrecreation.com.

Friday, January 7
Tree planting meeting
Join Santa Cruz Climate Action Grove to discuss future tree planting sites in Santa Cruz. 7-8:30 p.m. Contact Greg Cotten, contact@santacruzstreettrust.org for more info.

Friday & Saturday, February 25 & 26
Banff Mountain Film Festival
Explore the world’s best great white places. Tickets $12 to $15. Purchase online at www.ucscrecreation.com or in person at UCSC Recreation or at Pacific Edge. Benefits the UCSC Wilderness Orientation Scholarship Fund. 7:00 p.m. at the Rio Theatre, Santa Cruz.

Montrey 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 Shriker, 236-0905, jshriner@mbay.net. Website: www.montreybaycnps.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, 462-4041, l.redwine@pacbell.net. Website: www.santacruznps.org.

Watsonville Fourth Saturday
Habitat restoration - Watsonville
Sponsored by Watsonville Wetlands Watch. 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Meet at the Fitz Wetlands Educ. Resource Center at Pajaro Valley HS. Gloves, tools, and snack provided. Call Jonathan Filch, 728-4106, for more info. No experience necessary.

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

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

EXPLANATION OF RATINGS:
The outings described vary in difficulty from leisurely walks to strenuous hikes. The following explanation is a general guideline.

Walk: Between 2-5 miles; leisurely pace.
Easy: No more than 5 miles; slight elevation gain; easy pace.
Moderate: 5-10 miles; up to 2000’ gain; boosts; 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 Alberston’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. Site of the ‘Thurs. Farmers Mkt. Plenty of parking with no fee on weekends.

In the interest of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ridesharing, or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the 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/outing/forms.

DeCEMBER

Thursday, December 16
HIKE: PEBBLE BEACH
We’ll zig & zag through serene pine forests of Pebble Beach hoping to find beautiful Fly Agaric mushrooms. If we’re really lucky, we might see an elf or two under them. Bring water. Lunch gives us the option of purchasing a Poppy Hills sandwich, 5-miles, 750’ elevation gain with flora & fauna stops. Arrive early; we depart at 9:30 a.m. sharp from the “Haul Road” Gates on Hwy. 68 in Pebble Beach. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.
Friday, December 17
HIKE: BLUFF CAMP
Let’s see if there’s any water in Los Padres reservoir! Meet at Rio Rd Park & Ride at 8:30 a.m. to carpool to Princes Camp in Cachagua. Our 8-mile walk takes us across the dam and along the edge of the reservoir to our lunch spot at Bluff Camp on the upper Carmel River. Scenic and moderately strenuous terrain at a leisurely pace. Bring lunch and water. Rain cancels. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372 7427.
Saturday, December 18
HIKE: WILDER RANCH
Our hike takes us through open meadows and several beautiful forested areas. Lunch at the top of the Encalpyus Loop where we will enjoy a sweeping ocean view, 10-mile loop, 900’ elevation gain. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center parking lot at 9:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch and carpool $. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Pamela Burnham, 428-2796.
Saturday, December 18
HIKE: PINNACLES, “BEHIND THE MONUMENTS”
For a different perspective of the Pinnacles National Monument, we’ll utilize climber access trails to go among the pinnacle rocks and “behind” monuments normally viewed only from their sheer “front” side on the Juniper Canyon trail. With enough rainfall, we will see a 30’ waterfall. For experienced hikers only as trails are not developed, 6 miles and 2000’ elevation gain. Must call leader for further information and a reservation. Leader: Jack Glendenning, 484-6929.
Sunday, December 19
HIKE: JACKS PEAK
We’ll walk around Jacks Peak clockwise, starting at the elementary school on Olmstead Road (near Monterey airport). Moderate 6-mile hike with less than 1000’ elevation gain. Beautiful views of Monterey and Point Lobos. Bring water and lunch. Heavy rain cancels, driible doesn’t count. Dress for the winter weather. Confirm by calling leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.
Tuesday, December 21
HIKE: POINT LOBOS
Our 6-mile loop with minimal elevation gain takes us along tree-clad headland trails with magnificent views. Well probably see a variety of wildlife and maybe some wildflowers. Bring water & lunch. Meet at the Rio Road Park & Ride near the Bank of America before 9:30 a.m. We leave on time. Leader: Gisela Nobinger. Please let me know if you are coming: onegisela@aol.com or 333-7759.
Wednesday, December 22
HIKE: POGONIP
Stop at old spring boxes, lime kilns, and old clubhouse. Hike through meadows, redwoods, and a few creeks. 6½ miles, 600’ elevation gain. Bring water and lunch. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. Leader: Tom Davey, 331-8430.
Saturday, December 25
HOLIDAY HIKE: GARZAS CREEK
Peaceful beautiful Garzas Creek is a relaxing way to spend a holiday. 4½-mile loop with 800’ elevation gain. Bring water & lunch or snack. Arrive early; we depart at 10:00 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. We should return around 2:00 p.m. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.
Tuesday, December 28 - January 2
HOLIDAY SERVICE IN CARRIZO PLAIN
Celebrate New Year’s in one of our newer national monuments. The Carrizo Plain, northeast of 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 5 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.
Wednesday, December 29
HIKE: HENRY COWELL REDWOODS
Cowell has some very old redwoods and some rare, for this area, Ponderosa pines. 7½ miles, along the San Lorenzo River. Scenic and moderately strenuous terrain at a leisurely pace. Bring lunch and water. Rain cancels. Leader: Tom Davey, 331-8430.

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.

The Lodge grooms its own cross country ski and snowshoe trails, rents equipment for these activities and offers cross country ski lessons. The unbeatable location of the Lodge provides quick and easy access to the legendary Donner Summit backcountry ski area or any of its downhill or cross country ski resorts.

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

See you on Donner Summit...
January

Saturday, January 1
HIKE: GARLAND TO MY PLACE
Our traditional New Year’s Hike takes us from Garland Ranch, up to Snively’s Ridge at a moderate pace, and still a little higher to a sunny spot for lunch. Then we’ll turn west and go way up through Carmel Valley, down to Holt Road and back. But wait a minute, you are all invited to Kaffee und Kuchen at my place, Mid Valley Garden Homes #53, to celebrate the New Year. About 8 miles and 1500’ elevation gain. Bring lunch and water, 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.

Tuesday, January 4
SENIOR WALK: WATSONVILLE WETLANDS
A mostly flat 3½ mile walk around Watsonville and senior Walk: Watsonville Wetlands Tuesday, January 4
5¼ mile walk around Watsonville and
senior Walk: Watsonville Wetlands
Tuesday, January 4

Wednesday, January 5
HIKE: TURNER CR/SKINNER RIDGE LOOP
We’ll start with a steep 2-mile road walk on the Long Ridge to Turner Creek Trail, hike to the Skinner Ridge Trail, and finish at Botcher’s Gap. 8 miles

Friday, January 7 - 9
WORK PARTY: DEATH VALLEY NAT’L PARK
Come help with wilderness restoration in this beautiful and remote National Park. Meet early Friday afternoon and work on erasing vehicle tracks in Gower Gulch in Death Valley. Saturday we’ll work in the Amargosa Valley on the park’s east side, installing park boundary signs and wilderness restoration signs, and removing trash. Sunday work is TBD. Camp Friday and Saturday nights at Texas Springs campground. Appraiser/dessert potluck Saturday evening. Bring hiking gear, food for the weekend, and work gloves. Leader: Kate Allen, kjdallen@wildblue.net, 661-944-4056.

Saturday, January 8
HIKE: GARLAND RANCH
We’ll hike up to the Mesa via foothill trails, Buckeye and Waterfall; return via Fern, Mesa, and Lupine Loop Trails. About 5 miles, mild elevation, Nice valley views, trails; may be muddy. Meet at Save Mart to carpool. Please call leader to reserve space and for meeting time. Bring snack or lunch and water. Rain cancels. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Sunday, January 9
HIKE: PINNACLES
My favorite local place to hike, the Pinnacles has wonderful views, amazing geologic formations, and is a dryer and warmer alternative to the coast. A fairly strenuous hike with 12 miles and 1200’ elevation gain. Call leader for carpool information. No rain cancellation! Leader: John Howerton, 476-4253.

Sunday, January 9
HIKE: WHALE PEAK AT SOBERANES POINT
How about a trek around and up Whale Peak at Soberanes? We’ll hope for a clear day to watch for whales, so bring binoculars. If the trail on the ocean side of the peak is closed, we’ll do a two-pronged walk first on the north side and then the south, and then go up the hill for lunch. Dress in layers (windy up top!), bring lunch and water, expect to be back at meeting place by early afternoon. Rain cancels. Meet at the Rio Road Park and Ride at 10:00 a.m. For more directions call by Jan 8! Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

Tuesday, January 11
HIKE: TOPO PARK
This 5-mile hike with 800’ elevation gain takes us through a forested valley along the Ollason Trail then up to oak-dotted grasslands. Stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Bring water & lunch. Meet at the dirt parking area outside Toro Park before 9:45 a.m. Bring lunch or eat in one of the restaurants on the Esplanade. Leader: Pat Herzog, 458-9841.

Tuesday, January 11
HIKE: TUNER CR/SKINNER RIDGE LOOP
We’ll start with a steep 2-mile road walk on the Long Ridge to Turner Creek Trail, hike to the Skinner Ridge Trail, and finish at Botcher’s Gap. 8 miles

Friday, January 14
HIKE: PINNACLES/JUNIPERO CYN LOOP
This spectacular but steep trail climbs along switchbacks to the heart of the High Peaks. At the top, we’ll circle through rock formations along the steep and narrow section of the High Peaks Trail and return via the Tunnel Trail. We’ll look for condors and early wildflowers. 4.3 miles with 1215’ elevation gain. Bring lunch and water. Meet at MPC parking lot A at 9:00 a.m. or at Pinnacles Chaparral day use area, west side, at 10:30 a.m. Rain cancels. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372-7427.

Saturday, January 15
WALK: WILDER RANCH COASTAL
We’ll do a 6-mile walk along the coast at Wilder Ranch. The only issues might be mud, wind, and/or rain depending on the weather. Nick’s recently had a troublesome knee, so please call to confirm meeting place and time. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Saturday, January 16
HIKE: OLD STAGE COACH TO SAN JUAN BAUTISTA
We’ll start from Old Stage Coach Road and hike all the way over the hills and down to San Juan Bautista. After lunch and exploring the Mission and old town decorated for Christmas, we’ll hike back the same way: 12 miles and 1000’ elevation gain. Bring a hat, water, and lunch, or money for lunch in a cafe. Wear good shoes and bring your hiking poles. Meet at Home Depot in Seaside near the gas station at 9:00 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.
Tuesday, January 18

**SENIOR WALK: NATURAL BRIDGES**

4-mile walk from Lighthouse Field to Natural Bridges. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Seas 41st Ave. To go direct, park in lot across from Lighthouse/Museum on West Cliff Dr. Bring water, lunch, $2 carpool. We'll lunch at Natural Bridges. Leader: Jean Harrison, 425-5447.

Tuesday, January 18

**HIKE: MOLERA BEACH**

To view the many colorful and fanciful ocean-created rock sculptures along Molera Beach, this West Molera loop hike is timed to an unusually 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 Save Mart. Returning around 5:30 p.m. Rain cancels. For more info call leader: Jack Glendenning, 484-6929.

Wednesday, January 19

**HIKE: LAND OF MEDICINE BUDDHA**

Hike includes a redwood forest and beautiful Bets Creek, 6 miles, moderate loop, 500’ elevation gain. Bring water and a snack. Meet at back parking lot of Natural Bridges. Bring water and a snack. Meet at 9:00 a.m. Call for location. Leader: DJ Goehring, 277-9908.

Thursday, January 20

**HIKE: MOUNT MADONNA**

This 6-mile loop with 900’ elevation gain includes a lovely redwood forest, lunch with a view, and possibly some feisty adder’s tongues. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 8:40 a.m. sharp from the far end of the parking lot in front of REI (next to the wall) in Marina or from Spring Recreation Area at 9:45 a.m. sharp. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Saturday, January 22

**WALK: GEOLOGY TOUR OF THE POGONIP**

Please join Friends of the Pogonip for a tour with geologist Jerry Weber on the Pogonip. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the top (north end) of Spring Street in Santa Cruz. The walk should take about three hours. Jerry Weber, who is a recognized local expert on Santa Cruz County geology, will help us get connected with the fascinating geological structure of the Pogonip, with all its springs and marine terraces. It will not be a speedy hike. For information, call leaders Celia or Peter Scott at 423-0796.

Sunday, January 23

**HIKE: WADDELL CREEK/ BIG BASIN**

Starting at Hwy. 1 we'll hike the Skyline to the Sea Trail and McCray Ridge to the Mt. McAbee overlook and return via the Howard King and Skyline to the Sea Trails with a short side trip to Berry Creek Falls. A strenuous hike of 12 miles with 1700’ elevation gain. Dress in layers; bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 8:30 a.m. to carpool. Leader: John Howerton, 476-4253.

Tuesday, January 25

**SENIOR WALK: CARMEL CIRCLE**

3-mile loop in Carmel beginning at Carmel Beach parking lot. We’ll walk past Mission Ranch, the Carmel Mission and the Mission Trail Reserve then over to the Sunset Theater area and down to Carmel scenic tour walking areas. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. To go direct, take Hwy. 1 south to Ocean exit. Drive thru Carmel about a mile to Carmello St. Turn left on Carmello; drive about 1/2 miles to beach parking lot. Free parking and restrooms. Bring lunch or plan to go out in Carmel after the walk. Bring water and $4 carpool. Walk begins at 10:30 a.m. Leader: Brooke Ewoldsen, 475-6188.

Tuesday, February 1

**SENIOR WALK: ANTONELLI POND**

We’ll start our 3-mile walk along the west side of Antonelli Pond on the Terrace Point to visit the Seymour Center, returning to Natural Bridges for lunch. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or on Delaware Ave. by entrance to Natural Bridges at 9:50 a.m. Bring lunch, water, $2 carpool. Rain cancels. Leader: Jean Harrison, 425-5447.

Saturday, February 5

**HIKE: FORT ORD GRASSLANDS**

On this hike, we’ll focus on the southern portion of the parkland and hike up from the trailhead at the west end of Toro Creek Estates on Hwy 68. We’ll go up via Guidotti and Skyline Roads for total of 10 miles with 500’ elevation gain. Bring water and lunch. Meet at the trailhead at 9:00 a.m. Call for a space. Leader: Monique Farques, 384-3234.

Saturday, February 5

**WORK PARTY: CARRIZO PLAINS**

This outing combines a day of assistance to the Carrizo National Monument with a day of sightseeing and/or hiking. Weather can be cold, gray, and rainy, or it can be warm and bright—we take our chances. The service will be in removing or modifying fences to give pronghorn greater mobility on the Plain, and the recreation will be determined by the wishes of the group. This is an opportunity to combine camping, day-hiking, exploring, and service in a relatively unknown wilderness. Leader: Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670.

Saturday, February 6

**HIKE: FORT ORD**

From high in Fort Ord we’ll see great views of Toro Ridge and varying views. Bring a hat, water, and lunch. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or in the Watsonville Orchard Supply parking lot at Main & Green Valley. To go direct, take Airport exit to Green Valley Road, go left on Green Valley to park entrance. Rain cancels. Leader: Denise Luch, 234-9559.

Tuesday, February 8

**SENIOR WALK: PINTO LAKE**

Our 3-mile loop with minimal elevation gain takes us along world renowned seascapes and into the forest of Point Lobos. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 10:30 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Wednesday, February 9

**HIKE: ST. JOSEPH’S HILL OPEN SPACE**

This route across the Santa Cruz Mountains between the Santa Clara Valley and the Pacific Coast was used by Native Americans, Spanish missionaries, American explorers, lumberjacks and Chinese railway workers. In 1846 John C. Fremont’s diary entry describes it as a splendid forest of coast redwoods, tanbark oaks, and madrones. We’ll discuss some of this history as we begin the hike from Lexington Reservoir County Park and take the Flume, Jones, Novitiate, Serpentine, and Range Trails to a spectacular view of the Bay Area. We’ll go over to Novitiate Park and the Los Gatos History Museum walking through one of the most expansive manzanita forests on midpeninsula preserve lands. Bring water and
Thursday, February 15

**WALK: ASILOMAR**

Our 4-mile loop with minimal elevation gain takes us along the old railroad trail, then out to the coast and back along the boardwalk of Asilomar Beach. If we still feel like more walking, we'll head out to Bird Rock. Bring water and a snack. Meet at the Fishwife restaurant before 9:30 a.m. to leave on time. We should be back before lunch. Leader: Gisela Nobinger. Please let me know if you are coming: onegise-la@aol.com or 333-1759.

Saturday, February 19

**HIKE: TORO PARK**

Come with me to explore Toro Park. We'll hike up to Valley View Peak via East Ridge and East Toyon trails and get great views. 9 miles with 1500’ elevation gain. Bring water and lunch. Meet at the entrance of Toro Park at 9:00 a.m. Rain cancels. Call for a space. Leader: Monique Farques, 384-3234.

Sunday, February 20

**HIKE: PINNACLES / MT DEFiance**

For experienced hikers only, we'll explore the fifth highest peak in Pinnacles National Monument, Mt. Defiance, with a panoramic view including the seldom-seen "Little Pinnacles." Mostly off-trail with some light bushwhacking. Leaving Salinas at 9:00 a.m. 6 miles and 2000’ elevation gain. Must call leader for further information and a reservation. Leader: Jack Glendenning, 484-6929.

**VENTANA Chapter (Monterey County)**

**M E E T I N G S C H E D U L E**

Ventana Chapter (Monterey County)
Mailing Address — The Ventana Chapter, P.O. Box 5667, Carmel, CA, 93921
Email: chapter@ventana.sierraclub.org — Website: www.ventana.sierraclub.org

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.

**Hike for this 7-mile hike. Meet to carpool at 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. ($3) or at 16:30 a.m. at the Lexington Reservoir Parking lot by turning off Hwy 17 in Los Gatos onto Alma Bridge Rd. and continuing 0.7 mile. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

**Walk: Asilomar/Pebble Beach**

A 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, early beach wildflowers, possible sea birds and whale spouts to be seen. Meet across from the Fishwife Restaurant on Sunset Drive and Asilomar Blvd., Pacific Grove. Call to reserve a place and for meeting time. Bring snack and water. Leader: Martha Taylor, 372-9215.

**Saturday, February 12**

**HIKE: JACKS PEAK**

Let’s approach Jacks Peak from Carmel Valley. 6 miles and 1000’ of elevation gain. Through a meadow and up a fairly steep trail through pines and oaks. Possible poison oak, so come prepared. Meet at Save Mart/Bagel Bakery at 10:00 a.m. Rain cancels. Leader: Larry Parrish, 622-7455.

**Tuesday, February 15**

**Walk: Asilomar**

Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. To go direct, take Hwy 1 south. Exit at 68 West off ramp. Meet at the Fishwife Restaurant at 10:30 a.m. Bring lunch, water, $4 carpool. Leader: Brooke Ewoldt, 475-6188.

**Wednesday, February 16**

**HIKE: SARATOGA GAP / LONG RIDGE**

After parking in the Saratoga Gap Vista Point lot, we’ll cross Skyline Blvd. and take the Achitsaca Trail along Skyline Ridge past the Summit Fire Station to Long Ridge Trail. A bench here that overlooks thousands of acres of forested canyons, rolling hills, and grass-covered ridges honors Wallace Stegger, writer and environmentalist. In the 1960s he and others bought land here which was the beginning of this preserve. In the area of Peter’s Creek, hippies once occupied a cave and area around a waterfall called Devil’s Canyon. On our 9-mile hike, we will learn about history and enjoy expansive views over the Pescadero watershed. Bring water and lunch. Meet to carpool at 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. ($4), or at Saratoga Gap Vista Point parking lot at 10:30 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-3925.

**Saturday, February 19**

**HIKE: TORO PARK**

Come with me to explore Toro Park. We’ll hike up to Valley View Peak via East Ridge and East Toyon trails and get great views. 9 miles with 1500’ elevation gain. Bring water and lunch. Meet at the entrance of Toro Park at 9:00 a.m. Rain cancels. Call for a space. Leader: Monique Farques, 384-3234.

**Sunday, February 20**

**HIKE: PINNACLES / MT DEFiance**

For experienced hikers only, we’ll explore the fifth highest peak in Pinnacles National Monument, Mt. Defiance, with a panoramic view including the seldom-seen “Little Pinnacles.” Mostly off-trail with some light bushwhacking. Leaving Salinas at 9:00 a.m. 6 miles and 2000’ elevation gain. Must call leader for further information and a reservation. Leader: Jack Glendenning, 484-6929.
Voting Instructions and Executive Committee Ballot

Review candidate statements on pages 6 and 7 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 Chapter candidates only. Santa Cruz County members may vote 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.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Individual or 1st joint member</th>
<th>2nd joint member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patricia Matejcek</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Howerton</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deirdre Des Jardins</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Casterson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keresha Durham</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Individual or 1st joint member</th>
<th>2nd joint member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Bass Evans</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joel Weinstein</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Moore</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris Peppard</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natalie Zayes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Santa Cruz Group

Only Santa Cruz members may vote for these Candidate Statements on p. 7 •• Vote for up to 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Individual or 1st joint member</th>
<th>2nd joint member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patricia Matejcek</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Howerton</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deirdre Des Jardins</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Casterson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keresha Durham</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An alternative general store featuring hemp and organic cotton clothing

Stop in today

Our SunRidge Farms Natural and Organic products embrace contemporary concerns about farming practices, manufacturing processes, freshness, packaging, proper nutrition and respect for our bodies and the earth. It is essential to contribute toward the preservation of ecological diversity, wildlife and natural terrain. Our support includes substantial donations toward the successful resolution of environmental, social, food related and world hunger issues. Thank-you for your support for without it none of our efforts & contributions would be possible.

Dharma's Natural Fast Foods
Buy One Breakfast Receive Second One of Equal or Lesser Value FREE

• Greek Scramble
• Thai Scramble
• Tofu Rancheros
• Pesto Scramble
• New & Improved Tofu Scramble
• Oatmeal
• Pancakes w/Pure Maple Syrup

(Sam-19pm) 7 DAYS
with coupon. Not good with other offers. Up to $5.00 each

4250 Capitola Road
Capitola • 831-462-1717

SunRidge Farms
All Natural and Certified Organic Bulk and Packaged Foods.
Santa Cruz, CA • 831-786-7000
www.sunridgefarms.com

Eco Goods
Good for you. Good for the environment.
1130 Pacific Ave.
Santa Cruz
429-5758

MOVING?
Please use this coupon. Attach current mailing label here and write in new address below. (Please allow 4-6 weeks processing time)

Name
Address
City State Zip

Mail to: Sierra Club - P.O. Box 52968 - Boulder, CO 80322-2968

Please recycle this paper again
“California sunset / Going down in the West / All the colors in the sky / Kiss another day goodbye.” — Neil Young

Fish make up 99% of the Osprey’s diet.