



SIERRA
CLUB

February 2009
Volume 46 No. 2

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Focus the Nation
Feb. 3-5

Renewable Energy Forum
Feb. 6

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SANTA LUCIAN



Protecting and
Preserving the
Central Coast

The official newsletter of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club • San Luis Obispo County, California

Morro Bay Empowered

On February 19th at 7p.m., the Sierra Club will host a free Energy Town Hall and community meeting at Windows on the Water in Morro Bay to discuss the potential energy future of the community.

California's Global Warming Solutions Act is now in effect, and communities statewide must reduce their greenhouse gas emission levels 30% by 2020 and develop global warming action plans.

We will hear a presentation from Jessie Holzer, who assisted the city in creating its greenhouse gas inventory, as well as learn about the cutting-edge state energy policies that are now available as tools for California cities to cut their greenhouse gas emissions and make the



Nancy Cole will be followed by an opportunity for community members to hear from city officials and ask questions. Residents are invited to participate in this event and share their vision for Morro Bay's energy future.

The event is the second in a series of Energy Town Halls, following our very successful December 3

Energy Town Hall in San Luis Obispo, that will be held around the county over the next few months.

shift to alternative energy.

A fun, interactive workshop led by Sierra Club interns Chad Worth and



**An Energy Town Hall
Windows on the World
699 Embarcadero, Morro Bay
7 p.m. Thursday, February 19**
free admission • refreshments • cash bar

Appropriate Technology: Year 3

Appropriate Technology is technology that will sustain a society of finite resources at a human scale, as judged by the triple bottom line accounting of economy, ecology and equity.

Locally, the Appropriate Technology Campaign is a joint effort between SLO Green Build, the San Luis Bay Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation and the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club. It was the brainchild of SLO Green Build's subcommittee on Appropriate Technology, chaired by Ken Haggard, principal architect of San Luis Sustainability Group, and Mikel Robertson, the owner of Green Goods.

As the campaign comes up on its third year, we have a lot of work to do, and cause to be proud of what we've done:

July 2007- Organization of the appropriate technology effort.

August 2007- Meeting with SLO County Supervisor Jim Patterson and selected County staff to explore the potentials for appropriate technology for SLO County.

September 2007- Development of a workplan for appropriate technology applications to SLO County.

December 2007- Winter Faire &

continued on page 10

It Doesn't Work But It Won't Die

An open letter to the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors and County Counsel

by Sue Harvey

Dear Sirs,

On January 12 of this year, North County Watch sent your Board a letter pointing out that the remaining unsold credits in the Transfer of Development Credit program had expired on May 21, 2008. Our claim was supported by language in the TDC Ordinance and a timeline of Board actions.

It was disappointing to us that on January 20, county counsel attempted to wish away the problem of expired credits by claiming that the credits do not expire because a conservation easement had been recorded and it had generated the credit.

That would be the case if the TDC Ordinance language said that, but it does not. A credible claim to that effect might be made if the county had not acted previously to extend the life of these same credits precisely because they had already expired.

The TDC Ordinance has a problematic and infamous history. Attempting to wish away another blatant flaw in the TDC Program by fiat of county counsel is a disservice to the residents of this county who have had to live with the results of this poorly executed program. It is a disservice to communities that have had to work

continued on page 4

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Zero Waste and Producer Responsibility, Part 1

The new paradigm for waste and recycling

By Helen Spiegelman and Lynne Pledger
Zero Waste Committee

On February 23, 2008, the Sierra Club board of directors adopted a new policy: Zero Waste -- Cradle-to-Cradle principles for the 21st Century. This article is one of a series from the Club's national Zero Waste Committee to introduce new concepts and practices that will get our society moving toward Zero Waste.

Let's look at the prevailing theory and practice of waste.

Waste is inevitable. It is the job of our cities, towns, and counties to clean it up. Local governments try to minimize waste by providing recycling services. Waste that cannot be recycled is managed as safely as possible in modern landfills and incinerators.

But in fact, local government recycling efforts can't keep up with our ever-growing wastes. Across the nation, hundreds of thousands of tons of valuable resources, processed with great expenditure of energy, are being systematically destroyed each year in landfills and incinerators, driving climate change as we produce new products to replace the ones we destroy. In addition, the mining, cutting and drilling involved in all this production is ruining habitat and vital ecosystems.

Designed for the dump

Fortunately, a careful examination of our discards offers a new theory and suggests new practices that can finally bring us ever closer to the end of wasting. Waste is not inevitable, but is in part an outcome of products designed to be discarded.

Most of the products we buy are designed for the dump because the companies making the products have no incentive to prevent waste. It's advantageous for them to make single-use products and appliances that can't be repaired. Further, tax-funded waste management actually encourages throw-away products and packages by cleaning up after the producers who made them.

Cradle-to-cradle

When producers are held responsible for channeling their discarded products safely back into useful service, they have an incentive to design products for reuse, disassembly, repair, and recycling. The short-hand term for this concept is 'producer take-back,' or EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility).

An example of EPR is returnable bottles and cans. Eleven states, including California, have bottle bills. The deposit return system, invented by the beverage industry itself, gets containers out of the waste stream and back into use much more efficiently than municipal programs can. Refillable bottles are even better for the environment than one-way bottles and cans.

Another example is producer take-back of discarded electronic products, ensuring that these will be safely recycled, repaired or disassembled so that parts can be reused. Seventeen states have passed e-waste legislation, all but California's law based on producer responsibility.

In Canada, there are producer take-back programs for a whole range of consumer products. Here, several states are considering Framework EPR, which would establish the principle that brand owners are responsible for their products "cradle to cradle."

You can help us take EPR coast to coast.

* Visit the Zero Waste page of the Sierra Club website:
www.sierraclub.org/committees/zerowaste/

* Join or start a ZW committee in your Chapter or Group.

* Write a letter to the editor about Extended Producer Responsibility.

* Ask your elected officials for EPR legislation; enclose this article.

* Call 800 numbers to ask if the company will accept discarded products.

* Ask retailers if they will send the discarded product back to the manufacturer.

* Request repairable, recyclable products and products made of recycled material from retailers.

* Remove excessive packaging at the store and ask Customer Service to recycle it.

Coming soon: more news and information about the Zero Waste and Producer Responsibility movement—and how you can help.

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It's time for America to get smart about energy and be less dependent on dwindling oil reserves. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power.

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or e-mail:
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Visit us on the Web!

www.santalucia.sierraclub.org

Outings, events, and more!

Justice Coming for Santa Margarita

See page 6.
And dig deep to support the legal petition.

Send a check to:

North County Watch
P.O. Box 455
Templeton, CA 93465

Submit your "Findings for Denial" on the Santa Margarita Ranch Ag Cluster Subdivision

Tell the Supervisors why they should not approve the project.

Check all that apply.

10 Class One - "Significant and Unavoidable" - Impacts

Dangerous Traffic Situations

Inconclusive Information on Water

Numerous General Plan Inconsistencies

Compromised Air Quality

Destruction of Oak Habitat and Valley Needlegrass Grassland

Destroying Agricultural Viability

Damage to Cultural and Archeological Resources

Applicants' Blind Ambition and Blatant Arrogance

Lame Duck Payback for Campaign Contributions

Other _____

All of the Above

Harmony Headlands: State Parks Strikes Again

By Doug Buckmaster

The unceremonious opening of Harmony Headlands State Park (formerly Sea West Ranch) on November 25 led to a hike on November 29.

First, we owe a great debt of gratitude to American Land Conservancy for saving this once beautiful landscape from a nine-megahome sprawl which the Board of Supervisors had approved. The Coastal Commission deserves praise, too, for derailing that development.

Second, having visited Sea Ranch many times before it was turned over by ALC a few years ago, we were interested in seeing what has happened since State Parks took over.

Nothing positive. A great disappointment. State Parks has not been a good steward of the land.

Nothing has been improved over several years. On the contrary, huge eucalyptus trees have been poisoned or girdled, standing now as stark, skeletal reminders of the area's history as a ranch.

The devastation here reminds one of State Parks' treatment of San Simeon and Morro Bay State Parks. They have learned nothing about protecting the environment.

Raptor habitat has been devastated. The songbirds which used to nest and



Lonesome trail: Exterminated eucalyptus greet the visitor to Harmony Headlands State Park.

feed in the eucalyptus are gone. The road (now the only trail) has not been improved. The lone building is full of bird defecation. One plus is a portapotty nearby.

The hike to the sea is open and easy, with steel poles linked by nylon line

placed strategically to keep hikers from exploring anything of interest off the road. The view of the sea for the last half mile is unspoiled.

Perhaps the only positive thing for wildlife is the apparent removal of predatory toads, which are devastat-

ing to the red-legged frogs and baby southwestern pond turtles.

State Parks will begin charging a day-use fee soon. Check out the park now, and hope that management reforms before taking over the Irish Hills.

Get WET!

By Ken Smokoska, Community Development Coordinator

When I'm not busy Sierra Clubbing, I serve on a statewide Workforce, Education & Training (WET) for a Green Economy Task Force.

The Task Force is empowered by the California Public Utilities Commission, California Energy Commission and California Air Resources Board. We have brought together policy makers, stakeholders, utilities, educators, industry experts and community institution leaders to advance effective job training programs, new job creation, and growth within the energy efficiency and green technology sector in California. See: www.californiaenergyefficiency.com/docs/EEStrategicPlan.pdf

Our purpose is to develop a needs assessment to identify resources, existing research and resource tools to implement California's Long Term Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan. This effort is an accelerated process to identify unfunded goals and work with the California Congressional delegation to position California in the queue for federal grants, pilot programs and research funding.

The Task Force is tasked with advancing the following goals, set by the Public Utilities Commission:

1. All new residential construction in California will be zero net energy by 2020.
2. All new commercial construction in California will be zero net energy by 2030.
3. Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) will be transformed to ensure that its energy

performance is optimized for California's climate.

4. All eligible low-income customers will be given the opportunity to participate in the low income energy efficiency and weatherization programs by 2020.

The task force plans to have webcasts connecting multiple

communities, with key constituents assembled, in a dynamic decision making effort. We will be mobilizing California Sierra Club chapters to help coordinate and attend these community teleconferencing briefings and forums.

And of course, as California goes, so goes the Nation.

Huasna Oil Plan Hearing Nigh

Environmental impact report needed for oil field development

by the Huasna Valley Association

The Huasna Oilfield is considered a marginal oilfield and contains extremely viscous tar-like oil. Historical production in this oilfield has required steam injection and the use of chemical solvents to extract small amounts (10-13 barrels per day

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Thank You, SLO Community Foundation

Much of the Santa Lucia Chapter's work on alternative energy in early 2009 (such as our Energy Town Halls -- see front page) is being funded by a generous grant by the San Luis Obispo County Community Foundation.

The Sierra Club's energy work is done under the aegis of our "Cool Cities" campaign, in which we have been assisting local governments to move forward with innovative energy solutions that curb global warming, save taxpayer dollars, and create healthier cities.

The Sierra Club was chosen to receive the grant from over 70 applicants. The Community Foundation's grantmaking program is made possible through the generous support of the Foundation's Community Endowment and many donor funds held at the Foundation. In ten years, the SLOCCF has given out more than \$12 million in grants to assist nonprofit agencies. For more information, go to www.sloccf.org.



Check, please: The SLO Community Foundation's Janice Fong Wolf (left) dropped by chapter h.q. to drop off a check; Community Development Coordinator Ken Smokoska and Chapter Chair Karen Merriam gratefully accepted.

Let's Make a New Day at Diablo

It's zoned for energy generation, transmission lines are on site, wind and wave energy are abundant, a new earthquake fault has been discovered there, and the operating license for the nuclear power plant is nearing its end. Do you see what we see at Diablo Canyon?

On January 20, the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility proposed that San Luis Obispo County seek out opportunities to help lead our nation in a new energy future.

The text of the request is below. Read the proposal and contact your local, state and federal representatives to support it.

Proposed:

That San Luis Obispo is in a unique position to set an unprecedented renewable energy example for America. We have land already zoned for energy production. We have transmission lines in place to deliver renewable energy to the state. We have a university and community college ready to provide the talent needed.

The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility asks the county to form a task force which includes all interested parties. We ask to be an integral part of this task force, as we have developed contacts with virtually every political body and oversight agency that will be necessary to bring these opportunities to fruition.

This is a real opportunity to encourage investment, provide new family-supporting jobs, bring new interest into our community, and to limit the production of highly radioactive waste that is being stored on our fragile coast.

To support our request, contact:

:

San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos/BOSContactUs.htm

State Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee
<http://republican.assembly.ca.gov/member/33/default.aspx?email>

California Energy Commission: Commissioner Boyd
sbrown@energy.state.ca.us

Congresswoman Lois Capps
www.house.gov/capps/contact/send_an_email.shtml

Senator Barbara Boxer
<https://boxer.senate.gov/contact/email/policy.cfm>

Senator Dianne Feinstein
<http://feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=ContactUs.EmailMe>

President Obama

<http://citizensbriefingbook.change.gov/>

-- Vote down those suggestions on the website that push for nuclear power. Once you're at the website, register (you'll need a password) or log in if already registered. Type in "nuclear power" where it says "search." You'll then see a bunch of energy related suggestions. Vote up those that say no to nuclear, vote down those that push it. If the President is listening, and if enough people do this, we can make a difference.

Feel free to copy the proposal and paste into comments on each site or add comments of your own.

In Peace and Hope,

Rochelle Becker, Executive Director
 Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility
www.a4nr.org



Play us out: Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility's David Weisman jams with a Diablo Canyon warning siren test.

TDCs

continued from page 1

hard and long, including filing a lawsuit, to force the adoption of community-based programs in order to protect themselves from the countywide program. It is a disservice to the work of the Grand Jury that reported out on the many flaws in the program, and a disservice to the thousands of volunteers who have given their time to bring some accountability to the Program. Historically, hardly any Board or Planning Commission discussion of the TDC Program has not been accompanied by a letter from attorneys for the owner of the unused credits, threatening the county with litigation if it did anything to impede the market for the credits, thus casting a chill on any efforts by the public or the county to solve the problems with the program in a meaningful way.

What the attorney for the owner of the credits failed to do was advocate for the imposition of requirements that TDC credits be used for the thousands of discretionary lot splits

and subdivisions that have been allowed countywide over the life of the program. For its part, the county failed to facilitate the sale of the credits by waiving the mandated condition for the use of credits or imposing the requirement for TDCs for subdivision.

For example, in October 2006, the Board of Supervisors approved the removal of a requirement for TDCs for the processing of the Viborg General Plan Amendment and subdivision of land zoned Ag to Rural Lands. The public pays the price.

If wishes were credits, they would live forever, but they are not and they do not. They have expired. It is time for the county to end the TDC Program and look at meaningful alternatives.

Sincerely,

Sue Harvey, Chair
 North County Watch
 P.O. Box 455
 Templeton, CA 93465

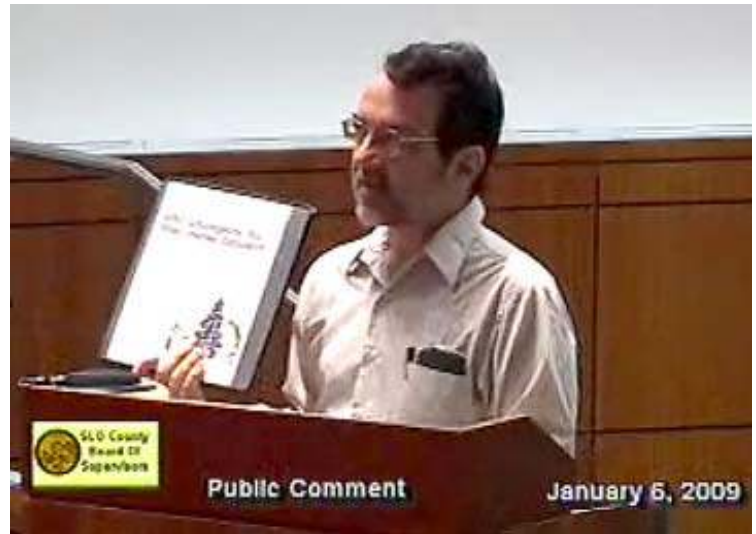
We're #1



The February issue of *National Geographic Adventure* features the magazine's annual adventure ratings, including "Best Adventure Travel Companies On Earth -- A comprehensive ranking of the world's top outfitters - surveyed, sorted and scored."

Sierra Club outings ranked at the top of the Hiking & Trekking category, with an overall score of 96.5, and the highest individual scores in its category for Education, Quality of Service, and Sustainability.

To find out why, check out the offerings at outings.sierraclub.org



Supervisors Get the Message

On January 6, the first meeting of the newly elected County Supervisors, Santa Lucia Chapter Director Andrew Christie presented each of the supervisors with their own bound copies of the Chapter's five-part series "Messages to New Board," as it appeared in the pages of *New Times* over the last five months.

The messages, drafted by the Chapter's Executive Committee, consist of policy prescriptions for sustainable food production, affordable housing, local political reform and energy use and generation, and the preservation of agricultural land.

You can read them on line at www.santalucia.sierraclub.org.

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs: Frequently Asked Questions

by Michael Wollman, Ph.D.

There are a number of misconceptions on the use of CFL that has slowed their use by the public. I hope that the following FAQs and answers will help accelerate their use.

Why use CFLs?

CFLs are 4 to 5 times more efficient than ordinary incandescent light bulbs. This means that they use 1/4 to 1/5 the energy and produce much less heat. CFLs can last 10 to 40 times as long as incandescents. This saves replacement costs and the inconvenience of frequently changing bulbs.

Are there disadvantages in using CFLs?

The only minor disadvantage in using CFLs is that they have to be brought to a recycling center because of their small mercury content.

What about the mercury?

A CFL contains 1 to 4 mg of elemental mercury, which is less than 1% of that contained in an ordinary fever thermometer. It is only hazardous if you actually break the tube. The remedy for this situation is that you must return the burned out CFL to a recycling collection point. Usually, you can return the CFL to where you purchased it. This task is identical to disposing of batteries. The good news is that the mercury is virtually completely reclaimed, and the glass and other materials are recycled. Ordinary incandescent bulbs cannot be recycled.

Even if all the CFL mercury wound up in a landfill, there would actually be less mercury released into the environment because less coal is burned at power plants to power CFLs than incandescent bulbs. Coal is a filthy fuel that releases mercury, radioactivity, toxic hydrocarbons, soot, and a lot of CO₂. Today, there is no such thing as economical clean coal.



What styles and sizes are available?

CFLs come in a wide variety of shapes and wattage levels. The most common are the spiral type, which are fine in all applications in which you do not actually see the bulb when lit. This is just an aesthetic consideration. They are also available in the standard light bulb shape, globe, flood, candelabra (with either a standard base or the smaller base), and the circleline shape.

CFLs are available in power ratings from 3 watts to over 100 watts. This translates to around 12 watts to 500 watts in equivalent incandescent bulbs.

Are there CFLs that can be used in 3-way sockets and with ordinary light dimmers?

Yes, there are 3-way CFLs available in a few different sizes, and a number of CFLs that can be used with dimmers.

Can CFLs be used outdoors?

Most CFLs can be used outdoors as long as they are protected from the weather. There are special CFLs that can be exposed to the weather as ordinary incandescents can be.

What about the color of the light?

In the past, the color of CFL light tended to have a greenish tinge and was inferior to incandescents. This has changed dramatically. The warm white version (2700 K) has a color

very close to that of incandescents. CFLs also come in cool white and daylight versions. You can also purchase specialty CFLs in red, green, and blue, as well as an insect repelling yellow color.

Can you save money by using CFLs?

Because of their higher efficiencies and infrequent bulb changes, in California you can save \$35 to \$100 over the bulb's lifetime.

How much energy could be saved if all buildings used fluorescent lighting?

It is estimated that the national savings in electrical energy would be 7 to 9%.

What features should you look for in purchasing a CFL?

The most important thing is that the CFL should have an electronic ballast. The vast majority of CFLs have this, but some older models have a magnetic ballast that is slow starting and can flicker. Another important feature is average life. A very important feature is Energy Star certification, which ensures certain quality features such as efficiency, fast starting, and life. Always purchase a CFL with a stated lifetime of 10,000 hours or more. The lifetime is a measure of overall quality. Some of the newer cold cathode CFLs have lifetimes of up to 40,000 hours.

What are some good brands?

Some good CFLs are: Westinghouse Natural Light, Philips Marathon, Maxlight Micromax, Sylvania Daylight Extra, GE Softwhite, TCP, and Greenlight Cold Cathode (40,000 hours).

What are some brands to avoid?

Unfortunately, some brands have consistently demonstrated inferior performance such as short lifetime, unsatisfactory color, or slow startup. Brands that I have found lacking are Lights of America, Feit, and Ikea.

Where can you purchase CFLs?

Home Depot, Kmart, Target, hardware stores, and grocery and drug-stores (be cautious here). You generally have a much better selection of quality CFLs on the internet. Some good sites are: Bulbs.com, BuyLighting.com, TopBulb.com, and LightBulbsDirect.com.

Are other countries acting aggressively to promote CFL use?

Australia and Canada have actually banned the production of ordinary incandescent bulbs. The EU is phasing them out by 2012.

What about LED lighting?

LED lighting has the potential to replace CFLs within the next 5 to 7 years. Today, there are a small number of LED products with low light levels. LED flashlights are a niche application. The ultimate advantages of LEDs are their long lifetime (100,000 hours), and light efficiencies that are twice that of CFLs or about 10 times that of incandescents. A good site for LEDs at reasonable prices is superbrightleds.com.

Suing to Save Santa Margarita

At the end of January, two local watchdog groups filed suit to block the development of Santa Margarita Ranch and revoke the permit granted late last year by the County Board of Supervisors.

North County Watch and the Endangered Habitats League said they were compelled to sue by the numerous adverse impacts of the Santa Margarita Ranch Project as approved by the County. The project is incompatible with nearly three dozen separate goals, policies, standards, and regulations in the County's General Plan and Land Use Ordinance, and in violation of the California Environmental Quality Act and the state Planning and Zoning Law.

The conduct of the Board of Supervisors last year in permitting this project was outrageous. In its modern history, the County may have never acted with more disregard for the requirements of the law and the obligations of holding public office. The Sierra Club commends and supports the petitioners for acting to protect both the town of Santa Margarita and the pristine oak woodlands and prime agricultural land that the board decided to sacrifice, ignoring impacts, as the lawsuit notes, "that state and federal agency officials, the Agriculture Commissioner, Air Pollution Control District, Planning Commission and the County's own planning staff found wholly unacceptable."

The lawsuit details the haste with which the project was rushed through the process and brought before the outgoing board majority for an 11th-hour vote, extended over three meetings so that the vote could be taken by the development-friendly lame duck board.

The petition charges: "True to its reputation, the Board brushed aside the considered recommendations of government officials at every level, overruled the careful findings of the Planning Commission, and approved the Project at the last possible moment before the new Board took office in January 2009. The Board even did so in reliance on findings prepared in large part by the Project applicant, at the last moment, with hardly any time for public or staff review."

Charging the County Supervisors with a betrayal of the public trust and an abuse of discretion in their rush to approve a sprawling subdivision in sensitive habitat, the petition notes that the County made legal action inevitable when it certified an Environmental Impact Report that failed to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act and adopted findings of approval for the Project that are unsupported by the evidence.

The lawsuit states that, for these reasons, "certification of the EIR, approval of the vesting tentative tract map, and approval of the conditional use permit for the Project must be set aside."



Google Transit

Online bus trip planner launched for city of San Luis Obispo

San Luis Obispo Regional Rideshare, the County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) and SLO Transit launched an online bus trip planner over Thanksgiving weekend via Google Transit.

Google Transit, a function of Google Maps, allows users to enter their starting and ending location online and receive walking, transit and driving directions. Individuals can now plan their bus trips in the City of San Luis Obispo by going to www.google.com/transit or visiting www.rideshare.org and clicking on the Trip Planning link. Once starting and ending points are entered, users are shown an interactive map that indicates the nearest stop, route information and timeline.

As the "One Stop Shop" for transportation information, San Luis Obispo Regional Rideshare believes this tool will bring the bus one step closer to the user. The barrier of trip planning that once prohibited transit use will no longer be a factor when taking a trip by

bus for the first time. "We want to make it as easy as possible for individuals to leave their car behind, and this is a great step in the right direction," said Morgen Marshall, Regional Rideshare Manager. As the lead for the project, Rideshare will be helping users with questions and maintaining the system data going forward.

Rideshare began working with Bob Heitzman from APCD earlier this year to convert SLO Transit data into a specific Google feed format.

"APCD played an integral role in launching this tool with SLO Transit data," said Jessica Berry, San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) Transportation Planner. "We are very grateful for their help."

Although the Google service is essentially free, transferring data into Google format takes time and expertise. Rideshare has been working with APCD to make the conversion for SLO

continued next page

Huasna

continued from page 3

per well) of oil.

Excelaron, LLC, an off-shoot of the marginally funded Australian Oil Company, plans to drill four new oil wells in the Huasna Valley. They plan to transport 12 truckloads of oil per day from the Huasna Valley, along 8 miles of private dirt roads to highway 166 and on to the Oxnard asphalt refinery in Ventura County. Over the life of the project this traffic will result in 19 million miles traveled by diesel trucks.

Some of the major issues that represent significant, unmitigatable impacts of this proposed project are: Fire Hazard: Huasna Valley is one of the highest fire hazard regions in the county; Water Pollution: Huasna Valley's shallow aquifer and Santa Maria's drinking water recharge in Twitchell Reservoir are vulnerable to contamination; Air Pollution: Emissions from production and transportation of oil will spoil air quality and contribute to Global Warming; Traffic: Truck traffic along dangerous roads will jeopardize the safety and welfare of our community.

Excelaron's current project description has many inconsistencies:

- Four wells, given the past history of oil production in the Huasna Oilfield, will not fill 1 truck per day, let alone 12 trucks per day.
- Steam has traditionally been used to extract the thick oil in the Huasna Oilfield and uses as much as ten times more energy with more resulting emissions than the hot water extraction being proposed by Excelaron.

- Oil wells in the Huasna Oilfield have traditionally produced a large amount of excess produced water. The disposal of this excess water into old orphaned wells with documented rusted casings will possibly pollute the freshwater aquifer in the Huasna Valley and could affect the water quality of Twitchell Reservoir.

An Environmental Impact Report is needed.

The County is preparing a Mitigated Negative Declaration based on the assumption that an oilfield in the Huasna Valley will not have any significant environmental impacts. This MND does not consider the cumulative impacts of the likely addition of more wells and the expansion into a larger oilfield project (it would take 64 wells to fill 12 trucks per day). The EIR would consider alternatives such as a pipeline to transport oil and whether the pristine environment of the Huasna Valley, turned into a large-scale steam injection oilfield, will benefit the community.

What are the bottom line economics of this Energy Resource Development? Who benefits and at whose expense? How much does San Luis Obispo County stand to benefit or lose in terms of county property tax



Fast work: The Huasna Valley Association came together in record time last summer to meet the challenge of oil wells proposed for their back yard.

assessments? Are there any benefits to the community? The Developer's Statement was released to Excelaron on Jan 12. The earliest Planning Commission hearing date would be March 26. The Huasna Valley Association is waiting for the MND to be released and will submit a Request to Review.

Go to www.HuasnaValley.org for updates.



"Huasna Evening Glow" oil painting by Laurel Sherrie www.laurelsherrie.com

Google

continued from previous page

Transit and has hired a consultant to make the data conversions for additional transit operators.

SLO Transit was the first transit operator in the county to volunteer time and data for the online trip planner. When asked how SLO Transit plans to integrate Google Transit into their current operations, Transit Manger John Webster stated, "Google Manger is a great tool for trip planning. We plan to integrate Google technology with IT projects down the road such as onboard bus announcers and allowing riders to view all of the bus stops via Google Maps."

Rideshare is in the process of working with other transit operators to get their information in Google format and create a comprehensive online transit tool for the entire county. "We realize that Google Transit cannot reach its full potential and usability without all of the fixed route transit operators getting involved," said Marshall. The goal of the tool is to allow an individual to plan a trip throughout the county without looking at several transit schedules and maps.

For more information on Google Transit, visit www.google.com/transit. For information on how to get around San Luis Obispo County without your car, visit www.rideshare.org or call 541-2277.

HopeDance

FILMS in SLO County

- **Saturday, Feb. 7th**, PRAY THE DEVIL BACK TO HELL, 7pm (\$10)
- **Tuesday, Feb. 10th**, MAN ON WIRE, 7pm (\$5)
- **Wednesday, Feb. 18th**, WAR DANCE, 7pm (\$5)

All films screened at the SLO City/County Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo. Prices are suggested donation. No one will be refused for lack of funds.

PRAY THE DEVIL BACK TO HELL
History has many unacknowledged heroes. This documentary examines a group of women who fought for peace in Liberia, campaigning to end the country's devastating civil war. Crossing religious and generation lines, the group of women first prayed for their country, then began a silent protest outside the walls of the president's palace. Awe-inspiring, tremendously moving, lucidly impassioned, this political documen-

tary about protests during the Liberian Civil War is an uplifting celebration of the capacity of everyday people to affect great change. Winner Best Documentary Feature, 2008 Tribeca Film Festival.

Special Suggested donation of \$10, fundraiser for Global Fund for Women Presented by HopeDance FILMS, Central Coast Clergy and Laity for Justice, Democratic Women United and others.

Trailer at www.praythedevilbacktohell.com/v2/

MAN ON WIRE

On the morning of Aug. 7, 1974, after months of preparation and years of dreaming, a French daredevil named Philippe Petit stepped into the sky above Lower Manhattan. For almost 45 minutes he ambled back and forth on a metal cable strung between the towers of the World Trade Center, a feat of illegal tightrope walking that, according to a New York police sergeant who recounted Mr. Petit's act of physical poetry in dry press-conference prose, would more aptly

be described as dancing. "An offbeat but often unbearably exciting heist movie — a white-knuckle ride of a thriller that can stand up against such classics of the genre as *Rififi*, *Topkapi* and *Robbery*." — *NY Times*

Trailer at www.manonwire.com

WAR DANCE

A powerful documentary that follows a group of schoolchildren as they overcome nearly insurmountable odds in their quest to participate in the annual Kampala Music Festival. The 60,000 survivors are forced to live in a refugee camp, where conditions are bleak and resources are scarce. Somehow, the children of the Patongo Primary School have qualified for the Kampala Music Festival competition for the first time, a feat unto itself; yet these children are determined to take home the championship prize.

"Through music, dance and drumming, the children transmute fear and pain into profoundly cathartic spiritual affirmation. When they perform the Bwola, the tribe's intricate, 500-year-old royal dance, you feel its ritual power healing broken lives." - *NY Times*.

Trailer at www.wardancethemovie.com/ Suggested donation \$5.

www.hopedance.org



O U T S I D E N O W !
PRESENTS
Seeing Through Native Eyes
a "Cultural Mentoring" Event
with internationally recognized speaker and author
Jon Young
ON is a division of the Central Coast Village Center, a 501c3 non-profit organization.

Learn to Bring the Collective Wisdom of Nature Back into the Modern Experience

San Luis Obispo's nature-based school, Outside Now!, is offering two weekend events with internationally renowned speaker & author Jon Young. For over 30 years, Jon has collaborated globally with organizations and individuals to foster deeper connections to community and nature through the power of cultural and coyote mentoring principles. This event, spanning a weekend in February and another in March (each may be attended singularly), is a must-attend for those interested in sustainability, health and education, and re-creating a nature-based culture in a modern setting.

WHAT: Cultural Mentoring Event - Seeing Through Native Eyes

WHERE: Dancing Deer Farm, Templeton CA

WHEN: February 6-8; March 6-8

WHY: Your curiosity is begging you & your community needs you!

HOW MUCH: one weekend: \$200, both: \$375

INFO: (805) 541-9900 or brianengleton@gmail.com

Free onsite camping available.

A public lecture and book signing will be held on Friday, February 6th, from 6 to 9 p.m., for \$25 (or free with weekend registration), co-sponsored by Dancing Deer Farm, Hopedance, and Global Alliance.

Where:
Dancing Deer Farm,
Vineyard Drive,
Templeton, CA
To register call:
805-541-9900
or email
brianengleton@gmail.com



When:
Part 1: Feb. 6,7,8, 2009 Part 2: March 6,7,8, 2009.
You may attend both weekends, only Part 1, or only Part 2 and have a complete experience.
Friday evening 2/6/09 will be a lecture and book signing open to the public 6-9P.M Cost \$25. (free with registration for Part 1 weekend.

What is Cultural Mentoring?

How was it that indigenous cultures raised people to have such deep connection to the natural world, even if there were no formal "schools"? Immersion in nature is the essence of the indigenous cultural experience. In absence of such a nature-based culture, what are the results? What if we were to re-create such culture again, but in our modern setting? What restorative effects do we have to gain, both for human health and the environment?

Seeing Through Native Eyes is about restoring this foundational connection to nature, the how-to of what we call "Cultural Mentoring."

The author of the newly released and hugely popular "Coyote's Guide to Connecting with Nature" and founder of many wilderness schools across the globe, Jon is an internationally renowned speaker and an entertaining and moving storyteller. Time will be split between Jon's teachings and experiential exercises, together providing an experience that is inspirational, yet full of common sense that strangely isn't so "common" nowadays.

This event is for adults of all ages. Treat yourself (and indirectly your family and community) to this workshop series that promises both fun and deep natural learning.

Ideal for anyone interested in sustainability, health or education, including: conservationists, community activists, students, parents, teachers, therapists, doctors, and mentors of all kinds.

In conjunction with our partners and co-sponsors



HopeDance
Radical Solutions Inspiring Hope

Global Alliance
www.globalalliance.ws

Register by January 8th for the early bird discount!

Part 1 and 2: \$325
Only part 1 or only part 2: \$175

After January 8th
Both weekends: \$375
One weekend: \$200

Schedule:

Friday: 6-9pm
Saturday 9am - 7pm
Sunday 9am - 2pm

Inquire about free onsite camping



Inspired by his childhood mentoring with tracker and author Tom Brown, Jr., Jon Young has pioneered the blending of Native mentoring techniques from around the world with the tools of modern field ecology.

How Did It Get This Far?

Salinas sand & gravel mine meets reality

On January 22, the County Planning Commission bowed to science and a lot of very patient and determined Paso Robles residents and denied a permit for a sand and gravel mine on the Salinas River.

The request for a Conditional Use Permit by John Pehl was for one of five such projects in various stages of preparation, all in the same general area of the Salinas and its tributaries, and none evaluating the cumulative impacts of the removal of hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of sand and gravel from the watershed.

The Commission's key finding, which should serve as the handwriting on the wall for all the sand & gravel mining proposals coming up: Sand and gravel is *already* being removed from the Salinas watershed in excess of the rate of replenishment. Granting a permit for the Pehl mine would raise that unsustainable rate up to 3½ times the rate at which the river is able to replenish itself.

A telling moment in the hearing came after the Commission had heard the testimony of the public and the resource agencies. Surveying the overwhelming evidence of the incompatibility of the project with surrounding land uses and the sensitive river system, newly appointed Planning Commissioner Bruce White asked County staff "How did it get this far?"

John Nall of the Planning Department's environmental division gave a discreetly diplomatic reply

about biological issues raised by agency reviewers that County staff hadn't noticed initially. Planning Commission Chair Sarah Christie helpfully filled in the blanks for White by explaining that the project had been driven through the planning process in an atmosphere of institutional political support for all such projects, in which the mantra was "it should go forward, it must go

forward, and therefore forward we go." She noted that other jurisdictions have been dismayed to learn that San Luis Obispo is still in the practice of extracting sand and gravel directly from riverbeds and proposing to permit more, despite all that is now known about the resulting channel instability and speed-up of river flow, triggering erosion, undermining bridges, and destroying homes.

"Those days are coming to a close," she said.

The Commission previously denied a permit for a sand mine in the same area. Last year, the previous Board of Supervisors overturned that denial on appeal. That was then, this is now. Hopefully, should the applicant appeal this denial to the new board, he will find confirmation of the essential fact: Those days are coming to a close.



Tom Schweich

A little bit safer: The Salinas in Monterey, breathing easier on its way to SLO.

Say No to GE Corn Ethanol

Keep genetically engineered corn for ethanol refineries out of our food supply

by the Food Team at Food & Water Watch

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is considering a petition from Syngenta Seeds seeking nonregulated status for a new genetically engineered corn seed that is modified to produce an enzyme that facilitates ethanol production.

This new industrial GE corn could pose significant threats to the human food supply. Syngenta is asking the USDA for permission to plant their non-food GE corn without any regulation. Can you

tell the new Obama Administration USDA it's time to stand up for our food supply?

The particular genetic change that Syngenta has made to this corn is adding a plant pathogen from an exotic enzyme derived from "thermophilic" (heat-loving) microorganisms

living near deep-sea hydrothermal vents. These exotic enzymes are not currently in the food system. This corn designed for ethanol refineries is virtually certain to accidentally enter the food supply as tortilla chips, corn oil and sweeteners. Plus, the leftover corn residues from ethanol production (called distillers grains) are fed to cattle, hogs and chickens that end up on supermarket shelves.

The worst part about this proposal is that we're putting the food system at risk to help the controversial ethanol industry save a few pennies in processing. At best, ethanol has little impact on global warming -- and may even make the situation worse. And the rush to ethanol has aggravated a dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico hundreds of miles long where no aquatic life can survive.

Fortunately, we've got a new Administration that we can ask to stand up to corporate interests.

Tell USDA to take a stand for food safety by saying no to industrial GE corn for ethanol.

Thanks for taking action! Go

to:
goodfood@fwwatch.org.



Waterlust

There have been plenty of small bees about buzzing by my head during the winter yard work mid-January, very warm already while friends back east bundle up for sub-frigid temperatures, the burden of many layers me in sandals, dirt under my nails

Today I spied the first spring bumblebee, a big one it was hanging on the underbelly of a shrub branch bobbing and bouncing in its food pursuit and then I noticed the first sweetpea bud nearly too faint to be seen, just a light brush of tangerine peeking into the sun its head of closed petals bowing demurely a small announcement of a flourish of color soon to be

Much of the yard is still shaded as we slowly tilt towards the equinox as my friends wait it out for the thaw as we Californians cling to the hope of more rain. We thirst for it like the dormant veggie bed that draws on those showers for revitalization. We crave it to allay our nightmares of additional wildfires. We covet it like a dying commodity. How pivotal, the rain -- for ecosystem regeneration, for restoring our faith that the changing climate won't destroy us.

Kalila Volkov
January 2009

Hérons Win One

Nest destruction prosecution in Pismo is a start

by Terry Lilley

Last September, I testified as a witness for the California Department of Fish and Game DFG in Superior Court on charges against the son of Shell Beach apartment owner. He was charged with destroying night heron nests and eggs by trimming his trees last spring.

We won! All of the many photos I had taken easily proved the case. He was ordered to pay a fine and was put on probation. This was the first prosecution of a violation of the wildlife laws ostensibly protecting migratory birds in Pismo, and a major breakthrough. Sue Sloan and I have documented with photos and movies heron nest destruction in several area in Shell Beach. We are not done yet because the City of Pismo is still allowing anyone to cut down any tree any time they want to. This issue also needs to be taken to court to cause a change.

The other problem we still face is that DFG will only protect the trees and nests during breeding season if they are occupied by the birds, but the feds – the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — has issued memoranda that discuss possible federal violations by removing nests even if “unoccupied” by colony nesting birds, such as night herons, because these birds use the same nests every year. We are working with the USFWS in Oregon and Washington to get this clarified so we can protect the nesting trees on Boeker Street during the winter along with protecting the trees in other areas that the City is currently allowing to be cut down.

I will continue to document each case of violations by individuals so if they do eventually get into court, we can continue to win with positive proof. I have cameras ready to roll within minutes for each of the few trees and rookeries that remain. We have support from many concerned citizens that constantly monitor each tree and nests so we can at least document when the City allows the trees to be cut down and nests to be destroyed.

But even though we may get more charges handed down and more fines levied, we will still lose the trees and nests. Shell Beach and Pismo Beach are still way out of control in wildlife violations. And, unfortunately, after September’s courtroom win, we are back to regulatory kick-the-can this year. The Department of Fish and Game has told me in no uncertain terms to call the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, not them, to report any future heron nest removal issues in Shell Beach. The nearest USFWS field office is in Torrance, and has affirmed that they cannot respond to heron nest issues this far north.

The 2009 breeding season has already started for the night herons. I have contacted Lois Capps’ office, the California Coastal Commission and the Pismo Police Department trying to find someone who will enforce our State and Federal laws. As of late January, no one has claimed any authority to deal with the issue, and more trees with active heron nests, are ready to be cut down.

I need some help with this issue. I



Teddy Llovet

make less than \$20,000 a year, donate over 20 hours a week to wildlife research for non-profits, and I am the only monitor in the Shell Beach area for these bird nests violations. Where are the agencies that get paid to do this? Who is getting our tax

dollars to protect wildlife, while I getting hassles from DFG, the Pismo Police, wealthy developers and the City of Pismo?

Let’s hope we can protect some of the beautiful wildlife along our coastline from a City that chooses to

mow it over and plant concrete and cars.

CONTACT:
Terry Lilley,
coastreptl@aol.com
805-441-2206



This nationwide educational symposium is taking place at over 1,000 university campuses simultaneously on February 5th, 2009. The event will engage students, faculty, staff, business leaders, politicians and the public in a non-partisan discussion about solutions that will both solve climate change and revitalize our economy. Additionally, at Cal Poly we are extending the event to February 3rd & 4th to include a Green Job Fair, a Sustainable Project Showcase, and a variety of student led sustainable living workshops. We now have 120 faculty committed to making Cal Poly a leader in this national effort to

change the future of our country! This year at the National Teach-In, presenters will be a combination of faculty and industry professionals. Speakers from sustainable businesses include Clif Bar CFO Rich Barango, Guayaki Sales Manager Thomas DeTurk, and the Vice-President of Engineering for SunPower, one of the nation’s largest solar panel manufacturers.

Here is an overview of the event Schedule:

February 3rd
10am-2pm: Green Job Fair + Trade Show (Chumash Auditorium)

4pm-6pm: Sustainable Project Display (Bonderson, 104)

February 4th
11am-2pm: Student-led Workshops (see website)

February 5th
9am-5pm: National Teach-In on Building a Sustainable Economy (Chumash)
11am-2pm: DJ and Sustainable Club Fair (UU Plaza)

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!
www.FocusTheNationSLO.com

(followed by):

SEA Change – The Strategic Energy Alliance Presents the

Renewable Energy Education Forum

A New Year for a Greener Earth.
Learn How You Can Make an Impact.

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Friday, February 6, 2009 | 9 am to 1:30 pm
SLO Veterans’ Hall | 801 Grand Avenue
\$10 | Includes Program & Light Refreshments
Go to www.slochamber.org for reservations

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an inquiry into the questions...
WHERE on EARTH are we going?
And what can we do about it?

You are invited to attend the "Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium," a profound inquiry into a bold vision: to bring forth an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling, and socially just human presence on Earth. In this interactive workshop, the audience will explore, with the guidance of facilitators and beautiful video productions, what this vision can mean for them and how to see it as an opportunity to create an inspiring future.

Date: Sunday, March 1st, 2009
Time: 1p.m.
Place: Awakening Interfaith Spiritual Community
Address: 1130 Napa Street, Morro Bay
Suggested donation: \$15.00; no one turned away for inability to donate

Getting Serious About Low Impact Development

Low Impact Development is a new, comprehensive land planning and engineering design approach to achieving a goal of maintaining and enhancing "the pre-development hydrologic regime" of urban and developing watersheds (i.e. the water on site remains at a quality and quantity equal to what it was before you built there). The right LID projects can simultaneously improve flooding, water quality, aquifer, water supply, energy and climate issues.

Darla Inglis, Ph.D., formerly of Seattle Public Utilities, is the new director of the Central Coast LID Center office, located in the Regional Water Quality Control Board office building at San Luis Obispo Airport.

Local municipalities were telling the Water Board they needed more help on the nuts and bolts of LID and negotiating the regulatory maze to make it happen. Last August, the non-profit Low Impact Development Center in Maryland answered the call, and provided the right person to run the Central Coast LID Center. Getting Inglis down from Seattle was fairly

easy – she is a former resident of Los Osos, and was happy to come back home.

Inglis says the LID Center is going to emphasize "key development" – model projects with regional potential for replicability, and on small-scale projects with potentially big benefits, such as entailing the development of new codes for rain barrel catchment, rain gardens, etc., that can be applied elsewhere.

Conflicting codes can make it a daunting challenge to meet LID's social, economic and environmental goals.

Basically, Inglis says, she's here to help builders who are saying "We want to do this; please make it easier for us to do it."

Prior to joining the LID Center, Darla managed the Stormwater Quality Program for the City of Seattle and was instrumental in the development of the City's LID Program. She has worked on regulatory, technical and policy issues related to LID, including infrastructure management and the integration of life-cycle cost-benefit

evaluation and LID performance requirements for new and re-development.

Her most interesting LID concept for the county: A series of bioinfiltration swales -- "green streets" -- as part of the Los Osos sewer project, which would draw outside funding that would cover the cost of excavating the streets for the simultaneous installation of sewer pipes.

Go to www.lowimpactdevelopment.org for the national web page. A California link will be active by mid February.



Back home again: Darla Inglis at the January 21 meeting of the Appropriate Technology Group (see below) at Sierra Club h.q.

Appropriate Tech

continued from page 1

Concert kick-off fundraising event in Cayucos, with music, food and displays. Surfrider and Sierra Club host "Where's the Water?" in Arroyo Grande, with speakers from the Desal Response Group, Pacific Institute, and Supervisor Jim Patterson.

February 2008- Two local events with Johnathan Todd of Todd Ecological on alternative waste water treatment systems using biological systems.

April 2008- Local event with Brock Dolman of the Water Institute on Healthy Watersheds.

May 2008- National Estuary Program Educational Grant awarded for Low Impact Development.

June 2008- Informal meetings with Jill Falcone of SLO County Public Works and Cheryl Lendhardt of the Wallace Group regarding SLO County's Low Impact Design Manual.

September 2008- Three local events with Brad Lancaster on Rainwater Harvesting and development of a green paper on Low Impact Development.

December 2008- Two events in Atascadero and Arroyo Grande with Art Ludwig on graywater usage.

Raingarden and restoration at the Morro Bay boat wash at the south end of the Embarcadero in conjunction with the City of Morro Bay and the National Estuary Program.

Progress to Date

All events organized by the Appropriate Technology Committee have been very successful in terms of attendance and feedback. Event displays include information boards, books, fixtures

such as dual flush and composting toilets and members of the Appropriate Technology committee to answer questions.

The workplan for appropriate technology applications for SLO County is in its sixth iteration. The

County is committed to Low Impact Development (LID) and is working with the Wallace Group to develop an LID design manual for SLO County. The Appropriate Technology group is working on the Graywater section.



It's the water: Appropriate Technology sumcommittee chair Ken Haggard (center) checks out the tech at a 2008 event.

Classifieds

Next issue deadline is **Jan. 14**. To get a rate sheet or submit your ad and payment, contact:
 Sierra Club - Santa Lucia Chapter
 P.O. Box 15755
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
sierraclub8@gmail.com



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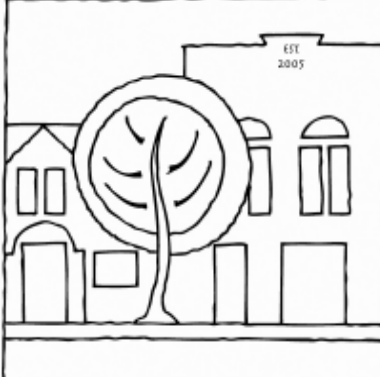
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Bryan Bowers
 Graphic Artist

Outings and Activities Calendar

All of our hikes and activities are open to all Club members and the general public. If you have any suggestions for hikes or outdoor activities, questions about the Chapter's outing policies or would like to be an outings leader, call Outings Leader **Gary Felsman (473-3694)**. For information on a specific outing, please contact the outing leader. Outings Leaders please get your outings or events in by the 1st for the next month's outings.

Hiking Classifications:

Distance: 1 = 0-2 mi., 2 = 3-5 mi., 3 = 6-9 mi., 4 = 10-12 mi., 5 = 12 mi. or more.

Elevation Gain: A = 500', B = 1000', C = 1500', D = 2000', E = 2500', F = 3000' or more.

Sunday, Feb. 1, 8 a.m. to noon. Montana de Oro Trail Work Party. Super Bowl Trail Work Crews work on every mtn bike trail in the park. This is a big event as CCCMB provides breakfast snacks and raffle items as well as crew leaders, tools, instruction. We often have more than 100 equestrians, hikers and cyclists. We start work promptly at 8:30 and are done in plenty of time to get ready for the Superbowl. Meet at park headquarters Montana de Oro State Park.

Feb. 1 SUPERBOWL ALTERNATIVE HIKE AND POTLUCK. If bears, dolphins, and eagles sound like animals, not teams, join us Feb. 1st as we hike Point Sal Road to our potluck dinner destination (4 miles round trip, 1300 ft. elev. gain). Bring a daypack with food to share, as well as a plate, utensils, and water for yourself. Meet at the Orcutt Long's Drugs parking lot at 3pm. Details JIM 937-6766 (AR).

OCTAGON BARN - South Higuera, SLO 2nd Saturdays, 9am-12pm. The Octagon Barn on Higuera - just south of San Luis Obispo. Restoration and development is ongoing at this Historic 108 year old building site. We are in preparation to open the Barn as part of our 25th Anniversary Celebration. Come join us on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Learn first-hand how historical restoration works and be part of the transformation of San Luis Obispo's iconic Octagon Barn. Stop by to check it out! If you're not "handy" contact us about joining the Barn Committee to plan and strategize on opening the Barn for community use next year. Call 544-9096 for details. (Sponsored by The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County).

Sun, Feb. 8, 10 a.m., Islay Hill Open Space. Pole Cats is dedicated to leading local Sierra Club day hikes and modeling the benefits of using trekking poles. Join us at Islay Hill Open Space for an easy hike with spectacular views of Edna Valley to the south and morros to the north. From Broad, go east on Tank Farm,

turn right on Wavertree, left on Spanish Oaks and veer right onto Sweetbay and park near cul de sac. Confirm with David Georgi at 458-5575 or polecatleader@gmail.com for upcoming activities. Bipedes welcome

Feb. 8th, 0930, Sun. NATURE HIKE IN NIPOMO AREA Easy hike. Kids & dogs welcome. Call (929-3647) or e-mail <bdenneen@kcbx.net> a few days before for details. Sponsored by Elder Bill. (Dog Owners be sure of location prior to bringing your pet.)

Mon.-Wed., Feb 9-11, Gold Butte Midweek Magic. You've heard about the new bill for a national conservation area in Gold Butte, and you wonder where IS this place? To find out, join us in this exploratory tour. Petroglyphs, peak scrambling, redrock and granite, Joshua trees, old mining ruins. Car camping with central commissary by Vicky Hoover. Contact Vicky (415)977-5527, vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org. CNRCC Wilderness Committee.

Feb. 15th, 0930, Sun. NATURE BIKE RIDE in NIPOMO AREA. Meet at Library with bicycle with many options such as Native Garden, Dana Adobe, new bike-lane. Kids welcome, no dogs. Call (929-3647) or e-mail <bdenneen@kcbx.net> a few days before for details. Sponsored by Elder Bill.

Sat., Feb. 21st, 9 a.m. - Noon. City of SLO, Johnson Ranch Trail Work Party. Bring gloves, water, snack and dress for the weather. Meet at the Intersection of Ontario Road and S. Higuera Street. The City is trying to open up this area by next spring but needs to build 3 miles of trail. The more volunteers the better to make this happen.

Sat.-Sun., Feb 21-22, Eastern California Desert Clean-up and Hike. Immediately north of Trona, CA, Great Falls Basin borders on a Wilderness Study Area which has been subject to ORV abuse. On Saturday we will assist Marty Dickes with the BLM to build a fence closing off an illegal vehicle hill-climb. Sunday is reserved for hiking and exploring into the washes, dry falls, and nearby ridges. Carcamping and potluck Saturday evening. Contact leader Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, (310-477-6670) for details. CNRCC Desert Com.

Sun, Feb. 22, 10 a.m., Maino Open Space trail/Lemon Grove Loop. Pole Cats is dedicated to leading local Sierra Club day hikes and modeling the benefits of using trekking poles. Join us for an easy hike on the Maino Open Space trail/Lemon Grove Loop. The trailhead is located off the Marsh Street onramp of southbound Highway 101. From downtown SLO take Higuera Street to the intersection with Marsh Street and proceed as if to take 101 South. Immediately after the freeway underpass, bear right into the parking lot. Confirm with David Georgi at 458-5575 or polecatleader@gmail.com for upcoming activities. Bipedes welcome.

Feb. 22nd, 0930, Sun. NATURE HIKE IN NIPOMO AREA. Easy hike. Kids & dogs welcome. Call (929-3647) or e-mail <bdenneen@kcbx.net> a few days

before for details. Sponsored by Elder Bill. (Dog Owners be sure of location prior to bringing your pet.)

Sat., Feb. 28, 9:00 a.m. Dutra Flat Camp via Salmon Creek and Spruce Creek Trails. Join the leader on this late winter hike. This is a moderate hike of 8 miles with about 2200 ft. of elevation gain. Good views of the Southern Big Sur coastline and Spruce Creek Canyon. Possibility of ticks and poison oak. Bring lunch, snacks, water, and dress for the weather. Meet in Cambria at the Washburn day use area of San Simeon State Park. Take the first right turn past the Hamlet Restaurant at the north end of Cambria. For info, call Chuck at 441-7597.

Wednesday Hikes Return, March 25th, 5:30 p.m. 1 to 2-hour hike around San Luis Obispo. 5 - 6 mile hikes with elevation gain around 1200 feet. Sign up for the Hikers list for more information. See link at bottom of page.

Sat., March. 7th, 9 a.m. - Noon, Johnson Ranch Trail Work Party. Bring gloves, water, snack and dress for the weather. Meet at the Intersection of Ontario Road and S. Higuera Street in SLO. The City is trying to open up this area by next spring, but needs to build 3 miles of trail. The more volunteers the better to make this happen.

Sun., March 8, 10 a.m., Eagle Rock Nature Trail. Pole Cats is dedicated to leading local Sierra Club day hikes and modeling the benefits of using trekking poles. Join us for an easy hike on the Eagle Rock Nature Trail. The trailhead is located across from Cuesta College at El Chorro Regional Park. From SLO, take Highway 1 North and turn east (right) at the first of two turn signals to El Chorro Regional Park. Follow the signs to the Day Use area, passing the ball fields and Botanical Garden. Park

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park Fundraising Cruises in 2009

**May 1-4
July 17-20
August 7-10
September 11-14**

Come and explore the wild, windswept islands of Channel Island National Park. In spring, the islands are ablaze with wildflowers. The pristine waters of the Marine Sanctuary will entice both snorkelers and kayakers in all seasons. Watch for the highly endangered Island Fox. Marvel at the sight of whales, dolphins, sea and land birds, endemic plants, and reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. All islands are ringed with rugged shorelines and dotted with sea caves. Each island offers special charm: San Miguel for white sandy beaches and a huge congregation of elephant seals; Santa Rosa for a rare stand of Torrey Pines; Santa Cruz for high mountains, deep valleys and the famous Painted Cave, Anacapa for the brown pelican rookery, a picturesque lighthouse, excellent snorkeling waters and a colony of friendly sea lions who will swim with snorkelers and follow



in the Day Use area at the end of the park, just before the locked gate. Confirm with David Georgi at polecatleader@gmail.com 458-5575 for upcoming activities. Bipedes welcome.

Sat.-Sun., March 14-15, Ghost Town Extravaganza. Explore the ruins of California's colorful past in this spectacular desert landscape near Death Valley. Camp at the historic ghost town of Ballarat (flush toilets & hot showers). Very challenging hike to ghost town Lookout City with expert Hal Fowler, who will regale us with tales of this wild west town. Happy Hour, potluck feast and campfire. On Sun, a quick visit to the Riley townsite before heading home. Group size strictly limited. Send \$8 per person (Sierra Club), 2 sase, H&W phones, email, rideshare info to Ldr: Lygeia Gerard, P.O. Box 294726, Phelan, CA 92329; (760) 868-2179.

This is a partial listing of Outings offered by our chapter. Please check the web page www.santalucia.sierraclub.org for the most up-to-date listing of activities.

kayaks.

Cruises depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68' twin diesel Truth. The fee, \$950, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes on each island and present evening programs. The proceeds from these fundraising cruises will benefit Sierra Club's political programs in California. To make a reservation mail a \$100 check, payable to Sierra Club to leader: Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. Contact leader for more information (626-443-0706; jholtzhln@aol.com)

