GENERAL MEETING
Awards, pot-luck & pix! See page 2.
January 18 @ 7:00 p.m.

PLOVERS WIN
Chapter secures habitat, research and protection

On December 10, the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club and the California Department of Parks and Recreation finalized a consent decree for the Protection of the Western snowy plover at the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area.

“This is really an issue of whether to treat our beaches like a sandbox or like the natural treasures they are,” said Chapter Chair Tarren Collins. “Thanks to this agreement, future generations of beachgoers can experience the beauty and wildlife of our ocean dunes.”

The final agreement came three years and ten days after the Chapter filed the suit, Sierra Club v. Arejas, charging the Department of Parks for violating the Endangered Species Act and putting the Pacific snowy plover, least tern and steelhead trout at risk in its management of Oceano Dunes. Under the terms of the settlement, an additional half-mile of beach will be closed to off-road vehicles as an enclosure area during the plover’s March to October breeding season.

Further, State Parks will:
• step up its protection measures for threatened species
• examine alternatives to vehicle crossings of Arroyo Grande Creek. (Currently, vehicles entering the park must cross the narrow creek near the point where it meets the ocean)
• provide for a number of environmental projects outside the park in support of plover recovery efforts statewide.

In all, the settlement will secure nearly half a million dollars for research, education, public outreach, and volunteer programs. The Morro Bay State Park, which is the heart of the new conservation area, will as a result receive a significant portion of this funding.

SANCTUARY NOW!
By Kaitilin Gaffney
California Central Coast Program Manager
The Ocean Conservancy

Seventy-five miles from the Big Sur Coast is an enormous mountain formed by volcanic eruption more than twelve million years ago. Covering the mountain’s sides are ancient forests that provide habitat for strange and wonderful creatures that have only recently been discovered by scientists, including some that may be found nowhere else on Earth. First mapped by explorers decades ago, no one has set foot on the mountain’s summit. In fact, only a handful of scientists have even visited the mountain and only in the past few years.

continued on page 4

Will Los Osos Find a 3rd Way?

Since the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972, the city of Morro Bay and the Cayucos Sanitation district have been seeking and getting waivers to the Act’s requirement that communities subject their sewage to a minimum full secondary level of waste water treatment before discharging it.

For just about as long, Los Osos has fought a virtual civil war over the nature and location of a sewer to replace a septic system that doesn’t quite work, failing to manage its wastewater in such a way as to avoid causing ongoing harm to the Morro Bay Estuary.

And for as long as anyone can remember, the Central Coast has been hurting for water, and the pain has been increasing.

Then, in June 2004, Morro Bay and Cayucos finally agreed to begin the journey toward secondary sewage treatment, and also to look into the highest level of waste water treatment: A tertiary treatment plant, producing waste water clean enough to be re-used, not dumped into the ocean.
**Change of Address?**

Mail changes to:
Sierra Club National Headquarters
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105-3441

e-mail: address.changes@sierraclub.org

**Visit us on the Web!**

www.santalucia.sierraclub.org

**Outings, events, and more!**

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**Santa Lucia Chapter General Meeting**

**AWARDS, DINNER & YOUR BEST PICS**

Ring in the new year with the Sierra Club!

January is the time for new commitments and the time for a gathering of our Sierra Club family. Please join us for a potluck, recognition of volunteers and presentation of awards, and a chance to show your very best pictures from the previous year.

Our very own Pat Veesart, from Sierra Club California in Sacramento office, will present the Kathryn Goddard Jones Award, and provide us with a view of the state political/environmental outlook. Pat is last year’s recipient of the Jones Award.

Potluck will start at 7:00, or earlier if the food arrives early. Coffee, tea and juice will be provided. If you have pictures to show, please limit yourself to 5. We will have a stack loader and Kodak projector for slides and a digital projector for CDs. If you have prints, they can be displayed also.

This will be our last meeting in the Meadow Park Rec center. In February, we will move to the Rudigew Recreation Center on Santa Rosa Street.

Meetings are open to all Sierra Club members and the general public.

**Tuesday, January 18, 7:00 p.m.**

Meadow Park Rec Center
San Luis Obispo

Save the date!!

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**Santa Bay in 3-D**

Discover the Estuary in 3-D, is a new public outreach and education exhibit in the Morro Bay Estuary Nature Center at 601 Embarcadero, 2nd floor, in Morro Bay. You are there binocular views of bayside landscapes, plants, animals, and birds are documented with state-of-the-art stereoscopic photo techniques.

Santa Lucia Chapter member Abe Perlestein founded the 2003-2004 Morro Bay National Estuary Stereo Photo Survey, the world’s first photographic overview of an ecosystem exclusively documented with stereoscopic photo techniques. A one-of-a-kind specialized camera system was designed and configured especially for the task, and the best images from the project are now on view in the exhibit.

Abe will also be a featured presenter at the Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival (www.morro-bay.net/birds) January 15 and 16, with six showings of a new 30-minute projected stereo slide program entitled Wings Over & On Morro Bay: A 3-D Spectacular. This will be the premier showing of the best images of birds from the Morro Bay Stereo Photo Survey.

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**Santa Lucia**

**2004 Executive Committee**

Terry Collins *Chair*

Steven Marx  *MEMBER*

Eliane Guillot  *MEMBER*

Sarah Christie  *MEMBER*

Tim D’Aeles  *MEMBER*

The Executive Committee meets the fourth Friday of every month at 5:00 p.m. at the chapter office, 1204 Nipomo St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

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**Other Leaders**

Speakers Bureau  Jan Mar

Book Sales  Sarah Christie

Chapter History  Pam Epperson

Publicity  Pam Heatherington

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**Activities**

Outings  Eliane Guillot

Equestrian  John Burdett

Publicity  Pam Heatherington

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**General Information**

Santa Lucia Chapter -- Sierra Club

1204 Nipomo St., San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

Chapter Coordinator  santalucia.chapter@sierraclub.org

Andrew Christie  805-543-8717

Pat Veesart  805-543-7051

Chapter office hours are Monday-Friday, 10 am-12 pm.

P.O. Box 15755

San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

www.santalucia.sierraclub.org
A Farewell Address

By Tarren Collins
Chapter Chair, 2000-2005

When I was elected to the Chapter Executive Committee back in the 20th century, many things were different. The week the election closed in November 1999, the anti-globalization movement first found its voice in a major way, shutting down a meeting of the World Trade Organization in Seattle. The California Coastal Commission had yet to be declared unconstitutional by a judicial relic of the Deukmajian administration. The President of the United States was a rational adult.

Now I’m termed out and it’s time to reminisce. As an attorney, I’ve learned that the developer-backed incumbent was that the developer-backed incumbent would try again, backing Jim Patterson as district supervisor in 2000. In 2004, I exacted complete to private life. I will be continuing to meet, plan, and work with you all. Only now, I might have a little more time in which to do so.

In addition to the above-mentioned ongoing environmental challenges, the Chapter faces the Marketplace initiative, a sprawl-friendly local political climate, and the ongoing fight to keep our local agriculture free of genetically engineered crops. I encourage every member to think of ways they might contribute to the work of the chapter. We are forever in need of resources - your time, skills, expertise, talents, and whatever funds you can contribute. When wondering if you know enough to step in and volunteer, I assure you that few could know as little about the Sierra Club as I did when elected to the Executive December 1999. I had joined the Club only the year before. My first ExCom meeting was my first time at any Sierra Club meeting or event. I commend to my successor the words of Sierra Club legend David Brower: “Pebble conservationists leave no marks. They leave the scars upon the Earth that could have been prevented had they stood their ground.”

My advice to him: to be quite a ride!
Plovers

continued from page 1

Coast Audubon Society will receive $50,000 a year for five years to expand its successful plover volunteer program and information clearing house.

“We were particularly pleased to secure funding for a study that will evaluate existing management measures,” said Bahak Naficy, the environmental lawyer who represented the Chapter throughout the litigation. “It should help settle public debate and will establish an understanding of the reasons why plovers nest on some beaches and not on others.” The ambitious research project will be managed by Dr. Travis Longcore, Science Director of the Urban Wildland Group.

Los Osos

continued from page 1

That got some people thinking: Might there be one solution to three problems here? The Los Osos Community Services District has approved a treatment plant design and location, and a majority of that body, as well as the state and regional water quality boards, are determined to see this approved plan become a reality ASAP at the threat of $10,000-a-day fines for delay. A sizable and vocal contingent of the local citizenry are just as determined to prevent this from coming to pass, as they are opposed to both the location and presumed efficacy of the proposed plant, and are availing themselves of all legal and political means to halt it. And that’s pretty much the way it’s gone for the last thirty years. What to do?

Recently elected Sierra Club-endorsed Los Osos CSD members Julie Tacker and Lisa Schicker have embraced the idea of a regional tertiary treatment plant, with the Chapter’s support. “We have a great opportunity to look at a regional sewer system for three of our coastal communities,” agrees Pam Heatherington of ECO-SLO. “Morro Bay and Cayucos have pledged to look at full secondary treatment and possibly tertiary treatment. Los Osos needs a sewer. A state-of-the-art treatment facility for all three communities is a win-win.”

“It’s an interesting idea. A regional plant makes sense,” says Gordon Hensley, vice chair of the Los Osos CSD. Hensley cautions that state and regional water boards would have to agree to suspend their “delay” penalties before the project could be actively pursued, but “if the stars aligned, we could have a very interesting conversation.”

The Sierra Club would love to see a sewer for Los Osos happen tomorrow, and the rehabilitation of the Estuary begin the following day. But of all the elements that have marked this issue over the years – political, economic, environmental – it is clear at this point that one element dominates all: As long as there is significant local opposition to the official course of action, the likely outcomes will be more strife, delay and environmental destruction.

The other potential outcome: A higher level of treatments, the bonus of reusable water, access to state and federal funds available for regional wastewater treatment programs, and possibly costs split up and spread out among multiple municipal entities throughout the region, a monthly sewer bill for the residents of Los Osos – has clean air, clean water and access to open space.

Los Osos would love to see a regional sewer become a reality ASAP, at pain of threatened $10,000-a-day fines for delay. Current foes lay down their arms and go on the verge of open revolt. The Los Osos Community Services District is determined to see this approved plan become a reality at any cost, and to resolve local issues in the moratorium now proposed, which has local residents on the verge of open revolt.

Can it be done? If proposed, will current fines lay down their arms and agencies suspend threatened fines for delay? Would it be a better bet for the rehabilitation of the ailing Estuary to wait five to seven years for a guaranteed outcome, or wait indefi nitely for the outcome of a never-ending sewer war?

There’s only one way to find out: Fully study the option, put it on the table and let the people decide.

Audubon: Working Together

By Henry Pontarelli

President, Morro Coast Audubon Society

(State Parks and the Santa Lucia Chapter selected the Morro Coast Audubon Society to receive settlement funds from Sierra Club v. Arceas to expand the MCAS Snowy Plover Watch program to plover nesting sites across three counties.)

Organizations like the Sierra Club, the Audubon Society, the Native Plant Society and even political parties act as the eyes, ears, hands and mouths of their members. Our organizations roll up their sleeves and fightattles our members believe should be fought, teach lessons our members feel should be taught and form relationships the collective group feels should be formed. The “greater” group gives individual members the opportunity to invest resources of time or money and become part of a larger, stronger force.

Like the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) is part of a larger organization. National Audubon has approximately 580,000 members in 500 chapters and manages 160,000 acres of critical habitat. Our local chapter has almost 700 members and manages about 30 acres of open space.

Our mission statement is straightforward: to promote the appreciation of beauty, conservation and restoration of ecosystems, and support the diversity of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats.

Our local chapter has almost 700 members and manages about 30 acres of open space.

Our mission statement is straightforward: to promote the appreciation of beauty, conservation and restoration of ecosystems, and support the diversity of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. MCAS is working with The Land Conservancy to help track bird numbers and diversity in restored habitats as a measure of success.

One of the Morro Coast Audubon Society’s overriding goals is to become a more effective conservation and “teaching” force. Much of our “new” energy will be gained by joining hands with organizations like the Sierra Club, the Land Conservancy, the Morro Bay National Estuary Program, and Friends of the Estuary to make sure our community — human and animal — has clean air, clean water and access to open space.

To learn more about Morro Coast Audubon, please visit our website, www.morrocoastaudubon.org, or call me, Henry Pontarelli, at (805) 528-4587.
Discovery of Davidson Seamount

Originally mapped by surveyor George Davidson in 1933, scientific knowledge of the Davidson Seamount was limited until recent advances in technology made expeditions feasible. In 1998, the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) performed side scan and multi-beam surveys identifying the shape and structure of the Seamount for the first time. In 2000, President Clinton chose the Davidson Seamount as one of three areas in the United States selected for federally supported undersea exploration, launching an expedition that used Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) to survey the Seamount’s geology as well as biological studies of the surface environment above the Seamount. In 2002, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, joined by MBARI, returned to Davidson, exploring the Seamount at all elevations and studying species abundance and distribution from its base to the surface of the ocean. Davidson is now one of the best studied seamounts in the world.

Ecological Importance of Seamounts

Although there are more than 30,000 seamounts in the Pacific Ocean, Davidson is the largest seamount in the western Pacific and one of the largest in the world. Video collected during the 2009 and 2002 expeditions show portions of the Davidson Seamount covered in thick forests of ancient gorgonian corals hundreds of years old and dense sponge fields up to three meters high. Scientists on the 2002 Davidson Seamount expedition catalogued fish and invertebrate species that had never been previously identified. The Seamount is truly like no place else on Earth.

Lake rainforests on land, seamounts are known to be hotspots of biological diversity. Like underwater islands, seamounts support a greater number and abundance of species than surrounding areas of ocean floor. Because seamounts rise sharply, they are constantly washed by plankton rich ocean currents which provide a food source for sea mammals and reef fish. The coral reefs themselves provide hard substrate that serve as important habitat for other deep-sea creatures. Threats to Seamounts

Historically, seamounts have been protected from human impacts by virtue of their depth. As modern technology has increased scientific knowledge and helped bring the wonders of the deeper sea environments to the public, it has also increased threats to even the most remote ocean environments. Bottom-trawling and long-lining is now taking place at depths of over 3000 feet and mineral exploration is occurring at ever greater depths. There is growing evidence that seamounts may be particularly vulnerable to human impacts.

Research suggests that up to a third of the species living on a seamount can be endemic – species that are native to only one seamount. Consequently, human impacts to seamounts present significant risk of extinctions.

In some area of the world, commercially targeted fish species concentrate around seamounts, leading to intensive fishing effort targeting these congregations. Overfishing associated with seamounts has been extensively documented in Hawaii, New Zealand and Australia. Harmful impacts of fishing on seamount habitats have also been documented in Tasmania, where seamounts have been heavily trawled, areas that have been fished have lower species abundance and richness than lightly fished areas. In some areas, coral reefs have been damaged or destroyed by fishing gear, leaving only rubble behind. Such damage has led to a growing international focus on seamount conservation. In 2002, the United Nations General Assembly recognized the threats to the deep sea calling upon the international community to consider the risks to seamounts and other deepwater habitats.

Protection for Davidson

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is currently updating its management plan – the document that contains the rules and regulations designed to guide sanctuary managers in their efforts to protect sanctuary resources. The existing Sanctuary boundaries encompass nearly 5000 square miles of ocean stretching from the Marin Headlands to Cabria. It contains examples of most of the coastal and marine habitats characteristic of Central California – sea cliffs, sandy beaches, kelp forests, tide pools, wetlands, submarine canyons and vast ocean plains. Although a chain of seamounts (Gumdrop, Pioneer, Guide and Davidson) lines the border of the Sanctuary, none are currently within its protection. In 2000, no true seamount (defined as an underwater mountain that rises at least 1000 meters above the surrounding seafloor) is contained within any of the nation’s 13 marine sanctuaries.

During recent public scoping meetings designed to elicit input on future management priorities for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the Sanctuary was encouraged to expand its borders to include the Central Coast seamounts, or at least the Davidson Seamount. In response, the Sanctuary convened a working group made up of scientists, conservationists and fishery representatives to consider whether or not the Davidson Seamount warranted protections for seamounts within its borders.

Although less well known than their tropical counterparts, cold water corals are found in temperate waters around the globe, including the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, the North Sea, even the Antarctic. Unlike tropical corals, which rely on symbiotic algae in their tissues to convert sunlight into energy, the cold water corals don’t need sunlight to survive and are thus able to survive in the darkness of the deep sea. Cold water corals feed by capturing plankton from surrounding waters and are therefore most plentiful in areas where a steady current flow washes them with plankton, such as seamounts, ridges, pinnacles, and the continental slope.

Though slow growing, over time, cold water corals can form intricate and complex reefs. Norwegian scientists recently discovered a coral reef 35 kilometers long and more than 30 meters high that was estimated to be several hundred years old. Living corals have been carbon dated to over 5,000 years old. Cold water coral reefs also provide important habitat for many other deep sea creatures. Because food is scarce in the deep ocean, the fish and invertebrate species associated with cold water coral reefs are typically slow growing and late to mature, making them particularly vulnerable to human disturbance.

The secrets of this mountain are protected not by its elevation but its location. Davidson Seamount is sub-merged deep beneath the Pacific Ocean in more than 12,000 feet of water; its crest is 4000 feet below the ocean’s surface. Twenty-six miles long and eight miles wide, the massive peak rises up to three meters high. Scientists at the Seamount covered in thick forests of cold water corals, which rely on symbiotic algae in their tissues to convert sunlight into energy, the cold water corals don’t need sunlight to survive and are thus able to survive in the darkness of the deep sea. Cold water corals feed by capturing plankton from surrounding waters and are therefore most plentiful in areas where a steady current flow washes them with plankton, such as seamounts, ridges, pinnacles, and the continental slope. Though slow growing, over time, cold water corals can form intricate and complex reefs. Norwegian scientists recently discovered a coral reef 35 kilometers long and more than 30 meters high that was estimated to be several hundred years old. Living corals have been carbon dated to over 5,000 years old. Cold water coral reefs also provide important habitat for many other deep sea creatures. Because food is scarce in the deep ocean, the fish and invertebrate species associated with cold water coral reefs are typically slow growing and late to mature, making them particularly vulnerable to human disturbance.

For more information on this important process or for copies of the draft action plans, go to http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan.html

Here’s the Plan…

Sanctuary protection for the Davidson Seamount is just one of many issues being addressed in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary’s update management plan. Over the past three years, the Sanctuary has engaged in an unprecedented public process – soliciting input from thousands of citizens throughout California and beyond. With the assistance of stakeholders, community members, and partner agencies, the Sanctuary has developed “action plans” on 21 different conservation topics. Issues of potential interest to San Luis Obispo residents include: the Big Sur Coastal Ecosystem Plan, Water Quality Protection in Protected Areas, and Desalination.

In 2005, the Sanctuary is expected to release its draft Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for public review and comment. To receive information on this important process or for copies of the draft action plans, go to http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan.html

How You Can Help

You can help ensure future protection of the Davidson Seamount by writing to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Director, Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher, Congresswoman Lois Capps and Congressman Sam Farr to voice support for adding the Davidson Seamount to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

For more information on the Davidson Seamount, go to http://oceampreserver.noaa.gov/explorations/cessean.html or http://www.nhmce-simon.org/
Thanks to Donors!

Thanks to all who gave to the 29/2000 fund drive in 2004! (As not everyone provided first names, return addresses, included the coupon with donation, etc., this is not a complete list... but if your name’s not here, please know we are equally grateful to all!)  

Dana & Sandy Yudovin  
Lisa Lilley  
Ted & Peg Lahrena  
Steve & Myra Douglas  
John Burkle  
Jerry W. Hull  
Mary Lou Wilhelm  
Dorrie Ward  
Evelyn D. Reagan  
Carlos Prolot  
Kenneth L. Watten  
Sheila Blake  
Susan & Jack Meccagart  
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Milton H. Baer  
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Peter Douglas  
Michael & Rita Miller  
Lawrence & Joan O’Donnell  
Barbara & Robert Rosenthal  
John & Nancy Severson  
Elaine Evans  
Valerie Barboza

Sierra Club Connects Forced Migration and “Free Trade”

For the first time, the Sierra Club has explicitly made the connection between U.S. “free trade” policies and the pressure to migrate, in the November/December issue of Sierra. Hereafter, the long raging population/migration debate in the Club has centered on immigration quotas and restrictions, relative fertility rates and family planning. Until now, it has never been mentioned in the context of trade or as a concern of the Club’s Responsible Trade & Human Rights program.

Technically, the first time that connection was made was when the Orange County Chapter and the Santa Lucia Chapter passed a resolution on trade & immigration in February 2004. The Chapter submitted the text to the Club’s RT&HR program, followed by a lengthy e-mail correspondence between the Chapter Coordinator and International Programs director Steve Mills — the author of the November Sierra article. The RT&HR Committee endorsed the resolution in May.

The immigration issue in the Club will be heating up again this spring, when another immigration control resolution is brought back to the Sierra Club ballot. This time, the national debate has a chance to break out of the straitjacket of ping pong match of yore, thanks to a new element that can lift the argument beyond “how much environmental damage does immigration cause?” and ask “what causes immigration?”

Decommission Diablo

In December 2003, the Mothers for Peace, Sierra Club, and Peg Pinard sued the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for ignoring the threat of terrorism at the Diablo Canyon Plant. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s Nuclear Safety Advisory Committee, the State of California’s Public Utilities Commission, and the County of Santa Barbara, among other defendants, were deposed.

In April, the Mothers for Peace were awarded $64,000 for attorney’s fees. For the win, the Mothers for Peace joined the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the effort to decommission Diablo Canyon. The Mothers for Peace are keeping up the decommissioning pressure, and have been in correspondence with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission about the decommissioning process.

A Foggy Day at Morro Bay

by Jack Bigsby

Every outings leader is concerned about the safety of the people on the outing. There are risks in every outing whether it is in the mountains or on the water and it is the leader’s responsibility to reduce these risks. I do not like to cancel a canoe/kayak outing but I have cancelled several due to rain and high winds. In over fifteen years of leading canoe/kayak outings for the Sierra Club, I had never cancelled an outing because of fog. This fall, as we approached the weekend of our outing, it was cold and rainy. The weatherman was forecasting cold, clear skies for the weekend with 30 to 45 mile winds. This is not a good forecast for a canoe/kayak outing. The weatherman has been wrong before, so I checked the weather at dawn on the day of our outing. In Pismo, the sky was clear, the sun was warm and there was absolutely no wind. I loaded my canoe on our van and drove with my paddling partner towards Morro Bay. As we approached Los Osos, we encountered a small patch of fog. When we pulled into the Morro Bay State Park Marina, the fog was getting more dense by the minute. At ten o’clock, our scheduled launch time, I couldn’t see the sand spit, I couldn’t see a single boat in the estuary and I couldn’t even see the first set of channel marking buoys outside of the marina. At that point I cancelled the outing.

Only one other paddler showed up. All of the others believed the weatherman and stayed home. Paddling in the fog can be fun but you must have a compass. It is impossible to paddle a straight course in a dense fog without a compass. Without these reference points, our boat will not be heading where we think it is heading. Paddling in the fog can be fun but you must have a compass.

Volunteer’s Corner

by Eliane Guillot

This issue marks the first Santa Lucia in two years without Mariko Fujinaka as our layout artist. Mariko must devote more of her time to the task of freelance writer and editor (i.e. making a living), and deserves a big “hurray” of appreciation from all members of the Santa Lucia Chapter. Working from her home computer, Mariko gathered the articles and ads together, formatted them in PageMaker, and handled coordination between many individuals, with a lot of patience and flexibility in meeting deadlines.

Mariko grew up in Portland, Oregon, and has lived in Paso Robles since 1999. She chose to volunteer to make a difference rather than complain about the “sorry state of the world.” She was a National Public Radio intern in Oregon, and after moving down here answered the call for a newsletter editor/layout person when she saw it posted on the Santa Lucia Chapter website. She learned PageMaker with great help from chapter stalwarts like Gary Felsman and Clevet Nash, spending one or two weekends a month on the job. “I have quite a few hobbies—running, knitting, sewing, baking—that keep me from doing my work,” says Mariko. This year, like every year, she hopes “to work on my time management skills!”

Mariko thanks everyone in the chapter who worked with her over the past two years!
Classifieds

Classified ads are $10 and are limited to 20 words. They are due by the first week of the month of publication (next deadline is Feb. 1, 2005). Please submit your ad and payment to:
Sierra Club - Santa Lucia Chapter
p.o. Box 15755
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
sierral8@charter.net

Local Government Meetings

City of SLO--1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 781-7103
Arroyo Grande--2nd and 4th Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 473-5404.
Atascadero--2nd & 4th Tues.; 466-8099
Cambria CSD -- 4th Thurs.; 927-6223
Grover Beach--1st & 3rd Mon., 6:30 p.m.; 473-4567
Morro Bay--2nd & 4th Mon.
Paso Robles--1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 237-3888
Pismo Beach--1st Tues., 5:30 p.m.; 773-4675
Los Osos CSD board-- 1st Tues. & 2nd Mon., varies
California Coastal Commission-- 3rd Tues., varies
SLO County Board of Supervisors-- every Tues.; 781-5450
SLO Council of Governments: 781-4219
SLOCOG Citizens Advisory Committee--1st Wed. every other month, 6:00 p.m.
SLOCOG Board--1st Wed. every other month, 8:30 a.m.

Environmental 911

Here’s an easy way to report on environmental concerns or to get information on issues affecting our ecology: Call 911! That’s just a catchy title, though. The real number is... (drum roll):
(415) 977-5520 or environmental911@sierraclub.org

Environmental 911

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A Will...

...is a way to protect the environment as well as yourself. If you do not have a will, the state decides how your property and other affairs are handled. Decisions made now can later provide financial security for family, friends, and the Sierra Club. You may even direct your bequest to a specific Club program or your home Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, contact

John Calaway
Sierra Club Planned Giving Program
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105-3441
(415) 977-5538.
Peter Douglas Keynotes Annual EcoSummit

By Jack McCurdy

A cancer-free and re-dedicated Peter Douglas, executive director of the California Coastal Commission, recently cautioned a gathering of the county's environmental leaders that it is easy to feel burned out in these times.

"But, he said, "our work is ongoing. It is lonely at times, difficult at times and we take the slings and arrows. But we need to remind ourselves how we are doing this. Just go out and look at the Carorro Plain, for example, and it will remind you why we can't give up."

The bunrsky Douglas spoke at the fourth annual Ecosummit of San Luis Obispo County at Camp Ocean Pines in Cambria on Dec. 4, hosted by the Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo County (ECOSLO) and co-sponsored by 38 area individuals and groups, including the Sierra Club.

Douglas got a clean bill of health following two months of radiation and chemotherapy treatments last summer for a form of tongue cancer. Now, he said, "I am going to continue the fight for the coast and the environment."

In his address, Douglas surveyed the major events of the year for our local coast. He acknowledged the deeply-sharpened disappointment in the Hearst Ranch Conservation Plan, passed largely as proposed by the Hearst Corporation with its critical deficiencies in achieving conservation, limiting development, enforcing its terms, and preserving public access to coastal attractions like San Simon Point, which would be restricted under the Plan.

He noted that the Coastal Commission and the Legislative Analyst's Office and many others had opposed the Hearst Plan on grounds the public was being shortchanged and enforcement provisions are weak.

"When you fight the great fight like on Hearst, it is easy to get burned out, but try not to get emotionally involved in any issue. Remember the larger and overarching cause of environmental activism. Don't get burned out, so you can come back for the next fight. This will sustain you in your activism."

Douglas has the experience to give such advice. As a legislative staff member, he co-authored the 1972 statewide citizens initiative that established the Coastal Commission, was a principal author of the Coastal Act that made permanent California's coastal management program in 1976, and has headed the Coastal Commission staff since 1985 and received the first "Champion of the Coast" award at an international symposium on coastal zone management in 1995 as well as numerous other environmental awards.

Douglas acknowledged the recent "turnover" in Commission membership and praised outgoing member Pedro Nava of Santa Barbara, who was elected to the Assembly in November. "Nava provided great stewardship," Douglas said. "He said the Coastal Commission and the Coastal Act provide the last line of defense for the coast between the demands of the few and the dreams of the many. That's really true."

Douglas said he "sees no significant change" in the character of the Commission.

Douglas described concern by the Commission staff about plans of the Cambria Community Services District to use the power of eminent domain to seize private land for building water tanks when room is available on the District's own land. He said the staff was troubled by plans to cut trees in Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area and use eminent domain to "trump" a conservation easement. He said he had immediate plans to meet with District members pushing for plans to "discuss the issues.

Douglas took the occasion to announce that Pat Veesart, state chapter liaison of Sierra Club California, has been named the Coastal Commission's chief enforcement officer in Southern California. Veesart is a former executive director of ECOSLO and county planning commissioner.

He also lauded Sarah Christie, the Commission's legislative director in Sacramento and member of the Chapter's Executive Committee, for the "incredible job" she has done in helping to protect the coast.

"Cuts to the Commission's budget over the past 4 years have drastically delayed, energy projects aren't getting approved, permit applications are delayed, energy projects aren't getting the attention they require, and so on. It is frustrating not to get the support needed to do the public's business - business the public expects us to do."

Douglas said another effort will be made in 2005 to achieve a permanent source of funding for the Coastal which has suffered a reduction of $3 million to $6 million over the past three years, resulting in the loss of 39 staff positions.

Some legislators are willing to push for permanent funding, but Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has said "no new taxes," which could make such an initiative difficult.

Taran Collins, outgoing Chair of the Santa Lucia Chapter, said the Great Coastal Places Campaign she chairs plans to organize support for the Commission's funding.

Socially Responsible Investing: A How-To

By Jack A. Brill

Last year's elections seem to be another setback for the environment. While this was discouraging, we must continue our fight to improve the environment. Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) is an important way to do this.

It can and must be argued that minimizing consumption and making communities more self-sustaining is an important goal. However, the global nature of bringing goods and services from producer to consumer is an economic fact of life.

This brings us to the need to invest. As we earn our money, we need to set aside some of today's income to cover future expenses. Very few people plan on full-time work and income until their very last day on earth. The best way is to invest a part of your money each payday so that at some time in the future one can retire. Saving and investing regularly for a child's college education and for future large purchases is also a necessity. When you follow this process using SRI, your investment dollars are added to the current dollars invested in SRI. This adds momentum to bring about needed social change and strengthen the battle to protect the environment.

There are many forms of investment. CDs in banks, bonds issued by governments and corporations and ownership in corporations in the form of stock each have a degree of risk in terms of financial return and rewards. One must be careful when becoming part of the world of investment.

With SRI, beyond the risk and reward considerations there is a crucial social dimension involved. One must be careful to make certain that the personal investment made is in keeping with one's personal life issues. Stock ownership is an attempt to profit from ownership of companies. If you are working for a more environmentally sustainable world, you should not and need not invest in the stock of a company that is creating global warming. You should be looking to invest in renewable energy.

Opponents of nuclear power should not be investors in PG&E. This is just one of the elements of the SRI industry. This industry has been growing from obscurity to a dominant force worldwide. In 2003, the Social Investment Forum, the SRI industry's trade association, found $2.2 trillion of investments in SRI. Last year's elections seem to be another setback for the environment.
Despite the failure of Measure Q to pass in the November 2 election, many more people have expressed the desire to work on the issue of keeping San Luis Obispo County free of genetic engineering in agriculture.

On November 15, about fifty of those people met at the office of Infopress in San Luis Obispo to weigh in on what the next steps for our county should be. Topics included the real status of corn and other crops in our county for next spring and how to monitor them, options for local labeling, and hope to continue educating a public that is now aware of this issue, as was made plain by Measure Q’s 48,600 “yes” votes. Those votes were won despite the editorial hostility of the local paper and a singularly dirty campaign waged by opponents, which included a fake website of “former supporters,” deceptive slate mailers and a billboard of ads the week of the election that made outrageously false claims in support of GE food studies and safety, and warning about the supposed dire consequences of a ban.

“San Luis Obispo’s campaign for Measure Q was an amazing success,” said Doug Mosel, organizer of the successful Mendocino County GE crop ban, “considering you were up against the biotech industry, which fielded a local face under the mask of the Farm Bureau, which is heavily invested in Monsanto stock.”

Mosel came to the meeting from a Genetic Engineering Action Network (GEAN) conference in Boulder, Colorado, and talked about recent successful campaigns, moving toward a coordinated national campaign, collaborative state legislative efforts, and how San Luis Obispo fits into the bigger picture for coordinated grassroots GE-free efforts.

“We don’t underestimate the power of the industry to undermine this effort,” said Luke Anderson, author of Genetic Engineering, Food, and Our Environment – the Silent Spring of GE – “but we have the facts on our side.”

Mendocino, Trinity, and Marin counties and the city of Arcata have now banned GE crops, and the state of Vermont is enforcing a “genetically engineered” labeling law for seed sales.

For more information, go to www.slogfree.org and sierraclub.org/GEFree.org/

-- the

For the first time, Duke Energy has said it may no longer seek regulatory approval to build a new power plant in Morro Bay.

The revelation came on December 2 at a meeting in San Luis Obispo of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, the day a final hearing on the new plant had been scheduled by the board but had been postponed unexpectedly.

Lorie Okun, the board’s attorney, said during a discussion of the status of the project that “what Duke told us is that they’re not sure if they’re even going to continue the plan to modernize (build a new) plant.”

“It’s partly dependent on the financing issues they have. So they don’t even know if they want the permit at this point.”

Previously, Duke officials have said that they do not know when they would begin construction of a new plant, if and when all regulatory approvals were obtained. In addition to the availability of financing, Duke has said it needs to know what the power generation regulatory policy will be in the state, which remains unclear.

Duke has been seeking a water discharge permit from the board to allow withdrawal of water from the Morro Bay National Estuary for cooling at the plant and then releasing the heated water in an outfall channel on state tidelands adjacent to Morro Rock, flowing into Estero Bay. But Duke no longer has a lease from the city of Morro Bay, which administers the tidelands, to use the outfall. It expired on November 15.

First, Board staff said that the hearing was being postponed indefinitely because its biological consultant would not be available.

Then a staff member was quoted in a local newspaper as saying the postponement was requested by Duke. On December 2, another staff member said Duke and the city had requested the cancellation.

But City attorney Rob Schultz said later that the city had not requested the postponement but had not opposed it. The issue is whether Duke could continue operating the existing plant or start up a new plant using estuary water without the lease. Duke actually ran the plant in late November without approval to do so in the absence of a new lease. The city so far has taken no action to prevent further unauthorized uses of the outfall.

A newly-elected City Council has yet to consider what action to take.
As you may have heard, the grassroots citizen's group Save San Luis Obispo succeeded in its initial goal of gathering over 14,000 signatures on three petitions to require the City of San Luis Obispo to hold a referendum on Bill Bird's San Luis Marketplace mall, located on the Daldido property on Madonna Road.

The special election to reverse the City's approval of the project will be held April 26, 2005, Save San Luis Obispo is gearing up to launch a vigorous campaign. There is mounting public opposition to the project from neighborhood advocates, students, business and property owners, fans of our award-winning Downtown, community leaders, and last but not least, environmentalists. The Santa Lucia chapter of the Sierra Club and the Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo (ECOSLO) have both taken positions against it.

It will be a hard-fought battle. The L.A. developers and their Texas financiers have a lot more money than we do, don't care about our community and have hired a PR firm that represented Wal-Mart in other matters. They also have sued the City and Save San Luis Obispo in an attempt to derail the election. To defend us, we have hired Jonathan Wittwer from Santa Cruz, an attorney who is a specialist in election law. We are confident we will prevail. Obviously, the lawsuit puts us under additional financial pressure (as it was intended to do).

Now, we must not only raise money to run the campaign, but also to defend against the lawsuit. To win, we will need your help.

What is wrong with the Marketplace? For starters, it is way too big and ugly. This 1,000,000 square-foot "Power Center" is so large that it will add more retail space than currently exists in all of Downtown. It will generate more than 20,000 additional daily trips by car, creating gridlock and smog. It is so large a landfill grows in Templeton?

About 250 residents of Templeton and Atascadero live within a mile of the Chicago Grade Landfill. Until a few months ago, many of them did not know this. Now, they all do.

Some very thorough employee at the County Planning Department included them on a list of agencies to receive a "Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report" for the expansion of the landfill.

Normally, a NOP goes to agencies and consultants who then suggest categories of impacts and areas of study to the County as they get ready to prepare a draft EIR. After the DEIR is completed, the public is notified and has, on average, 30 days to comment before the Final EIR is prepared and the project commences.

This time, 250 households got an early heads-up and an eyeful of what's planned. The landfill to double in size and longevity; stats on truck traffic; major potential impacts to air and water quality. One of them called the Sierra Club and asked, essentially, "what can we do about this?"

After some consultation at the Chapter office, a couple of residents decided to form a core group and gave themselves a name: Neighbors Against Landfill Expansion (NALE). They got the names of all 250 of their fellow citizens who had received the notice from the Planning Dept. They put together a letter stating their concerns, with a form on the back inviting the recipients to sign and return the letter. About 250 of their fellow citizens who had received the notice from the Planning Dept. They put together a letter stating their concerns, with a form on the back inviting the recipients to sign and return the letter. They put together a letter stating their concerns, with a form on the back inviting the recipients to sign and return the letter.

The Chapter made 250 copies of the letter for them, and provided the envelopes, stamps and the Chapter's return address. As we collect the reply forms, we will keep the names and addresses on file, provide tips on public testimony, coordinate responses, and otherwise help walk NALE through the process. In addition to the end goal of getting the project scaled back, modified, mitigated or eliminated, it should prove to be an educational experience, especially for our elected officials and their appointees, who will get to hear from many of their constituents just how much they look forward to finding themselves perched next to a very big dump.
Chimeneas

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adapted to living there; a land rich in biological resources. It is difficult land in
visible. The view of this harsh land stretched all around us. It is difficult land in
memory.

At Gillam springs, the water flowed out from a small cave, then down about
one of the small seeps.

The environment is one of the most important issues to socially
responsible investors. Most of the SRI mutual funds and fund families,
including Calvert, Citizens and Pax World, screen on this issue. There are some
that put special emphasis on this issue. These include the new
Sierra Club funds, Portfolio 21 and Winslow Green Growth fund. The most
common Avoidance screens are tobacco, firearms, war and nuclear
power. Corporate governance, labor issues and the environment are ap-
plicated as both Avoidance and Affect-
ative screens. Socially Responsible investors can also screen on human
rights and animal rights as well as a
myriad of religious and ethical
issues. The SRI industry has de-
veloped extensive resources to help
investment advisers and individual
investors choose a portfolio that
reflects their personal values.

Warning: Investing in mutual funds and bonds involves risk. All mutual funds are subject to market risks and
economic uncertainty. Some SRI mutual funds and investment portfolios, like all investment
portfolios, under-perform the market and show losses. Investigate carefully before making any investment. Never invest in an investment
that will cause you to lose a good night’s sleep.

As consumers and investors, one of the most powerful tools we
have is the power of money. One example is the growth of the
health and organic food industry. As consumers continue to demand
and spend their money on organi-
cally grown food, the industry is
responding by offering more
products, even at mainstream
super markets. Vons and other
supermarkets stock Horizon Brand Organic Milk. The expan-
sion of food stores such as Whole
Food and Trader Joes could not
happen without consumer sup-
port and profits made by the mar-
ket owners.

Continuing SRI investing has
brought about important corpo-
rate change. In 1992, the company
that fought environmental
cleanup in the area, a $200 million-a-year enterprise.
Home Depot has adopted a policy
to not sell any lumber from old
growth forests.

We may have had a temporary
setback for the environment po-
litically, but the battle to save the
planet continues. SRI is a crucial
part of this battle.

Jack A. Brill is a Registered
Investment Adviser of Natural
Investment Services, co-author of
Investing with your Values (War
Society Publishers, 2000), and a
member of the Sierra Club since
1992. Check the website
naturalinginvesting.com or call him
at 805-561-7717.

The fine print: The above has been
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tain recommendations or solicit
sales on any specific investment. Take
care to thoroughly read prospectuses
before making any investment.

Investing continued from page 8

Marketplace continued from page 16

that it will require an otherwise unnecessary new freeway interchange at Prado Road to handle just a small portion of the additional traffic it will generate. Instead of a lovely view of prime agricultural land and the Morros at the en-
trance of the City, visitors will be “welcomed” by the sight of generic sprawl-
smart at its worst.

It also is a bad financial deal for the City. Amazingly, the City has agreed to
pay for most of the costs associated with the interchange and related improve-
ments, either directly or by giving away an estimated $750,000 in sales taxes
to the developer every year for 30. Between the unprecedented sales-tax
subsidy to the developer and the City’s share of the Prado Interchange and re-
lated expenses, this project will drain almost $46 million from City coffers. As a
result, SLO will not only lose a significant long term financial commitments that
will limit its ability to eliminate existing traffic bottlenecks or unsafe intersec-
tions, provide adequate services for our seniors and maintain high quality po-
lice and fire protection.

The Marketplace will have at least seven significant, unavoidable environ-
mental impacts, including severe traffic congestion and degradation of air
quality, especially in surrounding neighborhoods. The EIR is so flawed that its
sufficiency has been challenged in court by another citizen’s group, Citizens
for Planning Responsibly, and Cal Trans may make them do a whole new EIR be-
fore approving the interchange. Among other problems, it simply does not
address the many impacts of the interchange, such as increased flooding over the
freeway and the possible need to mitigate by widening or channelizing San
Luis Creek on the east side of 101.

The developers are throwing up all the legal flack they can think of to keep this
from coming to a vote. Save San Luis Obispo needs your financial help right now. Please go to our website, www.savesanluisobispo.org
and click on “click here” for a printable contribution form. Print it out, fill it out and send it with your (hopefully generous) check to Save San Luis Obispo,
P.O. Box 4312, San Luis Obispo CA 93403-4312. You do not need to live in the City
of San Luis Obispo to contribute, and there are no campaign expenditure
limits on ballot measures. No contribution is too large or too small.

First, outgoing Chair Tarren Collins alerted the California Coastal Commission to the issuance of a peculiar “emergency permit” to the Cambria Community Services District. Then, thanks to deter-
marged Commission staff and the state Attorney General’s office, the
California coastal court quashed a ballot and a dire precedent on December 17
when a San Luis Obispo Superior Court judge upheld the Coastal
Commission’s denial of a development permit and issued a preliminary injunction
against the District. The CCSD wants to build new water storage tanks in an
Environmentally Sensi-
tive Habitat Area.

The District had invoked eminent
domain to seize private property in
an ESHATA protected by a conserva-
tion easement managed by the Na-
ture Conservancy, and claimed it
had obtained an emergency permit
to cut down 60+ endangered
Monterey pines in the ESHATA. If this
were allowed, all future developers
in the area could potentially claim an “emer-
gency” to trump conservation eases-
tments and/or develop on the coast.

Counsel for the Cambria Community Services District is not ex-
empt from the requirements of the
Local Coastal Plan and the Coastal
Development Permit process; the
County’s original emergency permit
could have been properly rescinded; the
Cambria CSD was not entitled to a second emergency permit because
its requirement for new tanks may be
urgent but is not an emergency as
defined by statute; and the Coastal
Commission was entitled to a pre-
liminary injunction to halt the project. The Court ordered the in-
junction and instructed all parties to work
together to come up with an
acceptable plan.

The Cambria CSD backed down from previous threats to haul out the
chainsaws and proceed with con-
struction regardless of what the Court said about the preliminary
injunction. (But it is appealing the Court’s decision regardless, evi-
dence to the contrary notwithstanding, to keep more of Cambria’s money on legal
maneuvers instead of reinforcement of the existing water tanks.)

Thank you, Coastal Commission!

Chimeneas

continued from page 4

away from our vehicles.

In the grasslands, large flocks of horned larks swarmed. Hawks perched upon
snags. A couple of road-runners entangled us. We admired pond turtles at
one of the small seeps.

At Gillam springs, the water flowed out from a small cave, then down about
100 yards to a large dirt road. Here was the spectacular sight of the trip. A flock
of mountain bluebirds, flashing shimmering blue, swirlled, settled, swirled and
flew, and repeatedly returned to pondlet. The sight remains a wonderful
memory.

While the DF&G has closed escrow on this property, much remains to be
done. Biological resources need to be inventoried, and citizen-scientists can help.
The purchase includes an extensive rural ranch house, which would make an
excellent education center. That requires money and the state has no money for such
tings. Even the purchase may be threatened under the initia-
tive mandating the sale of surplus state property. What if this was declared sur-
plus?

We ended up on a high hill where the herd of about 20 male Tule elk was visible.
The view of this harsh land stretched all around us. It is difficult land in
which for humans to survive. It is wonderful land for the plants and animals
adapted to living there; a land rich in biological resources. It is invaluable land
as a connection for biological diversity.

The Marketplace continued from page 10

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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 outing leader, contact our Leaders Gary Felyn (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 = 2.5–3 mi., 3 = 3–6 mi., 4 = 10–12 mi., 5 = 10 mi. or more.
- Elevation Gain: A = 500', B = 1000', C = 1500', D = 2000', E = 2500', F = 3000' or more.

Sat, Jan. 1, 9:30 a.m. NEW YEARS MUSSEL ROCK HIKE:
Come take this 26th annual hike with Bill. In the southernmost region of the highpoint dunes. Meet at West of Main West on the beach. Bring lunch, water, binoculars, inspirational reading. Dogs on a leash permitted at this time of year. It is out and back so you can turn around anytime. Confirm: 929-3647 or bdennen@slonet.org.

Sun., Jan 2nd 9:30 a.m., DANA ADOBE:
Meet at site on Oak Glen in Nipomo. Easy hike. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647 or bdennen@slonet.org

Sat., Jan. 8, 9:00 a.m. 45th Annual SLO County Hike:
Dunes Hike at Oso Flaco Lake.
Come and take an easy, moderate or long walk on this 45th annual celebration. Meet at the non-stop pace and elevation gain. Meet at the quarry trailhead at the large dirt parking lot in Morro Bay State Park. It is located on South Bay Boulevard. 1.3 miles from Hwy 1 or 2.6 miles from Los Osos Valley Road. Rain cancel. Leader: Al (534-3462)

Sun, Jan. 9, 9:30 a.m. Pismo Dunes Preserve:
Meet at Melodrama in Oceano, Out and back so turn around anytime. So LET OF sand. Confirm a few days before. Details call Bill at 929-3647 or bdennen@slonet.org.

Sat., Jan. 15, 8:45 a.m. ADOBE TRAIL:
Moderate to strenuous hike on a trail through chaparral and oak-studded grassland (7 mnt, 1300 ft elev. gain). Bring lunch, water, jacket and sturdy shoes. Meet 8:45am in Santa Maria at the North SLO County Government Center’s easternmost parking lot. Rain cancels. Leader: Bill 929-3598 (AR/UC)

Sun., Jan. 16th, 9:30 a.m. POINT SAL:
Meet at end of Brown Rd at locked gate at 0930 climb 2.5 miles to ‘pass’ and then decide what next. Water, windbreaker, lunch, Dogs on leash OK. Confirm a few days before. Details call Bill at 929-3647 or bdennen@slonet.org.

Sat., Jan. 22, 8:00 a.m. Silver Peak Wilderness Coastal Traverse:
Come explore the Silver Peak Wilderness as we head up the Cruciblehark Trail to the Buckeye Trail then head south towards Salmon Creek. I can promise great views if the weather is clear. This is a moderately strenuous 8.5 mile hike with a 2000-foot elevation gain. Poison Oak will be present. Bring lunch, water, sturdy hiking shoes, and dress for the weather. Meet at Spencer’s Market in Morro Bay.

Rain Cancels. Details, call Gary at (473-3694) (SD).

Sunday January 23rd, 8:30 a.m. – Grover Beach to Pismo Beach - Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Grover Beach main parking lot (route 1 at the railroad crossing – lot is adjacent to the restaurant). Bring a windbreaker, shoes that can be wet, gloves and a hat. Very easy hike. Optional breakfast in Pismo and return via the boardwalk with stop at the monarch butterfly reserve.

Sun., Jan. 27th, 9:00 a.m. MUSSEL ROCK:
Meet on Guad. Beach at 0930. Hike south to top of MR, we hope. Dogs on leash OK at this time of year. See site of proposed parking lot. Confirm a few days before. Details call Bill at 929-3647 or bdennen@slonet.org.

Sat, Jan. 29, 9:00 a.m. False Alon Peak:
Enjoy a wide variety of terrain and habitat and bag the highest peak in Montana on the OS SP on this 10 mi., 1440 ft loop hike. Meet at visitor center. We will return via Coon Creek and the bluffs. Rain Cancellations. Bob Schwartz (441-9598)

Sun., Jan. 30, 9:30 a.m. COAST HIKE — Confirm a few days before. Details call Bill at 929-3647 or bdennen@slonet.org.

Sun., Jan. 30, 9:30 a.m. LAKE SAN ANTONIO EAGLE WATCH:
Lake San Antonio is a great winter outing if we can schedule it between the rains. All we need is a little sunshine and we should have another super outing. We have always seen bald and golden eagles, ospreys, pelicans and many other birds on our outings at Lake San Antonio. Dress warmly in layers. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, windbreaker warm clothes, lunch and binoculars. Phone Jack Beigle, 773-2147 for reservations, park fees and details.

Sat., Feb. 5, 8:45 a.m. PEAK-COON CREEK LOOP:
Hike from Spooner’s Cove Ranger Station along gradually ascending open ridge to lunch at Oats Peak. After lunch, we’ll descend along a spur ridge through a canopy of oak woods through Coon Creek valley to the ocean. Loop may be finished by Bluff trail or roadway back to the Ranger Station (9 mnt, 1500 ft. elev. gain). Meet 8:45a.m. in Santa Maria at the North SLO County Government Center’s easternmost parking lot. Rain cancels. Leader: Bill 929-3598 (AR/UC)

Sun., Feb. 13, 9:30 a.m. POINT SAL:
Meet at end of Brown Rd at locked gate at 0930 climb 2.5 miles to ‘pass’ and then decide. Dogs OK if they do not chase cattle. Water, lunch, windbreaker, and a friend. Details call Bill at 929-3647 or bdennen@slonet.org.

Sat., Feb. 19, 21, and 22, Southern Roads Hot Spots:
President’s Day field trip to visit two key threatened public land areas. Join a day hike Saturday to the new Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, just south of Las Vegas, where helicopter overflights are a serious concern, if a new proposed heliport is built. Sunday and Monday join overnight car camping at the Gold Butte area at the eastern edge of the state where cultural artifacts and unique geologic formations are in danger of being overrun by increases in recreation use by off-road vehicles. We’ll see these troubled treasures for ourselves and learn how we can help. The overnight features central community. Leader Vicky Hoover is assisted by several local experts. vickvhoover@sierachub.org, (415-977-5527), SF Bay/CNRCC Desert Com

Sun., Feb. 20, 9:30 a.m., MUSSEL ROCK:
Meet on Guad. Beach at 0930. Hike south, Dog on leash OK at this time of year. Details call Bill at 929-3647 or bdennen@slonet.org.

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

A Carrizo pronghorn Photo by Joaquin Palting

Santa Lucia • January 2005

Photo by Jack Beigle