SANTA LUCIAN

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

WHY CAFTA MUST DIE
Just Say No to Anti-Environmental Trade

By Jim Mays
Chair, Sierra Club’s Responsible Trade/Human Rights Campaign

The Bush Administration has completed negotiations for an expansion of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to Central America. In the name of fostering commerce, the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) would put communities at risk by setting sharp limits on governments’ authority to protect public health and the environment. Furthermore, the removal of investment barriers will open up essential public services to privatization and deregulation.

Under CAFTA, foreign and multinational global corporations could sue taxpayers for cash damages if public interest laws interfere with profits. Central American communities and pristine natural areas highly prized by eco-tourists would be at increased risk from polluting factories, sprawling resort developments, increased logging of ancient forests, and extractive industries that destroy the land and coastal areas alike.

Laws protecting the environment could be declared an impediment to potential profits earned by foreign corporations. After the implementation of NAFTA, residents in the Mexican state of San Luis Potosí refused to accept a toxic waste site that the U.S. corporation Metalclad planned to establish in their community. Metalclad sued Mexico, using NAFTA’s “investor rights” provisions and won a $16 million judgment. Similarly, a Canadian Company, Glencore Xstrata, has filed a claim against the U.S. demanding $50 million in compensation due to restrictions on open pit mining in Imperial County after California passed a law requiring “clean up” to protect indigenous communities and the environment. If CAFTA becomes law, the Central American countries can expect similar treatment.

CAFTA could also increase food safety risks. If CAFTA comes into force, it would limit the ability of governments to implement policies to ensure that food crossing our borders meet food safety standards. CAFTA poses a danger to small farmers and biodiversity due to the

continued on page 5

Who We Are Together

A Letter to All Chapter Members
From Karen Merriam, Chapter Chair

I go to yoga these days to keep my body from getting too set in its ways. Strangely enough, it helps my mind to stay flexible, too. Our leader begins each yoga session with the reminder: “Honor the teacher within.” And that is how I want to begin this letter to you: first, by honoring some of the people who have come before me in the work of this Chapter and who continue to serve as my teachers. This list is personal to me, and it is complete: these are snapshots from my scrapbook of the past ten years of my association with the Santa Lucia Chapter. Then I will speak a little about “my teacher within.”

My teachers who have come before

There is no other place to start than with fond memories of Kathleen Goddard Jones. I loved her sense of timing, humor, and determined activism. Addressing a group assembled at an annual Chapter picnic, Kathleen told us that she remained proud to be known as a “tough, mouthy broad,” even into her eighties. Dominic

continued on page 5

This newsletter printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper with soy-based inks

March 2005
Volume 42, No. 3

Environmentalism, RIP 2
Diablo: Thanks, Sam! 3
Get your Veggies 4
Pozos Rules! 5
Paddler’s Corner 6
Classifieds 7
Outings 8

GENERAL MEETING
No meeting this month
- See page 2 and read this book:

The Giving Time

Spring is in the air and new greenery shall soon burst forth upon the central coast. And part of the job of keeping this place as green as possible includes encouraging a portion of that greenery to spring from your wallet and into the account of the Santa Lucia Chapter.

March is the month when all members of the Sierra Club are asked to give to their local chapter. If you’ve hiked or kayaked with us, used our Trail Guide, or enjoyed any of the still-open spaces of San Luis Obispo we’ve worked to preserve over the last 43 years, now is the time to show your appreciation and thereby allow us to keep on doing so.

Please watch for the envelope in your mailbox this month and reply as generously as you can.
Santa Lucian Chapter General Meeting

NO MEETING THIS MONTH

as we invite you to ponder the question:

IS ENVIRONMENTALISM DEAD?

I do not need to tell you that these are perilous times. Assaults to the integrity of our environment and to our personal privacy and communal life abound. But it is not enough to re-react. Each of us must form a clear vision and understanding of what it is that undergirds and drives our own environmental activism. Action without understanding is a recipe for defeat.

For this reason, I want to encourage our membership, and all others who wish to join us, to engage in the important debates surfacing in the environmental community at this very moment. For instance: Some have proclaimed that “Environmentalism is dead!” And some now argue that we must have “topdown” solutions to our environmental problems. Others remain committed to grassroots activism. Some say that we must engage in dialogue to find new paths through these turbulent times. Others say that talking is a waste of time. Some suggest that all political/environmental activism is local. Others believe that only opening discussions. We will explore her concept of “reflective activism,” and what relevance it might have for you and me. You can purchase her book through Amaz on.com for $8.99, or by the chapter office, where we have copies available for one-week loans (it’s a quick read). Another book that will come up in our discussions will be The Spell of the Sensuous, by David Abram, also at Amazon.com or other bookstores for $14.95. As these discussions go forward, I hope you will provide refer ences for us to explore and discuss. — Karen Merriam

Trash that Fence!

or the Continuing Saga of Removing the Barbed Wire on the Carrizo Plain

By Letty French

Acting Membership Chair

The pronghorn of Carrizo Plain National Monument cannot jump over remnant barbed wire fencing from historical livestock operations that still crisscross Monument lands, with the frequent result that they are blocked from fresh water. Sierra Club volunteers regularly go out to the Monument to remove fencing and help assure the survival of the pronghorns. This is a record of the January work party trip. The next will be April 9-10.

Today the weather gods favored us, we had clear sunny, cloudless weather welcoming us to the rolling green Carrizo Plain National Monument. We volunteers gathered in the KCE campground, chatting about the great horned owls that had awakened all of us many times during the night with their screams and hoots. There they were, still perched in the eucalyptus trees, now quietly observing us. Meadow larks sang all around us. The camp is also used by quail hunters and horseback riders and birders.

Before 9:00am, our resource person, Alice Koch, showed up to lead us to the work area on the American Ranch. Before 10, we were hard at work, getting three strands of barbed wire off T-poles and old wooden poles. Several men became specialists at yanking out the T-poles. That tool requires both strength and horseback riders and birders.

Before 900m, our resource person, Alice Koch, showed up to lead us to the work area on the American Ranch. Before 10, we were hard at work, getting three strands of barbed wire off T-poles and old wooden poles. Several men became specialists at yanking out the T-poles. That tool requires both strength and weight and is exhausting work. We worked on different techniques — is it better to roll 3 strands of wire all together, or easier to do one at a time? How big a roll to make before cutting it and starting again?

Alice had brought a generous supply of yellow-handle wirecutters, orange-handle fence tools and red post pullers, plus an assortment of other useful tools. She has a goal to her activity: To remove all the old fences on the National Park.

Santa Lucia Chapter -- Sierra Club
P.O. Box 10775 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
santalucian@sierrclubslo.org

Santa Lucia Chapter

2005 Executive Committee
Karen Merriam CHAIR
Jack Beigle MEMBER
Pam Heatherington MEMBER
Gary Felsman MEMBER

Sierra Club volunteers regularly go out to the Monument to remove fencing and help assure the survival of the pronghorns. This is a record of the January work party trip. The next will be April 9-10.

Today the weather gods favored us, we had clear sunny, cloudless weather welcoming us to the rolling green Carrizo Plain National Monument. We volunteers gathered in the KCE campground, chatting about the great horned owls that had awakened all of us many times during the night with their screams and hoots. There they were, still perched in the eucalyptus trees, now quietly observing us. Meadow larks sang all around us. The camp is also used by quail hunters and horseback riders and birders.

Before 900m, our resource person, Alice Koch, showed up to lead us to the work area on the American Ranch. Before 10, we were hard at work, getting three strands of barbed wire off T-poles and old wooden poles. Several men became specialists at yanking out the T-poles. That tool requires both strength and weight and is exhausting work. We worked on different techniques — is it better to roll 3 strands of wire all together, or easier to do one at a time? How big a roll to make before cutting it and starting again?

Alice had brought a generous supply of yellow-handle wirecutters, orange-handle fence tools and red post pullers, plus an assortment of other useful tools. She has a goal to her activity: To remove all the old fences on the National Park.

Santa Lucia Chapter -- Sierra Club
P.O. Box 10775 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
santalucian@sierrclubslo.org

Santa Lucia Chapter

2005 Executive Committee
Karen Merriam CHAIR
Jack Beigle MEMBER
Pam Heatherington MEMBER
Gary Felsman MEMBER

Sierra Club volunteers regularly go out to the Monument to remove fencing and help assure the survival of the pronghorns. This is a record of the January work party trip. The next will be April 9-10.

Today the weather gods favored us, we had clear sunny, cloudless weather welcoming us to the rolling green Carrizo Plain National Monument. We volunteers gathered in the KCE campground, chatting about the great horned owls that had awakened all of us many times during the night with their screams and hoots. There they were, still perched in the eucalyptus trees, now quietly observing us. Meadow larks sang all around us. The camp is also used by quail hunters and horseback riders and birders.

Before 900m, our resource person, Alice Koch, showed up to lead us to the work area on the American Ranch. Before 10, we were hard at work, getting three strands of barbed wire off T-poles and old wooden poles. Several men became specialists at yanking out the T-poles. That tool requires both strength and weight and is exhausting work. We worked on different techniques — is it better to roll 3 strands of wire all together, or easier to do one at a time? How big a roll to make before cutting it and starting again?

Alice had brought a generous supply of yellow-handle wirecutters, orange-handle fence tools and red post pullers, plus an assortment of other useful tools. She has a goal to her activity: To remove all the old fences on the National Park.

Santa Lucia Chapter -- Sierra Club
P.O. Box 10775 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
santalucian@sierrclubslo.org
March 12: “Oil on Ice”

Sen. Joseph Lieberman and Reps. Ed Markey and Nancy Johnson have introduced bipartisan legislation to designate the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as Wilderness.

The bad news: Not everyone thinks that’s good news. The Sierra Club and others are organizing an Arctic Action Day on March 12, encouraging folks around the country to throw house parties to screen Oil on Ice, a new DVD presented by Sierra Club Productions.

Please encourage everyone you know to host or attend a party. Sign up online to get a free copy of the DVD and a step-by-step guide on how to host a successful party. We’ll send you everything you need.

Go to www.sierrachall.org/silence/house_party/

Environmental Justice Wins in California

By Diane Takorson, Executive Director, Environmental Health Coalition

On February 16, for the first time ever, the California Environmental Protection Agency agreed to use cumulative impacts and a precautionary approach to guide its work. Initially, these definitions will guide CalEPA’s efforts in pilot project communities in 2005 and 2006 but the much larger victory is the policy foundation these definitions provide for new legislation and regulations that will take a comprehensive approach to community health.

The definitions are:

“Cumulative Impacts” — exposures or public health and environmental effects from combined emissions and discharges, in a geographic area including environmental pollution from all sources, whether single or multimedia, routinely, accidentally, or otherwise released. Impacts take into account sensitive populations and socioeconomic factors, when data is available.

“Precautionary Approach” — taking anticipatory action to protect public health or the environment if a reasonable threat of serious harm exists based upon the best available science and other relevant information, even if absolute and undisputed scientific evidence is not available to assess the exact nature and extent of risk.

Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard for this victory: those who struggled for two years to win a groundbreaking CalEPA Environmental Justice Policy Recommendations Report in 2003, and those who took it forward last month to win the beginning of a new approach to achieving environmental health and justice for our communities. The California Environmental Justice movement was out in force for the Feb. 16 hearing and was incredible, inspiring and effective.

We have much more work to do but together we can do it! Si se puede!
likely increase in imports and poten-
tial contamination from genetically
engineered (GE) foods. In Mexico, GE
crops imported from the U.S.
engineered (GE) foods. In Mexico,
CAFTA will “dump” agricultural products at below the
cost of production, keeping
prices received by farmers
as low as possible.

Who We Are
Perelle is tough and calm, but she uses
her words flowing out the pen or com-
puter, constantly informing and edu-
cating politicians and legislators about
Sierra Club values and envi-
ronmental priorities. By his words and deeds, Richard Kranzdorf has
taught me that political activism and environmen-
talism walk hand in hand.

Jan Cleva is a gentle-woman who
has quietly influenced local land use
planning and political processes in
this community and Chapter over
many years. She reminds me that
effective activism is a long-term
effort, and that we must remember
how we have come from and where
we work in the present. And, Joan
O’Keefe continues to inspire me
with her constancy and loyalty. She
demonstrates the value of steadfast
commitment to the work of everyday
activism.

Some have heard me say that “I
cover Pat Veasey’s mind!” Pat has
impressed on me the importance of
being well-armed with facts and
a deep understanding of issues
that influence land use and conserva-
tion. His clarity of thought is delivered in
straight talk that often infuriates
those who haven’t done their own
work. Jack Beighle, no less an activ-
ist, is a man of action. He shows
us—I am putting feet on the ground, in
the water, and his presence in
the meeting room—why it is impor-
tant to join together to protect and
save what we love.

Gary Felsman is responsible for
bringing me into this Chapter. While I
was content to just hike the hills, he
encouraged me to take responsibil-
ity for this land I care so much
about: to conserve and preserve open
spaces; to help make trails; to lead
others on hikes to discover their own
connection to the land; and to serve
as a reminder to me of the importance of
connection to the land; and to serve
Heatherington

CAFTA continued from page 1
sive centralization of agriculture. As
happened in Mexico under CAFTA,
without protections against preda-
tory dumping, subsistence farmers
will be forced from their lands into
city areas to compete for jobs and
front the threat of malnutrition and
starvation.

CAFTA’s provisions fail to require
Governments to maintain and enforce
basic environmental laws and regula-
tions. Indigenous groups in the Ama-
rous Grande and Ascadero that you
oppose CAFTA. Contact Bruce Harvey at
(805) 239-0542, jsusan@tscn.net, for
more information.

CAFTA will “dump” agricultural products at below the cost of production, keeping
the prices received by farmers in all countries as low as possible.

Your Chapter Leadership
By Karen Merriam, Chapter Chair
I want to take a moment to tell you just a bit about the current Executive
Committee. I can tell you that you elected a strong and representative group to lead
the Chapter in this difficult time. In fact, all five supervisory districts are now
represented on the ExCom. You can count on the ExCom being hard workers:
dedicated to protecting, defending, and caring for our environment
and for each other. In the next issue of the Santa Lucian, we will profile
those other important leaders who are working on behalf of the Chapter. And I am
hoping that, over time, each of the ExCom members and leaders will offer a
fuller profile of themselves for you to read.

The Executive Committee
Sarah Christie: Member, Political
Committee Chair—Because of her
extensive experience in the politics
and practice of land use planning,
Sarah has provided us with a clear
focus on analysis of issues of cur-
rent importance that affect us locally
and regionally. Her recent appoint-
ment to the County Planning Commis-
sion necessitated her stepping down
from the ExCom shortly after the elec-
tion, but we retain her invaluable ser-
vice as chair of the Political Commit-
tee.

Cal French: Member, Delegate to
Sierra Club Council of Club Leaders—
Cal lives in the hills to the far west of Paso Robles, he travels willingly
to maintain contact with local, regional,
state and national Sierra Club activists
and leaders. Cal knows the workings
of the Club intimately. He is dedicated
Your Chapter Leadership
By Karen Merriam, Chapter Chair
I want to take a moment to tell you just a bit about the current Executive
Committee. I can tell you that you elected a strong and representative group to lead
the Chapter in this difficult time. In fact, all five supervisory districts are now
represented on the ExCom. You can count on the ExCom being hard workers:
dedicated to protecting, defending, and caring for our environment
and for each other. In the next issue of the Santa Lucian, we will profile
those other important leaders who are working on behalf of the Chapter. And I am
hoping that, over time, each of the ExCom members and leaders will offer a
fuller profile of themselves for you to read.

The Executive Committee
Sarah Christie: Member, Political
Committee Chair—Because of her
extensive experience in the politics
and practice of land use planning,
Sarah has provided us with a clear
focus on analysis of issues of cur-
rent importance that affect us locally
and regionally. Her recent appoint-
ment to the County Planning Commis-
sion necessitated her stepping down
from the ExCom shortly after the elec-
tion, but we retain her invaluable ser-
vice as chair of the Political Commit-
tee.

Cal French: Member, Delegate to
Sierra Club Council of Club Leaders—
Cal lives in the hills to the far west of Paso Robles, he travels willingly
to maintain contact with local, regional,
state and national Sierra Club activists
and leaders. Cal knows the workings
of the Club intimately. He is dedicated
Your Chapter Leadership
By Karen Merriam, Chapter Chair
I want to take a moment to tell you just a bit about the current Executive
Committee. I can tell you that you elected a strong and representative group to lead
the Chapter in this difficult time. In fact, all five supervisory districts are now
represented on the ExCom. You can count on the ExCom being hard workers:
dedicated to protecting, defending, and caring for our environment
and for each other. In the next issue of the Santa Lucian, we will profile
those other important leaders who are working on behalf of the Chapter. And I am
hoping that, over time, each of the ExCom members and leaders will offer a
fuller profile of themselves for you to read.

The Executive Committee
Sarah Christie: Member, Political
Committee Chair—Because of her
extensive experience in the politics
and practice of land use planning,
Sarah has provided us with a clear
focus on analysis of issues of cur-
rent importance that affect us locally
and regionally. Her recent appoint-
ment to the County Planning Commis-
sion necessitated her stepping down
from the ExCom shortly after the elec-
tion, but we retain her invaluable ser-
vice as chair of the Political Commit-
tee.

Cal French: Member, Delegate to
Sierra Club Council of Club Leaders—
Cal lives in the hills to the far west of Paso Robles, he travels willingly
to maintain contact with local, regional,
state and national Sierra Club activists
and leaders. Cal knows the workings
of the Club intimately. He is dedicated
continued on page 6

Community Supported Agriculture: Sign Up Now!
By Sandra Sarrowad

Community Supported Agriculture: Sign Up Now!
By Sandra Sarrowad

Community Supported Agriculture: Sign Up Now!
By Sandra Sarrowad

Community Supported Agriculture: Sign Up Now!
By Sandra Sarrowad

Community Supported Agriculture: Sign Up Now!
By Sandra Sarrowad

Community Supported Agriculture: Sign Up Now!
By Sandra Sarrowad

Community Supported Agriculture: Sign Up Now!
By Sandra Sarrowad

Community Supported Agriculture: Sign Up Now!
By Sandra Sarrowad

Community Supported Agriculture: Sign Up Now!
By Sandra Sarrowad
Cambria Desal Task Force Meets March 16

The Sierra Club has formed a task force to investigate and develop policy on desalination, a major water issue on the central coast. This will include the desalination plant proposed for Cambria.

The purpose of this task force will be to evaluate the proposals from an objective environmental viewpoint. The initial objective is fact-finding and research, not promotion or opposition to the desalination proposal. We want to determine the scientific pros and cons from an over-all environmental point of view. Ultimately we may decide to oppose the project outright, or alternatively to develop what environmental safeguards need to be in place if the project becomes a reality.

Among the issues to be considered will be, among others: effect of seawater intake and outflow on the marine environment; public vs private ownership of water supply; disposal of byproducts from filters; reliability of desal projects based on national and worldwide experience; and infrastructure impacts including population growth problems from an environmental viewpoint. To the extent possible, we may also visit functioning desal plants similar to the one proposed for Cambria.

Jack and Bea Morrow of Cambria have agreed to co-chair the task force, and are looking for volunteers to participate in this important project, particularly but not exclusively Sierra Club members from the Cambria area. They may be contacted at jlmorro@earthlink.net, phone 805-927-5769, or by mail at 311 Wedgewood St., Cambria 93428.

An organizational meeting will be held at the Morrow home on Wednesday, March 16, 2005, at 7 PM. Please contact the Mornings if you would like to attend.

Sierra Club 2005 Election

The Board of Directors, composed of 15 elected volunteers, is the governing body of the Sierra Club. The Board has the responsibility and authority to oversee all staff and volunteer activities of the Club, to establish the Club’s conservation priorities and internal policies, and to adopt and implement the annual budget (approximately $80 million). The Board of Directors elects the Club’s officers, including the President and Executive Committee, and selects the Club’s Executive Director. Directors normally also serve on at least one of the Club’s Governance Committees.

This year, there are 15 candidates for the Board of Directors for the 2005-2008 term. Seven were nominated by a Nominating Committee, and eight qualified by petitions signed by at least 381 eligible Club members.

Additionally, there are three issues placed on the ballot by the Board of Directors: The Club’s policy concerning immigration, the Club’s Bylaw requiring space for write-in candidates on the Club ballot, and an addition to the Club’s Bylaws that requires one year of continuous membership in the Sierra Club in order to run for the board. (Currently, members have the option to run for office on the same day they become a member.)

Last year, shortly after the Club election cycle ended, Fahn created the Sierra Election Reform Task Force, chaired by longtime leader Susan Heitman, and including representatives from various groups within the Club. The task force recommendations led to the proposed bylaw changes.

Last year’s election controversy generated a spate of coverage in local and national newspapers, including a New York Times editorial. Due to the extensive publicity, more Club members voted than ever before – 171,616 voters, or 22.7 percent of Club members.

To find out more about the candidates and measures, visit www.sierraclub.org/bod/2005election – which includes a candidate forum where candidates answer questions posted by members.

Club members should receive their ballots in the mail by mid-March. Votes must be cast by noon eastern daylight time on April 25. To vote online, follow the instructions in your printed ballot.

An independent company with experience in conducting elections for national organizations will count the ballots.

The two other ballot measures propose changes to the by-laws that affect the election. Bylaws Change #1 would remove the requirement to provide space for write-in candidates on the ballot. Bylaws Change #2 requires one year of continuous membership in the Sierra Club in order to run for the board. (Currently, members have the option to run for office on the same day they become a member.)

Last year, shortly after the Club election cycle ended, Fahn created the Sierra Election Reform Task Force, chaired by longtime leader Susan Heitman, and including representatives from various groups within the Club. The task force recommendations led to the proposed bylaw changes.

Last year’s election controversy generated a spate of coverage in local and national newspapers, including a New York Times editorial. Due to the extensive publicity, more Club members voted than ever before – 171,616 voters, or 22.7 percent of Club members.

To find out more about the candidates and measures, visit www.sierraclub.org/bod/2005election – which includes a candidate forum where candidates answer questions posted by members.

Club members should receive their ballots in the mail by mid-March. Votes must be cast by noon eastern daylight time on April 25. To vote online, follow the instructions in your printed ballot.

An independent company with experience in conducting elections for national organizations will count the ballots.

Go, Pozo!

A heap of praise for the Board of Supervisors for soundly rejecting the development of a large Spa/Executive Retreat in rural Pozo. (It became a ‘natural retreat’ when the developer found that his resort project sounded smaller and more manageable that way. The Pozo Community Group wisely insisted on the word “motel” in appealing a Planning Commission decision to allow the questionable development on land zoned AG and Rural Residential.) A petition against the resort was taken door-to-door in Pozo. Over 200 community members signed, and more than sixty mailed in letters of opposition to the Planning Department.

At the February 15 Board of Supervisors meeting, the Board emphasized the increased water use the project entailed — three to five hundred guests flushing toilets; showers; laundry; cooking, landscape and pool maintenance, hammering the water table in a neighborhood that depends on wells.

The vote was 4 to 1 to uphold the Pozo residents’ appeal of the project approval, with Supervisor Ovitt voting for the development. Ovitt dismissed concerns about increased traffic with the statement “…people are going to drive out there anyway.”

The Pozo Community Group replied “We warn any neighborhood to consider that, you, too could have a motel in your backyard because tourists drive to the Central Coast anyway.”

Sierra Club 2005 Election

The Board of Directors, composed of 15 elected volunteers, is the governing body of the Sierra Club. The Board has the responsibility and authority to oversee all staff and volunteer activities of the Club, to establish the Club’s conservation priorities and internal policies, and to adopt and implement the annual budget (approximately $80 million). The Board of Directors elects the Club’s officers, including the President and Executive Committee, and selects the Club’s Executive Director. Directors normally also serve on at least one of the Club’s Governance Committees.

This year, there are 15 candidates for the Board of Directors for the 2005-2008 term. Seven were nominated by a Nominating Committee, and eight qualified by petitions signed by at least 381 eligible Club members.

Additionally, there are three issues placed on the ballot by the Board of Directors: The Club’s policy concerning immigration, the Club’s Bylaw requiring space for write-in candidates on the Club ballot, and an addition to the Club’s Bylaws that requires one year of continuous membership for candidates for the Board of Directors.

Directors whose terms expire in 2005 are: Jim Catlin, Larry Fahn, Marcia Hanscom, Chuck McGrady, and Ben Zuckerman.

The Population Ballot Question asks members: “Shall the Sierra Club policy on immigration, adopted by the Board of Directors in 1999 and revised in 2001, be changed to recognize the need to adopt lower limits on migration to the United States?”

The two other ballot measures propose changes to the by-laws that affect the election. Bylaws Change #1 would remove the requirement to provide space for write-in candidates on the ballot. Bylaws Change #2 requires one year of continuous membership in the Sierra Club in order to run for the board. (Currently, members have the option to run for office on the same day they become a member.)

Last year, shortly after the Club election cycle ended, Fahn created the Sierra Election Reform Task Force, chaired by longtime leader Susan Heitman, and including representatives from various groups within the Club. The task force recommendations led to the proposed bylaw changes.

Last year’s election controversy generated a spate of coverage in local and national newspapers, including a New York Times editorial. Due to the extensive publicity, more Club members voted than ever before – 171,616 voters, or 22.7 percent of Club members.

To find out more about the candidates and measures, visit www.sierraclub.org/bod/2005election – which includes a candidate forum where candidates answer questions posted by members.

Club members should receive their ballots in the mail by mid-March. Votes must be cast by noon eastern daylight time on April 25. To vote online, follow the instructions in your printed ballot.

An independent company with experience in conducting elections for national organizations will count the ballots.

Fence

Monument before she dies! Very rapidly the day heated up and people worked in short sleeves even at the risk of barbed wire punctures. By being quite careful, and wearing good leather gloves and long pants, damage was minimal. By noon, everyone was ready for lunch break. We brought the cars up to a windmill and sat in the shadow of two huge old cottonwood trees. Earlier a red tail had been perched in one. We had seen a northern harrier scarring the fields not far away. Horned larks swooped in their coordinated flocks across the plain. By 3:30, our enthusiasm was flagging and we wrapped up the last pieces of wire, shoved many rolls upon a T-pole and two people could carry a large load down a quarter mile or so to the growing dump. We looked for the pronghorn while driving back to camp, but they had vanished. Maybe tomorrow.

A potluck dinner was great. Esperanza and Bill had outstanding fresh guacamole; there was sushi, chicken burgos, raspberry jell-o salad, and crisp fresh green salad. A neighboring party of horse people from the Central Valley brought over wild boar sausage and grilled salmon – delicious. The evening was crisp; our campfire felt good, and a big full moon lit the landscape. Everyone was tired and soon went to bed. Yes, the owls were back that night also!

While we were driving to the Nature Center the next morning, three male pronghorns posed for us alongside the road. What nimbles animals they are! There is plenty of post-drought forage. They should have a good year.

Back to our worksite; determined to finish the sections we had started, we had decided to work until 11:30. Those who had to drive a long ways left, while many hung thanks, and those remaining picked up the last T-poles and barbed wire. We probably finished off about 1.5 miles of fence, but we had walked many more than that.

Those workers came from Wheatland, San Jose, Santa Cruz, Salinas, Lancaster, Cambria, and San Luis. Several had worked with Alice before, and are dedicated to the protection of the pronghorn. As to thank us, the southbound folks saw a herd of pronghorn cross right in front of them, and a herd was grazing by the Carrizo school for us northbound folks. That was a great ending for a gratifying weekend.
San Antonio Lake Eagle Watch

By Jack Beigle

Last issue, we looked at the growing problem with the county’s Transfer of Development Credits program (“TDCs: The Sprawling Scandal, February 5”), which is supposed to direct development pressure away from rural and agri-cultural lands, but allows ag land to be designated as “receiver sites,” and thus often has the opposite effect.

There’s another piece to this puzzle, and another problem: The criteria for TDC sender sites. To encourage landowners to sign on to the program, extra parcel credits are allowed to the sender-site owner. For example, to encourage Las Tablas Ranch (Bonnheime), which has 52 legal parcels to enter into a conservation agreement and sell his development credits, he was allotted the equivalent of 260 legal lots or TDC’s. While Mr. Bonnheim has given up the right to develop homesite on his 52 separate parcels, he was given the right to sell 260 TDC’s, each one creating a new parcel on rural or ag lands throughout the North County. Whereas the development of the 52 parcels would have required an EIIR and significant mitigations, these 260 potential new parcels could have been scattered all over the rural and ag lands in the North County with few requirements for mitigations and no attention paid to cumulative effects.

Order your 2005 Sierra Club Calendar

Support your chapter!

NOW 50% OFF!!

The 2005 Sierra Club calendars are now available, and they are gorgeous. Your purchase supports programs, and our quality of life in San Luis Obispo.

Calendars can be mailed or picked up at Sierra Club office, 10-2, M-F (Andrew, 543-8717) or picked up in SLO any time (Bonnie, 543-7051)

$12.50 $15.50

Click to Order Online

picture every week)

price includes tax.

NOW 50% OFF!!

The 2005 Sierra Club calendars are now available, and they are gorgeous. Your purchase supports programs, and our quality of life in San Luis Obispo.

Calendars can be mailed or picked up at Sierra Club office, 10-2, M-F (Andrew, 543-8717) or picked up in SLO any time (Bonnie, 543-7051)

$12.50 $15.50

picture every week)

now includes tax.

Click to Order Online

Leaders continued on page 3

to the care and nurture of our membership, and to the health of the organization.

Eliane Guillot: Assistant Treasurer—A resident of Grover Beach, Eliane has her hands on the pulse of regional government in her work with SLOCOG. She is dedicated to the growth and support of our Outings programs, and to outreach to other organizations in our community who share our environmental goals.

Sue Harvey: Secretary—Also a north county resident, living in Paso Robles, Sue is an activist and leader in the environmental community. She organizes information and action to bring attention to important issues that affect all of us, and is willing to engage in the political process to achieve key environmental goals. Sue is a founder and member of Paddlers Corner.

Steven Marx: Treasurer—A mild-mannered English professor he is not. Steven has had a profound influence on land use in the heart of SLO city—especially at Cal Poly, among other places. “Not through this oak grove,” you may have heard him say to water pipe contractors. Through words, pictures and walks, Steven has taught people about the wonderful natural resources on the Cal Poly campus. He is a voice of reason and determination on the ExCom and in our community.

Jack Morrow: Chapter Chair—A man of many talents, including being an accomplished saxophone player, Jack has served in almost every leadership role in the Angeles chapter and the Long Beach group in Southern California. Now he is able to bring his wisdom and expertise to our Chapter, and to his leadership in conservation issues in our community, Jack is a resident of Cambria. That water issues should be on his mind is not surprising; he is co-chair of the Santa Lucia Chapter’s Desalination Task Force.

Karen Merrin: Chapter Chair—Now, what can I tell you about myself? My home is in the Edna Valley in Arroyo Grande. I care deeply, as do all my fellow ExCom members, about the health and viability of our environment. I am dedicated to strengthening our common efforts to respect, care for, and protect our interdependent relationship with the natural world.
Classifieds

Classified ads are $10 and are limited to 20 words. They are due by the last week of the month prior to publication (next deadline is Feb. 21, 2005). Please submit your ad and payment to: Sierra Club - Santa Lucia Chapter p.o. Box 15755 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406 sierra8@charter.net

SANTA LUCIAN
March 2005

Get your Trail Guide today!
Only $14.95. We pay tax & shipping!

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
Grover Beach Planning Commission-- 2nd Tues.
Morro Bay--2nd & 4th Mon.
Paso Robles--1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 237-3888
Pismo Beach--1st Tues., 5:30 p.m.; 773-4657
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.

Law Offices of Jan Howel Marx
A Client Centered Practice

Business
Mediation
Environmental Law
Elder Law
Real Estate
Wills and Trusts

541-2716 janmarx@fix.net

The Land Conservancy
of San Luis Obispo County

Prominent Land
Conservation
Restoration and
Enhancement
Community Education

Join Us!
P.O. Box 12206
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
(805) 544-0006
www.special-places.org

Real Estate Is Today’s Best Investment! REMAX
Ocean West
(805) 773-3691
(805) 801-4444
(800) 897-52LD
www.stevetteam.com

Whether you are buying or selling,
please call this top producing team!

The “STEVE AUSLINDER TEAM”

The “STEVE AUSLINDER TEAM”

Skiing, Snowboarding,
Backpacking, Climbing & Clothing

MOUNTAIN AIR SPORTS
(805) 543-1676
14 State Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 962-0049
667 Marsh Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

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

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.
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, 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 = 6-8 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.

Wed., Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23, 4 p.m. Informal 1-2 hours hikes around San Luis Obispo. Check Website at http://santalucia.sierraclub.org/index/index.html, or e-mail gfelsman@onemain.com for meeting location.

Sat., Mar. 5th, 9 a.m. Nipomo Lupine Count, The Land Conservancy of SLO would like to invite you to come out to the Nipomo Mesa and participate in the annual Nipomo Lupine Count! This beautiful annual wildflower occurs ONLY on the Nipomo Mesa! Nipomo Lupine is a federally and state listed endangered species that has decreased in numbers due to loss of coastal dune scrub habitat. Concho Phillips has generously allowed the Land Conservancy to monitor and enhance this fragile plant species and it’s habitat for many years. Meet at the Concho Phillips Santa Maria Facility, 2555 Willow Rd. (Hwy 1), Arroyo Grande, Contact: Wendy Thackery 805-235-2874 or wendyt@special-places.org

Sunday, March 6, 9-9:45 a.m. 40th Annual Sierra Club Anniversary Dunes Hike at Oso Flaco Lake. Our January 8 Anniversary Dune Hike was rained out, blown out and washed out. Oso Flaco State Park was closed so we have rescheduled it in hopes of getting better weather. Come and take an easy, moderate or long walk on this 45th annual celebration of our Sierra Clubs first official hike in the dunes. There will be hikes for all ages and fitness levels. Meet in the Oso Flaco Lake park lot and hear stories of the early days of our chapter. Carpooling is advised, as there is a $5.00 per parking fee. For details call Jack Beigle (773-2147)

Sun., Mar. 6th, BICYCLE RIDE FROM DUNE CENTER: Meet at DC with bike and helmet. We’ll tour Guadalupe with many stops and then head to Pacific. Confirm a few days before. Details call Bill at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 10:00 a.m. CANOE/KAYAK MORRO BAY We are a bit early for Spring’s Patrick’s Day, but bring a green salad or a green sandwich in your canoe or kayak for a day on the bay and a picnic on the sand spit. Spring is beautiful on the Morro Bay Estuary. If we are lucky and this date works in between spring showers we will paddle to the sand spit and enjoy a picnic lunch. After lunch we will have a hike to find the early spring wildflowers and a short business meeting to discuss future outings. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, windbreaker and a picnic lunch. High Tide 1206 p.m. Launch at Morro Bay State Park Marina. Details call Jack Beigle 773-2147

Sun. Mar. 13, 9:30 a.m. Coast Hike: Meet at Melodrama in Oceano at 0930. Secret passageway to spectacular dunes. Dogs on leash OK. Water and windbreaker. Confirm a few days before. Details call Bill at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org

Sat-Sun., Mar. 19-20, Juniper Flats Carcamp, Juniper Flats is a transition area between the San Bernardino National Forest and the Victor Valley. This area has beautiful boulder fields, riparian areas, wonderful views and cultural sites of former year-round habitation by Native Americans. We will hike the public and private lands that the Friends of Juniper Flats and the Mojave Group have been working to preserve. 4-W drive or high clearance vehicles helpful for transport to trailheads. Saturday evening potluck. Bring water, chair, food for weekend and binoculars. Ann McNally of Friends of Juniper Flats will share information on the wildflowers, native vegetation, and cultural resources of the area. For more information contact Carol Wiley, arthlingwiley@webtv.net, (760-245-8734). San Gorgonio Chapter CNRCC Desert Com

Sun., Mar. 20, 9:30 a.m. POINT SAL Hike: 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, nos, and a friend. Details call Bill at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org

Sun., Mar. 27, 9:30 a.m. COAST HIKE: See a remote area of Nipomo Dunes. Bring lunch and water. Details, call Bill at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org

Sun., Mar. 27, 8:30 a.m., Hazard Peak. Join us for this 3-hour, 6-mile roundtrip hike with over 1000 feet of elevation gain. Bring water, sturdy hiking shoes, and dress for the weather. Everyone is welcome, but beginners will fall behind due to the elevation gain of the hike. Meet at the junction of Pecho Valley Road and the Horse Camps dirt road turnoff, 1/10th of a mile beyond the entrance to Mon-tana de Oro. Do not meet at the Ridge Trailhead, as we will be hiking the back route to the peak. Leader A1 (534-0463) (SB)

Fri-Sun., Apr. 1-3, Service in Carrizo Plains National Monument. In this large, relatively unknown natural grassland tucked between the Coast Range and the Central Valley, miles of barbed wire from former ranching days needs removal to allow pronghorn antelope and tule elk freer access to the plain. Meet Friday at Selby Campground, remove barbed wire on Saturday, then hike Caliente Ridge on Sunday and learn about the area’s natural history. Enjoy spring wildflowers, lush meadows, and abundant birds and wildlife in what’s been called California’s Serengeti. Other features include Soda Lake, the San Andreas Fault, and native petroglyhs are free to explore for those who’d like to extend their visit. Contact Ldr: Melinda Goodwater, MOcgoodwat651@aol.com, (408-774-1257), CNRCC Desert Com

Sat. Apr. 3, 10:00a.m. SANTA MARIA VALLEY DAY TRIP: Our goal for this outing is to enjoy a leisurely paddle and check out the spring wildflowers at Santa Margarita Lake. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, camping gear, picnic lunch and water. Phone Jack Beigle 773-2147 for park fees and details.

Wed., Apr. 6, 13, 20, 27, 3:30 p.m. Informal 1-2 hours hikes around San Luis Obispo. Check Website at http://santalucia.sierraclub.org/index/index.html, or e-mail gfelsman@onemain.com for meeting location.

Sat-Sun., Apr. 16-17, Pisonhora Protection Carcamp. (Nature Study/Work Party Carcamp: The Carrizo Plain holds a special place in California’s ecology. With little rainfall and few water sources, the species that live here are both hardy and endan-gered. Particularly beautiful are the pronghorn antelope which evolved in this wild, open spaces. Then cattle ranching left a legacy of endless fence - which are deadly to the pronghorn. Join us for a weekend in this remote area removing fencing for their benefit. Camp at Selby campground, bring food, water, and camping gear for the weekend. Potluck Sat night. For fence removal, bring heavy leather gloves, old long sleeved shirts and sweatshirts, long pants and boots. Rain cancels. Resource specialist: Alice Koch. For more information, contact Leaders: Cal and Letty French, 14140 Chimney Rock Road, Paso Robles, CA 93446. 805-239-7338, call Bill at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org

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.