Central Coast Wilderness Bill proposes protections for the Los Padres Forest and Carrizo Plain

The Central Coast includes some of the most diverse habitats and ecosystems found anywhere in North America. Los Padres National Forest, California’s second largest national forest, rises from the Pacific Ocean to over 8,800 feet in elevation and provides habitat for 468 species of wildlife, including the endangered California condor and the southern steelhead. And the Carrizo Plain National Monument is home to an incredible diversity of plant and animal life, containing several threatened and endangered species, as well as the majestic.Tule elk, Pronghorn antelope, and invaluable Native American cultural sites.

These public lands have been set aside for watershed protection, wildlife, cultural resource protection, recreation, open space, and other uses. These lands are vital sources of water for local communities and for agriculture, help support our economy by providing world-class recreation opportunities, and contribute to the character and quality of life on the Central Coast.

To ensure these resources are available for generations to come, Rep. Lois Capps has introduced the Central Coast Wilderness Bill, after working closely with hundreds of local stakeholders and public lands experts to draft legislation to permanently protect certain areas and waters within the Los Padres National Forest and Carrizo Plain National Monument. The draft legislation would also designate the Condor Trail as a new National Recreation Trail, which, once complete, will provide a through-hiking or horseback riding experience that rivals the Pacific Crest Trail in its recreational opportunities and astounding natural beauty.

As introduced -- subject to amendment -- in accordance with the Wilderness Act, the bill designates the following as wilderness areas and components of the National Wilderness Preservation System in San Luis Obispo County:

- 11,300 acres of BLM Wilderness and 407 acres of state inholdings, to be known as the “Soda Lake Wilderness.”
- 13,332 acres of BLM wilderness and 124 acres of inholdings to be known as the “Garcia Wilderness.”
- Approximately 7,315 acres in the Los Padres National Forest, Channel Islands National Park and the Carrizo Plain.

The Way to Wilderness

Don’t Miss:

Hands Across the Sand - Stop Keystone XL
May 17
" - see page 4

Rebels with a Cause
May 18
" - see page 3

It’s the Water
May 22
" - see page 2

Like they said
At their April 1 meeting, the SLO County Board of Supervisors commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, including our county’s “Iconic Garcia, Santa Lucia and Machesna, and Silver Peak Wilderness Areas, which harbor remarkable wildlife...and provide exceptional hiking, birding and other recreation for residents and visitors alike.”

WILDERNESS continued on page 9

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

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

May 2014
Volume 51 No. 5
Sierra Club General Meeting

7 p.m., Thursday, May 22
It’s All About the Water

Conner Everts, Director of the Southern California Watershed Alliance and the Desal Response Group, is coming up from L.A. to give us insight about our worsening water situation, what might help, and what won’t. Chapter Director Andrew Christie and Conservation Chair Sue Harvey will serve as his interlocutors at our next meeting. Come and get the facts on California’s most urgent environmental problem.

Steynberg Gallery, 1331 Monterey St., SLO. Information: 549-0355

The Fence That Katcho Built

Since Katcho Achadjian’s election to the State Assembly in 2010, SLO County’s most famously affable politician has based himself with... not very much.

Katcho boasted to The Tribune last year that “almost all of the legislation that I have pushed through the process was approved with broad bipartisan support.” That’s true, but there’s a trade-off when the legislation you do is the kind that no one could possibly object to. Highlights from Katcho’s path of least legislative resistance look like this:

AB 461: Allowed five additional liquor licenses to be sold in San Luis Obispo County.
AB 1016: Specified which account agencies could donate their old computers to state agencies.
AB 1016: Removed tiered loan limits for loans to official state and federal contractors.

And so on. His most significant legislative effort has been his push to pass a bill to form a water management district for the Paso Robles ground-water basin, despite warnings from the Legislative Council that the proposed voting structure of the district presents a number of potential legal problems. (See “Taking Issue,” page 10.)

Katcho’s legislative ambitions would rapidly scale up. His minority party status, however, does not mean Katcho can’t get up to mischief. He can and he does. In the last legislative session, Katcho’s lilliputian legislative ambitions would rapidly scale up.

His minority party status, however, does not mean Katcho can’t get up to mischief. He can and he does. In the last legislative session, Katcho’s lilliputian legislative ambitions would rapidly scale up.

His minority party status, however, does not mean Katcho can’t get up to mischief. He can and he does. In the last legislative session, Katcho’s lilliputian legislative ambitions would rapidly scale up.

His minority party status, however, does not mean Katcho can’t get up to mischief. He can and he does. In the last legislative session, Katcho’s lilliputian legislative ambitions would rapidly scale up.

His minority party status, however, does not mean Katcho can’t get up to mischief. He can and he does. In the last legislative session, Katcho’s lilliputian legislative ambitions would rapidly scale up.
How did a small regional land fight grow into America’s legacy of National Seashores, Parks and Recreation Areas?

It was a fight that went all the way to the White House. Twice. How did they do it?

Academy Award-winning actress Frances McDormand narrates this tale about activists who – despite reversals, diversions and disappointments – persist for more than twenty years in their mission to protect lands adjacent to San Francisco’s rampant development and wind up creating a national movement to preserve open spaces, a legacy of National Seashores, National Parks and National Recreation Areas that reshaped the environmental movement.

Rebels with a Cause tells the story of the dreamers and schemers who fought to keep developers from taking over – and destroying – breathtaking natural landscapes. It’s the story of garden clubs, ranchers, farmers, conservationists, politicians, widows, and volunteers, all of whom worked their way through compromise and negotiation, with the American public coming out the winner. The struggle crossed party lines, united seemingly antagonistic foes, and was nearly extinguished many times along the way.

Beautiful cinematic footage, animation, moving interviews and a compelling story are deftly woven together in a tale that is especially meaningful here and now, as the Central Coast bids to become the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.

Director/Producer Nancy Kelly, John Hart, author of Storm Over Mono: The Mono Lake Battle and the California Water Future, and Fred Collins of the Northern Chumash Tribal Council will speak after the film.

Sunday, May 18
12:30 - 2 p.m.
Tickets: $10 (requested)
Palm Theater
817 Palm Street, SLO

This project was made possible with support from Cal Humanities, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities. Experience more at www.calhum.org. Production of REBELS WITH A CAUSE was made possible by Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation, Cal Humanities, Kira and Bradley J. Haas Fund at the Marin Community Foundation, Mulago Foundation, Seligmann Foundation, LEF Foundation, The Fred Gellert Family Foundation, Dexter Estate Fund at Marin Community Foundation.

Support the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary
Sierra Club Candidate Endorsements

June 3 is election day

U.S. Congress, 24th District: Lois Capps
As you can probably tell from our front page, we think Lois Capps should be any Sierra Club member’s obvious choice for another term as our representative in Congress.
In addition to her commitment to wilderness preservation, Capps authored the Coastal Estuarine and Land Conservation Program Act; wrote the Ocean, Coastal, and Watershed Education Act to formally authorize and support innovative environment-based education programs — securing over $2 million for programs on the Central Coast; introduced the Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Act to support projects that increase the resiliency of water systems in the face of climate change, and established the National Marine Sanctuaries Caucus.
To help send our coastal hero back to Congress, go to Cappsforsencongress.com.

State Assembly, 35th District: Heidi Harmon
Harmon is in the 2014 class of the Leadership SLO program, serves as Outreach Ambassador for the San Luis Obispo Chapter of the Citizens Climate Lobby and Program Director for the SLO Chapter of 350.org, and coordinates local educational meetings on climate change. She is also keen on getting her city council to divest from fossil fuel investments. She is also the Chair of the Climate Change Task Force of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club.

If you need more, here’s this: “The Central Coast deserves leadership that motivates and supports our local communities and businesses to become the innovators in clean energy solutions so we may achieve true energy independence and sustainability.”
To help send Heidi Harmon to the State Assembly, go to: Heidiharmon4assembly@gmail.com.

County Supervisor, District 2: Bruce Gibson
After two terms on the board, Gibson’s strengths and weaknesses are clear, and they largely come to the same thing: When he thinks he’s right, virtually no argument can dissuade him or alter his view.
That rubs a lot of people the wrong way and is an obvious liability when, say, he’s voting to advance the wrong kind of water district for the Paso Robles groundwater basin or taking a what-me-worry? stance on potential hydraulic fracking, tar sands mining, and President Obama make their deliberations on whether to approve the Keystone XL pipeline.

For Sierra Club endorsements in statewide races in the June elections, go to http://california2.sierraclub.org/ and click on “Sierra Club’s Political Endorsements for 2014.”

Congratulations to the Winners of the California Coastal Art & Poetry Contest
The winners of the California Coastal Commission’s 2014 Coastal Art & Poetry Contest have been announced. All the winners and honorable mentions are on the web at coastalc.ca.gov/publiced/contests.html.

Note: In order to be endorsed by the Sierra Club, a candidate must request to be considered for endorsement. A local race not included in the above list does not necessarily mean the Sierra Club did not consider any candidate in that race worthy of endorsement, but that no candidate made a timely request for consideration for endorsement.

May 17: Stretch Your Hands Across the Sand and Stop the Keystone Pipeline
Hands Across The Sand is an annual global grassroots event that champions clean energy solutions to our filthy fuels problem.
On May 17, people around the world will join hands at noon local time to say NO to offshore drilling, hydraulic fracking, tar sands mining, coal fired power plants and mountaintop removal mining, and YES to clean energy.
This year, Hands Across The Sand will also be the site of local actions across the nation as Secretary of State Kerry and President Obama make their deliberations on whether to approve the Keystone XL pipeline.
Come to the beach at the Avila Pier at noon on May 17 as we join hands with people around the world and take a stand against the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline and all fossil fuels.
Sign up for updates at handsacrossthesand.org

County Clerk-Recorder: Ann M. Danko, Tommy Gong
In the other once-in-blue-moon race on the ballot, it’s a testament to the managerial excellence of departing Clerk-Recorder Julie Rodewald that both of her top lieutenants are equally qualified to succeed her.
We can’t protect our environment unless we protect our democracy, and when it comes to the constant vigilance necessary to safeguard that heritage, it doesn’t get more fundamental than making sure that every ballot is counted, and that the person who is put in charge of the counting does not have some other goal in mind (see: Florida, November 2000). Help make sure of that at www.amdanko.com or www.tommygong.com.

For Sierra Club endorsements in statewide races in the June elections, go to http://california2.sierraclub.org/ and click on “Sierra Club’s Political Endorsements for 2014.”
Every year in March, after new bills are introduced at the state legislature, the hard business begins of deciding which bills the Club will weigh in on. This year, the Sierra Club California staff advocates and the volunteers on our California Legislative Committee reviewed about 240 bills.

Then, during a day-long Saturday meeting, we settled on positions: support, oppose, support if amended, oppose unless amended, watch, watch like a hawk, or take no position. Within each of these broader position categories, there are subcategories to help guide you on how much focus to place on any bill.

By the end of that Saturday meeting, the number of bills on which we will take a position was narrowed to about 130, with the balance of the bills mostly receiving a “watch” designation. And within all of the bills on which we take a position, for the moment, about 16 rose to the level of being priorities for Club action.

You can see the list of priority bills on our website. Go to California.sierraclub.org and click on the “Activist Toolbox” link.

Check back often — some of these bills change or fall by the wayside, and as some other bills become more important, our priority list will change.

To track any of these bills or for more information about specific bills, including analyses by legislative committees, go to the official California legislative information website, www.lisaline.ca.gov, and type the bill number in the appropriate “Bill Search” box.

We Support the California Captive Orca Welfare and Safety Act

Sierra Club California supported Assemblymember Richard Bloom’s Orca Welfare and Health Protection Act, Assembly Bill 2140, which would have put an end to the captivity of orca whales for the purposes of entertainment and help the state to rethink its efforts to protect these intelligent animals.

After humans, killer whales are the most socially and ecologically complex species on Earth. For the last four decades, we have been capturing and confining orcas on a small scale in the name of research. However, nearly all whale capture and confinement has been for the purposes of entertainment. It has become abundantly clear this complex species requires a lot of space and regular social interaction with members of the same species.

Long-term confinement does not meet these needs. Many scientists agree that holding orcas captive has few or no conservation benefits for orcas in the wild.

AB 2140 was written to put an end to performance-based entertainment for all orcas in the state and will end captive-breeding programs to ensure that the descendants of existing captive whales do not share the same fate. AB 2140 is the first step to refocus orca welfare conservation efforts in a smart and beneficial direction.

Writing in the April 8 Sacramento Bee, Sierra Club California policy advocate Edward Moreno wrote: “Controversies about the use of majestic wild animals to entertain are reminders that humans and wildlife have an unbreakable bond. We share the same air, water and land. We are struck by the same natural disasters, and many species seem to share similar desires for connection with loved ones that ultimately brings meaning to our lives.”

Seeking to avoid a vote on a contentious bill, an Assembly committee has deferred the legislation to 2013. Under these circumstances, this was the best achievable outcome. It allows for continued discussion, including public hearings, and creates the opportunity for a statewide campaign. We have no doubt this bill will ultimately prevail in ending a practice whose time has passed.

“Just as Japan must limit its hunting of whales for food, California should put an end to enslaving for entertainment,” said Moreno. The ultimate passage of the legislation will “speak well of our state’s character, and of our commitment to protecting natural areas and wildlife, both on and off our shores.”

We Oppose AB 2453 Unless Amended

The 10,000 North County residents who live around and depend on the Paso Robles ground water basin derive a voice in the policy-making place to manage the basin, and that means a water district whose directors are elected on the basis of “one person, one vote,” not “one acre, one vote.” As written, AB 2453 denies them that right, and puts in place a “hybrid” voting structure that will give land owners a permanent 3-seat majority on a nine-member board of directors. The vote to form a district will be decided by the largest land owners, who will have the most votes, even turning aside and drounting out the votes of non-land owner residents.

Thank the sponsor for his bill:

The Honorable Richard Bloom
State Assembly
Sacramento CA 94249

Take Action

Tell the sponsor to withdraw his bill or amend it to affirm the fundamental democratic principle of one person, one vote.

The Honorable Karcho Achkadian
State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento CA 94249

Letters

Send to sierrachab@gmail.com or Sierra Club, F.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406. Letters may be edited for space.

Dear Editor,

The front page of the April issue of the Sierra Lucian can concern oil and Phillips 66 refinery (“Oil Train Hits a Bump?”) may have some merit. However your statement about the “rickety” rail system have none. Since 1998, an oil train has been rolling through San Luis Obispo County three times a week from the San Ardo oil fields to Wilmington oil refineries. In general, the “oil can train” was about 80 cars with some 1.8 million gallons of oil on its way to Wilmington. This train runs through at night except for empty cars returning on weekends. As Trains magazine points out, California has led the way for safe movements of oil by rail for more than 30 years. These trains have run over the mountains of the central valley as well as down the coast, and are protected by the Union Pacific railroad. It is far from “reckless.”

John F. Turrill
Arroyo Grande

Our apologies to all the local train fans who may have taken umbrage at the “rickety” editorial shorthand we used to convey the impacts of the explosive growth of oil train traffic. But we note: In its 2013 Report Card for America’s Infrastructure, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave the U.S. rail system a grade of C+. Last February, in a posting on the increasing volume of oil by rail, the industry website Shale World observed that “rail incidents occur at almost 10 times the rate of pipeline incidents” and “the frequency of incidents sets a worrying precedent for the ramp-up of shale by rail.” They wondered: “With the [oil by rail] business having grown by more than 80 times in four years, can the U.S. rail system take the strain?” U.S. trains spilled more oil last year than in all of the previous four decades. At Shale World concluded, “With increased traffic, legal dictates there will always be more accidents, be they derailments, wildfires or worse.”

But that’s not necessarily because of poorly maintained railroads, and when bestowing that mediocre C+, the American Society of Civil Engineers also noted approvingly the aggressive efforts over the last ten years to improve U.S. rail infrastructure. However one judges the current state of rail system, the fact remains: regulators have not been able to keep up with trucking, the huge and sudden increase in oil by rail and the explosive new reality of Bakken shale crude oil, and the strain is showing. “Reckless” accurately describes this situation.
Here’s a thumbnail history of the event:

- 2001: The facility was completed.
- 2006: The facility was opened.
- 2011: The facility was expanded.

For developers’ third try, SLO should require maximum, not minimum, land preservation. The council should also remove from the LUCE the unhelpful concept of “off-site mitigation.”

Dalidio 3.0

Water ( Barely) Under the Bridge

An opinion by the Nipomo Dogs

Santa Lucian readers may remember the issue of the routine dumping of used irrigation tubing in the watershed above Old Town Nipomo, a significant contributor to the disastrous flooding in Nipomo in 2001 and 2006, causing millions of dollars in flood damage and nearly drowning two children. (See “The Power of Two.” Nov. 2008.)

Daniel Diaz, aka Creek Dog, was elected head of the Nipomo Creek Commission in 2006 to represent his home town on community safety issues, including the negative impact of upstream unpermitted dumping. Despite his position, he had little success at the County level. It was only after taking the issue — and photographic documentation — to the Regional Water Board that he attained success when truth prevailed over power in the form of a tooty new regulation. (See “Thank You, Provision #28.” June 2010.)

Daniel contacted Katcho and the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), citing the problem and the exact source, as quickly as possible. Only a month after, dump trucks drove by his house, even stopping once to ask if he had anything to dump upstream. Daniel continued to contact DFW but was ignored. The department didn’t get around to a site visit for seven months, when they finally stopped the dumping. The channel had been effectively plugged, waiting for the next big flood and history to repeat itself.

And history repeated itself. Just after the new bridge at Tefft Street and Avocado was finished, a moderate storm blew through Nipomo. Daniel woke up to find the 30’ x 7’ depression under the span nearly filled with sandy silt and asphalt, leaving essentially a crawl space for water to flow through.

Equally troubling, high levels of siltation raised the level of the creek channel downstream of the bridge.

Daniel took his concerns to Supervisor Paul Teixeira with a photo-document report entitled “Water Under the Bridge?” The Supervisor agreed that the problem was obvious. After Teixeira’s death, Daniel contacted Supervisor Caren Ray, who expressed honest concern over the health and well-being of Old Town citizens and the $30,000 cost of excavating the channel under the bridge. A total of four bridge clean-outs that probably cost taxpay- ers $10,000 each were to be no way to oppose, reduce, modify, or mitigate the impacts of that bigger, better project — or even require it to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act — if the City denies annexation and a development permit and the developer decides to develop in the County instead, with no requirement at all to comply with the City’s general plan. At the April 1 meeting on the developer’s proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the City on how to proceed with project review, the Sierra Club reminded the city council that the minimum 50 percent open space requirement “is a floor, not a ceiling.” Prior to the meeting, Lopes wrote to the council “I have confidence that your Council can and will direct staff to set a goal of increasing this requirement for environmental review as a project alternative, and possible inclusion in the upcoming Hearing Draft LUCE [Land Use and Circulation Element].”

For developers’ third try, SLO should require maximum, not minimum, land preservation. The council should also remove from the LUCE the unhelpful concept of “off-site mitigation.”

Dalidio continued on page 10
The People Prepare to Take Back Price Canyon

By Mary Parker Malotte

Save Price Canyon, a group of local activists, has succeeded in gathering the necessary amount of signatures for an initiative that takes Price Canyon zoning out of the hands of Pismo City Council and puts it into the hands of voters.

The grassroots movement has kept its message simple and efficient. “We are collecting signatures for an initiative which would ensure that the City Council alone will not be able to approve high density development in the Price Canyon Area without a vote of the people of Pismo Beach,” reads the pitch that the volunteers use when going door to door.

“We’ll probably have about 1,000 signatures,” said Sheila Blake, a volunteer with SPC, during the petition drive. “I think that will get their attention.”

By April 10, 919 signatures had been obtained. On May 4, they had the city clerk shortly thereafter. SPC will be presenting the initiative to the City Council for adoption by the council or placement on the ballot in November.

Preventing large housing and commercial development in the pastoral area east of Pismo Beach is at the heart of the initiative. “Most of the people who live here have been here, done that, and they don’t buy the fairy tales that developers tell them,” said Blake.

South County residents have long worried about the kind of mega-development proposed by the Spanish Springs project: 416 single family homes, 73 apartments or condos, 120 senior units, 150-room hotel, 10,000 square foot conference center, nine-hole golf course, restaurant, wine center and retail, parks and vineyards. “People live here for a reason,” said Blake, and overdevelopment is really “about the dissolution of a quality of life that they have sought out.”

Environmentalists have also been raising the alarm, citing urban sprawl, traffic expansion, damage to water resources and destruction of wildlife corridors. The Sierra Club has closely tracked the recent history of attempts to develop Price Canyon and supported the successful efforts to block those projects. (See “A Watershed Win” February 2008; “A Very Poor Plan for Pismo” June 2009; “Priceless Canyon” January 2011; “Pismo’s Thirst,” September 2011; and “Go Jump in a Spring,” July/Aug, 2013.)

Cynthia Hawley is an environmental attorney who has been working with Save Price Canyon. In a recent interview with Dave Congalton on KVEC, she summarized the process that eventually led to the initiative: “What the city council did was send the developers out, have them produce a specific plan that had all their dreams in it for developing the area, bring it back to the city council, and the city council approved it. So that was basically land use planning by corporation,” she said.

In response, SPC secured a referendum, also by collecting signatures of Pismo Beach voters. Faced with the specter of a ballot referendum, the City Council quickly rescinded its previous votes to approve the general plan amendments. The Sierra Club filed a lawsuit which resulted in the revocation of Spanish Springs’ Environmental Impact Report, the necessary basis for any future project permits.

In an effort to formalize the energy behind the referendum, SPC moved forward with the current initiative. Its purpose is to “preserve and maintain the natural resources supply, scenic vistas, and small town character provided by Planning Area R in Price Canyon for the benefit of Pismo Beach’s residents, visitors, future generations and the economy,” as outlined on savpricecanyon.com. California is one of 25 states that allow this method of referendum and initiative, or direct democracy.

Hawley underscored the good fortune and influence of this process. “We are so lucky to have it in this state. The initiative process is legislation by the people. It’s so powerful. It’s not used enough.”

The initiative amends the Pismo Beach General Plan by creating a new land use designation, called Watershed Resource Management, and then applies this new designation to the Price Canyon sphere of influence. The initiative also updates the General Plan to include all parcels in the Price Canyon sphere of influence.

The new land use designation does allow 40-acre minimum parcels, with two residences per parcel. The amendments will also allow certain kinds of development with permits, such as farm stands for produce grown on the parcels, publicly or privately owned parks, trails, recreational uses, facilities and structures, public buildings, public and/or private schools, and public infrastructure, services and facilities.

There are also allowances for uses without permits such as dry farming, dry farming vineyards, grazing, animal raising and keeping, storage of farm equipment and supplies, agricultural accessory structures and residential structures.

Hawley was unable to predict whether or not the city council would act to accept the initiative, or wait to put it on the ballot in the fall. But as a litigator, Hawley welcomes the opportunity to work on protecting 1,140 acres in Price Canyon at this juncture. “I’d much rather work ahead of bad decisions.”

The members of Save Price Canyon are feeling encouraged. Blake said that talking with Pismo Beach residents about the initiative has been a very positive experience. “I’m just thrilled,” said Blake. “It really wasn’t hard to get the signatures. When it comes to sprawling development in Price Canyon,” she said with a smile, “the people just don’t want it.”

Save the Date
Sierra Club Fundraiser: “The Face of the Wild”

Celebrating Our Commitment to Protecting & Preserving Nature Sunday, August 3rd, 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Tolosa Winery, 4910 Edna Road, San Luis Obispo

2014 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act, and we’re going to celebrate! Get ready to enjoy the ambiance of warm summer air, live music, artisan foods and drinks at the Santa Lucia Chapter’s 2014 fundraiser. There will be unique silent auction items, including local art, African safari trips and animal masks of our favorite wild creatures for you to get into the spirit! Your ticket will include delicious tapas, a glass of wine and dessert.

The Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club depends on your participation to continue protect our open space and natural resources. Come to share and hear about our accomplishments, connect with your community, and contribute to your local chapter. Tickets will go on sale in June. Watch our website and the Santa Lucia for details.

Volunteers Wanted!
You can help make this an event to remember!

- Telephone calls - invitation follow-up
- Sponsor solicitations
- Set-up and take-down on August 3rd
- Silent auction mgr. and event team members
- Help with raffle prizes
- Sign maker

Contact: sandysimon2010@gmail.com or call 543-8717. Dues, contributions or gifts to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible as charitable contributions.
In the summer of 1869, Muir set out on his first summer in the Sierra.

In the great Central Valley of Californi- nia there are only two seasons - spring and summer. The spring begins with the first rainstorm, which usually falls in November. In a few months the wonderful flowery vegetation is in full bloom, and by the end of May it is dead and dry and crisp, as if every plant had been roasted in an oven… I was longing for the mountains about this time, but money was scarce and I couldn’t see how a bread supply was to be kept up.

While I was anxiously brooding on the bread problem, so troublesome to wanderers, and trying to believe that I might learn to live like the wild animals, gleaning nourishment here and there from seeds, berries, etc., sauntering and climbing in joyful independence of money or baggage, Mr. Delaney, a sheep-owner, for whom I had worked a few weeks, called upon me, and offered to engage me to go with his shepherd and flock to the headwaters of the Merced and Tuolumne rivers, - the very region I had most in mind. I was in the mood to accept work of any kind that would take me into the mountains to see old friends. I had tasted last summer in the Yosemite region… I judged, however, that I was in no way the right man for the place, and freely explained my shortcomings, confessing that I was wholly unac- quainted with the topography of the upper mountains, the streams that would have to be crossed, and the wild sheep-eating animals, except that, what with bears, coyotes, rivers, canyons, and thorny, bewildering chaparral, I feared that half or more of his flock would be lost.

Fortunately, these shortcomings seemed insignificant to Mr. Delaney. The main thing he said was to have a man about the camp whom he could trust to see that the shepherd did his duty, and… the difficulties that seemed so formidable at a distance would vanish as we went on…

I was fortunate in getting a fine St. Bernard dog for a companion. His master, a hunter with whom I was slightly acquainted, came to me as master, a hunter with whom I was

The Merced River

June 3, 1869. - This morning provisions, camp-kettle, blankets, plant-press, etc., were packed on two horses, the flock headed for the tawny foothills, and away we sauntered in a cloud of dust. Mr. Delaney, bony and tall, with sharply hacked profile like Don Quixote, leading the pack-horses, Billy, the proud shepherd, a Chinaman and Digger Indian to assist in driving for the first few days in the brushy foothills, and myself with notebook tied to my belt. About noon the heat was hard to bear; the poor sheep pant ed pitifully and tried to stop in shade of every tree they came to, while we gazed with eager longing through the dim burning glare toward the snowy mountains and streams, though not one was in sight. The landscape is only wawering foothills roughened here and there with bushes and trees and out-cropping masses of slate.

The trees, mostly blue oak (Quercus Douglasii), are about thirty to forty feet high, with pale blue-green leaves and white bark, sparingly planted on the thinnest soil or in crevices of rocks beyond the reach of grass fires. The slates in many places rise abruptly through the tawny grass in sharp lichen-covered slabs like tombstones in deserted burying-grounds. With the exception of the oak and four or five species of manzanita and ceanothus, whose tiny sparks of life only burn the ground present fold beyond fold of ground cover of the Sierra.

June 4. - …This day has been as hot and dusty as the first, leading over gently sloping brown hills, with mostly the same vegetation, excepting the strange-looking Sabine pine (Pinus Sabinae), which here forms small groves or is scattered among the blue oaks. The trunk divides at a height of fifteen or twenty feet into two or more stems, outleaming or remaining single, with many needles, casttling but little shade. In general the appearance of this tree looks more like a palm than a pine. The cones are about six or seven inches long, about five in diameter, very heavy, and last long after they fall, so that the ground beneath the trees is covered with them. They make fine resin; light-giving camp-fires, next to ears of Indian corn the most beautiful fuel I’ve ever seen…

June 5. - This morning after setting out with the crawling sheep-cloud, we gained the summit of the first well-defined bench on the mountain-flank at Pino Blanco.

After gaining the open summit of this first bench, feeling the natural exhilara- tion due to the slight elevation of a thousand or so, and hopes excited concerning the outlook to be obtained, I reached the magnificent section of the Merced Valley at what is called Horsehoe Bend. I came full in sight of a wonderful wilderness that seemed to be calling with a thousand songful voices. Bold, down-sweeping slopes, feathered with pines and clumps of manzanita, with sunny, open spaces between them, made up most of the foreground; the middle and back- ground present fold beyond fold of finely modeled hills and ridges rising into mountain-like masses in the distance covered with shaggy growth of chaparral, mostly adenostoma, planted so marvelous close and even that it looks like soft, rich plush without a single tree or bare spot. As the eye can reach it extends, a heaving, swelling sea of grass as regular and continuous as that produced by the heaths of Scotland.

The sculpture of the landscape is as striking in its main lines as in its lavish richness of detail; a grand congrega- tion of massive heights with the river shining between, each carved into smooth, graceful folds without leaving a single rocky angle exposed, as if the delicate fluting and rising fashioned out of metamorphic slates had been carefully sandpapered.

The whole landscape showed design, like man’s noblest sculptures. How wonderful the power of its beauty! Gazing awe-stricken, I might have left everything for it. Glad endless work would then be mine tracing the forces that have brought forth its features, its rocks and plants and animals and glorious weather. Beauty beyond thought everywhere, beneath, above, made and being forever...

June 6. - We are now on what may be called the second bench or plateau of the Range, after making many small ups and downs over belts of hill-waves, with, of course, corresponding changes in the vegetation. In open spots many of the lowland composite species are still to be found, and some of the Mariposa tulips and other conspicuous members of the lily family. The characteristic blue oak of the foothills is left below, and its place is taken by a fine large sugar pine (Pinus regi- nica) with deeply lobed deciduous leaves, picturesquely divided trunk, and brownish, finely lobed and modeled head. Here also at a height of about twenty-five hundred feet we come to the edge of the great coniferous forest, made up mostly of yellow pine with just a few sugar pines. We are now in the mountains and they are in us, kindling enthusiasm, making even every quiver, filling every cell of our flesh and bone with its spirit, so that the ground beneath the trees is covered with them. They make fine resin; light-giving camp-fires, next to ears of Indian corn the most beautiful fuel I’ve ever seen…

We are near the North Fork of the Merced. The night wind is telling the wonders of the upper mountains, their snow forests, rainforests, forests and groves; even their topography is in its tones. And the stars, the everlast- ing sky lilies, how bright they are now that we have climbed above the lowland dust! The horizon is bounded and adorned by a spiny wall of pines, every tree harmoniously related to every other… divine hieroglyphics written with sunshine’s beams. Would I could understand them! The stream flowing past the camp through the firms and lilies and adored with sweet music for the ear, but the pines marshaled around the edge of the sky make a yet sweeter music for the ears. Divine hieroglyphics. Here I could stay tethered forever with just bread and water, and would I be lonely? I am content and nears, for love for everything increased, would seem all the nearer however many miles and mountains between us.
It’s Time for a Green Burial Site in SLO County

By Rosemary Wilvert

For as long as humans have been dying, we have reunited our bodies with the earth, usually through burial or cremation. Cremation requires as much fuel as driving a car 5,000 miles! In recent years, a nationwide movement has been growing for a return to the more earth-friendly, or natural, burial.

Last year a group of San Luis Obispo County citizens began to investigate the possibility of a local preserve. The group became acquainted with John Harden, who has long desired to turn his land into a natural burial preserve. He owns 34 acres off Highway 46 in the rolling hills of west Templeton and has recently applied to the County for a zoning permit. He has a website in progress: www.livingoaknaturalburials.com.

Harden’s goal is to steward the land, to restore the native habitat and wildlife of the original oak woodland with minimum impact on the water table. By contrast, many of the surrounding properties have been bought up by developers and turned into irrigated vineyards.

Harden’s vision is guided by the standards of the Green Burial Council, a national nonprofit organization that encourages “environmentally sustainable death care and the use of burial as a new means of protecting natural areas. Green burial promotes habitat conservation and restoration, the planting of native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers, and the nurturing of wildlife.” See www.greenburialcouncil.org.

Natural preserves do not allow embalming fluids and cement vaults. Burial is in a shroud or biodegradable box. Besides being more economical, these simple burials provide a dignified ending to one’s life and foster the serenity the family can find in being close to nature.

The group has found a wide interest among residents of San Luis Obispo County for a local natural burial preserve. With the growing awareness of climate change, people who have tended toward green living naturally prefer green dying.

Nearly 300 local landowners, businesses, elected officials, farmers, ranchers, civic leaders, wineries, recreation leaders and outfitters are supportive of additional wilderness, wild and scenic rivers and scenic areas in our region. A full list of supporters and more information can be found at centralcoastwild.org.

Wilderness

incorporated into and managed as part of the Machesna Mountain Wilderness as designated by the California Wilderness Act.

Approximately 3,153 acres land in the Los Padres National Forest shall be incorporated into and managed as part of the Santa Lucia Wilderness as designated by the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1978. Nearly 300 local landowners, businesses, elected officials, farmers, ranchers, civic leaders, wineries, recreation leaders and outfitters are supportive of additional wilderness, wild and scenic rivers and scenic areas in our region. A full list of supporters and more information can be found at centralcoastwild.org.

A better way to go. Rosemary Wilvert and Rob Caughlan spoke on green burial at the Sierra Club’s March 28 general meeting at the Steynberg Gallery in SLO.

Enjoy your view of the fence. Katcho’s damage done above Pirate’s Cove.

In Memoriam: George Lacy Harper

We were saddened to learn that George Harper passed away on April 8. Dr. Harper came to San Luis Obispo in 1960 and served as County Public Health Officer, created Operation Head Start in conjunction with the Office of Education, and advocated for the natural environment, a passion he shared with his children.


Update: 20 from 300

We are more than halfway to our goal of financial stability via automatic monthly donations of $20 or more from just 300 of our 2,000 members in San Luis Obispo County. This can be done via PayPal using the “Donate” button at www.santa-lucia.sierraclub.org, or through your bank’s bill-pay service, or with a check for 2074 covering a year worth of monthly donations. Whichever way you choose, you will automatically become a sustaining member of the Santa Lucia Chapter’s Cal French Circle – a vibrant, empowering group of friends. Dues, contribution or gifts to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible as charitable contributions. Additional information at https://secure.sierraclub.org/site/PageServer?pagename=donate_Financial_Regulatory_Info.
Taking Issue

Reviewing problematic environmental coverage & commentary in our local media

“Hybrid water district should go to a vote,” The Tribune, April 11, 2014.

Summary: The Tribune ironically hopes that Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian’s bill to create a water district that will serve the interests of agricultural operators over the distressed Paso Robles groundwater basin survives the legislative process and gets to a floor vote — ironically, because a vote is exactly what the non-acreage-owning class living over the basin will not get if Katcho’s bill survives. Big Grape would get to form the kind of district it wants instead, and the vote for the formation of that district would be based on how much land voters own.

The proposed district requires special legislation to advance... ...for the same reason that Frankenstein’s monster required lightning bolts.

Not everyone in the basin embraces the idea of a hybrid district. We get that.

However, this is the compromise reached after much negotiating by disparate groups – one made up of large vineyard owners and other agriculturalists, and the other of rural residents and small farm owners.

The “compromise” that gave Big ag what they wanted was reached due to the collapse of PRO Water Equity, the group that was supposed to represent the interests of rural residents and small farm owners and was created specifically to advocate for a district based on the principle of “1 person, 1 vote.” When one group in a negotiation decides to place the goal of a compromise – any compromise – ahead of the interests it is supposed to represent, the result is not a legitimate compromise, as attested to by the multiple resignations from the board of PRO Water Equity after it capitulated to Big Grape. The formation of a district on the basis of an acreage-based vote is also opposed by the Farm Bureau, Cattlemen’s Association, and Creston Advisory Body.

Specifics are helpful, so here’s the specific meaning of “some” and “others!” Ag landowners: 6 directors. Residents: 3 directors – after the district itself is established by a vote of land-owners only, with one vote per acre. In other words, the people who use more than 70% of the water pumped out of the basin and have spent the last 18 months vigorously opposing any suggested reductions in the intensity of their water use, fighting any move to curb the expansion of irrigated ag over a distressed basin, and clamoring for exemptions from the mild measures that have been put in place would be permanently shutting the spigot on water policy for that basin. The people watching their residential wells run dry as the vineyards drill deeper would be permanently shut out. And it’s not hard to guess how much enthusiasm there would be among residential well owners only, with one vote per acre.

Residents: 3 directors – after the district itself is established by a vote of land-owners only, with one vote per acre. In other words, the people who use more than 70% of the water pumped out of the basin and have spent the last 18 months vigorously opposing any suggested reductions in the intensity of their water use, fighting any move to curb the expansion of irrigated ag over a distressed basin, and clamoring for exemptions from the mild measures that have been put in place would be permanently shutting the spigot on water policy for that basin. The people watching their residential wells run dry as the vineyards drill deeper would be permanently shut out. And it’s not hard to guess how much enthusiasm there would be among residential well owners only, with one vote per acre.

The “comprise” that gave Big ag what they wanted was reached due to the collapse of PRO Water Equity, the group that was supposed to represent the interests of rural residents and small farm owners and was created specifically to advocate for a district based on the principle of “1 person, 1 vote.” When one group in a negotiation decides to place the goal of a compromise – any compromise – ahead of the interests it is supposed to represent, the result is not a legitimate compromise, as attested to by the multiple resignations from the board of PRO Water Equity after it capitulated to Big Grape. The formation of a district on the basis of an acreage-based vote is also opposed by the Farm Bureau, Cattlemen’s Association, and Creston Advisory Body.

Again, specifics are good. The water districts in California that consist almost entirely of agricultural operations with very few residents – think San Joaquin Valley – are irrigation districts, with representation based on the amount of acreage owned. Areas that have significant residential populations have water districts with directors elected by popular vote. So I don’t know – and toward resident voting, or one person per parcel, one person per vote. Away from land owner but more a registered voter type designation.

However, this is the compromise reached after much negotiating by disparate groups – one made up of large vineyard owners and other agriculturalists, and the other of rural residents and small farm owners.

The “compromise” that gave Big ag what they wanted was reached due to the collapse of PRO Water Equity, the group that was supposed to represent the interests of rural residents and small farm owners and was created specifically to advocate for a district based on the principle of “1 person, 1 vote.” When one group in a negotiation decides to place the goal of a compromise – any compromise – ahead of the interests it is supposed to represent, the result is not a legitimate compromise, as attested to by the multiple resignations from the board of PRO Water Equity after it capitulated to Big Grape. The formation of a district on the basis of an acreage-based vote is also opposed by the Farm Bureau, Cattlemen’s Association, and Creston Advisory Body.

Specifics are helpful, so here’s the specific meaning of “some” and “others!” Ag landowners: 6 directors. Residents: 3 directors – after the district itself is established by a vote of land-owners only, with one vote per acre. In other words, the people who use more than 70% of the water pumped out of the basin and have spent the last 18 months vigorously opposing any suggested reductions in the intensity of their water use, fighting any move to curb the expansion of irrigated ag over a distressed basin, and clamoring for exemptions from the mild measures that have been put in place would be permanently shutting the spigot on water policy for that basin. The people watching their residential wells run dry as the vineyards drill deeper would be permanently shut out. And it’s not hard to guess how much enthusiasm there would be among residential well owners only, with one vote per acre.

Residents: 3 directors – after the district itself is established by a vote of land-owners only, with one vote per acre. In other words, the people who use more than 70% of the water pumped out of the basin and have spent the last 18 months vigorously opposing any suggested reductions in the intensity of their water use, fighting any move to curb the expansion of irrigated ag over a distressed basin, and clamoring for exemptions from the mild measures that have been put in place would be permanently shutting the spigot on water policy for that basin. The people watching their residential wells run dry as the vineyards drill deeper would be permanently shut out. And it’s not hard to guess how much enthusiasm there would be among residential well owners only, with one vote per acre.

However, this is the compromise reached after much negotiating by disparate groups – one made up of large vineyard owners and other agriculturalists, and the other of rural residents and small farm owners.

The “compromise” that gave Big ag what they wanted was reached due to the collapse of PRO Water Equity, the group that was supposed to represent the interests of rural residents and small farm owners and was created specifically to advocate for a district based on the principle of “1 person, 1 vote.” When one group in a negotiation decides to place the goal of a compromise – any compromise – ahead of the interests it is supposed to represent, the result is not a legitimate compromise, as attested to by the multiple resignations from the board of PRO Water Equity after it capitulated to Big Grape. The formation of a district on the basis of an acreage-based vote is also opposed by the Farm Bureau, Cattlemen’s Association, and Creston Advisory Body.

Again, specifics are good. The water districts in California that consist almost entirely of agricultural operations with very few residents – think San Joaquin Valley – are irrigation districts, with representation based on the amount of acreage owned. Areas that have significant residential populations have water districts with directors elected by popular vote. So I don’t know – and toward resident voting, or one person per parcel, one person per vote. Away from land owner but more a registered voter type designation.

Using land for off-site mitigation. This is a great out for developers, but serves only to fragment remaining open space and agricultural land into smaller fragments. In testimony at the April 1 meeting, Santa Lucia Chapter Director Andrew Christie reminded the council that forty-five years ago, visionary SLO mayor Ken Schwartz led the charge that gave the city a center and genuine public space in Mission Plaza, and that this was a better idea than the parking garage that the Chamber of Commerce wanted to put in that space. Then as now, somebody came up with a better idea for a crucial project that would play a large part in determining what the city’s future would look like.

This is not the moment for SLO to opt for the dead minimum on open space and go for the okey-doke on off-site mitigation. This is the time for the SLO City Council to raise their gaze, and raise the 50 percent open space requirement in the LUCE, include Lopes’ 75%+ open space alternative plan in the San Luis Ranch Environmental Impact Report, and select that alternative when it’s time for them to vote on the project. And it will be up to the citizens of SLO to prevail upon the council to do those things. The draft LUCE EIR is expected to be released by the end of May, at which time the City will begin accepting public comments. There will be a workshop on May 31, followed by ten public hearings over the next five months at the planning commission and city council. Check the project website regularly for more information at www.slo2035.com
Classifieds

Next issue deadline is May 12. To get a rate sheet or submit your ad and payment, contact:
Sierra Club - Santa Lucia Chapter
P.O. Box 15755
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
sierrachubc@gmail.com

Les Kangas
Solar Energy Consultant
REC Solar, Inc.
775 Fiero Lane, Suite 200
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Office: (805) 526-9705
Cell: (805) 365-7164
Toll Free: (888) OK-SOLAR (657-6527)
Fax: (805) 528-9701

Cynthia Hawley
ATTORNEY
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
LAND USE
CIVIL LITIGATION

Morgan Stanley
Virginia Perry Sousa, CIMA®
Wealth Management
2005 S Benbowery
Serra Mesa, CA 92126
201-476-8844
Fax: 201-476-8845
Cell: 201-476-8845
Office: (805) 927-5102
Fax: (805) 927-5220

Estate Grown Extra Virgin Olive Oil
Available Now - Delivery Available
Please Get in Touch For More Information
Greg and Linda McMillan
805-238-4820
greg@flyingment.com

CYNTHIA HAWLEY
ATTORNEY
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
LAND USE
CIVIL LITIGATION
P.O. Box 29 Cambria California 93428
Phone 805-927-5102 Fax 805-927-5220

Volumes of Pleasure Books, Inc.
A General Bookseller for Themed
Carroll Leslie & Barbara Strauss
KNOCKKNOCK
1710 Los Osos Valley Road@ SB
Los Osos, California 93402
(805) 528-5565

LAW OFFICE OF TARREN COLLINS
WILLS & TRUSTS
ESTATE PLANNING
LENNIE TAYLOR
LAND USE & PLANNING
TRIALS CONTRACTS

STATE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Santa Barbara
TARREN COLLINS
Attorney at Law
805-773-3223
collinslaw@gmail.com
P.O. Box 1968
Shell Beach, CA 93448

FLYING M FARM PRODUCTS
FROM THE RED HILLS
2012 Crop Grass Fed Beef
Estate Grown Extra Virgin Olive Oil
Available Now - Delivery Available
Please Get in Touch For More Information
Greg and Linda McMillan
805-238-4820 greg@flyingment.com
Sun., May 4th, 9 a.m. Santa Margarita Lake Nature Walk. With skilled leaders from the Sierra Club, California Native Plant Society, and Morro Coast Audubon Society, come on an easy saunter of 3-4 miles to view and identify spring wildflowers and migrating birds near Santa Margarita Lake. Bring water and snacks and dress in layers for changing weather. Hat, sunscreen, and sturdy walking shoes recommended. From Hwy 101, drive about 15 miles east on Hwy 58 and Pozo Rd, passing the Santa Margarita Lake turnoff, then crossing a small bridge. Turn left after the bridge onto River Rd, continuing 2.3 miles to park entrance on left side of the road. Allow 40-50 minutes drive time from SLO area. To carpool, meet at Santa Rosa Park in SLO at 8:30 a.m. or in front of Pacific Beverage Co., 22255 Camino Real in Santa Margarita, at 8:30 a.m. Information, contact Leader: Bill Waycott, 459-2103 or bill.waycott@gmail.com Rain cancels.

Sun., May 4th, 10 a.m. Quarry/Cane/Live Oak Trails Hike. Join us on an easy 1/2-mile loop hike, 450 ft. gain, in Morro Bay State Park. View dacite boulders below Cerro Cabrillo’s Tiki Rock, grass and sage meadows, oak groves, and distant ocean sand dunes on well-marked dirt trails. Duration about 2 hrs. Meet at Quarry Trail parking area off South Bay Blvd., 1.3 mile from Hwy 1 or 7 mile from Tuni Rd. Leader: Vicki Marchenko, 528-5567 or vrmarchenko57@gmail.com.

Sat., May 10th, 8:30 a.m. Rinconada/Little and Big Falls Loop Hike. Strenuous, 14-mile, 2000 ft. gain, hike, mostly in the scenic Lopez Canyon area. Several stream crossings, so bring sandals or appropriate footwear while crossing. Some poison oak present. Bring lunch and water and prepare to be out most of the day, though a shorter in-and-out hike is possible for those desiring it. Meet in front of Pacific Beverage Co. in Santa Margarita. Extreme heat will prevail until May 17th, the following Saturday. Confirm beforehand that you are coming with Leader: Carlos Diaz-Saavedra, 546-0317.

Sun., May 18th, 10 a.m. Sycamore Springs Trekking Pole Hike. “Polecats” is dedicated to leading hikes, modelling the benefits of using trekking poles effectively. Today’s hike is 2 miles, 600 feet elevation gain. Meet at entrance to Sycamore Springs Resort, 12.5 Avila Beach Drive. Confirm beforehand with Leader: David Georgi, 458-5757 or hikingpoodles@gmail.com.

Thurs., May 22nd 7-9 p.m. Bimonthly Meeting: An Activist’s Primer on Drought. Conner Everts, Director of the Southern California Watershed Alliance and senior mentor for Environmental Justice for Water, in the California, is traveling from L.A. this evening to give us insight about the worsening water situation, what might help, and what won’t. Chapter Director Andrew Christie and Conservation Chair Sue Harvey will serve as his interlocutors in an interview format. Come and get the facts on California’s most urgent environmental problem. Steynberg Gallery, 1531 Monterey St., SLO. Info.: Joe Morris, 549-0355.

Sat., May 24th, 10 a.m. Historic Walk: San Luis Obispo. Travel back in time and stroll past century-old homes in the Mill Street Historic District to learn of public life in the era of bungalow houses, the first automobiles, World War I, and the early years of Cal Poly. Learn the stories of some of the rich and powerful who shaped the city of today. Duration about 1 1/2 hrs. Meet at corner of Monterey and Johnson Sts. Leader: Joe Morris, 549-0355.

Outings and Activities Calendar

Activities sponsored by other organizations

For over 20 years, the Sierra Student Coalition has been connecting young people with the science, knowledge, and networks necessary to become agents of real environmental change through the Sierra Student Coalition’s Summer Program. Sprog is a week-long, summer camp style training event for high school and college-age youth. Know a young person ready to make their mark on the world? Nominate them to attend a Sprog this summer! Contact Tim Harlan-Marks at tim.harlan-marksi@sierraclub.org with any questions.

Sun., May 18, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Combined FASTA and Santa Margarita Lake Workday. Trail maintenance. Meet at White Oak picnic area. Wear work clothes, hats and gloves. Bring water. Tools and snacks provided. Parent needs to sign waiver for volunteers under 18. Contact: Gregrettentancourt4406@gmail.com.

Sat., June 7, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Montana de Oro Trail Work. Meet at Park HQ above Spooners Cove. Wear work clothes, hats and gloves. Bring water. Tools and snacks provided. Parent needs to sign waiver for volunteers under 18. Contact: Gregrettentancourt4406@gmail.com.

Bring Youth to the Movement

Sierra Student Coalition Seeks Nominees for SPROG

For more information on specific outings, please call the listed outing leader.

Activities sponsored by other organizations

Sun., May 18, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Combined FASTA and Santa Margarita Lake Workday. Trail maintenance. Meet at White Oak picnic area. Wear work clothes, hats and gloves. Bring water. Tools and snacks provided. Parent needs to sign waiver for volunteers under 18. Contact: Gregrettentancourt4406@gmail.com.

Citizen’s Climate Lobby

Sat., May 3rd, 9:45 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2201 Lawton Avenue, San Luis Obispo. Get ready to get involved and make a difference! For more information, www.citizensclimatelobby.org. Contact: citrusclimatelobbydoc@gmail.com.

Central Coast Mountain Bikers

Sun., May 18, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Combined FASTA and Santa Margarita Lake Workday. Trail maintenance. Meet at White Oak picnic area. Wear work clothes, hats and gloves. Bring water. Tools and snacks provided. Parent needs to sign waiver for volunteers under 18. Contact: Gregrettentancourt4406@gmail.com.

Sat., June 7, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Montana de Oro Trail Work. Meet at Park HQ above Spooners Cove. Wear work clothes, hats and gloves. Bring water. Tools and snacks provided. Parent needs to sign waiver for volunteers under 18. Contact: Gregrettentancourt4406@gmail.com.

Citizen’s Climate Lobby

Sat., May 3rd, 9:45 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2201 Lawton Avenue, San Luis Obispo. Get ready to get involved and make a difference! For more information, www.citizensclimatelobby.org. Contact: citrusclimatelobbydoc@gmail.com.

Sun., May 18th, 10 a.m. Sycamore Springs Trekking Pole Hike. “Polecats” is dedicated to leading hikes, modelling the benefits of using trekking poles effectively. Today’s hike is 2 miles, 600 feet elevation gain. Meet at entrance to Sycamore Springs Resort, 12.5 Avila Beach Drive. Confirm beforehand with Leader: David Georgi, 458-5757 or hikingpoodles@gmail.com.

Thurs., May 22nd 7-9 p.m. Bimonthly Meeting: An Activist’s Primer on Drought. Conner Everts, Director of the Southern California Watershed Alliance and senior mentor for Environmental Justice for Water, in the California, is traveling from L.A. this evening to give us insight about the worsening water situation, what might help, and what won’t. Chapter Director Andrew Christie and Conservation Chair Sue Harvey will serve as his interlocutors in an interview format. Come and get the facts on California’s most urgent environmental problem. Steynberg Gallery, 1531 Monterey St., SLO. Info.: Joe Morris, 549-0355.

Sat., May 24th, 10 a.m. Historic Walk: San Luis Obispo. Travel back in time and stroll past century-old homes in the Mill Street Historic District to learn of public life in the era of bungalow houses, the first automobiles, World War I, and the early years of Cal Poly. Learn the stories of some of the rich and powerful who shaped the city of today. Duration about 1 1/2 hrs. Meet at corner of Monterey and Johnson Sts. Leader: Joe Morris, 549-0355.

Bring Youth to the Movement

Sierra Student Coalition Seeks Nominees for SPROG

For over 20 years, the Sierra Student Coalition has been connecting young people with the science, knowledge, and networks necessary to become agents of real environmental change through the Sierra Student Coalition’s Summer Program. Sprog is a week-long, summer camp style training event for high school and college-age youth. Know a young person ready to make their mark on the world? Nominate them to attend a Sprog this summer! Contact Tim Harlan-Marks at tim.harlan-marksi@sierraclub.org with any questions.

Sun., May 18, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Combined FASTA and Santa Margarita Lake Workday. Trail maintenance. Meet at White Oak picnic area. Wear work clothes, hats and gloves. Bring water. Tools and snacks provided. Parent needs to sign waiver for volunteers under 18. Contact: Gregrettentancourt4406@gmail.com.

Citizen’s Climate Lobby

Sat., May 3rd, 9:45 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2201 Lawton Avenue, San Luis Obispo. Get ready to get involved and make a difference! For more information, www.citizensclimatelobby.org. Contact: citrusclimatelobbydoc@gmail.com.

Central Coast Mountain Bikers

Sun., May 18, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Combined FASTA and Santa Margarita Lake Workday. Trail maintenance. Meet at White Oak picnic area. Wear work clothes, hats and gloves. Bring water. Tools and snacks provided. Parent needs to sign waiver for volunteers under 18. Contact: Gregrettentancourt4406@gmail.com.