



**SIERRA
CLUB**

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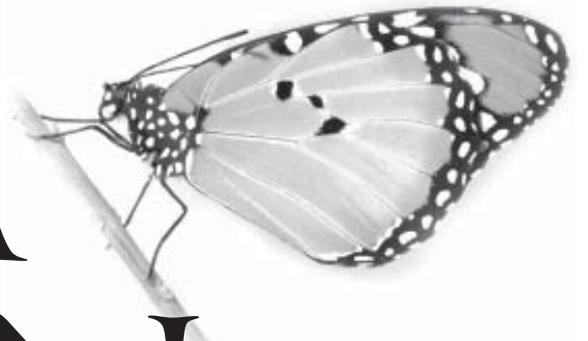
Member Recognition & Awards!
January 20, 7:00 p.m.



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SANTA LUCIAN



Protecting and Preserving the Central Coast

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

Mothers for Peace and Sierra Club Sue to Protect Diablo Canyon Facility from Terrorist Attacks

San Luis Obispo, December 11 – San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace and the Sierra Club today filed a lawsuit in the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals against the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The groups were joined in the suit by County Supervisor Peg Pinard.

The groups contend that before approving PG&E's plan to increase nuclear waste storage at the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant site, the NRC should be required to hold full hearings on the adequacy of security measures for the Diablo Canyon site to protect against a terrorist attack. "Federal law requires the NRC to address the potential for a terrorist attack before licensing this nuclear waste dump," said Diane Curran, attorney for the groups. "We're suing to force the NRC to obey the law and protect public safety."

Since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, communities across the nation have urged the NRC to hold public hearings on the vulnerability of nuclear sites to terrorist attacks, and measures that can be taken to protect against them. But the NRC has steadfastly refused to hold any dialogue with the public. Instead, the NRC has discussed security issues only with the nuclear industry.

"This is highly irresponsible," said Rochelle Becker of the San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace. "Since Sept. 11, the government has repeatedly said that nuclear power facilities are vulnerable to terrorist attacks – and yet the agency charged with protecting the public has steadfastly refused to address this issue with the communities surrounding these vulnerable sites."

"The Sierra Club is extremely concerned about the safety of the proposals for nuclear waste storage at Diablo Canyon. We believe this proposal will make local communities less safe and secure. Unfortunately we have had to take legal action to contest this plan," stated Carl Zichella, Regional Staff Director, Sierra Club.

"To allow a utility to force an ex-

panded high-level radioactive waste dump on California's coast without presentation of evidence in full public proceeding is abrogation of the mandate of the NRC to protect public health and safety from the negative impacts of a radiological release," said Tarren Collins, Chair of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club. "This radioactive waste will likely remain on our coast indefinitely and if and when it leaves it will travel past 7 million Californians within one mile of proposed transport routes. We invite local residents, those along transport routes and all Californians to support this precedent-setting appeal."

The Federal Appeal is also supported by the newly formed coalition, the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility. The Alliance includes Public Citizen, ten California environmental organizations, six environmental organizations of which five live near nuclear facilities, 36 members of the Cal Poly Faculty and Staff, and seven local businesses.

"This lawsuit is important for communities across the country, because nuclear waste is stored onsite at all nuclear power plants and remains especially vulnerable to terrorist threat," said Wenonah Hauter, Director of Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy and Environment Program. "People deserve assurances that they are safe from a terrorist-triggered radiological nightmare. The nuclear industry and the NRC are meeting those concerns with casual in-

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Tributes to Pete Wagner

Many people paid tributes to Pete Wagner at the memorial in his honor, including Tarren Collins, chair of the Santa Lucia Chapter, Sierra Club, who said she would "miss Pete terribly." Her remarks:

As a friend and colleague, he was kind, generous of spirit, and quick to take on more than his share of responsibilities. Pete was loved, respected and admired by the community. And most members of our community do not know the full extent of Pete's dedication and service to protect our environmental resources.

What you saw at public hearings, and in his written comments and newsletter columns, was at most, the tip of the iceberg. Pete took the time to thoroughly investigate each issue, using his brilliant scientific mind, and tapping others for their insights. But he didn't stop there. He took the time to then develop a well-articulated position, and crafted reports and public comments that were defensible. Pete spoke truth to power, often to power companies. His work reminds me of this quote from Harry Truman: "I never gave them hell. I just tell the truth, and they think it is hell."

And Pete embodied that oh so rare combination of empirical thinking, graciousness, and heartfelt passion that made him a powerful leader and spokesperson for the causes he believed in. With Pete at the helm of our Conservation Committee, the Santa

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—John Muir



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Santa Lucia Chapter General Meeting

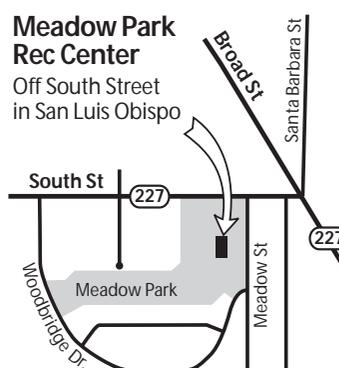
Time for recognition and awards. We want to honor everyone who has worked so hard this past year in both outings and conservation. Yes, really say "Thank You." The main feature will be the presentation of the Kathryn Goddard Jones Award to an outstanding activist for the Chapter for many years. This is the second year for this award, initiated in honor of the founder of our Santa Lucia Chapter. If you have pictures (slides) that you would like to share, please bring them. Let's see everyone.

Bring a snack to share; hot water for coffee and tea will be provided. Sierra Club members, friends, and the general public are all invited.

Tuesday, January 20, 7:00 p.m.

Meadow Park Rec Center
San Luis Obispo

Save the date!!



Jim Patterson Named ECOSLO Environmental Hero of 2003

Jim Patterson of Atascadero has been named the ECOSLO Environmental Hero of 2003. He was presented with the award and a check for \$500 at the annual ECO Summit, held December 6 at Camp Ocean Pines in Cambria. Long-time environmental activist and retired biologist Bill Deneen of Nipomo made the surprise announcement and presentation in front of a group of about 75 representatives from environmental organizations from around the region. Deneen says he established the award over 10 years ago, to "give recognition to people who are working to protect San Luis Obispo's beautiful environment."

Patterson is the Water Conservation Manager at the Atascadero Mutual Water Company and is also a candidate for 5th District Supervisor. He is running against two-term incumbent Mike Ryan. The election is March 2.

For over 30 years, Jim has been quietly, and sometimes not so quietly, working to protect and restore San Luis Obispo's environment. While still in college, Jim started an organic farm in Toro Canyon, one of the first (if not the first) in the county. He served on the ECOSLO Board of Directors in the early days, where he helped create the recycling program that kept ECOSLO solvent for many years. He helped the city of Atascadero meet its state recycling mandate under AB 929 a full 2 years before the deadline, and helped write and pass Atascadero's Native Tree Ordinance—the strongest of its kind in the county.

Jim has designed and planted three native plant demonstration gardens—at Atascadero Lake Pavilion, Atascadero High School, and the Colony House—to educate gardeners about the benefits of including drought-resistant native plants in the landscape. He has donated his time and expertise to countless environmental organizations and community events, including Arbor Day, Day of the Oak, the Watershed Fair, and Creek Clean Up Day. As Atascadero's Water Conservation Manager, he has implemented a "no pesticide" policy for the company's property and has also succeeded in encouraging the company to use only native plants to screen the water tanks.

Jim currently serves on the County's Water Resources Advisory Committee and the Upper Salinas Las Tablas Resource Conservation District. And, he says he is most proud of having raised a thoughtful, conscious son who "convinced all of his college housemates to recycle" and is now working in Santa Barbara as a marine research diver.

But perhaps Jim's most outstanding contribution to the environmental future of San Luis Obispo County has been through his commitment to the education of our youth. Jim founded, and FUNDED, the Atascadero High School Environmental Scholarship Award, which has contributed thousands of dollars to dozens of graduating seniors who wish to pursue an education in various environmental fields. He has spent hundreds of hours in North County Third and Fifth Grade classrooms, teaching children about the water cycle, and the importance of conserving and protecting our fresh water supply. It seems like hardly a month goes by when Jim is not organizing a tree-planting project for kids somewhere in the North County, or attending some workshop or event where he is getting kids excited about protecting the environment.

There are so many ways to help save the earth. Activists can fight for it, land trusts can purchase it, artists can sing about it and paint beautiful landscapes, scientists can quantify its benefits, policy wonks can write reports and elected officials can enact laws and policies to protect it. But all of these efforts will be little more than damage control if we don't fundamentally change the way we think about interacting with our environment. Jim is committed to bringing about that lasting change, one child at a time.

SANTA LUCIAN

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The Executive Committee meets the fourth Friday of every month at 5:00 p.m. at the chapter office. All members are welcome to attend.

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Douglas Delivers Talk at Ecosummit

by Jack McCurdy

Peter Douglas, executive director of the California Coastal Commission and a world-renowned environmental leader, says he is "cautiously optimistic" about Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's environmental program but called President Bush's environmental policies a "disaster" and even worse than they may seem.

Bush and Republicans in his Administration have a new way of talking about the environment to the public, which he said is "amazing to me how cynically it distorts the English language." Douglas said the doublespeak reflects advice in a now-infamous memo, titled "Straight Talk" and authored by the late Frank E. Luntz, a prominent Republican strategist, which said: "Indeed, it can be helpful to think of environmental (and other) issues in terms of 'story.' A compelling story, even if factually inaccurate, can be more emotionally compelling than a dry recitation of the truth."

Douglas said he believes "things will have to get worse (under Bush) before they get better." Douglas, who co-authored the 1972 statewide citizens initiative that established the Coastal Commission, also told the third annual Ecosummit of San Luis Obispo County at Camp Ocean Pines in Cambria on Dec. 6:

—"There is no substitute for getting involved and making a difference" through environmental activism at the local level. "There is no excuse not to. Activism is simply something you cannot not do, as trying and demanding as it may be. There is just too much at stake. Nothing is more important to our environmental and social future. The Coastal Act is the people's law, and every time it is threatened, it can be weakened. We can't do our work without your support and input."

—"Cuts in funding for the Coastal Commission have had a "tremendous impact on the environment." The Commission, which has never been adequately funded to carry out its mission of protecting coastal resources, has suffered a reduction of \$3 million to \$6 million over the past three years, resulting in the loss of 30 staff positions.

—"Supporters need to find a reliable source of funding for the Commission, such as that enjoyed by the state Energy Commission through a surcharge on energy bills. "We need to start working on that to achieve long-term protection of the coast," he said.

—"Environmental groups in the state are conducting a detailed analysis of Schwarzenegger's environmental program and are expected to produce a comprehensive assessment soon. It is in part a response to a paper sent to the governor by the "Thursday group" of industry representatives, which argued that they are "job producers" hurt by environmental controls. "What they really mean is they want to make a profit and don't let the environment get in the way," he said. "Uninformed and dishonest."

Douglas told about 60 environmental leaders at the conference that Schwarzenegger's "green agenda" is "a very strong statement (for the environment) if carried out," but "we don't know which Arnold Schwarzenegger we are going to see." However, Douglas said he is "optimistic about his (Schwarzenegger's) environmental potential." (See Schwarzenegger's Action Plan for California's Environment on the Internet at <http://joinarnold.com/en/agenda/#D1>.)

Schwarzenegger has four appointments to the Coastal Commission, who serve at the governor's pleasure, including one from the Central Coast area, representing local governments. Greg Hart of Santa Barbara now is that representative on the Commission but his term has ended. He has been highly critical of the Commission's actions to protect the coast, Douglas noted.

The new governor's policy program states:

"I will protect the integrity of the California Coastal Commission, which for decades has served to protect our valuable coastal resources. I will not allow the type of political interference in Coastal Commission decisions that has characterized the current Davis Administration, where special favors were granted in return for campaign contributions, even while the Administration was pledging to protect the coast."

The Commission is particularly vulnerable at this time, Douglas said, in part because of lack of funding, which prompts critics like the Pacific Legal Foundation to argue that if the Commission can't do its job adequately, the Commission and its controls emanating from a statewide citizens initiative should be abandoned. In addition, a legal challenge to the Commission's very existence is before the California Supreme Court in the aftermath of passage of state legislation to remedy perceived constitutional questions about its status.

Critics see "blood in the water" and an opportune time to attack the Commission, he said.

All this, despite the fact that polls show "95% of the public believe the Commission is vital to the coast and that the state does a better job of protecting the coast than do local governments," he said.

The Commission also must "deal with the fallout from term limits" in the Legislature, which results in excessive turnover of Senators and Assembly members, he said. "It is one of the worst things that has happened to good government," Douglas said. It prevents legislators from gaining a good understanding of issues. "They are gone before they learn to work in an informed way, and it makes for bad policy."

Douglas described how Luntz's strategies to confuse and mislead the public have become the basis for Bush's tact on the environment. "It's a way to pull the wool over people's eyes," he said.

Good illustrations, he said, are Bush's "Clean Skies Initiative" and the "Healthy Forests Act," which environmentalists have argued are neither clean or healthy. Another example is global warming, he said.

The Luntz memo, which was leaked to the Environmental Working Group and revealed in the New York Times last March 2, says "the terminology in the upcoming environmental debate needs refinement, starting with "global warming...It's time for us to start talking about 'climate change' instead of global warming. While global warming has catastrophic connotations matched to it, climate change suggests a more controllable and less emotional challenge."

Douglas said the Office of Management and Budget in the Bush Administration is deleting all mention to global warming in government reports. "This is much more sophisticated than Reagan," he said.

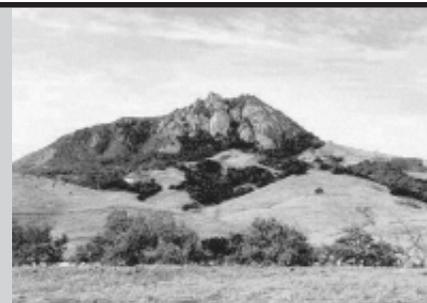
The Environmental Working Groups says "the Luntz phrases repeatedly and continually used by administration officials are showing up in the reporting of news stories...The importance of the Luntz memo and its coaching is that the administration and its allies from polluting industries are using language as a weapon—one nearly as potent as the policies that they need to obscure."

The memo can be viewed at <http://www.ewg.org/briefings/luntzmemo/> or <http://www.luntzspeak.com/>. Luntz was also one of the drafters of "Contract with America," the manifesto of House Republicans under Newt Gingrich, the former speaker.

Douglas was a principal author of the Coastal Act that made permanent California's coastal management program in 1976, has headed the Coastal Commission staff since 1985 and received the first "Champion of the Coast" award at an international symposium on coastal zone management in 1995.

The Ecosummit was organized by the Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo County and was co-sponsored by Alese and Bob Bell, Camp Ocean Pines, the Coastal Alliance on Plant Expansion (CAPE), Duane Waddell, the Environmental Defense Center, EPI, Friends of the Ranchland, Guayaki Sustainable Rainforest Products, attorney Jan Howell Marx, Marla Morrissey, New Frontiers, Paso Watch, Questa Co-op, SLO Coast Alliance, Sandi Sigurdson & Stephen McGrath, Sierra Club, Terra Foundation, Terri Dunivant and the Lloyd-Dryburgh Group.

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Diablo Suit

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difference.”

In September 2003, over 110 Central Coast residents joined the Union of Concerned Scientists and organizations in 19 states in a letter to the NRC expressing lack of confidence in the commission's ability to protect the public. All signers are residents and organizations that live within emergency evacuation zones for our nation's nuclear plants have repeatedly attempted to address safety concerns ranging from aging and failing components, poor NRC oversight and increasing storage of high-level radioactive waste onsite.

Additional details on the proposal can be found at:
www.mothersforpeace.org

-Action Alert-

Urge Your Senators and Representatives to Hold the NRC Accountable for Protecting the Public from Nuclear Danger

On December 11, 2003, the San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace and the Sierra Club filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) charging that the NRC is abrogating its responsibility under the Atomic Energy Act to “protect health and safety and the common defense and security.”

The NRC has refused to hold public hearings on the adequacy of security at the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant in California. The owner and operator of the facility, Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E), has submitted an application to the NRC for a license to construct a high-level radioactive waste storage facility at the site. The lawsuit contends that, prior to approving PG&E's plan, the NRC should be required to hold full hearings on the adequacy of security measures in place at the Diablo Canyon site to protect against a terrorist attack.

Public Citizen supports the Federal Appeal as part of the newly formed Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility, a coalition of public interest groups, environmental organizations, businesses, and university faculty members.

ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS LAWSUIT IS THE SUPPORT OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. Senators and representatives can use their influence and oversight authority to support the suit and ensure the proper enforcement of the law by the NRC.

WRITE YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES. A sample letter is pasted below. For the contact information of your elected officials, go here: <http://www.congress.org/congressorg/home/>

[SAMPLE LETTER]

Re: Support Lawsuit Alleging Abrogation of Atomic Energy Act Obligations by U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Dear Senator/Representative:

I am writing to urge you to support the lawsuit filed by the San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace and the Sierra Club against the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The lawsuit, which was filed in the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals on December 11, 2003, contends that the NRC is abrogating its responsibility under the Atomic Energy Act to “protect health and safety and the common defense and security.”

Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E), which owns and operates the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant in California, has applied to the NRC for a license to construct a high-level radioactive waste storage facility at the site. The NRC has refused to hold public hearings on the adequacy of security at the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. The new storage facility, to be called the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI), would use dry casks to store irradiated fuel onsite.

The groups party to the lawsuit contend that before approving PG&E's plan to increase nuclear waste storage at the Diablo Canyon site, the NRC should be required to hold full hearings on the adequacy of security measures in place to protect the site against a terrorist attack.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, communities across the nation have urged the NRC to hold public hearings on the vulnerability of nuclear sites to terrorist attacks, and measures that can be taken to protect against them. But the NRC has steadfastly refused to hold any dialogue with the public. Instead, the NRC has discussed security issues only with the nuclear industry, even despite a September 2003 letter to the NRC from the Union of Concerned Scientists and organizations in 19 states expressing lack of confidence in the commission's ability to protect the public.

Clearly, the NRC is in need of a stern reminder of its original, legally-mandated mission.

Please exercise your influence and oversight authority to support this suit and ensure the proper enforcement of the law by the NRC. You can contact Rochelle Becker with Mothers for Peace at 858-337-2703 for more information about the lawsuit.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

Pete Wagner

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Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club became a powerful force for the protection of our natural resources.

Just one example of Pete's dedication can be found in his efforts regarding Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. Pete led the charge on Diablo for the last few years. In the weeks preceding his collapse, he worked tirelessly to submit the necessary documentation to National Sierra Club to gain approval for the chapter to join Mothers for Peace in a federal lawsuit regarding the safety of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

To assist in gaining National Sierra Club support for this effort, Collins said she put Pete in touch with Carl Zichella, National Sierra Club's regional staff director for California-Nevada and Hawaii. In an email to Zichella, she introduced Pete as “our stellar Chapter Conservation Chair, who managed to take a one-person conservation committee and build it into a hardworking, effective and active committee with many able members. Pete has my full confidence on issues he is working on, he is thorough, intelligent, and professional in all his dealings for the chapter.”

On Monday, November 10, prior to going to speak to the Morro Bay City Council, Pete completed and submitted the documentation to gain approval for the Club to join Mothers for Peace in the federal lawsuit.

Collins read the following statement from Zichella at the memorial:

Today our hearts go out to the family, friends and colleagues of Peter Wagner, one of the Sierra Club's most distinguished local leaders. Peter was a mainstay of our Santa Lucia Chapter and one of our most respected members. His passing leaves an enormous gap in our ranks.

I regret I never got to meet Peter face to face. We spoke on the phone about Club business, and he was insightful, encouraging and passionate about the work we discussed. In his last days we worked together to get the Club engaged in litigation with Mothers for Peace on safety issues surrounding nuclear waste storage at Diablo Canyon. He and I hit it off strongly on this project. Someone let slip to Peter that in my younger days I had been arrested protesting the siting of Diablo, and he thought it more than just mildly amusing that 22 years later we would still be fighting this facility's serious environmental problems.

Perhaps most revealing about Peter are the comments that have come in to me from Club members

and allies in sister organizations. To them Peter was a mentor and friend, and a passionate worker for justice.

Peter was a serious activist, not a sloganeer. He was willing to do the hard work of “showing up” at public meetings and representing his chapter and our organization. He was careful about the language and information he used. His credibility – and the Sierra Club's – was extremely important to him. Peter was, according to those who worked closest with him, the quintessential citizen activist. The Sierra Club was extremely lucky that he chose our organization as an outlet through which to channel his energy.

As she neared completion of her landmark work, Silent Spring, Rachel Carson, another serious activist who, like Peter loved the Sierra Club, wrote to a friend about why she endured so much to defend nature. Judging from what I have heard from Peter's friends and colleagues these are words that would have struck a powerful chord for him:

“The beauty of the living world I have tried to save has always been uppermost in my mind— that, and anger at the senseless brutish things that were being done. I have felt bound by a solemn obligation to do what I could – if I didn't at least try I could never again be happy in nature. But now I can believe I have at least helped a little.”

Silent Spring inspired millions of people to do what they could for nature. Peter's life was an example that inspires many others. The work he cared about will continue for lifetimes and people not yet born will carry it

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DANIEL L. HAWTHORNE, Ph.D.

Psychotherapy & Psychological Assessment

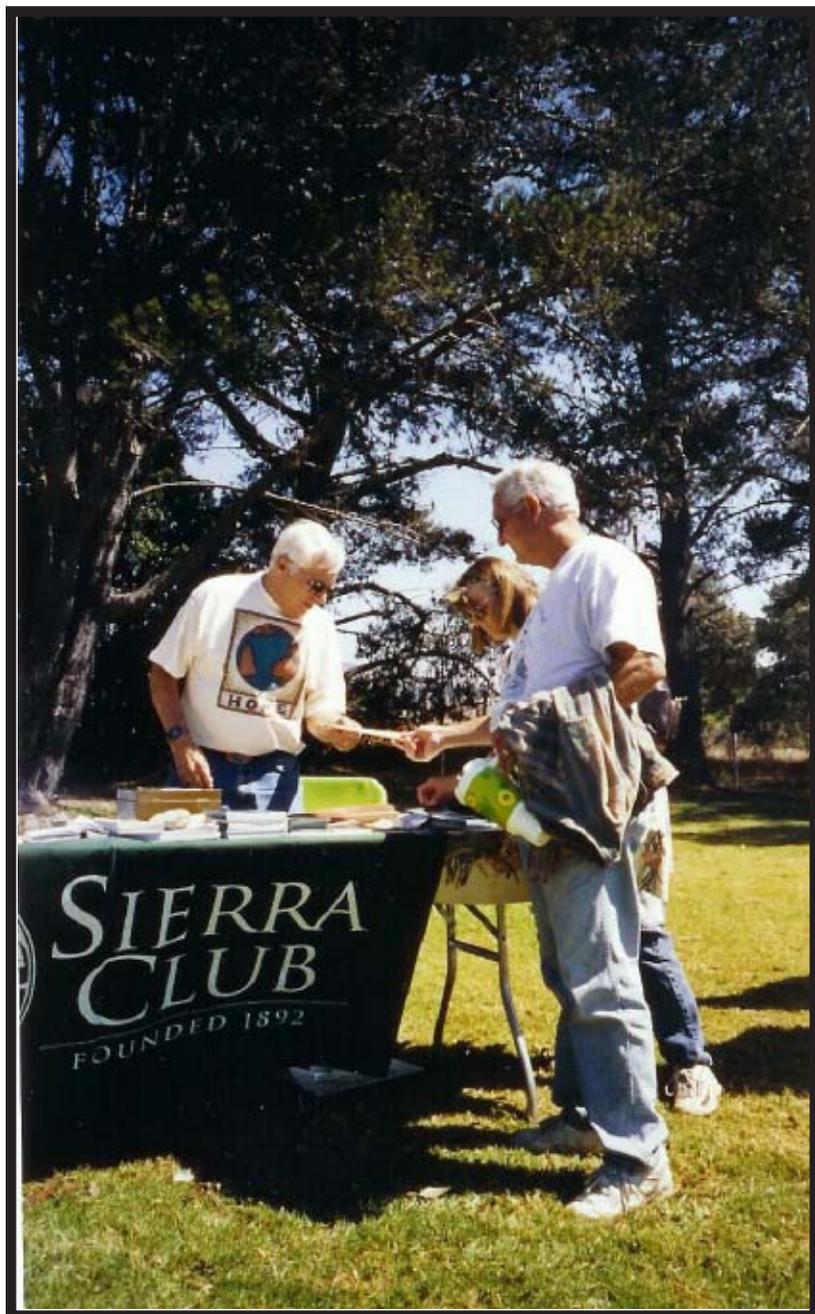
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More on Pete

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Pete at the Oceans Fair in San Simeon in 2003.

on. Peter's legacy includes a place in the continuum that includes John Muir, Rachel Carson, Ed Wayburn, and millions of people just like himself. Incapable of remaining silent, and doing the little things that mattered. He helped a whole lot more than just a little and we will miss him terribly.

Our hearts go out to you, his family and friends in your time of loss.

* * *

An excerpt from remarks by Jack McCurdy, a member of the Chapter's Conservation Committee and co-president of the Coastal Alliance on Plant Expansion, at the memorial:

I think you all know how able Pete was in so many ways, so I won't go into that. And those of you who knew him know full well what a sweet, kind and sensitive person he was—a joy to be around. But for those of you who did not work with him, you also need to know he was tough, he could be emotional about the environment and politics, he had extremely strong feelings that didn't show though his very public persona of calm and reason.

I saw his strong and fearless leadership on so many other issues...(in) taking the lead to forge tough and unyielding positions, which he backed up with long and hard research, writing and consensus building. Pete had a penchant for bringing people together in a way that united the group he was part of behind forceful action, the essential ingredient that produces success.

Pete Wagner Obituary

by Jack McCurdy

A private memorial was held in November for Peter E. Wagner, a retired distinguished university physicist and administrator and one of the Central Coast's leading environmentalists, who died on Nov. 19, to pay tribute to his many accomplishments and to express the deep affection his numerous friends held for him.

Mr. Wagner, 74, suffered cardiac arrest on Nov. 10, after speaking to the Morro Bay City Council in defense of a fellow environmental activist, who had been arrested and roughed up by Morro Bay police while seeking signatures on an initiative petition in front of the Morro Bay Post Office. Mr. Wagner died at Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center.

After retiring from the State University of New York, Binghamton, in 1999, Mr. Wagner and his wife, Caryl, moved to Morro Bay. He and his wife had attended the University of California at Berkeley, where they met.

He taught physics and electrical engineering or served as an administrator, ranging from provost to vice chancellor, at six universities, was founding director of an environmental research center, was a Guggenheim Fellow at Oxford University in England, authored many scientific articles and one patent, and served on many governmental, regulatory and academic advisory boards.

Almost immediately upon moving to Morro Bay, he became active as a volunteer in the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Coastal Alliance on Plant Expansion (CAPE), a citizens group advocating environmental protections for the new Morro Bay Power Plant proposed by Duke Energy. He served for a time as a board member for CAPE and was chair of the Conservation Committee of the Sierra Club chapter. He also was a member of the Implementation Committee of the Morro Bay National Estuary Program, of which he had served as vice-chair, and was a member of the Program's Technical Advisory Committee.

Mr. Wagner was born on July 4, 1929, in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and thus celebrated his birthday with government-sponsored fireworks every year of his life.

He originally attended Occidental College in Los Angeles for two years before transferring to the University of California, Berkeley, where he graduated with honors, earning a bachelor's degree in physics in 1950. He remained at Berkeley and completed his doctorate in physics in 1956. He then began work in the first of two fields that defined his career while researching topics at the intersection of solid state physics and electrical engineering.

After earning his doctorate, he worked as a research scientist at the Westinghouse Research Laboratories in Pittsburgh for three years before becoming a faculty member in electrical engineering at The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, one of the world's leading research universities. In 1965 he was promoted to full professor, and in the following year was a Guggenheim Fellow at Oxford University, England.

In 1973 he began work in the second field of his career, environmental sciences, when he became the founding director of the University of Maryland's new Center for Environmental and Estuarine Studies, which continues to flourish today as the Center for Environmental Science. In 1980 he returned to the world of physics as a professor at the University of Alabama, Huntsville, where he also conducted research at the U.S. Army Redstone Arsenal and NASA Marshall Space Flight Center.

From there he began the third stage of his career as a university administrator, which included appointments as Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs at the University of Mississippi (1981-1984), Provost at Utah State University (1984-1989), and Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost at the State University of New York, Binghamton (1989-1992). Despite the heavy demands of these positions, he always created time to teach one course per semester in either physics or engineering. In 1992, he returned full-time to the faculty and taught physics and electrical engineering until his retirement in 1999.

Mr. Wagner was the author of over 35 scientific articles and one patent, and he received numerous research grants. He served on the advisory boards of the Governor's Science Advisory Council (Maryland, 1973-1977), the Maryland Power Plant Siting Advisory Committee (1972-1980), the Board of Directors of the Center for Research Libraries (1991-1997), and the Board of Directors of the Phi Beta Kappa Fellows (1995-2001).

His academic honors include Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Xi, Eta Kappa Nu, Blue Key, and Golden Key. Wagner is also listed in *Who's Who in America*.

As a volunteer with the Santa Lucia Chapter, Mr. Wagner was instrumental in researching, developing and guiding Chapter policies on a wide array of important issues, ranging from the proposal to expand high-level radioactive waste storage at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant to the study by the Marine Interests Group on marine protections along the San Luis Obispo County coast, including possible establishment of a marine sanctuary. Last summer, he led a victorious effort on behalf of the Chapter and Mothers for Peace to prevent PG&E from winning approval from the Regional Water Quality Control Board to continue pumping 2.5 billion gallons of sea water daily to cool the Diablo plant. After a 10-hour hearing where Mr. Wagner testified at length, the board sent the PG&E permit back to staff for further study.

He also was a lead witness for CAPE during hearings on the power plant by the California Energy Commission on technical issues involving the amount of water that a new plant would divert from the Morro Bay National Sanctuary for cooling, the extent of mortality resulting from fish and crab larvae being carried into the plant, and calculations to provide accurate measurements of the size of the estuary. He also served as chair of Morro Bay Neighbors, a political action committee that sponsored an unsuccessful initiative in Morro Bay that would have required approval by city voters of any project to expand the Morro Bay Power Plant.

Mr. Wagner is survived by his wife of 52 years, Caryl; his daughter, Ann, and son, Stephen; a granddaughter, Katie; several nieces and nephews, and many friends the nation over.

In lieu of flowers, the family asked that donations be made to the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club, P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406, or to the Peter Wagner Memorial Fund, Department of Physics, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-7300.

What Is a Letterbox Rally?

by Jack Beigle

That was the question of the day on our recent Morro Bay canoe and kayak outing. A letterbox rally is a sport car activity that involves taking an envelope from a letterbox. The envelope has instructions on it on how to get to the next letterbox. All of the instructions are not necessarily identical, so in our event we had boats paddling off in several directions. We adapted the rally so it could be run in canoes and kayaks instead of sport cars.



Setting up for this event required placing the letterboxes at several places on the sand spit before the event. It was clear and warm when I left Pismo Beach, at 7:30 am. When I arrived at Morro Bay the fog was so thick that I couldn't see the sand spit. I had to navigate to the sand spit using a compass course. As we set out the last letterbox the sun started to break through.

We explained the rules of the rally and launched nine boats. People followed the directions well and scattered about the bay but we all ended up at the correct spot for lunch. On the beach we opened the envelopes and each one contained a playing card. Each paddler now had five cards and there was a flurry of comparisons of poker hands. The final twist was we added up the face value of the cards and the lowest total won. The rally prize was a free dinner at Hometown Buffet. The winner was delighted and everyone had a good time.

We enjoyed our lunches on the dunes and soaked up the warmth as the sun shone through the clear blue sky. All of a sudden a black shape streaked across the sky. It was the stealth fighter. It was just coasting as it circled Estero Bay but that is still very fast. After one circle, it disappeared over the horizon. That was a special treat.

We launched our boats and paddled back to the marina. As we got close to the marina the fog rolled in again. By the time that we loaded our boats on our cars it was cold and foggy. We really were lucky. We had the best of the day to play on the bay!

Check the outing schedule and join us on the water.

Sierra Club Launches Southern California Forests Campaign to Protect Las Padres National Forest

by Bill Corcoran

The recent tragic fires in Southern California brought national attention to our local forests. The crisis underscored both the beauty of our local forests that draws people to them and the sometimes harsh reality of these often dry mountains and forests.

The problems that contributed to the disaster—fire suppression, risky development, drought and lack of funding for agencies—are among the many threats that confront our national forests. Stretching from Big Sur to Mexico, the Los Padres, Angeles, San Bernardino and Cleveland national forests need better management if they are to survive the 21st Century.

At the same time that our local forests become more and more important as one of our few remaining large open spaces, federal support for our forests is diminishing. Funding is down, staffing is down and new policies by the Bush administration threaten to reduce citizens' influence on the management of our forests.

Protecting Our Forests

In response to these problems, the Sierra Club is launching the Southern California Forest Campaign, which will provide opportunities for members and others to enjoy, protect and restore the Los Padres and other nearby national forests. Our campaign is a positive one that seeks to restore balance to the management of our forests and to hold government accountable for protecting our forests.

We will measure our success by influencing how the Forest Service manages our local forests, protecting the natural beauty that we all enjoy, and ensuring that local wildlife, like the beleaguered Nelson bighorn sheep, are restored to health and not left to linger on the brink of local extinction. Along the way, there will be opportunities to help with field work to protect the bighorn and to participate in other restoration work.

Early in 2004 the Forest Service will be asking the public for more input about how it should manage our local forests. By joining this campaign, your voice will join that of thousands of other volunteers who will be asking for the

strongest possible protections for our forests. Without your help the Forest Service will only hear from those whose actions often harm our forests—developers and off-road vehicle groups as well as oil, power, and mining companies.

Forests at Risk

It's easy to drive past the National Forest sign and imagine that this land is protected from man-made intrusions and development. Unfortunately, that is not the case.

Our local forests are surrounded by one of the world's largest urban areas, with over 20 million people living near them. Endless demands are made on the forests—they are used for entertainment, for economic uses and for homes. Each passing year has brought a steady erosion of the wild quality of these mountains as human demands require more and more intrusive management. Proposals currently exist for toll roads, mining, ski run expansion, hydroelectric power, electrical transmission lines and even oil drilling in the Los Padres National Forest. Such development flies in the face of the increasing need for open space as our population grows. The more lightly we tread on the land, the more opportunities there will be for people to enjoy the solace of nature.

Continued development of the forests is pushing wildlife and native plants to the brink. In 1989, seventeen species were federally listed as threatened or endangered throughout the forests. Today, there are seventy-six listed species. The rapid collapse of the Nelson bighorn sheep population on the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests—from 800 to fewer than 100 individuals—and the near elimination of the California Condor in the Los Padres are two of the most prominent examples of our threatened natural heritage.

What's the Plan?

Every day the Forest Service is making decisions that affect the forests. Should water be piped from a creek to allow a skiing operator to make snow? What should be done to protect threatened bighorn sheep? Should motorcycles be allowed on more forest trails? Should a campground be closed?

Framing these decisions is a master plan for each national forest that the Forest Service must revise periodically, typically every 15-20 years. Right now the Forest Service is simultaneously developing its new plans for Los Padres, Angeles, San Bernardino, and Cleveland National Forests. These plans will affect 3,503,594 acres of forest land, guiding decisions on everything from mining and drilling to off road vehicles and hiking trails.

Dedicated volunteers and staff of a variety of environmental organizations, including the Sierra Club, have created a comprehensive master plan for managing our forests that will protect the streams, low-impact recreational opportunities, and endangered and threatened species such as the Nelson bighorn Sheep. The plan will also help repair past damage and restore our forests to their full glory for future generations. If you join the Southern California Forest Campaign, you will learn more about the plan and how your involvement will help make this vision a reality.

In early 2004 the Forest Service will release details of six options for managing our local forests and based on public input, it will produce a final master plan in late 2004. Brief descriptions of these plans have already been released and options range from the good to the bad to the downright ugly. The good is based on recommendations from the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations and it focuses on protecting and restoring our forests while maintaining opportunities for low-impact recreation and stopping destructive development such as highways, oil wells, and power lines. The worst options increase high-impact recreation (more space devoted to as off-road vehicles) and resource extraction (more oil wells, logging, and mining). The outcome is very much in doubt.

The Southern California Forests Campaign is designed to help us let the Forest Service know that we want a master plan for our forests that will respect the wild heritage of our mountains.

What Difference Can I Make?

Without your help the Forest Service will only hear from those whose actions often harm our forests—mining companies, oil companies, off road vehicle groups, and others. By joining this campaign, your voice will join that of thousands of other volunteers who will speak as one voice for the strongest possible protection of our local national forests.

The goal of this campaign is to make it easy for you to help protect these beautiful but threatened lands. We can do better in protecting our forests. We know what must be done—now we need your help in holding the Forest Service accountable for protecting our forests. By taking simple actions you will help to protect an incredible legacy for ourselves, our families and future generations.

Fill out and mail in the postcard in the insert you'll find in this issue of the Santa Lucian and you will learn more about the Southern California Forest Campaign and join other Sierra Club members in protecting and restoring our forests.

Classifieds

Classified ads are \$10 and are limited to 20 words. They are due by the first week of the month of publication (**next deadline is February 1, 2004**). Please submit your ad and payment to:
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 Paso Robles, CA 93446
 mariko1@pacbell.net



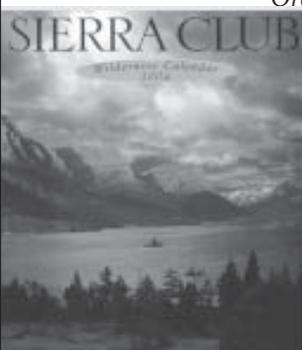
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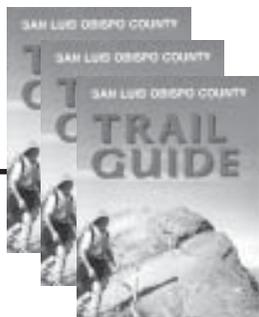
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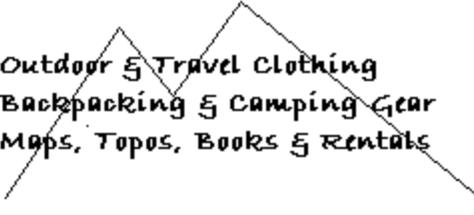
A Will . . .

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

For more information and confidential assistance, contact

John Calaway
Sierra Club Planned Giving Program
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105-3441
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Outings and Activities Calendar

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

Hiking Classifications:

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

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

Sat., Jan. 10, CATWAY ROAD. Hike on a brush-free jeep road trail following the Figueroa Mountain axis and view unique parts of the Los Padres National Forest areas worthy of permanent protection. Adventure Pass or Golden Age Passport required on cars. Meet at 8:45 am at the Santa Barbara Government Center, Santa Maria, or 9:15 am at Mattei's Tavern, Los Olivos. Rain cancels. Hikes are always subject to change; always contact the leader: JERRY 928-3598 (AR)

Sat., Jan. 10, A. NIPOMO NATIVE GARDEN workday in garden 9:00 a.m.-12:00 (noon) SAVE the MESA Meeting at 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. at Dana Adobe

Sun., Jan. 11, 9:30 a.m., COAST NATURE HIKE. See a remote area of dunes with botanizing, bird watching and poetry. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647. What area would you like to see? <bdenneen@slonet.org>

Sun., Jan. 18, 9:30 a.m., MUSSEL ROCK HIKE. Meet at end of West Main on the beach. Bring

lunch, water, binoculars, inspirational reading. Dogs on a leash permitted at this time of year. It is out and back so you can turn around anytime. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org

Sat., Jan. 24, 9 a.m., ALL DAY FIRST AID/CPR COURSE at the Ramona Gardens Park in Grover Beach. Sponsored by the Santa Lucia Chapter, this course will cover hands-on practice of the CPR resuscitation plus an overview of basic First Aid skills. Our instructor from the Los Padres chapter will test each participant's resuscitation skills (without supervision). The training is free to Sierra Club members and we encourage local members thinking about leading day outings in the New Year to join the group of those in need of a refresher. This program is a prerequisite to the more advanced Wilderness Emergency training that we might offer this spring depending on interest. The course will run from 9 AM to 4 PM with a mid day potluck lunch. Please sign up with **Eliane Guillot** at 781-5711 (daytime) or 473-0288 (evenings before 8PM).

Sun., Jan. 25, 9:00 a.m., Islay Rd, Barranca Trail, Ridge Trail Loop Hike. Join the leader on this 7-8 mile hike in Montana d' Oro State Park. Elevation gain is about 1600 ft. There should be great views of the coastline from Hazard Peak. Meet at the Islay Rd. turnout. If there is not enough room to park, go back to the Ridge Trail turnout. The hike will begin at Islay Rd. which is about 100 yds. south of the Ridge Trail. There may be some poison oak. Bring water, snack or lunch, good hiking shoes, and dress for the weather. Heavy rain cancels. There will be an optional refueling stop after the

hike. For details, call Chuck at 927-3769 (3C)

Sun., Jan. 25, 9 a.m., Grover Beach to Pismo Pier. Meet at the Grover Beach parking lot (entrance to the Oceano dunes past the Grand Avenue/Highway 1 intersection). Easy stroll along the beach-stop at a local eatery of your choice in downtown Pismo- (estimated time of 2 hours)- Bring windbreaker and light shoes. Return with optional stop past the Dunes at the Butterfly observation point off Highway 1. For details, call Eliane at 473-0288 before 8 p.m.

Sun., Jan. 25, Canoe/Kayak, Lake San Antonio Eagle Watch. Lake San Antonio is a great winter outing if we can schedule it between the rains. All we need is a little sunshine and we should have another super outing. We have always seen bald and golden eagles, ospreys, pelicans and many other birds on our outings at Lake San Antonio. Dress warmly in layers. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, windbreaker, warm clothes, lunch and binoculars. Phone Jack Beigle, 773-2147 for reservation, park fees and details.

Fri., Jan. 30 to Sun., Feb. 1, Holiday Ski Trip: Hutchinson Lodge. This trip is cancelled because I could not get the lodge for these dates. However, there will be another trip to Hutchinson lodge. Complete details will be published in early December. If you have any questions call leader, George Jammal, at 831-335-7748.

Sun., Feb. 1, 9:30 a.m., BICYCLE GUADALUPE to OCEAN. Meet at Dune Centre Parking lot with bike and helmet. An easy, educational tour of Guadalupe and then to Pacific. Confirm a few days before at 929-



Photo by Joaquin Palting

3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org

Sat., Feb. 7, 9:30 a.m., VALENCIA PEAK-MONTANA DE ORO STATE PARK. Meet inside the park at the ranger station. Bring warm clothes, windbreaker, a snack and water. Intermediate due to elevation gain. Heavy rain cancels; hike still on with light drizzle. Optional lunch afterwards in downtown Los Osos. Any questions call Eliane at 473-0288 before 8 p.m.

Sun., Feb. 8, 9:30 a.m., TRAILRIDE. Black Lake Canyon horseback tour. Must have own horse and wear a helmet. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647 or <bdenneen@slonet.org>

Sun., Feb. 22, 10 a.m., Canoe/Kayak BIRDING IN MORRO BAY. We will tour the back bay to see how many shore birds we can find. Bring your boat and equipment, PFD, windbreaker, bird book, binoculars and a picnic lunch. High tide 11:05 a.m. meet at the Morro Bay State Park Marina. Details call Jack at (773-2147)

This is a partial listing of Outings offered by our chapter.

Please check the web page at www.santalucia.sierraclub.org for the most up-to-date listing of activities.