



**SIERRA  
CLUB**

Nov/Dec 2003  
Volume 40, No. 10

## Inside

Local Ranchers Supported	3
Volunteer Opportunities	4
Conservation Committee Column	6
Classifieds	7
Outings	8

### GENERAL MEETING

Jim Patterson-District 5  
Supervisorial Candidate  
Nov. 18, 7:00 p.m.

**No general meeting in December!**

ExCom Meeting  
Nov. 21, 5:00 p.m.

Conservation Committee Meeting  
Dec. 9, 7:00 p.m.

44th Annual Sierra Club  
Anniversary Dunes Walk!  
Sat., Jan. 3, 9:00 a.m.

Celebrate the New Year  
at the ECOSLO Party!  
SLO Vets Hall



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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

## The Great Coastal Places Campaign Is Looking to Hold Arnold Accountable



Santa Lucia Chapter Chair Tarren Collins speaks about the Great Coastal Places Campaign at a Coastal Commission hearing in Coronado in October 2003

by Owen Bailey, Great Coastal Places Campaign staff member

Sierra Club's 5,000 member coastal network is uniting throughout California to send a message to Governor Schwarzenegger. The goal is to welcome the new governor and let him know that we are eager to work with him to protect our coast. "We simply hope to see our new governor honor his campaign promises," said Tarren Collins, Great Coastal Places Campaign Chair. "And we need Arnold to understand that he must not balance the budget at the expense of coastal protection."

Once the new governor is sworn in, one of his responsibilities will be to appoint a third of California's Coastal Commissioners. The governor's appointments to the commission, which serves to "protect, conserve, restore and enhance" California's coastal regions, will give us an early look at how the new administration will treat our threatened coastline. "Will his appointees try to develop our coast, or will they want to protect it," said Sierra Club Coastal Director, Mark Massara. "The Great Coastal Places Campaign is eager to

show Arnold how great California's commitment to our coast continues to be."

*Hold Arnold Accountable* meetings are being held this month in at least ten locations up and down the coast of California. Here in San Luis Obispo, *Hold Arnold Accountable* will form an important part of the already scheduled Santa Lucia Chapter general meeting at the Meadow Park Recreational Center on Tuesday, November 18 at 7:00 p.m. Please attend this important meeting and do your part to help tell Arnold that coastal protection is not on the table for potential cuts.

## Snowy Plover Faces New Threat

by Pete Wagner

On October 10 Rob Schultz, Morro Bay City Attorney, filed a Notice of Intent to Sue the US Fish and Wildlife Service, demanding that the Western Snowy Plover be delisted as a "threatened distinct population segment" under the Endangered Species Act. Schultz, acting for Mayor Yates and a majority of the City Council, asserted that, "Citizens and visitors to Morro Bay ... have suffered financial devastation due to lost tourism in the area." The action stemmed almost solely from a campaign by one individual to delist the plover. Schultz asserted further that, "... beach closures to protect the Plover have caused many tourists to avoid the region", and that, "...local merchants have suffered millions of dollars in lost revenue in coastal areas annually. Hotels, restaurants, and beach-dependent small businesses have been devastated by the closures." No evidence at all was submitted to support these allegations and others made in his letter.

What originally precipitated this peculiar attempt by the City was a dispute over banning dogs along part of the Morro Bay beach because they disturb plover nesting

*continued on page 4*

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—John Muir



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## Santa Lucia Chapter General Meeting

District 5 Supervisorial candidate Jim Patterson of Atascadero will be the featured speaker at the November Sierra Club general meeting. Patterson is the water conservation manager for the Atascadero Mutual Water Company, with a background in agriculture and forestry.

Patterson will be addressing a variety of county issues, including how to accommodate San Luis Obispo's projected population growth while protecting our water supply, wildlife habitat and agricultural economy.

District 5 includes the City of Atascadero, Santa Margarita, Garden Farms, Creston, Pozo, and the northernmost section of San Luis Obispo City. Sierra Club members and the general public who reside in District 5 are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting, as it will be an opportunity to meet the candidate and discuss issues you care about. Bring a friend!

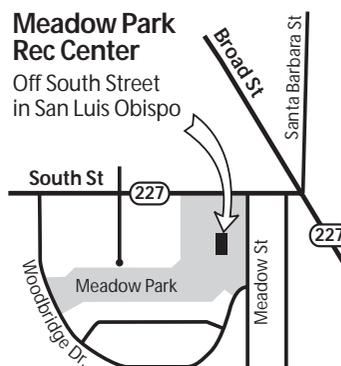
As an added attraction, the Great Coastal Places Campaign will be on hand asking you to join with them to hold Arnold accountable. The goal is to welcome the new governor and let him know that we are eager to work with him to protect our coast.

Sierra Club Members and the General Public are all invited to this event. Refreshments will be available.

Tuesday, November 18, 7:00 p.m.

Meadow Park Rec Center  
San Luis Obispo

Save the date!!



## Chapter Donates to Atascadero Land Preservation Society

by Ursula Luna

The Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club has donated \$2,500 to the Atascadero Land Preservation Society (ALPS) to help purchase the 4 ½ acre Kennedy property located in central Atascadero. Because of the very generous support of individuals, businesses and organizations ALPS has closed escrow, thereby protecting the property from development. The parcel will be kept in permanent open space for public enjoyment.

Slow-growing Blue Oaks have been in serious decline throughout California because of lack of regeneration, land clearing and development. We have the unique fortune that the Kennedy property has substantial Blue Oak regeneration and healthy distribution of various sizes and ages of Blue Oak.

The property is located on Pine Mountain, of which large areas are already in public or semi-public ownership. Therefore the acquisition of the Kennedy property completes a magnificent natural preserve, with a very significant stand of Blue Oaks, Live Oaks, and Grey Pines. It will protect the beautiful ambiance of the historic meandering, tree-lined trail that leads to Stadium Park. It will also allow the extension of the beautiful nature trails which wind through the park.

In addition, the Kennedy property provides a scenic and practical portal into the bowl of Stadium Park. This natural amphitheater was the site of theatrical events, concerts and other gatherings in the time of E. G. Lewis. ALPS hopes that it will again be used as a county-wide venue for quality cultural events.

## SANTA LUCIAN

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The *Santa Lucian* is published 10 times a year. Articles, environmental information and letters to the editor are welcome. The deadline for each issue is the 1st of the month prior.

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### Santa Lucia Chapter

#### 2003 Executive Committee

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Eliane Guillot gelgu2003@yahoo.com  
MEMBER  
Colby Crotzer colby@fix.net  
MEMBER  
Sarah Christie  
MEMBER

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

#### Standing Committees

**Political**  
Colby Concho Crotzer colby@fix.net  
**Conservation** cpwags@charter.net  
Pete Wagner  
**Membership**  
Available  
**Programs** rosspepper@charter.net  
Ross Pepper  
**Housing** janmarx@fix.net  
Jan Marx

#### Other Leaders

**Speakers Bureau**  
Ira Winn 805-781-9466  
**Open Space**  
Gary Felsman 805-473-3694  
**Book Sales**  
Bonnie Walters 805-543-7051  
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Position Open  
**Office Manager**  
Ross Pepper 805-546-8761

#### Activities

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Eliane Guillot gelgu2003@yahoo.com  
Gary Felsman 805-473-3694  
**Canoe/Kayak** jbeigle@charter.net  
Jack Beigle 805-773-2147  
**Equestrian** bdenneen@slonet.org  
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#### General Information

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[santa.lucia.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:santa.lucia.chapter@sierraclub.org)  
Terri Knowlton 805-543-8717  
**Fax** 805-543-8727

Chapter office hours are Monday-Friday,  
10 am-2 pm

[www.santalucia.sierraclub.org](http://www.santalucia.sierraclub.org)

## Change of Address?

### Mail changes to:

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

### or e-mail:

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Outings, events, and more!

## Santa Lucia Chapter Supports Local Ranchers

The Santa Lucia Chapter recently joined a coalition of unlikely partners in sending a letter of support for a grant request from "Home Grown Meat of the Central Coast," a group made up primarily of ranchers from San Luis Obispo and Monterey Counties, including George Work, Jack Varian, Coco Cellelmo, Rex Swan and others. The group applied for a "Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development" grant from the USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service to complete feasibility and marketing studies focused on processing and marketing locally grown meats.

The Sierra Club joined the SLO County Cattlemen's Association and Farm Bureau, the California Rangeland Trust, The Nature Conservancy, the Central Coast AgTourism Council, the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District, and Cal Poly in supporting the project. Rep Bill Thomas, State Senator Bruce McPherson, and Assemblyman Abel Maldonado also sent letters of support.

The ranchers associated with "Home Grown Meat of the Central Coast" have already secured funding to build a mobile livestock slaughter unit which will be available to livestock producers throughout the Central Coast who are interested in expanding their operations into non-tradition markets. Many ranchers recognize that direct marketing of grass-fed meat, organic meats and other non-traditional meat products to consumers looking for alternative meat products can be a way to improve their bottom line. The USDA grant is important to helping them identifying the most effective and efficient ways to process and market those products here on the Central Coast.

This project enjoys such wide support because it could potentially provide significant economic benefits to the local ranching industry, an increased supply of healthy meat choices for local consumers, and tangible financial incentives for ranchers who want to stay in ranching and who otherwise might opt to sell off or subdivide their ranches in order to make ends meet. A classic win-win-win for all concerned!

October 15, 2003

Karen Spatz  
USDA Rural Development  
430 G St., Agency 4169  
Davis, CA 95616

RE: Support for Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grant (VADG) Program Application Submitted by Home Grown Meat of the Central Coast

Dear Ms. Spatz:

The Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club supports the grant application submitted to your agency by "Home Grown Meat of the Central Coast," a coalition of ranchers working on an innovative project which could benefit livestock producers throughout the Central Coast. Specifically, they are requesting \$50,000 from the USDA Rural Development *Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grant Program* for a project titled: **"Explore Feasibility of Value Added Processing and Marketing of Locally Produced Meat"**

The coalition spearheading this project is primarily made up of cattle ranchers from San Luis Obispo, Monterey, and San Benito Counties. Because of growing interest in how grazing animals may, in some situations, contribute to preserving biodiversity and rangeland health, our Chapter (located in San Luis Obispo County) is interested in supporting this effort. Our support is given under the assumption that the processing operations will be carried out in an environmentally acceptable fashion.

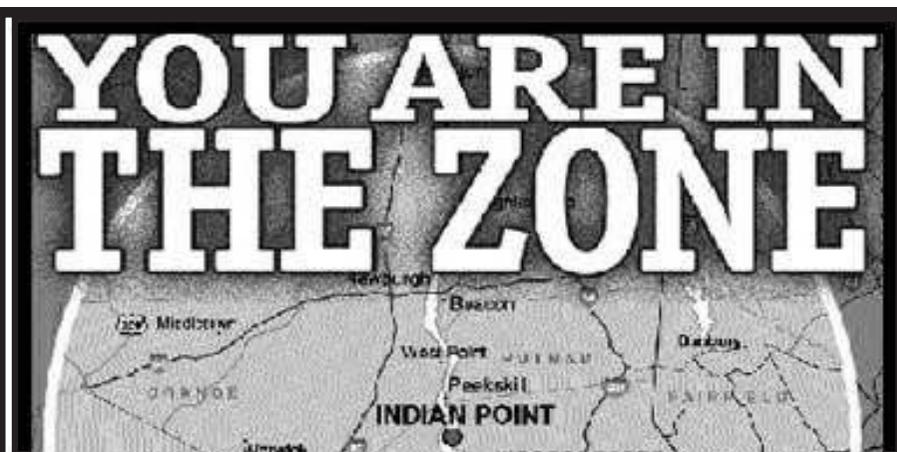
The difficult economic realities of ranching combined with skyrocketing land values in California force many ranching families to sell off their properties, thus fragmenting wildlife habitats and wildlife corridors. We applaud the imaginative approach of these ranchers to preserve their land, keep their operations economically viable, and provide a healthy, local product to consumers.

The "Home Grown Meat of the Central Coast" coalition is in the final stages of contracting for the construction of a mobile processing unit, which will be delivered in March 2004. The unit – the first of its kind in California - will offer Central Coast livestock producers the opportunity to process their meat and access new and more profitable markets for their products closer to home. To date, the ranchers involved in the project had identified 40-50 livestock producers in Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties who have indicated an interest in using the unit once it is operating. The funding requested through the VADG Program will be used toward completion of a feasibility study and marketing plan that will help them identify and more strategically reach those markets.

Thank you for your consideration of the funding requested by "Home Grown Meat of the Central Coast" for this exciting and worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

Tarren Collins  
Chair, Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club



Tuesday, November 18, 7:00-9:00 p.m.  
San Luis Obispo City/County Library

### VIDEO PRESENTATION AND PANEL DISCUSSION

As residents in and around Diablo Canyon and surrounding 'downwind' communities, it is important to educate ourselves on the dangers and options available to insure our safety in an uncertain world. Please join us for this important screening and panel discussion to follow.

### "NOWHERE TO RUN"

A presentation of the Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition and Mothers for Peace

This dynamic 21 minute video graphically illustrates the threats and dangers that the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant—45 miles north of "ground zero" in Manhattan—poses to the entire metropolitan region. A wide coalition of local agencies, citizens and communities are pressing for the reactors to be shut down. In the wake of September 11th, Indian Point and other reactors must be regarded as potential terrorists targets... with devastating consequences. The video explores such scenarios as:

- Fire from the "spent fuel" storage pools
- Radioactive releases and plumes (as in the Chernobyl incident)
- Evacuation difficulties and lack of planning
- Decommissioning and local economics
- Conservation and alternative energy replacements

For more information, contact Mothers for Peace at [mothersforpeace.org](http://mothersforpeace.org) or 773-3881.

**Yes, I would like to help the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club preserve precious lands on the Central Coast**



**by making a donation the Sierra Club Morros Preservation Fund, and/or SLO Land Preservation Fund.**

Morros Preservation Fund       SLO Land Preservation Fund

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Donations are  
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## Snowy Plover

*continued from page 1*

grounds. While the Santa Lucia Chapter has not taken a position on the dog issue, we oppose any attempt to delist the coastal snowy plover population just because some Morro Bay officials want it or because one person says the plover is not in danger. We believe that any evaluation of the status of the plovers should be made in due course by unbiased Fish and Wildlife experts, and that a suit is not only inappropriate but foolish. Consequently Excom approved the following rebuttal which was sent to the same offices addressed by Schultz.

Mr. Dave Allen, Regional Director, US Fish and Wildlife, Portland  
Mr. Steve Williams, Director, US Fish and Wildlife, Washington  
Ms. Gale Norton, Secretary of Interior, Washington

Re: Notice of Intent to Sue Pursuant to 16USC 1540(g)

Dear Mr. Allen, Mr. Williams, and Secretary Norton:

This letter is written on behalf of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club with regard to the City of Morro Bay's petition to delist the western snowy plover in order to reduce restrictions on local beach use. Our chapter has more than 2000 members, 380 of whom live in the communities of Morro Bay and Los Osos closest to the beaches in question. Our beaches are also enjoyed by a much larger population of visitors from as far as hundreds of miles away.

As you know, the issue arose when dogs were prohibited from part of the Morro Bay beach in order to protect snowy plover nesting grounds. We have not taken a position for or against banning leashed dogs from the local beach. We suspect that our membership, like the local community, may be divided on this question. We do, however, adamantly oppose any effort to sidestep the Endangered Species Act by honoring the claim, which stemmed primarily from one individual, that the local plover population is not distinct from the nationwide species and therefore is not threatened. We believe any such determination should be made by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, which is fully qualified and objective, and we are willing to live with the result.

With regard to the putatively adverse impacts of the ban as expressed by City Attorney Robert Schultz, Esq., we question the assertion that Morro Bay has "... suffered financial devastation due to lost tourism...". Any such allegation would have to be backed by hard data which showed conclusively that people stay away because they cannot walk their dogs on the beach. There are no such data. The same is true for the more general allegation that "... beach closures to protect the Plover have caused many tourists to avoid the region.", and that "... local merchants have suffered millions of dollars in lost revenue in coastal areas annually." This may be true in some locales but no evidence was cited that it applies here; in fact, the Morro Bay visiting population is substantially *increased* every year by a widely known annual bird watching event. Further, many individuals enjoy the plovers and prefer to visit dog-free beaches.

Finally, there are beaches immediately north and south of the area in question where dogs are permitted. To document a claim of adverse impact due to protection of plover nesting territory would require data that simply do not exist.

We believe the City of Morro Bay is misguided in threatening litigation as a form of leverage to force an immediate ruling on the status of the plover.

Sincerely,  
Tarren L Collins, Chair, Executive Committee, Santa Lucia Chapter, Sierra Club

# Volunteer Opportunities

*Get involved!*

For more information call our office at (805) 543-8717 or e-mail us at [santa.lucia.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:santa.lucia.chapter@sierraclub.org)

**Newsletter Mailing Help.** Come help with labeling and mailing our newsletter once a month. Call our office at (805) 543-8717 or e-mail us at [santa.lucia.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:santa.lucia.chapter@sierraclub.org)

**Political Committee Members.** Come help the Club review proposed legislation, review the positions of candidates for various offices, and contribute opinions for recommendation to our Executive Committee! Contact Colby Concho Crotzer at [colby@fix.net](mailto:colby@fix.net) or at 772-9253.

**Conservation Committee Members.** The Sierra Club would love to have you join us on the many conservation issues in our local area and beyond.. Currently we are concentrating on protection of the San Simeon Area, Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant Permit, Duke Power Plant at Morro Bay, National Estuary Program at Morro Bay, and the Marine Interests Group. See detail below. Call our office at (805) 543-8717 or e-mail us at [santa.lucia.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:santa.lucia.chapter@sierraclub.org) if you want to help out.

*Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant*, where we are co-intervenors with the Mothers for Peace on PG&E's application to the NRC to construct an outdoor site for storage of used nuclear fuel rods. We are Parties in the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's hearings on PG&E's permit to continue to use ocean water for once-through cooling. We are also participating with the MFP in a petition to the California Public Utilities Commission to reconstitute the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee in order to add public outreach to its responsibilities. We need people to read, analyze, attend meetings, and write letters.

*Duke Power Plant at Morro Bay*, where we are working with the Coastal Alliance on Plant Expansion on eliminating the high mortality of estuarine larvae and eggs that are sucked into the cooling water intake. We are urging the use of dry cooling which uses no estuarine water at all. This will likely end up as a statewide Sierra Club effort to eliminate once through cooling for all new or reconstructed plants in California. Again, volunteers to read, analyze, attend meetings, write, and lobby.

*National Estuary Program at Morro Bay*, where we participate in key committees that deal with an extensive MBNEP program to reduce sediment input to Morro Bay, to monitor Bay water quality and marine life, and to educate the public.

Interested volunteers can help out the program by signing up for field sampling in the Bay and tributary streams, and serving as guides in the newly formed museum.

*Marine Interests Group*, a recently formed body for which we serve on a Working Committee that is attempting to bring together all the marine interests on the central coast and create a long term program for protection of the coastal region along the lines of a marine sanctuary or equivalent organization. We need volunteers to attend its meetings and report to the Conservation Committee.

**Membership, Programs and Special Events.** We strive to provide quality information to our members and the general public. We are looking for individuals to help set up, coordinate and arrange up coming events with the Sierra Club. A sampling of events we need help for are; our monthly general meeting program, annual summer picnic, Creek Days, Earth Day Fair, SLO Botanical Garden Festival, Christmas in the Plaza, Farmers Market and many more. Call our office at (805) 543-8717 or e-mail us at [santa.lucia.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:santa.lucia.chapter@sierraclub.org) if you want to help out.

**Chapter Fund Raising for Saving Special Places along the Central Coast.** The Sierra Club has created two special accounts on the Central Coast. The Morros Preservation and SLO Land Preservation Fund. In order for these funds to be most effective, we need help in raising money for these for different projects along the Central Coast. As funds are acquired, we can then offer local organizations grants for match much larger amounts. Call our office at (805) 543-8717 or e-mail us at [santa.lucia.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:santa.lucia.chapter@sierraclub.org) if you want to help out.

**Outings Leaders and Leader Assistants.** The Santa Lucia Chapter is looking for individuals to help organize, lead and assist our current outings program. Help is needed for *Sierra Singles, Singles Coordinator, Canoe/Kayak Section, Sierra Campers with Kids*, and our regular outings program. No experience is necessary; we will provide the necessary information and training to help you get started. Call our office at (805) 543-8717 or e-mail us at [santa.lucia.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:santa.lucia.chapter@sierraclub.org) if you want to help out.

**Trail Watch Volunteers.** With today's declining budget the Forest Service, State Parks, County of San Luis Obispo continue to look toward volunteers who travel many of the local trails surrounding San Luis Obispo. The volunteers coordinated through the Sierra Club, or other trail organization may make reports on current trail and camp conditions, or may be asked to help with building new trails or maintaining existing ones.

If you would like to volunteer, help organize the **Trail Watch Volunteers**, or just be put on a mailing list for future events, call our office at (805) 543-8717 or e-mail us at [santa.lucia.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:santa.lucia.chapter@sierraclub.org)

## California Bans Salmon Farming in Its Waters

Seattle (WA), USA: California has become the second state in the nation to formally ban salmon farming in its waters, following the lead of wild salmon stronghold Alaska. In a victory for salmon farming critics, outgoing California governor Gray Davis signed into law Senate Bill 245 during his last days in office. The bill prohibits exotic species, salmonids and transgenic fish in state waters. It does not affect the state's salmon hatchery programs or any state-sponsored supplementation projects.

The legislation was introduced by Senator Byron Sher and Assemblymember Patty Berg in early February and was amended at least five times before it was sent to the governor in August.

While salmon farmers have not targeted California for net pen aquaculture expansion because of its exposed shoreline and warmer waters, aquaculture critics wanted to prevent the possibility after watching the industry's impact elsewhere, said Zeke Grader, executive director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA) and a sponsor of the new law.

"It is good news for our fishing fleet and the environment," Grader told IntraFish. Noting the industry's highly publicized escape and pollution issues, he said, "We did not want to see the same problems that are in British Columbia."

Grader also said that he backed the bill because of fears over transgenic fish. While there are currently no transgenic salmon on the market, Waltham, Mass.-based Aqua Bounty Farms is applying to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to market the fish. "If you manipulate them in the right way, who knows what type of environment they will adapt to," Grader said. "Our feeling is that if we restore and protect our habitat, you don't need salmon farms."

However, Kevin Bright, manager of Pan Fish's Washington state subsidiary Cypress Island, took issue with the new law, dismissing the legislation as poor policy. He explained that although the company has never considered California for net pen operations, the regulation "is unfortunate... There are laws to regulate farming. Outright bans aren't the way to do things."

Meanwhile, others fear the legislation will have a chilling effect on aquaculture development in the United States. Washington state senator Dan Swecker, who wrote a letter to Davis urging him to not pass the bill, remarked, "The momentum is set to put serious constraints on

aquaculture for political expediency... I don't know if this will be the straw to break the camel's back but it is an accumulative regulatory burden that will discourage development of aquaculture in the U.S."

In addition, Swecker, who also serves as treasurer of the Washington Fish Growers Association, noted that by only permitting the farming of native stocks, California is opening itself up to the potential for interbreeding between farmed native fish and wild fish - an event less likely to occur with non-natives like Atlantic salmon. "In my mind, this is the worst possible situation. There are stocks that tend to breed with other stocks. There is legitimate opposition to using native stocks. It's a poor policy."

However, not all industry members were opposed to SB 245, most notably the California Aquaculture Association. Justin Malan, the association's director, explained his position in earlier interview with IntraFish. "We did persuade the author to limit the ban to transgenics, exotics and salmonid species. The transgenics because they were really effectively banned in regulations. Exotics because it is very unlikely that they would be permitted in open waters in California and our association is trying to move away from introduction to new exotics in the state," Malan said. "And salmonids species because for a similar reason we saw little opportunity for salmon pens in California waters, certainly within state waters, because of a very large number of issues."

Commenting on this, Swecker issued a stinging condemnation of CAA's stance, "The thing that discourages me is the complicity of the California Aquaculture Association. They've opted for political expediency instead of science," he said. "I think [CAA] will rue the day that they supported the legislation."

### Trees in SLO Area Presentation

Want to know more about our local forest habitat? This 30 minute PowerPoint presentation illustrates and describes local trees along with a discussion of insect/disease problems and sprawl. This program is suitable for adult and high school age groups and is narrated by Tim O'Keefe, Professor of Forestry at Cal Poly. To schedule a showing, call Tim O'Keefe at 756-2021.

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## We Need You -- Get Involved!

by Pete Wagner, Chair, Conservation Committee

Our chapter can be a powerful influence on behalf of the environment, but not without the participation of our 2,000 members. We have a new opportunity to mobilize our membership through several active committees and, for the first time, a chapter coordinator, Terri Knowlton. But the small number of committee members and Terri cannot alone do the work of the whole chapter. We need members to volunteer in many areas. Here are some of them:

**Attendance at public meetings:** Often a spokesperson presents an approved position on behalf of the Chapter during public comment at a meeting on, for example, Diablo, Hearst, desalination, Oceano dunes, or urban sprawl. At these meetings we need a pool of volunteers to appear in support of our speaker. Volunteers should be available on call, sometimes on short notice. Officials presiding at public meetings, especially elected officials, as well as agency staff in attendance take note of the nose count of pros and cons in the audience. The effect of a large and visible constituency can be impressive and can affect a decision. You don't have to give a three minute speech. What can be just as effective is for member after member to rise and simply express their support of our stated position. For those who do want to speak up but don't know exactly what to say, we can offer suggestions.

**Lobbying:** On occasion, we need a good turnout when we visit an elected official or an agency staff person on behalf of the Chapter. As above, we need volunteers who are willing to be available on call for occasional lobbying efforts on subjects lying within their interest.

**Committees and individual projects:** Requests for Chapter action arise from members, the Executive Committee (ExCom), and the existing committees. We now have three standing committees in addition to ExCom: Conservation, Housing, and Political Affairs. With few exceptions, existing committee members are the only ones to date who have assumed responsibility for leading the Chapter efforts on specific issues. This means we have had to limit the number of projects to the number and willingness of a relatively small cadre of people. If more volunteers come forward, the Chapter can broaden its efforts. As the need arises, and with increased volunteer interest, more committees with other areas of specialization and more projects may become possible to undertake. It can be especially helpful if interested volunteers offer to lead on an issue of particular interest to them, whether or not it falls within the purview of an existing committee.

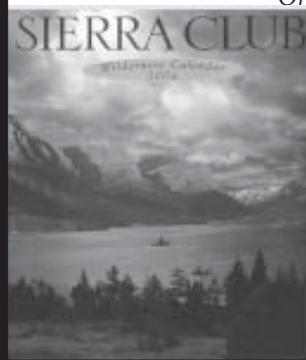
**Tabling:** The Chapter staffs a Sierra Club table at several public events every year. Some attract a sizeable audience of people to whom we need to convey the Sierra Club message. To date, however, only a handful of members has set up the table, staffed it throughout the event, and packed up at the end. We need volunteers with an interest in meeting the public and disseminating information about the club to help with this important function.

**Attendance at local governmental meetings:** Issues of interest to the Chapter often make their first appearance at meetings of the Supervisors, City Councils and Community Service Districts or the planning meetings that precede them. In the best of worlds, we would have a designated volunteer responsible for keeping track of every such meeting agenda, attending when an item of interest to the Chapter arose, and reporting to the appropriate committee or to ExCom if they thought the Chapter should become actively involved. Some members already attend governmental meetings on a regular basis. We would like to organize them and add other volunteers to complete the coverage of local governmental meetings.

Please give some thought to helping your chapter broaden its influence and its effectiveness by participating in these activities. A call or e-mail to Terri at the office will put you on the list. (805) 543-8717  
<santa.lucia.chapter@sierraclub.org>

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## Lopez Lake Overnight Campout

by Jack Beigle

Thirteen boats launched a 9:00 a.m. to avoid the wind that usually comes up from the northwest about 11:00 a.m. This morning we also wanted to avoid the heat. The wind was from the east, light, hot and dry. We had an enjoyable paddle to our Encinal remote campsite. There is no road to this site. You either boat or hike in.

We set up camp and then ate lunch. After lunch we took a hike along the lakeshore to the head of Lopez Canyon. We wanted to walk up Lopez Creek to check on the beaver family that we have seen on several other outings. We split into three groups and took alternate routes (two by land and one by water).

The first group followed a trail that stopped at a steep rock outcropping. The second group followed the shoreline and stopped when I broke through the thin crust on the muddy shore and I went down to my knee in the mud. The hard part was getting my foot out without getting my shoe sucked off in the process. The third group was successful. They walked up the creek, ankle deep, on the hard rock bottom to the beaver dam.

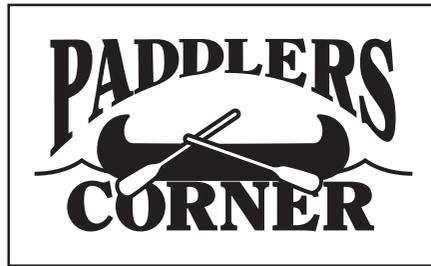
The dam was very impressive. It was very well built and created a large pond that protected their lodge from predators. The beavers were sound asleep in their lodge because they work the night shift. We were glad to get the report that the beavers were doing well.

We returned to camp. I cleaned off most of the mud, changed into a clean pair of socks and we took off on another hike up to the ridge on the Duna Vista Trail. It was mid afternoon, hot and dry. The dust on the trail showed footprints of the animals that had preceded us. At one turn in the trail we found a cougar print that was very fresh. It couldn't have been over two hours old. Fortunately it was heading away from our camp. That was one big kitty print!

We returned to camp and still had time for some reading before dinner, campfire stories and a comfortable sleeping bag. We enjoyed the sounds of night in the woods, great horned owls, screech owls, deer, frogs, etc. Almost everyone got up before dawn to watch the first light awaken the wildlife around the lake. It is an emotional experience. I highly recommend it.

Wildlife awakens  
Time to eat or be eaten  
Dawn on Lopez Lake

Check the outing schedule and join us on the water.



## Conservation Committee Column

by Pete Wagner, Chair, Conservation Committee

The Committee continues to work on developing a Chapter position on desalination for Excom's consideration. We have not reached any general conclusions pro or con; however we did conclude that private ownership of desal plant, that is, drinking water for sale, should not be permitted. Excom subsequently passed a resolution opposing private ownership of desal facilities. Stay tuned.

The Marine Interest Group's Working Committee continues a hectic schedule of meetings on protection of the central coast in the region between marine sanctuaries to the north and the south. It appears the MIGWC might reach their conclusions and recommendations within the next few weeks. There will be a pivotal meeting on Friday, November 7, after which we hope to know more clearly what direction they are taking, whether they have reached consensus, and what product will come out of their efforts.

The Committee has been actively following the Mothers for Peace actions on Diablo. Excom approved a contribution of \$2000 for general support of MFP in our role as co-intervenors in the PG&E application to build a huge outdoor storage facility for used nuclear fuel, the notorious ISFSI. The Mothers are pursuing a suit against NRC in district court in order to force NRC to fully analyze preventive measures and countermeasures in the event of a terrorist attack. NRC has flatly refused to do so, and litigation appears to be the only remaining avenue.

Readers of the Tribune may recall a recent editorial on the County Board of Supervisors' approval of an application by Chris and Linda Behr, life Chapter members, to erect a wind generator on their 89 acre rural property that can produce a maximum of 10 KW. (The average urban family uses about one kilowatt or less). This was the culmination of a long, trying struggle against a group whose opposition to the project was based on grounds we found untenable. We participated actively on behalf of the Behrs throughout the approval process from the first day it was considered by the County Planning Commission, and we were delighted that the Board ultimately approved it, somewhat surprisingly by a unanimous vote.

We reviewed a recent letter from Morro Bay City Attorney Rob Schultz which announced the City's intent to sue the US Fish and Wildlife Service, demanding that the western snowy plover be delisted as a threatened species. We opposed this action and forwarded to Excom a rebuttal letter which can be found elsewhere in this issue.

## 44th Annual Sierra Club Anniversary Dunes Walk

Come rain or shine, storm or a beautiful hiking day, our walk will take place. This is the 44th year, for the now famous Annual Anniversary Nipomo Dunes Walk of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the National Sierra Club. This walk has annually celebrated the founding of our chapter on the first Saturday in January since 1961.

The leader of that first walk was a young environmentalist who was called "The Lady of the Dunes," due to her efforts to save the dunes from a PG&E plan to build a nuclear power plant in the heart of the fragile, scientifically rare natural resource wonderland at Oso Flaco. Kathleen Jones led this walk almost every year since 1961. This year we will walk with fond memories of Kathleen.

Come and help us celebrate our chapter's history at 9:00 am, on Saturday, January 3, 2004, in the Oso Flaco Lake parking lot! Coming from the north, take Hwy. 1 south from Pismo Beach approximately 10 miles. As you drive down off of the Nipomo Mesa, watch for a sign on the right reading "Oso Flaco Lake Road," turn right and continue 3 miles. The road ends in the parking lot. Coming from the south, take Main St. in Santa Maria toward the ocean, turn right on Hwy 1. Drive slowly through Guadalupe (25 mph), cross the Santa Maria River and continue approximately 3 miles. Watch for a sign on the right reading "Oso Flaco Lake Road," turn left and continue 3 miles. The road ends in the parking lot.

Plans have been made for short, medium and long walks. Carpool if possible. There is a \$4.00/car parking fee. Bring a picnic lunch, binoculars, a camera, if you wish, and warm, snugly clothing (a woolen cap is good). The dunes may have winter breezes.

Call Jack Beigle for additional details, 773-2147.

## Quick ... Can you name 32 of your neighbors?

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Oak Creek Commons, our 36-home environmental cohousing neighborhood, is now being built on a beautiful 14-acre site in Paso Robles. Our resident-designed, sustainable neighborhood includes highly energy-efficient 1 to 4 bedroom homes, a community center, organic gardens, and 10 acres of wooded land preserved in its natural state, including a hiking trail, flowing creek and hilltop sunset views. Join us for Construction Site Tours on **Sat., Nov. 15, Dec. 6, and Dec. 20 at 2:30 pm** and Cohousing Orientations on Sundays at 10:00 am.

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or visit [www.OakCreekCommons.org](http://www.OakCreekCommons.org)



# 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 January 1, 2004). Please submit your ad and payment to:  
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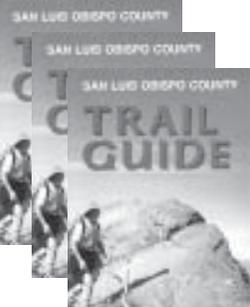
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## A Will . . .

. . . 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

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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.

**Sun., Nov. 16, 9:30 a.m., BICYCLE NATURE TOUR.** Meet east side of parking lot at Pismo Pier, ride to Avila Pier via Bob Jones Pathway and return by Pirates Cove with many nature stops and solving of world problems on the way. Must wear helmet. Confirm a few days before: Bill 929-3647 or <bdenneen@slonet.org>

**Sun., Nov. 23, 9:30 a.m., KAYAK OSO FLACO LAKE.** Meet at lake with kayak, PFD and mechanism to move kayak to lake. Bring binoculars for bird watching. Confirm 929-3647 or <bdenneen@slonet.org>

**Thur., Nov. 27, THANKSGIVING BLACK LAKE HIKE.** Details not firm yet. Check just before: 929-3647 or <bdenneen@slonet.org>

**Sun., Nov. 30, 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 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org

**Fri-Mon, Dec. 5-8, Service in Carrizo Plains National Monument.** On Saturday and Sunday we will assist monument staff in one of two possible projects: removal of fence wires to allow antelope freer access to the range, or placement of signs to restrict ORV use, indicate protected areas, and provide interpretation for the public. On Friday I will be taking a long day hike on the west side of the Caliente Range, and on Monday we will have time for sightseeing wherever our whims take us. Join the group for any part of the weekend. This is an

opportunity to combine carcamping, day-hiking, exploring, and service in a relatively unknown wilderness. Contact Ldr: Craig Deutsche, (310) 477-6670, deutsche@earthlink.net. *CNRCC Desert Com*

**Sun., Dec. 7, 9:30 a.m., COAST NATURE HIKE.** See a remote area of dunes with botanizing, bird watching and poetry. Confirm and details a few days before. Bill 929-3647 or <bdenneen@slonet.org>

**Sat., Dec. 12, Gunsight Loop Joshua Tree National Park.** This one is written up in the Patty Furbush hike book, but we've altered it quite a bit to what we feel makes it more interesting. Initially, there is a whole lot of boulder scrambling, sometimes tough and mentally as well as physically challenging. After that we hike to a point where we catch the Boy Scout Trail following it back in the general direction of the beginning point forming a loop of about six miles and should take about six hours to get through. There is no significant altitude gain however we do come out of a wash onto a 100 foot or so steep embankment. Bring those hardy boots, two liters of water, snacks, layered clothing and a lunch. Al and Ann Murdy 760-366-2932 or aemurdy@eee.org. *CNRCC Desert Com/San Gorgonio Chap*

**Sat., Dec. 13, 10 a.m., CANOE/ KAYAK MORRO BAY SAND SPIT.** A winter paddle to the sand spit for a short hike and picnic lunch. Take a break in your Christmas shopping and join us on the bay. You can write your friends Back East and tell them about this outing. We usually get beautiful weather this time of year. A short business meeting will follow lunch to discuss future outings. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, windbreaker and a picnic lunch. Meet at Morro Bay State Park Marina. High tide 11:41 a.m. Details call Jack at (773-2147)

**Sun., Dec. 14, 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: 929-3647 or <bdenneen@slonet.org>

**Sun., Dec. 21, 9:30 a.m., TRAILRIDE.** Nipomo Park and Nipomo Native Garden horseback tour. Must have own horse and wear a

helmet. A celebration of the Winter Solstice.

**Thur., Dec. 25, 9:30 a.m., CHRISTMAS BLACK LAKE HIKE.** Meet on Hwy#1 just north of BLC and south of Brushpoppers across from Vet.Clinic. Last year we had 28 people. See a beautiful protected area managed by the Land Conservancy and purchased with Prop#70 funds. Check just before: 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org

**Sat-Mon, Dec. 27-29, Exploring and Service in Imperial County.** This will be another outing to monitor off-road vehicle activity in the Yuha Basin Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), and the Jacumba and Coyote Mountains Wilderness areas. The weekend will include day hikes into the scenic and remote Skull Valley and Davis Valley. We will be car camping near monitoring areas or staying overnight in wilderness. Trip limited to 6 participants, approval of leaders. For info and reservations send SASE to Leader Cheryl Reiff or Edie Harmon at Sierra Club, 3820 Ray Street, San Diego, CA 92259, (619)-299-1743, edie@sierraclubsandiego.org or cherylness@sbcglobal.net. *CNRCC Desert Com*

**Thur., Jan. 1, 9:30 a.m., NEW YEARS MUSSEL ROCK HIKE.** 28th annual hike to the top of the highest dunes. 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: 929-3647 or <bdenneen@slonet.org>

**Sat., Jan. 3, 9 a.m., 44th Annual Sierra Club Anniversary Dunes Hike at Oso Flaco Lake.** Come and take an easy, moderate or long walk on this 42nd annual celebration of our Sierra Club's first official hike in the dunes. There will be hikes for all ages and fitness levels. Meet in the Oso Flaco Lake parking lot and hear stories of the early days of our chapter. Carpooling is advised, as there is a \$4.00/car parking fee. For details call Jack Beigle (773-2147)

**Sat., Jan. 10, 8:45 a.m., 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



Photo by Joaquin Palting

cars. Meet at 8:45 a.m. at the Santa Barbara Government Center, Santa Maria, or 9:15 a.m. at Mattei's Tavern, Los Olivos. Rain cancels. Hikes are always subject to change; always contact the leader: JERRY 928-3598 (AR)

**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 from. Complete details will be published in early December. If you have any questions call leader, George Jammal, at 831-335-7748.

**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](http://www.santalucia.sierraclub.org) for the most up-to-date listing of activities.**