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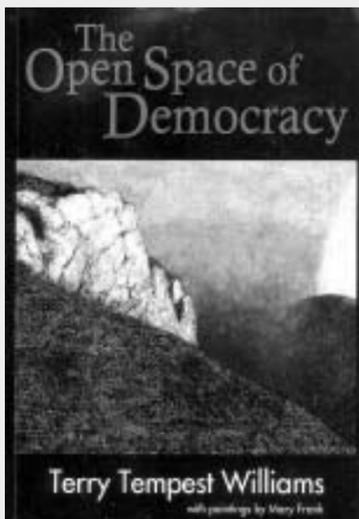
March 2005
Volume 42, No. 3

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GENERAL MEETING

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



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SANTA LUCIA

LUCIAN

Protecting and Preserving the Central Coast



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

WHY CAFTA MUST DIE

Just Say No to Anti-Environmental Trade

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

The Bush Administration has completed negotiations for an expansion of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to Central America. In the name of fostering

commerce, the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) would put communities at risk by setting sharp limits on governments' authority to protect public health and the environment. Furthermore, the removal of investment barriers will open up essential public services to privatization and deregulation.

Central American countries can expect similar treatment.

CAFTA could also increase food safety risks. If CAFTA comes into force, it would limit the ability of governments to implement policies to ensure that food crossing our borders meet food safety standards.

CAFTA poses a danger to small farmers and biodiversity due to the

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

Laws protecting the environment could be declared an impediment to potential profits earned by foreign corporations. After the implementation of NAFTA, residents in the Mexican state of San Luis Potosi refused to accept a toxic waste site that the U.S. corporation Metalclad

planned to establish in their community. Metalclad sued Mexico, using NAFTA's "investor rights" provisions and won a \$16 million judgment.

Similarly, a Canadian Company, Glamis Gold, has filed a claim against the U.S. demanding \$50 million in compensation due to restrictions on open pit mining in Imperial County after California passed a law requiring "clean up" to protect indigenous communities and the environment. If CAFTA becomes law, the

Who We Are Together

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

I go to yoga these days to keep my body from getting too set in its ways. Strangely enough, it helps my mind to stay flexible, too. Our leader begins each yoga session with the reminder: "Honor the teacher within; and honor the teachers who have come before."

And that is how I want to begin this letter to you: first, by honoring some of the people who have come before me in the work of this Chapter and who continue to serve as my teachers. This list is personal to me, and isn't complete: these are snapshots from my scrapbook of the past ten years of my association with the Santa Lucia Chapter. Then I will speak a little about "my teacher within."

My teachers who have come before

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

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The Giving Time

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

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

Please watch for the envelope in your mailbox this month and reply as generously as you can.

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"Every good thing,
great and small,
needs defense."

—John Muir



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Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.



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Boulder, CO 80322-2968

Santa Lucia Chapter General Meeting

NO MEETING THIS MONTH
as we invite you to ponder the question:

IS ENVIRONMENTALISM DEAD?

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

For this reason, I want to encourage our membership, and all others who wish to join us, to engage in the important debates

global activism is effective.

These are not "think tank" issues. They live within our community, and affect us in very personal, day-to-day ways. Therefore, starting in April, our Chapter will begin hosting discussions of these and other important questions facing us. The first such meeting will be held Wednesday, April 13, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Ludwick Center in San Luis Obispo. Details will be in the April *Santa Lucian*.

Terry Tempest Williams' latest book, *The Open Space of Democracy*, will serve as a springboard for our

"Is environmentalism dead?" Read the text of the speech by former Sierra Club president Adam Wehrbach, the paper "The Death of Environmentalism," by Michael Shellenberger and Ted Nordhaus, the rebuttal by Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope, and ongoing debate at <http://grist.org/news/maindish/2005/01/13/doe-intro/>

surfacing in the environmental community at this very moment. For instance: Some have proclaimed that "Environmentalism is dead!" And some now argue that we must have "top down" solutions to our environmental problems. Others remain committed to grassroots activism. Some assert that we must engage in dialogue to find new paths through these turbulent times. Others say that talking is a waste of time. Some suggest that all political/environmental activism is local. Others believe that only

opening discussions. We will explore her concept of "reflective activism," and what relevance it might have for you and me. You can purchase her book through Amazon.com for \$8.00, or come by the Chapter office, where we have copies available for one-week loans (it's a quick read).

Another book that will come up in our discussions will be *The Spell of the Sensuous*, by David Abram, also at Amazon.com or other bookstores for \$14.95. As these discussions go forward, I hope you will provide references for us to explore and discuss.

-- Karen Merriam

Change of Address?

Mail changes to:

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

or e-mail:
address.changes@sierraclub.org

Trash that Fence!

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

By Letty French
Acting Membership Chair

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

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

Before 0900, our resource person, Alice Koch, showed up to lead us to the work area on the American Ranch. Before 10, we were hard at work, getting three strands of barbed wire off T-poles and old wooden poles. Several men became specialists at yanking out the T-poles. That tool requires both strength and weight and is exhausting work. We worked on different techniques — is it better to roll 3 strands of wire all together, or easier to do one at a time?. How big a roll to make before cutting it and starting again?

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

Visit us on
the Web!

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

Outings, events, and
more!

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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

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MEMBER

Sue Harvey ifsusan@tcsn.net
MEMBER

Jack Morrow jlmorrow@earthlink.net
MEMBER

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

Steven Marx
TREASURER
(TBD)
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Pam Heatherington

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Cal French

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1204 Nipomo St., San Luis Obispo, CA

www.santalucia.sierraclub.org

HopeDance

Hope Dance MEDiA presents FILMS, slide shows and talks In SLO at the SLO Library, Osos and Palm streets.

Co-sponsored by CodePink, Information Press, Sierra Club, & the Green Party.

Friday, March 11, 7pm; Donations BLISS (drama) A film about a marriage entering into the tantric realm of healing.

Sunday, March 13, 7pm; Donations LAST CHANCE FOR EDEN (an exploration of healing racism in the workplace)

Wednesday, March 16, 7pm; Donations / Talk/Presentation. "Rejuvenating & Healing Miracles" Featuring Cindy Sellers, Founder, Angel Farms, Keauau, Hawaii.

Friday, March 18, 7pm; Donations A talk by Frank Kahl on "America's Addiction to War: What is it Costing You?" with Q&A plus a short 10min. film on "Economics of Empire."

Saturday, March 19th, 5pm (after the pro-peace events in SLO); Donations. ARLINGTON WEST -- interviews with diverse people who come to visit the crosses (on various California beaches) symbolizing the number of slain soldiers.

Thursday, March 24, 7pm; Donations A Talk with Bob Sachs PEACEFUL HEART, COURAGEOUS ACTION Lessons for Conscious Engaged Activists from "The Buddha at War."

Friday, March 25, 7pm; Donations. ONE NATION UNDER GOD. Film and Q&A with Dr. Marie Moore, clinical psychologist and president of PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)

Thursday, March 31, 7pm; Donations. Sick, Twisted, Funny and Politically Incorrect Video Shorts. Former MoonRadio CEO Greg Junell presents his 2-hour Tiny Film Festival.

Friday, April 1, 7pm; \$5 and \$10 Donation; Fundraiser for the Critical Art Ensemble Defense Fund (www.caedefensefund.org)

THE YES MEN (a very funny film about 2 guys impersonating the WTO; changing the world one prank at a time!)



Thursday, April 7, 7pm; Donations TIBET: CRY OF THE SNOW LION -- nine voyages though Tibet, India and Nepal. Tibet's troubled recent past is documented by powerful personal stories and underground film never before assembled in a single film.

The Good Oiled Days

Superior Court judge Steven Crandall spoke to the SLO County Bar Association on February 17 – five days after the federal government extended offshore oil leases, and the possibility of future oil drilling, off San Luis Obispo — about his days as a lawyer prosecuting the Exxon Valdez oil spill case.

His favorite memory of the case was of a tape of a phone conversation between Exxon's president and the head of their p.r. department, just after the Exxon CEO appeared on television to "promise the American people that Exxon will clean up every drop of oil in Prince William Sound." The lawyers bringing suit discovered a tape of a frantic phone conversation from later that day between

the CEO and the corporation's p.r. chief, who was trying to tell his boss that he didn't understand; the Exxon Valdez had created an out-of-control, 20-mile oil slick: "If we had every boat on the planet out there, we couldn't possibly clean up all the oil."

"No, George, you don't understand," replied the CEO. "I don't give a damn about picking up the oil; I want every boat out there to show the public!"

Crandall's team won a \$5-billion verdict against Exxon in the class action suit. Sixteen years later, it has not been paid and the judgment is still on appeal.



Judge Crandall, reminiscing

Mr. Blakeslee Goes to Sacramento

On February 22, Sam Blakeslee, our very courageous Republican State Assemblyman, introduced a bill seeking a comprehensive study of the seismic vulnerability of the Diablo Canyon plant and the potential of its conversion into a non-nuclear facility. (www.sanluisobispo.com/mld/sanluisobispotribune/10891149.htm)

This is potentially a major step in the right direction. Assemblyman Blakeslee's training as a geologist has made him sensitive to seismic concerns, and everyone (with the conspicuous exception of PG&E) agrees that studies are a good thing, and more information is better than less.

Please send letters of support to:

Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee
State Capitol
Room 5126
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916-319-2033
Fax: 916-319-2133

There is also a letter you can send to the Governor on the www.a4nr.org, the website of The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility, under *newsletters*. (If you subscribe, the Alliance will send action alerts as they happen.) Please cc: your letter by email to ANR founder and Santa Lucia Chapter Diablo Canyon Task Force Chair Rochelle Becker at rochelle@a4nr.org or P.O. Box 1328, San Luis Obispo CA 93406-1328



Is Diablo's day of judgment nigh?

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

Save San Luis Obispo

...It's your choice!

On April 26, 2005 SLO City voters will have the power to decide the fate of the massive Marketplace mall proposed for the Dalidio farm, thanks to the hard work of Save San Luis Obispo, a grassroots coalition of neighbors, environmentalists, students and small business people opposed to the project. Visit the website www.savesanluisobispo.org. The campaign will be hard-fought and expensive. The wealthy L.A. and Texas developers will stop at nothing and have even filed a lawsuit against us. Save San Luis Obispo needs your financial help right now to win. Cut out this ad and send any contribution, large or small, today. Thank you.

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March 12: "Oil on Ice"

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

The bad news: Not everyone thinks that's good news. The Sierra Club and



others are organizing an Arctic Action Day on March 12, encouraging folks around the country to throw house parties to screen *Oil on Ice*, a new DVD presented by Sierra Club Productions.

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

Go to: www.sierraclub.org/oilonice/house_party/

Environmental Justice Wins in California

By Diane Takvorian
Executive Director,
Environmental
Health Coalition

On February 16, for the first time ever, the California Environmental Protection Agency agreed to use cumulative impacts and a precautionary approach to guide its work.

Initially, these

definitions will guide CalEPA's efforts in pilot project communities in 2005 and 2006 but the much larger victory is the policy foundation these definitions provide for new legislation and regulations that will take a comprehensive approach to community health.

The definitions are:

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

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

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

We have much more work to do but together we can do it! *Si se puede!*

CAFTA

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likely increase in imports and potential contamination from genetically engineered (GE) foods. In Mexico, GE crops imported from the U.S. without restriction have contaminated local crops and reduced yields.

It is not surprising that agribusiness cartels have won language in CAFTA that clears the way for expanded predatory “dumping” of agricultural products from one country to another at below the cost of production as a means to keep the prices received by farmers in all countries as low as possible. Agribusiness wants to be able to dump commodities in order to beat down prices and ensure cheap raw materials that subsidize further mas-



urban areas to compete for jobs and to face the threat of malnutrition and starvation.

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

sive centralization of agriculture. As happened in Mexico under NAFTA, without protections against predatory dumping, subsistence farmers will be forced from their lands into

Who We Are

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Perello is tough also, but I see his words flowing out the pen or computer, constantly informing and educating politicians and legislators about Sierra Club values and environmental priorities. By his words and deeds, **Richard Kranzdorf** has taught me that political activism and environmentalism walk hand in hand.

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

Some have heard me say that “I covet **Pat Veesart**’s mind!” Pat has impressed on me the importance of being well-armed with facts and a deep understanding of issues that influence land use and conservation. His clarity of thought is delivered in straight talk that often infuriates those who haven’t done their homework. **Jack Beigle**, no less an activist, is a man of activity. He shows us—by putting foot on the ground, oar in the water, and his presence in the meeting room—why it is important to join together to protect and save what we love.

Gary Felsman is responsible for bringing me into this Chapter. While I was content to just hike the hills, he encouraged me to take responsibility for this land I care so much about: to conserve and preserve open spaces; to help make trails; to lead others on hikes to discover their own connection to the land; and to serve on the ExCom. Gary is a constant reminder to me of the importance of “walking the talk.” **Pam Heatherington** is a mentor of gener-

osity and partnership. Her presence reminds me that our connections with each other, and the environment for which we work, run wide and deep.

My teacher within

My “teacher within” keeps reminding me that my work for the Chapter and for the environment rest on the same foundation: that of **honoring relationships**. When we ignore or disregard our interdependence on our “natural” world, and on each other as a part of the natural world, we cause injury, pain, and destruction. Neither the land, nor the oceans, nor the air, nor any part of our planet earth, animate or inanimate, including our own lives, can survive persistent assaults borne of disrespect and dishonor. Resilience in the wake of deep wounds has its limits.

Protecting, defending and restoring the integrity of our environment is the same, to me, as protecting and defending a loved one. To me, pouring poisons into our earth, our oceans, and our air, is the same as pouring poisons into the mouth of a loved one. Selling and using lands for exploitation is the same as selling people into exploitation. That is how “environmentalism” *feels* to me. It is all about honoring relationships. So I will need your understanding if I seem at times to be grieving. And I will need your understanding also when I am angry. It is not easy for any of us to witness the wounding of a beloved.

That is why I wish to join with you—to care together for what we love. It is insupportable to stand alone, to feel helpless. Together we can make it through these dark times in which the wounds to us and to our environment are many and deep. Together we can restore honor, dignity, and integrity to our interconnections with the natural world and with each other. That *is possible* in our practice and our work *today*. And

zón and Andean regions have been fiercely opposing the destructive oil and mining schemes of North American corporations. Unfortunately, rather than learning from the mistakes of the past, the Bush Administration, at the behest of its corporate clients, wants to clear away local environmental and cultural opposition by replicating NAFTA’s risky corporate lawsuit provisions in all future trade agreements.

What can we do to stop these destructive trade policies? Letters to local papers are key. Congress should reject the CAFTA agreement and tell our negotiators to bring back trade agreements that uphold, rather than undermine, labor and environmental standards. **Congressman Bill Thomas especially needs to hear from his constituents** in Paso Robles, Ar-

royo Grande and Atascadero that you oppose CAFTA. Contact Sue Harvey at (805) 239-0542, ifsusan@tcsn.net, for more information.

I will need you to remind me of that frequently.

Let me hear from you about how you see and feel the work of environmentalism and of our Chapter of the Sierra Club. Each of us has our own particular way of understanding what our work is all about. Your views will help to invigorate our shared commitment.

Your Chapter Leadership

By Karen Merriam, Chapter Chair

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

The Executive Committee

Sarah Christie: Member, Political Committee Chair—Because of her extensive experience in the politics and practice of land use planning, Sarah has provided us with a clear focus on and analysis of issues of current importance that affect us locally and regionally. Her recent appointment to the County Planning Commission necessitated her stepping down from the ExCom shortly after the election, but we retain her invaluable services as chair of the Political Committee.

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

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Community Supported Agriculture: Sign Up Now!

By Sandra Sarrouf
CSA Manager, Cal Poly
Organic Farm

Want a harvest box of fresh seasonal fruit and vegetables each week? Want recipes and farm news? Want to support organic and sustainable farming in our County?

The Cal Poly Organic Farm (CPOF) is beginning the 6th year of the Community Supported Agriculture Program (CSA). This year the CPOF will be collaborating with local growers to fill the weekly CSA Harvest Box. As part of a market-oriented agricultural project jointly managed by students and farm staff; CSA members directly support the education of students in alternative and sustainable farming practices while also supporting farmers and the local economy. In return, CSA members get the best and freshest produce available.

Members become a part of the farm, join in the decision-making process and are welcome to volunteer and participate in any farm events and workshops.

Season begins April 18th, through October 14th. Space is limited so call for details!

Contact: 805 756-6139 or email ssarrouf@calpoly.edu, www.calpoly.edu/~sarc/csa.htm.

Volunteers Wanted

Fun! Helpful! Resume-building!

Newsletter layout artist: Must know (and own) Pagemaker, Adobe Distiller. Work at home, once a month.

Webmaster: Dreamweaver-literate. Occasional updates and page creation for Chapter website.

Chapter Historian: Our link with the past. Identify, locate, catalogue and place in storage (physical and computer) relevant documents, photos, and records related to the activity and governance of the Chapter since its inception. Much material is already on hand, just waiting for you.

Please call 543-8717. We need you now!

Cambria Desal Task Force Meets March 16

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

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

Among the issues to be considered will be, among others: effect of seawater intake and outflow on marine environment; public vs private ownership of water supply; disposal of byproducts from filters; reli-

ability of desal projects based on national and worldwide experience; and infrastructure impacts including population growth problems from an environmental viewpoint. To the extent possible, we may also visit functioning desal plants similar to the one proposed for Cambria.

Jack and Bea Morrow of Cambria have agreed to co-chair the task force, and are looking for volunteers to participate in this important project, particularly but not exclusively Sierra Club members from the Cambria area. They may be contacted at jlmorrow@earthlink.net, phone 805-927-5785, or by mail at 311 Wedgewood St., Cambria 93428.

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



Elizabeth Fadeley

Go, Pozo!

A heap of praise for the Board of Supervisors for soundly rejecting the development of a large Spa/ Executive Retreat in rural Pozo. (It became a "nature retreat" when the

developer found that his resort project sounded smaller and more manageable that way. The Pozo Community Group wisely insisted on the word "motel" in appealing a Planning Commission decision to allow the questionable development on land zoned AG and Rural Residential.) A petition against the resort was taken door-to-door in Pozo. Over 200 community members signed, and more than sixty mailed in letters of opposition to the Planning Department.

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

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

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

Sierra Club 2005 Election

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

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

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

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

The Population Ballot Question asks members: "Shall the Sierra Club policy on immigration, adopted by the Board of Directors in 1999 and revised in 2003, be changed to recognize the need to adopt lower limits on migration to the United States?"

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fence

continued from page 2

Monument before she dies! Very rapidly the day heated up and people worked in short sleeves even at the risk of barbed wire punctures. By being quite careful, and wearing good leather gloves and long pants, damage was minimal. By noon, everyone was ready for lunch break. We brought the cars up to a windmill and sat in the shadow of two huge old cottonwood trees. Earlier a red tail had been perched in one. We had seen a northern harrier scouring the fields not far away. Horned larks swooped in their coordinated flocks across the plain.

By 3:30, our enthusiasm was flagging and we wrapped up the last pieces of wire, shoved many rolls upon a T-pole and two people could carry a large load down a quarter mile or so to the growing dump. We looked for the pronghorn while driving back to camp, but they had vanished. Maybe tomorrow.

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

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

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

Those workers came from Wheatland, San Jose, Santa Cruz, Salinas, Lancaster, Cambria, and San Luis. Several had worked with Alice before, and are dedicated to the protection of the pronghorn. As if to thank us, the south-

bound folks saw a herd of pronghorn cross right in front of them, and a herd was grazing by the Carrizo school for us north-bound folks. That was a great ending for a gratifying weekend.



Lynne Harkins takes a break after a weekend pulling one and half miles of barbed wire

TDC Update

Planning Commission Needs to Hear from You by March 10

By Sue Harvey

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

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

San Antonio Lake Eagle Watch

By Jack Beigle

One nice thing about being an optimist is every once in a while serendipity kicks in and you have an outstanding outing. Our Eagle Watch was that outing.

It was cool and clear with a light breeze when we put in at the North Shore at 10:30 A.M. We leisurely paddled toward the west end of the lake stopping in several coves, looking for birds. We saw red-shouldered hawks, turkey vultures, western grebes, American coots, terns, great egrets, blue herons, a flock of Brant geese, several large flocks of Canada geese and a flock of white pelicans.

With all of this activity we worked up a good appetite for lunch, which we ate on a small island that is normally under water. After lunch we were treated to a low altitude fly-by of twelve white pelicans. They are so beautiful and graceful in flight.

Our next treat was a golden eagle and two bald eagles that flew overhead. The two bald eagles landed on a tree branch in full view with the afternoon sun highlighting their white tails and heads. We couldn't have asked for a better view.

As a final treat, as we paddled across the lake to take out at the North Shore Marina, we saw two western grebes doing their courting dance. Two adult birds, sitting beside each other on the water, facing the same direction, started bobbing their heads up and down. They then partially opened their wings and started flapping vigorously. Their next move was to tilt their heads straight up, kick their feet and run across the lake surface for about 40 feet. It was really thrilling to watch.

It was truly a day when nobody wanted to take out their boat and go home. Check the outing schedule and join us on the water.



Here is a summary of the approved sending credits for the North County only:

Property	Existing Parcels	TDC's Allowed	TDC's Sold	TDC's Remaining
Bonnheim	52	260	203	57
Denny	1	30	27	3
Creston Farms	76	122	none	122
Wilkins	16	16	none	16
Totals	145	428	230	198

Going back to the Bonnheim example, each credit is worth approximately \$15,000 x 260 = \$3.9 million potentially realized by the land owner with little benefit to the community and a good deal of potential damage and unmitigated sprawl.

According to a study done by the SLO Land Conservancy in July 2001, five sending sites have applied to the program but have not recorded conservation easements. According to the report:

Creating a TDC bank that would operate under strict criterion for the purchase of TDCs is needed to sort through all of the potential Sending Sites as well as protect those that contain important resources and would retire existing legal lots.

Complete information on how many sending sites have applied for the program but have not been approved has not been released. How many new credits will become available should more landowners enter the program is unknown.

As a final insult, the underlying parcels of a sending site are not retired when a TDC sending site easement is recorded. Those parcels maintain their individual parcel assessment numbers and can be sold with the rights inherent with its zoning but without the right for a single family residence. The list of uses allowed on the Bonnheim parcels is extensive and includes "Farm Support Quarters" and "Bed and Breakfast Facilities."

The Planning Commission will be discussing the TDC program at its March 10 meeting. Contact your local Advisory Group, the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors if you have concerns about this program.

Leaders

continued from page 5

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

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

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

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

is a voice of reason and determination on the ExCom and in our community.

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

Karen Merriam: Chapter Chair—Now, what can I tell you about myself? My home is in the Edna Valley in Arroyo Grande. I am a clinical social worker by training, specializing in trauma, and I work as a volunteer and consultant for Hospice of SLO County. I care deeply, as do all my fellow ExCom members, about the health and viability of our environment. I am dedicated to strengthening our common efforts to respect, care for, and protect our interdependent relationship with the natural world.

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

Classifieds

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

Local Government Meetings

- City of SLO--1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 781-7103
- Arroyo Grande--2nd and 4th Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 473-5404.
- Atascadero--2nd & 4th Tues.; 466-8099
- Cambria CSD -- 4th Thurs.; 927-6223
- Grover Beach--1st & 3rd Mon., 6:30 p.m.; 473-4567
Grover Beach Planning Commission-- 2nd Tues.
- Morro Bay--2nd & 4th Mon.
- Paso Robles--1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 237-3888
- Pismo Beach--1st Tues., 5:30 p.m.; 773-4657
- Los Osos CSD board-- 1st Tues. & 2nd Mon., varies
- California Coastal Commission-- 3rd Tues., varies
- SLO County Board of Supervisors-- every Tues.; 781-5450
- SLO Council of Governments; 781-4219
SLOCOG Citizens Advisory Committee--1st Wed. every other month, 6:00 p.m.
SLOCOG Board--1st Wed. every other month, 8:30 a.m.

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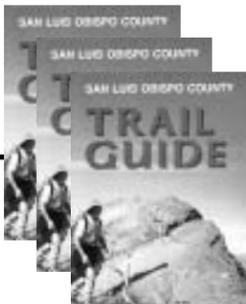
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Environmental 911

Here's an easy way to report on environmental concerns or to get information on issues affecting our ecology: Call 911! That's just a catchy title, though. The real number is. . . (drum roll):

(415) 977-5520 or environmental911@sierraclub.org

A Will . . .

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

For more information and confidential assistance, contact

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

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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.

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

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

Sunday, March 6, 9:00 a.m. 45th Annual Sierra Club Anniversary Dunes Hike at Oso Flaco Lake. Our January 8 Anniversary Dune Hike was rained out, blown out and washed out. Oso Flaco State Park was closed so we have rescheduled it in hopes of getting better weather. Come and take an easy, moderate or long walk on this 45th annual celebration of our Sierra Clubs first official hike in the dunes. There will be hikes for all ages and fitness levels. Meet in the Oso Flaco Lake parking lot and hear stories of the early days of our chapter. Carpooling is advised, as there is a \$5.00/car parking fee. For details call Jack Beigle (773-2147)

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

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

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

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

Sun., Mar. 20, 9:30 a.m. POINT SAL: Meet at end of Brown Rd at locked gate at 0930 climb 2.5 miles to 'pass' and then decide. Dogs OK if they do not chase cattle. Water, lunch, windbreaker, nos, and a friend. Details call Bill at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org

Sun., Mar. 27, 9:30 a.m. COAST HIKE-See a remote area of Nipomo Dunes. Bring lunch and water. Details,

call Bill at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org

Sun., Mar. 27, 8:30 a.m., Hazard Peak. Join us for this 3-hour, 6-mile roundtrip hike with over 1000 feet of elevation gain. Bring water, sturdy hiking shoes, and dress for the weather. Everyone is welcome, but beginners will fall behind due to the elevation gain of the hike. Meet at the junction of Pecho Valley Road and the Horse Camps dirt road turnoff, 1/10th of a mile beyond the entrance to Montana de Oro. Do not meet at the Ridge Trailhead, as we will be hiking the back route to the peak. Leader Al (534-0462)(3B)

Fri-Sun., Apr. 1-3, Service in Carrizo Plains National Monument. In this large, relatively unknown natural grassland tucked between the Coast Range and the Central Valley, miles of barbed wire from former ranching days needs removal to allow pronghorn antelope and tule elk freer access to the plain. Meet Friday at Selby Campground, remove barbed wire on Saturday, then hike Caliente Ridge on Sunday and learn about the area's natural history. Enjoy spring wild-



flowers, lush meadows, and abundant birds and wildlife in what's been called California's Serengeti. Other features such as Soda Lake, the San Andreas Fault, and native petroglyphs are free to explore for those who'd like to extend their visit. Contact Ldr: Melinda Goodwater, MGoodwa651@aol.com, (408-774-1257). CNRCC Desert Com

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

Wed., Apr. 6, 13, 20, 27. 5:30 p.m. Informal 1-2 hours hikes around San Luis Obispo. Check Website at <http://santalucia.sierraclub.org/index/index.html>, or e-mail gfelsman@onemain.com for meeting location.

Sat-Sun., Apr. 16-17, Pronghorn Protection Carcamp. (Nature Study/ Work Party Carcamp: The Carrizo



Photo by Joaquin Palting

Plain holds a special place in California ecology. With little rainfall and few water sources, the species that live here are both hardy and endangered. Particularly beautiful are the pronghorn antelope which evolved in these wild, open spaces. Then cattle ranching left a legacy of endless fences - which are deadly to the pronghorn. Join us for a weekend in this remote area removing fencing for their benefit. Camp at Selby campground, bring food, water, and camping gear for the weekend. Potluck Sat night. For fence removal, bring heavy leather gloves, old long sleeved shirts and sweatshirts, long pants and boots. Rain cancels. Resource specialist: Alice Koch. For more information, contact Leaders: Cal and Letty French, 14140 Chimney Rock Road, Paso Robles, CA 93446. 805-239-7338. Prefer e-mail ccfrench@tcsn.net. Santa Lucia Chap/ CNRCC Desert Com

Sat-Mon., Apr. 16-18, Turtle Mountains Rescue. The Turtle Mountains, in the low desert northeast from Joshua Tree, are known for their colorful volcanic peaks and for the wide variety of minerals found there. Unfortunately visitors along the northern end of this wilderness have left an appalling quantity of trash. We will assist the BLM in collecting the larger objects and bagging smaller debris in preparation for removal. Recreation will include a dayhike to the interior of the area, but our reward will be in knowing that we have helped restore a truly beautiful place. Contact Leader: Sandy Nancarrow, nanclan@jps.net, (707-747-1546). CNRCC Desert Com

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