



SIERRA CLUB

February 2004
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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

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GENERAL MEETING

Great Coastal Places Campaign!

Monday, February 16 @ 7:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars!

Sierra Club's Great Coastal Places Meeting

Coastal Director Mark Massara Is Coming Back to San Luis Obispo to Talk about Hearst Ranch and SLO's Troubled Local Coastal Plan



Great Coastal Places activists successfully defend the Dana Point Headlands before the California Coastal Commission

by Owen Bailey

Mark Massara is bringing the Great Coastal Places Campaign, Sierra Club's statewide coastal network, back to San Luis Obispo for a meeting on Monday, February 16, at 7:00 p.m. This Chapter General meeting will be held at the Meadow Park Rec. Center (our usual General Meeting location) at the corner of South Street and Meadow Lane in San Luis Obispo. Mark Massara will be joined by Tarren Collins who splits her time between two leadership roles in the Sierra Club—Chair of the Great Coastal Places Campaign and Chair of the Santa Lucia Chapter. Please note that the February General Meeting will be one day earlier than usual – falling on the 3rd Monday instead of Tuesday. This change allows Mark Massara to speak here on his way to the Coastal Commission meeting in La Jolla that week.

The Great Coastal Places campaign has just finished an extraordinarily successful year which brought, among other things, a huge victory from the California Coastal Commission. After almost two years work, the commission passed a historic

resolution on the updating of Local Coastal Plans, asking Sacramento to give the commission more power to update these plans and require up-to-date habitat, pollution and population levels be considered before any coastal development can proceed.

"This campaign has been extremely successful in bringing together 5,000 activists from throughout the state," said Massara. "By working together we have been able to win real victories for our coast so future generations will be able to enjoy the great coastal places we all love."

The campaign played a part in a number of successful coastal efforts in 2003, including the state's purchase of the 750 acre Sea West Ranch between Cambria and Cayucos

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Santa Lucia ExCom Endorsements

The Santa Lucia ExCom has unanimously endorsed Atascadero resident Jim Patterson for Fifth District Supervisor. Patterson is challenging two-term incumbent Mike Ryan. Because there are only two candidates in the race, the race will be decided in the March 2 election.

The endorsement should come as no surprise to Sierra Club members, as Patterson was the recipient of the Bill Denneen/ECOSLO Environmental Award presented at the annual Ecosummit last December. He is currently employed as the Water Conservation Manager for the Atascadero Mutual Water Company. Patterson's achievements in the community reflect his life-long commitment to conservation and the community.

When he owned Bay Laurel Garden Center in Atascadero, Patterson established the Environmental Scholarship Program for graduating seniors of Atascadero High School. He is a founding member of the Upper Salinas Watershed Coalition which is working with the Upper Salinas - Las Tablas Resource Conservation District to develop a Salinas River Watershed management program. He is also a founding member of the Atascadero Native Tree Association, the

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great and small,
needs defense."

—John Muir



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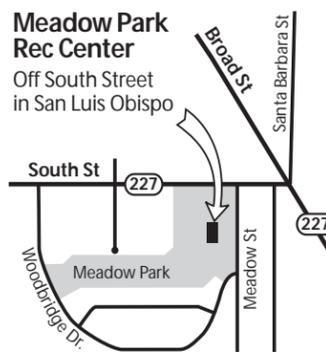
Santa Lucia Chapter General Meeting

Come hear Mark Massara and Tarren Collins talk about the Great Coastal Places Campaign at the general meeting. The meeting is Monday, February 16, beginning at 7:00 p.m. General meetings are usually held on Tuesdays, so please mark your calendars and make an effort to attend!

For more information call (805) 543-8717 or write savethecoast@sierraclub.org

Monday, Feb. 16, 7:00 p.m.
Meadow Park Rec Center
San Luis Obispo

Save the date!!



Whales, Pinnipeds & Wildflowers: Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park, 2004

by Joan Jones Holtz

Those joining one of **four** fundraising cruises to Channel Islands National Park will find the islands ablaze with birds & wildflowers, & sparkling waters churning with frolicking seals, sea lions, dolphins, and occasional whales. Proceeds will benefit all chapters through Sierra Club California.

March 26-28, 2004: A 3-day trip to San Miguel, Santa Rosa & Santa Cruz Islands. **\$480**

April 3, 2004: A 1-day excursion to Santa Cruz Island for those looking for close-up views of sea & land birds, some endemic: **\$125**

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August 26-31: For the **first time**, a **5-day cruise** visiting **all five islands** included in Channel Islands National Park: San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa, & Santa Barbara Islands: **\$725**

Each island is unique and offers its own special charm. **San Miguel** for its white, sandy beaches and huge congregation of seals and sea lions; **Santa Rosa** for its rare Torrey Pines forest; **Santa Cruz** for high mountains and deep valleys and the world famous Painted Cave; **Anacapa** for the west coast brown pelican rookery, steep cliffs, a picturesque lighthouse, and excellent snorkeling waters. **Santa Barbara Island**, tiny, remote, & pristine offers rocky shores, home to a colony of friendly sea lions, and a rolling grassy landscape, habitat to a plethora of sea & land birds. All islands have rugged shorelines, dotted with sea caves, & inhabited by an abundance of wildlife.

All cruises depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68' twin diesel **Truth**. A park ranger will travel with us to lead hikes on each island & to help identify the dolphins, whales, sea lions, seals, & numerous species of bird & plant life. Other activities may include kayaking, snorkeling, beachcombing, or just relaxing at sea.

These cruises are strictly informal. Each guest is assigned a bunk with reading light and privacy curtains. The prices include sumptuous meals, snacks, and guided tours. To make a reservation, send a \$100 check, payable to Sierra Club to leader Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. For more information, please call 626-443-0706 or e-mail jholtzhln@aol.com.

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

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Bad News for the Dana Point Headlands

by Mark Massara

The Coastal Commission approved this bad development on Thursday, Jan. 15, 2004 - exactly 6 years to the day after the CCC denied the Hearst Corporation's Resort Development plans. The Hearst CCC hearing took place on Jan. 15, 1998 - a day when over 1000 people showed up to protest Hearst's plans.

The following letter was sent on January 14, 2004, via fax by Mark Massara of the Sierra Club Coastal Program. Mark Massara was in a surfing accident on January 11, in which his calf was badly cut. It was clearly very painful and required ambulances and the emergency room. Mark will be fine, but unfortunately he was unable to attend the CCC hearings in Laguna last week. We wish Mark a speedy recovery, and hope he is back out conquering those big waves, and greedy developers, soon.

Chairman Mike Reilly and Commissioners
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Ste. 2000
San Francisco, California 94105-2219

Re: **Dana Point LCP Amendment No. DPT-MAJ-2-02 (DP Headlands)**

Agenda Item 11a – Thursday, January 15, 2004

Dear Commissioners:

Sierra Club Coastal Program urges you **DENY** the above referenced project, which would violate numerous critical Coastal Act policies designed to protect environmentally sensitive habitat areas (ESHA), protect public beach access, prevent conversion of public beaches to gated luxury subdivisions, as well as violate those fundamental mandates prohibiting massive landform alteration for suburban sprawl and construction of seawalls for new residential development.

Sierra Club was hopeful that your October continuance would result in meaningful improvements to the project. It is now clear that the delay was a sham. Over the last three months the developer has not agreed to excavate one shovel full less dirt, has not moved or even reconfigured a single roadway, has not removed a single house off Strands Bluff, has not removed the gates surrounding the proposed luxury subdivision, has not eliminated the seawall for new residential construction and has not even attempted to resolve the illegality of the proposal to construct a hotel on ESHA.

In short, no useful improvements whatsoever have been made to the project. The developers' steadfast refusal to improve the project is reminiscent of the Hearst Resorts project in 1998. In that instance Hearst's lawyers told the Commission they would accept "not one bit less of the proposed project." For their disingenuous repudiation the Headlands developers deserve the same fate as Hearst - a denial from the Commission and a message that California's public trust coastal resources will be protected.

In this case there is no question that readily available, less damaging development alternatives exist. In just one example, it is clear that all the residential housing proposed for Strands Bluff could instead be clustered in the "bowl." The increased density in the bowl would dramatically improve coastal resources protection of the beach and bluff and drastically improve beach access. It would also completely eliminate the need for a giant seawall. And it could be accomplished without any diminution in the economic viability of the project.

In the final analysis this important debate regarding the future of the Dana Point Headlands will be remembered as a bold faced attempt to convert the last undeveloped open space in Orange County to yet another undistinguished private gated beach resort. It is important that the Commission be remembered as having refused to permit it.

Sincerely,
Mark A. Massara
Sierra Club Coastal Program

Act Now to Save the Gaviota Coast

by Mark Massara

The Gaviota Coast is the largest continuous stretch of undeveloped coastal land left in Southern California, making up 50 percent of all Southern California's remaining rural coastline. In a recent study of the National Park Service has determined that the Gaviota Coast is home to 84 rare and endangered species. Its breathtaking vistas are also home to 10,000 year old archaeological sites and amazing opportunities to enjoy one of our last remaining undeveloped stretches of coast.

Unfortunately, the Gaviota Coast today is facing a real threat from development, and unless we act quickly, we will lose our best opportunity to protect this great coastal place for future generations.

The Department of the Interior is deciding between two alternatives that will guide future planning for the Gaviota Coast. Alternative 1 recommends nothing more be done to protect the Gaviota Coast. This could mean increased water pollution, massive luxury development and the loss of Southern California's last great coastal open space.

Alternative 2 is Gaviota's best hope. Alternative 2 leaves us options for the future including the potential to protect the open space for the public, restrict certain kinds of development, and prevent the loss of Gaviota's beautiful surf and the many threatened plants and animals that call the coast home.

Interior Department staff is under pressure from the Bush administration to allow increased development and will soon decide which option to pursue. Developers are also leaning on both the National Park Service and Lynne Scarlett Assistant Secretary at the Department of the Interior to shut the door on increased protection of the Gaviota Coast. Please send a message to Lynne Scarlett today encouraging her and the National Park Service to choose Alternative 2. The Gaviota Coast is one of a kind, and when it's gone, it's gone. Help me protect this coastal treasure for future generations.

Please write a letter today (or send the letter below with your name and address included) and send it to Sierra Club Gaviota organizer Ariana Katovich at akatovichsc@earthlink.net. She will print out your letter and have it hand delivered to Lynne Scarlett.

For more information, Please contact Sierra Club's Gaviota Coast Campaign at 805-564-7892 or akatovichsc@earthlink.net.

Dear Assistant Secretary Scarlett:

I am writing to ask you to support Alternative 2 in the National Park Service Feasibility Study for the Gaviota Coast. Right now there are two stakeholder processes involving members of the agricultural, environmental, Chumash, development, and scientific community that have been meeting for over two years to develop local solutions and strategies to protect the agriculture, ecology, and scenic beauty of the Gaviota Coast. There are many challenges facing the Gaviota Coast and current programs and policies need to be updated and amended to give the Gaviota Coast the protection it needs. Allowing Alternative 1 (the "do nothing" alternative) to be chosen by the National Park Service would discredit the local process that has come forward to determine what needs to be done to protect the Gaviota Coast.

Current policies are not protecting the Gaviota Coast. Luxury mansion developments and golf course projects jeopardize the long term quality of the coast and the quality of life of Santa Barbara residents. It must be recognized that current programs and policies are considering these kinds of developments while Gaviota lacks comprehensive development standards, design guidelines, watershed plans, and protection for agricultural viability. At the very least, the National Park Service should recommend that local governments work to ensure these protections are in place for the Gaviota Coast, so please choose Alternative 2.

Thank you for your time and response,
Your name and address

Great Coastal Places Campaign

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which includes a three-mile section of coastline that is planned as the California Coastal Trail. The American Land Conservancy, which had sought funding for this project for about five years, reported that it was the huge volume of Great Coastal Places Campaign postcards that resulted in the state providing the funding for this purchase.

"Great Coastal Places succeeds because everyone can do something small yet significant and make a real difference," Collins explained. We don't ask anyone to do all that Mark does, but with everyone working together, there's nothing we can't accomplish."

"San Luis Obispo has been an incredibly important part of this campaign. This is where this campaign began, working to save Hearst Ranch." Massara added referring to the work Sierra Club put into organizing a large turnout for the 1998 Coastal Commission hearing. Over 1,000 people joined what was the largest number of people ever to attend a commission meeting. "Now, there is so much happening here that is of statewide significance, with San Simeon Point, our Local Coastal Plan, and the Oceano Dunes. And the more people join our statewide campaign, the more we can do."

The meeting on the 16th will focus on both statewide coastal threats and victories and give information on how you can get involved locally to protect our great coastal places for future generations.

ExCom Endorsements

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5th District Supervisor candidate Jim Patterson

Atascadero Recycling Advisory Committee and the Groundwater Guardian Program that has established riparian and watershed restoration programs in North County.

He told the ExCom that he is running a strong, grass roots campaign to counter Ryan's developer-funded campaign.

"Money won't buy this election," said Patterson. "Ryan has overstayed his welcome, and people are ready for a change of leadership. I have promised to bring civility, integrity, and sane land use planning back to the Board. Special interests are driving this county over a cliff, and I want to give local government back to the people."

When elected, Patterson said his top environmental goals include finishing the Local Coastal Plan Update. He also plans to strengthen efforts to protect and restore our creeks and rivers and develop a regional approach to water resource management.

"Coastal protection should be a partnership between the State and local jurisdictions," said Patterson. "The County has spent way too much time and money fighting with the Commission. The Commission's mandate is to protect coastal resources. We should be working with commissioners and staff to achieve long-term protection of our coast, not spending tens of thousands of dollars on a lobbyist to try to get around the Coastal Act."

"It's hard to imagine a better candidate than Jim," said Sierra Club Political Chairman Colby Crotzer. "Not only does he have impeccable environmental credentials, but

he has valuable experience in business, agriculture, education and community involvement. He will be a pleasure to work with."

Patterson has also been endorsed by Vote the Coast, the Atascadero District Teachers Association, and the California Correctional Peace Officers Association. To find out how you can help as a volunteer for the campaign, call 464-0675.



1st District Supervisor candidate Susan Harvey

The Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club endorsed Susan Harvey for Supervisor in District One in San Luis Obispo County. Ms. Harvey and her husband are long time residents of the North County. Ms. Harvey is a founding member and current president of PasoWatch – a citizens advocacy group that successfully challenged David Weyrich's 800 acre Santa Ysabel Ranch project and won important environmental concessions to protect wildlife and oak woodlands. As the president of PasoWatch, she has most recently participated in the two year long General Plan Update for the City of Paso Robles encouraging the city to adopt policies of in-fill and higher densities, fiscally responsible growth and wise use of the land. "All resources are finite. We must choose to use them wisely in the 21st century," Harvey said.

She has been a strong advocate of mandatory water conservation programs for all cities and water districts. Conceding the inevitability of the Nacimiento Pipeline Project and citing it as far superior to desalination options, she urged the County as the lead agency to mandate

that water conservation measures be required of the participating agencies. She supports the raw water options as environmentally and fiscally superior to the treated water alternative.

She spoke before the National Regulatory Commission in San Luis Obispo in March 2003, on the issues of plant safety and anti-terrorism safeguards at Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

She participated in the public input that resulted in the Paso Robles City Oak Tree Ordinance and would like to see a countywide ordinance adopted.

Ms. Harvey is new to running for public office but said she was motivated to run for Supervisor because she became more and more concerned about the County's future. "With the County likely to grow much faster in the next ten years, it seems we are at a pivotal point of defining what San Luis Obispo County is to become. I believe there will be tremendous pressure to develop along the coast. Will we cherish what we have of our wild coast line or let it slowly dwindle away?" In the North County, she is particularly concerned about the conversion of open space and prime Ag lands that are the defining characteristic of the North County.

Ms. Harvey blames poorly managed growth, the influence of special interests and the indifference of elected officials for many of the severe impacts on our water, housing, schools, air quality and rural character. "We all pay a high price for bad planning and environmental ignorance," she concluded.

Ms. Harvey and her husband Richard are long time residents of the North County. They own and manage Infinite Functions, Inc., a software consulting firm serving manufacturing companies worldwide. They raised their two children, Marcia and Cole, here and have a grandson, Harvey.

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Outside Interests Push to Hijack Sierra Club

by Drusha Mayhue

The internal Sierra Club election this spring could prove pivotal and could dramatically alter the direction and mission of our organization. In fact, the Sierra Club we all joined may have a very different look to it next year, depending on the outcome of the 2004 Board of Directors election. That's because current members of the Sierra Club Board of Directors have openly recruited candidates with agendas widely different from the Club's historic conservation mission.

The Sierra Club's direct elections make us unique – and vulnerable. One of the most important opportunities Sierra Club members have is the chance to select our own Board of Directors. Every year members select five directors for three-year terms on our fifteen-member Board. But as the Club has grown, the proportion of our members who vote has declined.

And now the Sierra Club is in trouble – our own democratic process is being used against us to take over our organization and hijack our agenda and assets. Because fewer and fewer members are voting, it has left us vulnerable to take-over efforts by people and parties with narrow, personal, one issue agendas — like animal rights and anti-immigration. These outside groups can recruit and run petition candidates from outside the Club who share their ideology.

And that's exactly what's happening – with help from some current members of the Club's Board of Directors. Director Paul Watson outlined this effort at an animal rights conference earlier this year, just weeks after he was first elected to the Club's Board. "One of the reasons I'm on the Sierra Club Board of Directors right now is to try to change it," Watson proclaimed.

"And once we get three more directors elected, the Sierra Club will no longer be pro-hunting and pro-trapping and we can use the resources of the \$95-million-a-year budget to address some of these issues," said Watson, who calls fishermen "sadistic bastards" – even though about a sixth of the Club's membership fishes.

Watson noted his task will be made easier by low voter turnout in Club elections: "The heartening thing about it is that, in the last election, of the 750,000 members of the Sierra Club, only 8 percent of them voted. So, you know, a few hundred, or a few thousand people from the animal rights movement joining the Sierra Club — and making it a point to vote — will change the entire agenda of that organization."

Noted outdoors writer Jim Shepherd characterized this statement as an "attempt to hijack the Sierra Club," an effort Watson confirmed at the Club's annual September meeting, when he admitted that he's trying to "take over" the Sierra Club and its agenda.

In addition to Watson's efforts to commandeer the Sierra Club, the anti-immigration forces which have been targeting the Sierra Club for more than a decade have now joined forces with the animal rights activists. Club Director Ben Zuckerman, another Club Director with close to zero Club experience when he was elected to the Board, has recruited candidates to run for the Sierra Club board from an obscure organization called the Diversity Alliance for a Sustainable America. This organization shares his desire for the Club to become involved in closing down immigration into the United States. The DASA has been funded in part by grants totaling \$125,000 from foundations controlled by the notorious Clinton hater and right wing patron Richard Mellon Scaife and his family. According to the Washington Post, "Scaife and his family's charitable entities played a central role in the rise of the right, giving at least \$340 million to conservative causes and institutions."

Director Zuckerman's principal focus on the Board has been a relentless effort to persuade his fellow Directors to overturn the membership vote several years ago to unite the Club by remaining neutral on the question of immigration policy. Zuckerman has compared immigration to cancer, defended Colorado

Congressman Tom Tancredo — an anti-immigration zealot who earns an average LCV score of 15% — as "the person in Congress doing the most for the environment," and called for the Club to work on halting immigration as a means of fighting the war against terrorism. A number of anti-immigration web sites have recently been urging people to join the Sierra Club in order to elect the candidates recruited by Zuckerman.

These unrelenting efforts to undermine the Sierra Club, its conservation agenda, assets, and democratic process prompted the Southern Poverty Law Center, perhaps the nation's leading organization in exposing hate group activities, this to advise the Club's volunteer leadership this fall: "We think that members of the Sierra Club should be fully alert to the methods and motives of some of those who are trying to shift it from its historic mission."

So consider yourself alerted to these take-over efforts, this deliberate attempt to undermine our democracy and hijack the agenda chosen by a majority of Sierra Club members. Consider all that is at stake in this Sierra Club election – our democracy, our direction, our ability to stop the Bush administration's assault on our environment and overcome some of the most serious environmental challenges we have ever faced.

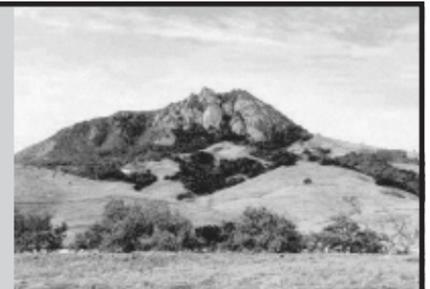
Don't sit on the sidelines this election. Vote.

Ballots will be mailed to all Club members at the end of February, and must be filled out and received back by the Judges of Elections by April 21. Every Sierra Club member will receive a ballot and an accompanying statement, in which each candidate describes his or her background, qualifications, and goals for the organization. These last are often written in rather general language, but the Club and the candidates provide internet mechanisms through which they can be questioned more specifically about their views. Take the opportunity and question them.

"Sierra Club Board elections are a fine opportunity for our members to look at our Club and determine the directions they want the organization to go," says Club President Larry Fahn. "I urge all our members to study the candidates carefully. And I urge all members to vote. It is member participation that has made the Sierra Club the most effective environmental organization in the world. It is member participation that will empower us to stop George Bush, and will allow us to carry on our wonderful tradition of effectiveness into the future."

Drusha Mayhue is a long time Club grass roots leader, and has held many positions including Chair of the Houston Group. She currently sits on the Montana Chapter Executive Committee. If you have comments or questions, or would like further information, please contact Drusha at: drusha_m@yahoo.com.

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

I have enclosed: \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other: _____

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Mail your contribution to:

Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club
P. O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo CA 93406

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The Christmas Time Escape on Morro Estuary

by Jack Beigle

Most of our paddlers were too wound up in the Christmas season to escape, but the two boats that ventured out enjoyed a beautiful, warm, sunny day. It was the kind of day that the people in the East think that we enjoy every day here in California.

We leisurely watched the white pelicans and other local birds while we talked about shoes and ships and sealing wax. It was a very relaxing day and we still got home with time to get some more shopping in.

Check the outing schedule and join us on the water.



Nature Heals (or HUTASH)

by Bill Denneen

Christmas Day I led a hike in the rain in the Nipomo Dunes to a former Chumash Village. It was like going to my 'roots'—my beginning. It was a site Kathlene Goddard Jones showed me about 40 years ago.

The group was small (7) compared to other years (28 last year). It is important that these hikes in nature are provided as the natural world is where we belong. Last year I had a family recovering from the death of a son/brother who had been killed returning home after the Christmas gathering the previous year. Nature heals!

One gal participates as the trip to her distant 'home' is a terrible ordeal. Hostellers often join me as they can't afford to go 'home' (e.g., Germany, New Zealand). No one should be 'alone' on a holiday—alone because of divorce, death, travel. Nature hikes on holidays are a MUST. Eco-hooligans are tough but do not live forever—I urge others to think about leading. The Sierra Club, Dunes Center and Land Conservancy should provide hikes in nature on ALL holidays—nurses never have holidays.

Our predecessors, the Chumash, lived here for 10,000 years—we have been here less than 300 years. They were a peaceful people having little impact on the habitat in which they lived. Essentially they were just another species in the bio-diverse Oak-Woodland and Marine Chaparral biomes.

They were just one culture of over 500 different ones inhabiting North America before Columbus 'invaded'. They seldom left the valley in which they were born. Seldom would any live beyond 35. You might say 'progress' is living a long time and traveling all over the planet but this has created problems: the population explosion, spread of diseases, invasive exotics everywhere and the potential of dropping bombs on distant tribes.

On the hike today three generations were represented: me, my son, and my grandson (4). It was the best gift a GOF like me could ever want. Going to this Chumash site was like 'going home'—to my roots—to share the experience with offspring was priceless.

We stopped by Black Lake to pay our respects. To me it is my "Walden Pond". I quoted my hero Henry David Thoreau who "went to the woods to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach and not when I came to die, discover that I had not lived. I did not wish to live what was not life, living is so dear."

The European 'invasion' of the Central Coast essentially started with Portola in about 1770. This brought diseases, slavery, swords and killed off most of the Grizzlys in Los Osos and Oso Flaco. In about 1837 Guillermo (William) Goodwin Dana from Boston (my home town) requested the 'vacant' land of Nipomo.

This 'vacant' land was the 'home' of the Chumash which essentially ended in 1850.

They had no written record. Information/traditions were passed on in the oral tradition. I like to think that if they had writing their message would have been similar to that of Chief Seattle of the Suquamish Tribe who in 1854 said: How can you buy or sell the sky, the warmth of the land? The idea is strange to us. If we do not own the freshness of the air and the sparkle of the water, how can we buy them?

"Every part of this earth is sacred to my people. Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every clearing, and humming insect is holy in the memory and the experience of my people. The sap which courses through the trees carries the memories of the red man.

"The white man's dead forget the country of their birth when they go to walk among the stars. Our dead never forget this beautiful earth, for it is the mother of the red man. We are part of the earth and it is part of us. The perfumed flowers are our sisters; the deer, the horse, the great eagle, these are our brothers. The rocky crests, the juices in the meadow, the body heat of the pony, and man—all belong to the same family."

I could 'feel' the Native Americans on the midden grinding acorns looking toward the Pacific; —they were PART of their habitat. I wish I had a H. G. Wells' 'Time Machine' and could visit them.

The Chumash lived in a pristine California of which many of us today can only dream. They were in constant contact with the natural world or 'HUTASH'—Mother Earth. They were in tune with and better adapted to it than we are today. They attained a balance with their habitat which eludes modern/technological man. They achieved prosperity without detrimentally altering the face of the land or despoiling the earth of its treasures. The Chumash achieved much of value that would be well worth our while to understand and emulate.

"The Chumash in every way showed themselves wiser than their present-day successors, who have recklessly destroyed or at best ignored all the natural plant and animal resources of this incredibly rich coast." -Eugene N. Anderson, Jr.



Bill Denneen hugs a tree

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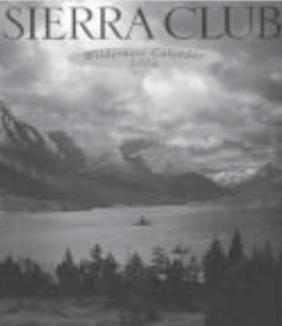
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Urgent call for volunteer!
 The Santa Lucia Chapter needs a volunteer treasurer to begin at the end of February. Will train. If interested please contact Chuck at 927-3769.

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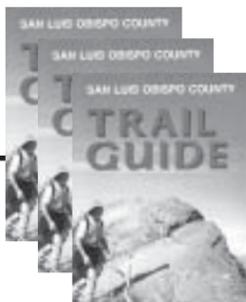
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. . . is a way to protect the environment as well as yourself. If you do not have a will, the state decides how your property and other affairs are handled. Decisions made now can later provide financial security for family, friends, and the Sierra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

For more information and confidential assistance, contact

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

Outings and Activities Calendar

All of our hikes and activities are open to all club members and the general public. If you have any suggestions for hikes or outdoor activities, questions about the Chapter's outing policies or would like to be an 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., Jan. 25, 9:00 a.m., Islay Rd, Barranca Trail, Ridge Trail Loop Hike. Join the leader on this 7-8 mile hike in Montana d' Oro State Park. Elevation gain is about 1,600 ft. There should be great views of the coastline from Hazard Peak. Meet at the Islay Rd. turnout. If there is not enough room to park, go back to the Ridge Trail turnout. The hike will begin at Islay Rd. which is about 100 yds. south of the Ridge Trail. There may be some poison oak. Bring water, snack or lunch, good hiking shoes, and dress for the weather. Heavy rain cancels. There will be an optional refueling stop after the hike. For details, call Chuck at 927-3769 (3C)

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

off Highway 1.

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.

Sun., Feb. 1, 9:30 a.m., BICYCLE GUADALUPE to OCEAN: Meet at Dune Centre Parking lot with bike and helmet. An easy, educational tour of Guadalupe and then to Pacific. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org

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

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

Sun., Feb. 15, 9:30 a.m., DANA-ADOBE. Meet at Adobe which is on Oak Glen which is just east of #101 at offramp. Go south on Oak Glen for about 2 miles. An easy hike to see wetlands

and history. We'll meet HDThoreau there. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org

Sat., Feb. 21, 8:30 a.m., RINCONADA TRAIL TO BIG FALLS. Join the leader on this moderate 9-mile hike to Big Falls. There should be plenty of water in the falls and stream this time of year. In addition, the views of the Santa Lucia Wilderness from Hi Mountain Rd. are wonderful. There is an elevation gain of about 1,800 ft. and there is a possibility of ticks and poison oak. Bring water, lunch, good hiking shoes, and dress for the weather. Heavy rain cancels. Meet in front of the Santa Margarita Beverage Co. and we will carpool from there. The trailhead is in an Adventure Pass area so bring one if you have one. A refueling stop at Pozo after the hike is probable. For info, call Chuck 927-3769. (3C).

Sun., Feb. 22, 9:30 a.m., PISMO DUNES PRESERVE. Meet at Melodrama in Oceano. Drive about a mile to a secret way to the most spectacular dunes to a remote lake. Total distance about 4 miles. Slide down steep dune faces. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647 or <bdenneen@slonet.org>

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

Sun., Feb. 29, 9:30 a.m., POINT SAL: Meet at the end of Brown Road. Hike 2.5 miles to 'saddle' and then decide: hike to ocean, point or turn around. Bring lunch,



Photo by Joaquin Palting

water, dogs that do not chase cattle, windbreaker and optional Mt. Bike. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647 or <bdenneen@slonet.org>

Mon., Mar. 1, 10:00 a.m., PLOVER LOVERS UNITE: Meet on Pacific at end of Pier Ave in Oceano with signs to celebrate the first day of Western Snowy Plover protection. Walk to mouth of Arroyo Grande Creek which is where they nest (critical habitat) and has become a "road" for access to Oceano State Vehicle Recreation Area (OSVRA). Why do your tax dollars promote driving for 'recreation' as we run out of finite fossil fuel? Confirm a few days before at 929-3647 or <bdenneen@slonet.org>

Sun., Apr. 11, 9:30 a.m., PISMO DUNES PRESERVE: Meet at Melodrama in Oceano. Drive about a mile to a secret way to the most spectacular dunes to a remote lake. Total distance about 4 miles. Slide down steep dune faces. Join a group of hostellers from my Hostel to celebrate Easter. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647 or <bdenneen@slonet.org>

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

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