



SIERRA
CLUB

September 2006
Volume 43 No. 8

Inside

Sipakapa's not for sale!	2
The root of the problem	3
Almost protecting the coast	5
Classifieds	7
Outings	8

GENERAL MEETING

7 p.m., Sept. 21:
Lessons of Madagascar
Ludwick Center, SLO

-page 2

COMING IN OCTOBER:

The otters you save will be our own: Defining Marine Protected Areas - Oct. 19, Ludwick Center, SLO.



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SANTA LUCIAN



Protecting and
Preserving the
Central Coast

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

Energy Summit

"It's Our Choice" - SLO Vets Hall, October 10

San Luis Obispo will be the site of "Smart Energy Solutions: We Have A Choice," a regional community summit that will take over the SLO Vets Hall on October 10 for a day of panels, booths and presentations covering the range of possibilities for the central coast's transition to a clean energy economy.

The summit will be the outcome of six months of planning by interest groups and constituencies who traditionally travel separate paths and often clash over economic and environmental issues.

"When you find PG&E, the Sierra Club, the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce, ECOSLO and the Homebuilders Association all working on the same project with the same goals, that's a sign that there's been a shift in the wind," said Sierra Club Santa Lucia Chapter Chair Karen Merriam. "We all know the stakes and the potential benefits in getting to alternative, clean power as fast as possible, and the price we'll all pay if we don't get there fast enough."

SLO Green Build, Coast National Bank, the County Air Pollution Control District, Cienaga Energy Systems, County Supervisor Jim Patterson, and the Cal Poly School of Architecture are also on the summit steering committee, which has put together panels on transportation, home building and remodeling, greening your business, alternative fuel vehicles, land use planning, and alternative energy options for individuals and communities.

"Smart business and being smart about energy go hand in hand," said Amy Kardel, SLO Chamber of Commerce board member and co-founder of Computer Network Services. "Conserving resources makes short and long-term economic sense. It is not a coincidence that 'ecology' and 'economics' share the same Greek root."

"We're not presenting a vision of some distant future that we might one day hope to achieve," said APCD

Planning Manager Aeron Arlin-Genet, who also chairs the Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition. "We're going to be connecting builders,



Pollution Control District's action plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions lay the foundation for the green building and green power policies that can build that new economy here. Last April, the city of San Luis Obispo adopted a new Energy Element that included the provision for the City to "examine the potential to create a

city-owned energy utility," and, at the urging of the Sierra Club, resolved to "seek the support of the County Air Pollution Control District in calculating emission inventories and the development of balanced strategies for addressing climate protection through development of model ordinances and guidelines" -- the first step toward effective programs to curb climate change emissions.

The argument is over on global

continued on page 4

planners, local businesspeople and citizens with what can be done right now, solutions that are being implemented on the ground that we can all adopt immediately and that will bring about a decline in harmful emissions and an increase in economic and environmental health."

Can't afford not to

San Luis Obispo County is heading for a future of hotel maids, gardeners, and janitors who can't afford to live here, according to the projections of

John Dunn, CEO of the Economic Vitality Corporation. Unless we acquire a new, high-paying economic sector, we're going to be seeing even less affordable housing, with the increasing commutes, traffic jams, bad air and deteriorating quality of life that go along with it.

All the wind, wave and solar power we could ever need are right outside our doors. One of the best engineering schools in the country is in the county seat. Between them, the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement — now signed by the mayors of San Luis Obispo, Morro Bay and Atascadero — and the Air



Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition Chair Aeron Arlin-Genet promoting alternative fuel vehicles and The "Declaration of Energy Independence" at SLO Farmers Market, August 24.

Carrizo Resource Plan Resumes

A year ago last May, Carrizo Plain National Monument Manager Marlene Braun took her own life, ending a bitter struggle with her manager at the Bakersfield office of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management over the Resource Management Plan for the Monument.

Braun was determined that Carrizo be managed for the primary benefit of the native species and habitat of this last preserve of California's historic San Joaquin grasslands. Her superiors, determined to keep graz-



continued on page 4

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photos/Karin Walsh

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Santa Lucia Chapter General Meeting

The Lessons of Madagascar

Off the southeast coast of Africa, the island of Madagascar once was paradise. It is now coming to stand as a metaphor for the question our time: What happens when a steadily increasing population increasingly consumes finite resources at a rate beyond the ability of natural systems to replenish themselves?

Cal and Letty French went to Madagascar this year for a first-hand look at the potential fate of the Earth in microcosm. They share their slide-illustrated report with us tonight.

Refreshments provided

Thursday, Sept. 21, 7:00 p.m.
Ludwick Center
864 Santa Rosa Street (corner of Mill)
San Luis Obispo



HopeDance

and



SIERRA CLUB

FOUNDED 1892

present

Sipakapa is Not for Sale
SLO City Library
Osos & Palm Streets
6 p.m., Monday, Sept. 18

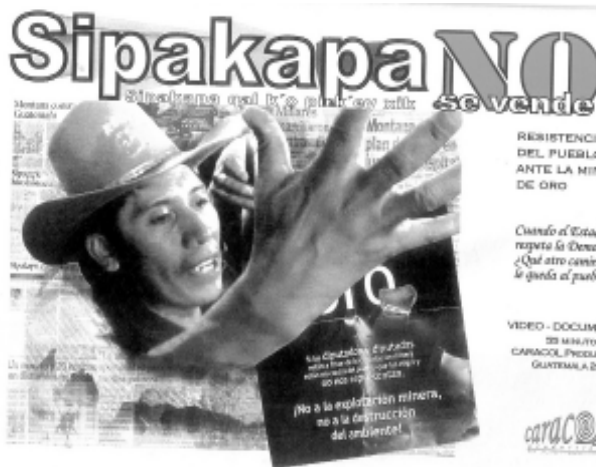
- What "Free Trade" Means to you
 - Susan Knight in person

In 1994, the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was ratified by Congress. Nine years later, on July 21st, 2003, a gold mining company called Glamis Gold submitted a \$50 million claim against the United States over a

California environmental law that requires land remediation of all future open pits mines in the state.

In 2005, Glamis received \$45 million — one of the largest loans to a private company in the history of the World Bank — to dig a mine in Sipakapa, Guatemala. Like the residents of California, the Mayans of Guatemala have fought against this company to save their natural resources and transform the way the U.S. conducts business, internationally and domestically.

Join us as for a first-hand look at the trade rules that allow companies like Glamis to attack California environmental laws and learn what you can do about it in order to build a world where the U.S. values human rights, labor rights and environmen-



tal protection, here and abroad.

Sipakapa, No Se Vende (Sipakapa is not for Sale) is the story of one community fighting these global rules.

After the film, Susan Knight, National Representative for the Sierra Club's Responsible Trade Program, based in Washington, DC, will lead an interactive (and fun!) overview of international trade and how it impacts all of us, as well as how we are building power and international allies to create long-term change in international trade policy. Susan spent ten years organizing in Cincinnati's inner city, led two successful political campaigns and a corporate accountability campaign against a Fortune 500 steel company, and won a billion-dollar sewer settlement and a living wage initiative. She joined the staff of the Sierra Club in 2001.

SANTA LUCIAN

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Cal French
 COUNCIL OF CLUB LEADERS

The Executive Committee meets the fourth Wednesday of every month at 3:00 p.m. at the chapter office, located at 1204 Nipomo St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

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At the Root of the Problem

Greatest threat to environment & democracy coming from same source

By Andrew Christie
Responsible Trade Committee

For many years, environmentalists have noticed that even when we win, we seem to lose. Whether fighting for cleaner air or in defense of forests or against bad development projects, what we win is somewhat less dirty air, a few groves surrounded by miles of stumps, or a development that consumes irreplaceable open space or ag land, but not as much as it might have. If graphed on a chart over the last thirty years or so, environmental victories would depict an unmistakably downward slide with the only consolation being the likelihood that if we did not engage in such battles, the slope would be much steeper.

There's a reason. As the Church was to the Middle Ages, and European monarchies were to the colonial era, the corporation is to us. Ultimate power — over our political system and the fates of Third World economies; over what we see, hear, eat, drink, breathe, and, ultimately, the way we think — has come to be concentrated within corporate boardrooms. Of the world's 100 largest economies, 48 are countries. 52 are global corporations.

The Sierra Club is moving to take on the stacked deck of corporate rule. Over the weekend of August 11, just outside the small Sonoma County town of Occidental, the Club's Opposing Corporate Power Task Force and Corporate Accountability Committee convened a meeting of Club leaders from across the country. We came from around the state, the midwest, the south and the east coast, in a group that included advocates from

our Environmental Justice campaign and Responsible Trade Committee, a member of the Sierra Club's board of directors and a former Club president. Over the three days of "Community



Day one...

Organizing for Environmental Protection and Democracy — A New Paradigm," we reviewed 150 years of U.S. history, the rules of global trade as written by and for multinational corporations, and compared notes on our own experiences running Sierra Club campaigns in our communities — where, more often than not, we have come out on the short end of a heavily rigged regulatory process.

The participants concluded that the problem is not bad apples but a bad barrel: Corporations

The overwhelming weight of American law has supported property over democracy, corporations over family enterprise, and big business over local control.

-- George Draffan, Public Information Network

have amassed far more power than was envisioned by the inventors of the corporate charter, federal and state governments have gradually ceded more and more of their authority over them, and the legal system has skewed heavily toward the Constitutional "rights" of corporate entities — which, as artificial entities consisting of amassed property should have no such rights — at the expense of real human beings and the rights of nature.

The "greening" of corporations, all agreed, is a distraction, not a solution. It's not a matter of some corporations behaving better or worse than others, but the fundamental nature of the entity. By law, a corporation must place its bottom line above all other considerations. If paving over a wetland or cutting down an old growth redwood forest will increase its profits, the corporation must make every effort to do so. If not polluting a river will cost more than polluting it or paying the fine for doing so, it must fight regulators and the courts tooth and nail to be allowed to continue to pollute. If it does otherwise, it is be-

continued on page 7

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Sierra Club 2007 Calendars

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2007 Executive Committee Nominations

The world's most democratic environmental organization needs you!

Yes, Santa Lucia Chapter member, you can run for Executive Committee and have a say in decision-making in the Sierra Club. The ExCom is an administrative body; we need people who can take minutes, organize committees, inspire participation, provide publicity, and organize members. (You don't have to do it all; one or two of those is great.) Conservationists are welcome, but the Chapter also needs volunteers who like to handle the needs common to all organizations. If you have some time and would like to help this great organization, please volunteer to serve on ExCom.

Each winning candidate will be elected to a three-year term. The Executive Committee meets once monthly at a time and place mutually agreed upon.

Members of the Nomination Committee are Letty French, chair lmfrench@tcsn.net, 805-239-7338, Val Endres, VFENDRES@cs.com, 805-544-1180, and Leslie Krisk lkrisnk@arb.ca.gov 805-473-7325. You may nominate yourself or suggest anyone else to any member of the committee. And if you get the call, please say "yes."

Alternatively, members may run by petition, signed by 25 members in good standing of the Chapter. The deadline for submission of petitions at the chapter office and close of nominations is 4 p.m. on Friday, September 22.

9/16: Coastal Cleanup at 26 County Sites

The California Coastal Commission's 22nd Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day will take place on Saturday, September 16th, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at over 700 locations around the state. Volunteers will clean trash and debris from 1,100 miles of the California coast as well as another 1,000 miles along the inland shorelines of bays, creeks, rivers, and lakes throughout California.

In SLO County, The Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo County (ECOSLO) is coordinating Coastal Cleanup Day for the second year after receiving the project from State Parks. Patrick Kirby, logistics coordinator, has confirmed Beach Captains for 26 Clean-up sites that will stretch from the Piedras Blancas Lighthouse in San Simeon to Oso Flaco Lake near Guadalupe. In addition to ECOSLO's promotions, these Beach Captains recruit hundreds of volunteers who come out to do their part in removing debris. 2005's Cleanup brought out 1,100 volunteers who picked up 3,566 pounds of trash and 890 pounds of recyclables.

"ECOSLO's mission is to support and create resilient, healthy natural systems and life styles in SLO County. We do this through education, advocacy, and community building," said Shaba Mohseni, Oversight Director. "Coastal Cleanup Day is a

direct implementation of our mission to urge the community to make a connection between our natural habitat's health and our own. Participants learn through the hands-on process of collecting debris that coastal pollution is invasive and is a problem that needs to be addressed through prevention and action."

A variety of trash and recyclable items are collected each year, with plastics and cigarette butts continually at the top of the list. Smoking bans are having an impact on a growing number of beaches up and down the California coast. As a result of cigarette collections and subsequent analysis by the County's Tobacco Control Program at last year's Coastal Clean-up Day, the Program and a determined coalition of Morro Bay youth volunteers were successful in convincing the City Council to proclaim Morro Bay beaches Smoke-Free, the first city in the county to do so.

The 2006 Cleanup will look to build on the success of last year's event, when an estimated 52,000 volunteers turned out to remove just under 1 million pounds of debris from California's shorelines — the largest single event in terms of volunteers and tonnage of debris in the Cleanup's history. The results reveal the impact that year-round outreach efforts and new regulations

have had.

"Most of the rise in the amount of trash we picked up resulted from growth of the event into new areas, especially inland areas that are typically underserved when it comes to volunteer cleanups," said Eben Schwartz, Director of California Coastal Cleanup Day. "When you recognize that all those inland waterways will eventually drain to the ocean, you realize that all that extra trash picked up on Coastal Cleanup Day from inland shorelines contributes to keeping our coasts and ocean debris free."

ECOSLO invites everyone to help build upon on last year's outstanding participation and accomplishments. Volunteers are encouraged to contact Patrick Kirby at (805) 544-1777 with any questions, or go to www.ecoslo.org to see a list of all Beach Site meeting places, interesting articles, and details on the Clean-up Celebration at Pismo Pier from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.



Taking Issue

problematic recent environmental commentary & coverage in our local press

"Antibiotic-free foods are not necessarily safer for people, study says" by John Schmeltzer, *Chicago Tribune*, in *The Tribune*, June 25, 2006

A single robin doth not make a spring, but a single study can be useful to an industry seeking to protect its market share while simultaneously seeking to erode the federal organic standard.



"Balance," of course, is what the tobacco lobby tried to bring to studies on the health impacts of smoking, and Exxon-funded studies tried to bring to the global warming "debate" by manufacturing doubt about the phenomenon, its causes and effects.

Michael Doyle's research funding comes from: Coca-Cola Foundation, Procter & Gamble, General Mills, Tony's Pizza, Hershey Foods, Borden, Kraft, General Foods, Gerber, Kroger, Best Foods, International Dioxide Inc., Cargill, Continental Grain Company, Pillsbury Company, Eastman Chemical Co., Chiquita Brands, Lipton Inc., Campbell Soup Co., Rhone-Poulenc Inc., Fresh Express Farms, Frito-Lay Inc., Odwalla Inc., Mead Johnson, Engelhard Corporation, etc. (Integrity in Science: A project of the Center for Science in the Public Interest).

Sponsors of the Institute of Food Technologists' annual World Congress of Food Science and Technology include: Procter & Gamble, USDA, the Coca-Cola Company, Monsanto, Archer Daniels Midland, and Land O'Lakes, Inc. ("Lifting the Veil of Secrecy: Corporate Support for Health and Environmental Professional Associations, Charities, and Industry Front Groups," Center for Science in the Public Interest). The IFT is also opposed to labeling genetically engineered foods.

The study...aims for the heart of the marketing campaigns in the last decade by organic food advocates.... The Organic Trade Association cites 10 studies of antibiotic use in farming to support its stand that antibiotics have been abused by American farmers. "What we are trying to do is bring a balance to the discussion," said Michael Doyle, chairman of the panel assembled by the Chicago-based Institute of Food Technologists...."

Carrizo

continued from page 1

ing cattle on the land as they had prior to National Monument designation, took the Resource Management Plan project away from her, punished her when she protested, and announced their intention to perform only a cursory environmental review for the plan, rather than a full environmental impact statement (EIS), standard procedure for a management plan for public lands as large, complex and significant as Carrizo Plain.

With Braun's death and the attendant media scrutiny and public disclosure of her struggle at the BLM, and the likelihood of legal action from the Sierra Club and other major environmental organizations if the BLM proceeded without an EIS, everything was put on hold.

Now, with the recent appointment

of a new Carrizo Plain National Monument Advisory Committee headed by San Luis Obispo Natural Resources Manager Neal Havlik, the BLM is ready to resume work with the public on a draft resource management plan to guide the monument's future.

And based on "public requests and our interest in expanding public involvement in the planning process," the BLM will be preparing a full environmental impact statement, said BLM California director Mike Pool.

As the McClatchy News Service observed: "Posthumously, Braun prevailed."

Thank you, Marlene.



Marlene Braun: Still fighting for Carrizo

Energy Summit

continued from page 1

warming; we all know now that a climate protection plan is not optional, or a nice idea. It's vital, and it's up to us. And it's part of how we're going to get to the new technologies that will get us from where we are now to where we have to be if the central coast is going to

remain a place where we want to live and can afford to live; a future that guarantees a healthy environment and economy, rather than an attempt to sacrifice the first for the second, losing both.

Read: Has Your Mayor Signed the Climate Agreement? at www.santalucia.sierraclub.org

SUMMIT SCHEDULE

8 a.m. Registration opens - all day.

Exhibits, interactive displays and booths (test your own carbon footprint) - all day, inside and outside.

8:30 Welcome and Kickoff: Panel of local spokespeople to introduce the day.

9-10:30 PANELS

Panel I. Building homes today for tomorrow: Case studies on how to build and remodel homes to use energy smarter

Panel II. New Vehicle/Transportation Options: New vehicles and fuels for a new energy reality.

10:30-12:00 PANELS

Panel III. Land Use Planning as a tool to reduce energy consumption: Where smart growth has prevented sprawl and traffic congestion.

Panel IV. Making your business better: Real-world examples of designing new and retrofitting existing commercial buildings to improve energy efficiency.

12:00-1:30- LUNCH & KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Paul Fenn, author, California Community Choice Act

1:30-3:00 PANELS

Panel V. Changing transportation patterns: Where and how practical public transit systems, alternative transportation, carpooling, and commuter rail systems have been effective.

Panel VI. "Community Choice" - community and regional energy production: How communities can become regional green energy producers and users.

3:00-4:30 PANELS

Panel VII. Building community will: How cities and counties like ours achieve the consensus needed to change energy consumption patterns.

Panel VIII. Generating energy in your home or your business for the region: Getting off the grid and putting your own power back into it.

Shut That Door!

Information and registration: www.smartenergysummit.org

For instant energy-saving action, a full sheet of the cards at right, in red & black, can be downloaded, printed on Avery card stock and handed out to local establishments who insist on air conditioning the great outdoors. Go to:

<http://santalucia.sierraclub.org>

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Stumbling Down the Coast

Fish & Game Commission needs to take another shot at Marine Protected Areas

by Karen Merriam, Chair, Santa Lucia Chapter
 Matthew Fleming, Chair, San Luis Bay Chapter, Surfrider
 Morgan Rafferty, Executive Director, ECOSLO

On August 15 in Monterey, while his fellow California Fish and Game Commissioners were congratulating themselves for having just created a network of 29 marine protected areas over 200 square miles of central coastal waters ("a landmark day..." "a tremendous step forward..."), Commissioner Bob Hattoy offered a dissenting note of reality.

"We had a chance to be historic tonight," he said. "We had an opportunity to run a great race, and we barely stumbled across the finish line."

The Commission was candid as to the reason why it refrained from designating the estuary as the State Marine Conservation Area that was called for in every stakeholder plan: They wanted to make sure the annual estuary waterfowl hunt could continue. But an SMCA designation would not, in fact, forbid a hunt. Thus, our extraordinarily diverse estuary wildlife and habitat have been left high and dry by the Fish and Game Commission for no real reason at all.

Above all, the Commission failed to

err on the side of protection because they can revisit the reserve system in three to five years and make adjustments. But if the Commission erred on the side of too little protection, warned Keeley, the adjustments they will have to make five years hence to fix that mistake will be far more drastic than anything that was on the table that day.

The plan must now undergo environmental review. The Commission couldn't have done worse by the Morro Bay Estuary. It will be up to those of us who cherish this coast to

HopeDance

Films in September

Mon., Sept. 11, SLO Library
 9/11 Films

Thurs., Sept., 14, OUTDOORS*
Dances of Ecstasy

Mon., Sept. 18, SLO Library
Sipakapa's Not for Sale

Wed., Sept. 20, OUTDOORS**
Peace One Day

Fri., Sept. 22, SLO Library
Peace One Day

Sat., Sept 23, 2-8 p.m., SLO Library
 3 films: *Occupied Minds, Peace Propaganda and the Promised Land, SEEDS*

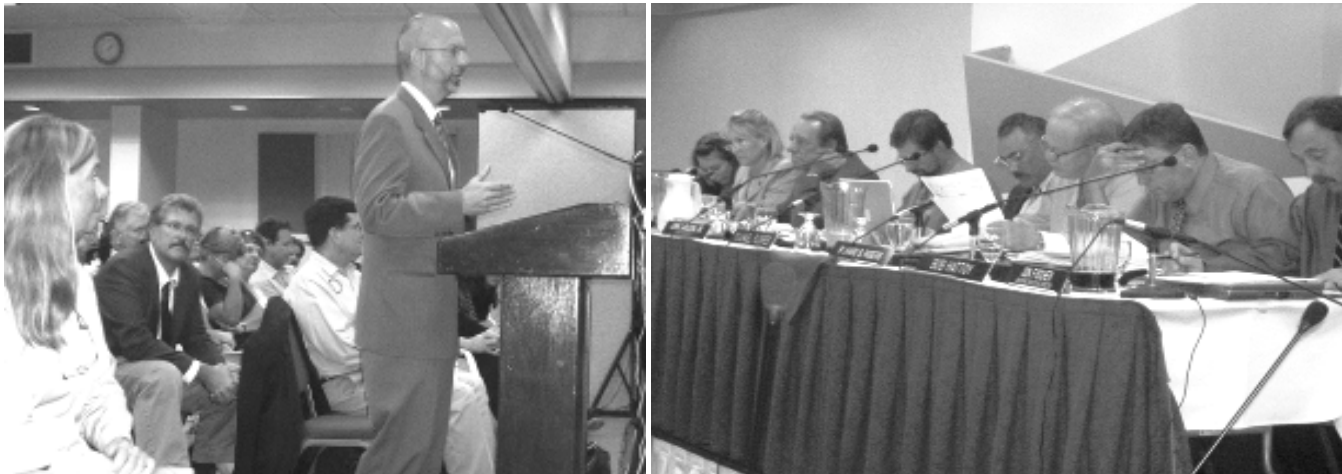
Fri., Sept 29, OUTDOORS
Festival of the Desert

OUTDOORS* = The Secret Garden, private parking lot across from Linnaea's

OUTDOORS** = Behind the SLO Library in Booboo's Parking lot near the new parking structure.

For more information on films and events in September, go to:

www.hopedance.org
 or contact:
info@hopedance.org
 Tel: (805) 544-9663



Keeley to Commission: Former State Assemblymember Fred Keeley, principal author of the Marine Life Protection Act that became law in 1999, told the Fish and Game Commission that for decades California's fishery regulations were based on the question of how to manage abundance, "but by the time the state had grown to 35 million people, the challenge was not how do we manage abundance, but how do we manage scarcity?"

"The Marine Life Protection Act is based on sustainability and the precautionary principle, the foundation of our new marine life management laws.... I ask you to think intergenerationally about this issue. The ocean took a long time to get into its current perilous condition; it's going to take a long time to heal." To that end, Keeley urged the Commissioners to approve MPA stake holder package "2R." They didn't.

Commissioner Hattoy was pointing out the fine print that the headlines didn't convey. Of the 29 areas and 200 square miles, only 8 percent of those waters will be designated as "no take" marine reserves, the only designation that allows for full ecosystem recovery and replenishment, and largely the point of the exercise.

If commercial fishermen are complaining that the Commission protected too much, and environmentalists are complaining that the Commission didn't protect enough, that means the best possible compromise was achieved, right? Wrong.

The Commission's Blue Ribbon Task Force, after an 18-month stakeholder process guided by a science advisory team, came up with three network plans. One, a compromise of an earlier plan, would have put 13% of the Central Coast's waters in no-take reserves. Another package scaled that back, calling for 9%. The third, drafted by fishermen, was essentially status quo. The Commission staff set about drafting yet another scaled-down version of the "compromise of the compromise" plan, with 8% of coastal waters proposed for full reserves. It was this plan that was set before the Commission for nipping and tucking. The result was a triple compromise – the kind of outcome that's pretty much guaranteed to be neither "landmark" nor "tremendous."

Fish and Game backhanded the Morro Bay Estuary, one of the most biologically significant estuaries in the state, declaring it a Marine Recreational Management Area, a designation that subordinates resource protection to recreation. They did so despite the pleas of local residents who traveled to the Monterey hearing, and over the strong objection of the Morro Bay National Estuary Program.

heed the words of former State Assemblyman Fred Keeley, co-author of the Marine Life Protection Act that mandated the establishment of protected areas. Keeley told the Commission it would be okay for them to

attend the public hearings that will be part of the review process, where we must forcefully make that point and demand the protections that the estuary deserves.

Reflections on the Water

By Jeanne Kinney

In my dream, I was shopping at Lord and Taylors but outside Jack Beigle was shaking my tent to wake me up in the dark. It was time for the dawn paddle out of Sapwi Campground on the weekend kayak at Santa Margarita Lake. I knew it was going to be a paddle as good as Christmas used to be. I just didn't know how good.

The moon was long gone and four of us pushed off under the morning stars. As we glided into a nearby cove we were greeted by a chorus of bullfrogs. We listened to all sorts of sounds and watched the sky gradually pick up some color and more light. We headed East as far as we could on a narrow inlet covered with pastel-shaded willow leaves so thick across the surface that it looked like snow.

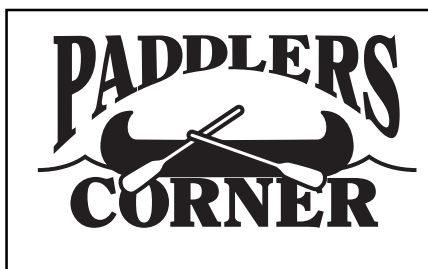
We saw green heron, blue heron, egrets, deer, fish jumping all around us, and much more but this trip was more about the sounds, the sky, the stars, the colors, and the surface of the water. As we came back we looked up at the trees on the bank and they were glistening with the reflection of the lake with the sun

still low at our backs. We could even discern our images subtly projected up onto the trees as well. Jack paraphrased a haiku to the effect that we never just watch the scene but are always a part of it.

It was the last trip with Jack as leader, and it was a great one. I had always

appreciated his knowledge of all things natural, his good natured skills as a leader, his sense of humor, and his way with a canoe. This was a chance to appreciate his artistic side as well and it will stand out among the many trips I have done with Jack as leader. It's been a joy to paddle with him. Best wishes to Jack and Grace in Pacific Grove -- I already put in a pitch for a trip on the Elkhorn Slough as soon as they are settled in.

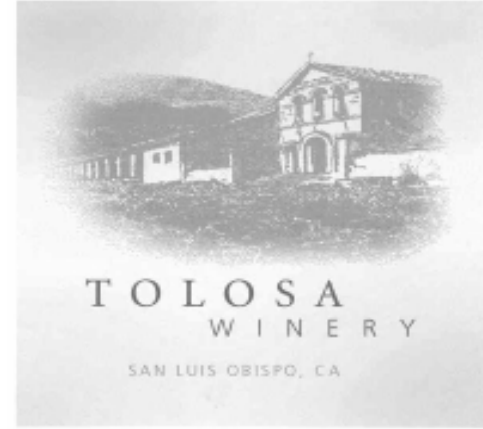
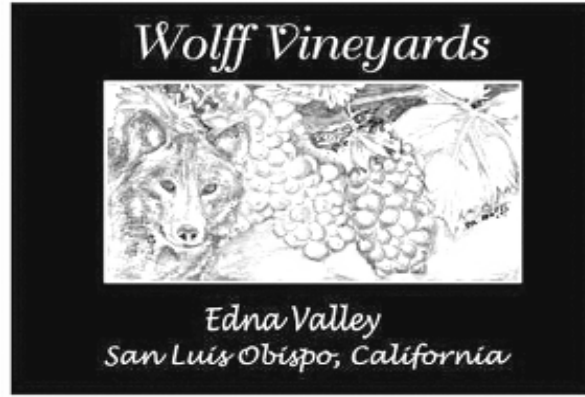
I watched as Jack passed the torch onto our new leader Joe Dickerson and his



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Thanks again to these generous sponsors of "Our Legacy and Promise," the Chapter's June fundraiser and awards banquet. When in the mood to eat, drink and/or be merry, please patronize these fine establishments!



BARNWOOD

Corporate Rule
continued from page 3

traying its promise to its principals and shareholders and its sole purpose: To make money. They must maximize their profits while exploiting workers, nations, and the planet.

"This is not a question of left or right," said Jim Price, staff liaison with the Club's Southeast Office, "It's up or down."

The conference participants agreed that the solution to the problem is to wrest from corporations the rights that were once vested solely in citizens but which corporations have been acquiring for themselves for over a century. That means educating and organizing in our communities and mounting legal challenges to corporate rights.

The American Revolution was a revolt against corporate rule (the thirteen colonies were literally corporations created to carry out the business of the Crown; the Boston Tea Party was specifically a disagreement over "free trade" issues), and the agrarian Populist revolt of the late 19th century was a mass national re-imagining of the political landscape as a democratic system that would serve the needs of common people rather than the robber barons who ruled that era.

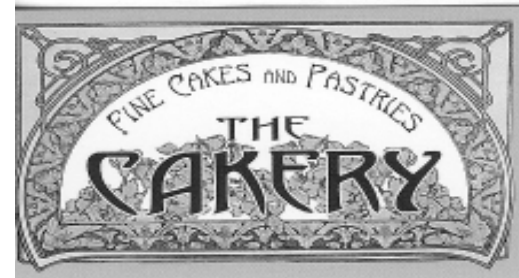
"The political and legal culture has been diverting activists from political arenas where people can define issues and make the rules," write Richard Grossman and Ward Morehouse, co-founders of the Program on Corporations, Law and Democracy (POCLAD). In those arenas, "whether we win or lose, it is clear that the struggle is about who is in charge — corporations or people."

By the end of the weekend, meeting participants agreed that while the Sierra Club must continue to do the

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Dave Henson, one of the principals of the Program on Corporations, Law and Democracy and director of the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center, gave meeting participants a tour of the Center's 80-acre organic farm, ecology center and intentional community. Dave works toward local democracy through programs in ecological literacy, food crop and wildland biodiversity, food systems, watershed ecology and land reform.

work of traditional activism — challenging corporate destruction through the regulatory process and in the courts to protect the natural world

from immediate harms in the short term — we would all take what we'd learned back to our communities and work to help the Corporate Accountability Committee make the abolition of corporate Constitutional rights and the restoration of citizen-based democracy a long-term Sierra Club priority.



David Cobb of the Corporate Accountability Committee and Confronting Corporate Power Task Force makes a point.

Classifieds

October issue ad deadline is **September 13**. To acquire a rate sheet or submit your ad and payment, contact:

Sierra Club - Santa Lucia Chapter
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 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.

Meeting Minutes

highlights from recent chapter meetings

Conservation Committee, Aug. 1, 2006

Present: Chair Pam Heatherington, Jack McCurdy, Jono Kinkade, Mandy Davis, Sue Harvey. Staff: Andrew Christie. Guests: Karen Merriam, Pete Evans.

Pete Evans talked about downtown SLO's "open door" policy. Businesses have their door open with the air conditioning on full blast to improve business. Small cards could be made available for people to hand to businesses that leave their door open; incentives to business to participate in better energy policies — offer a logo for participating business or signs that identified the business as energy smart, keeping its door closed for good energy policy

MB Power Plant: EPA is considering a PSD permit – Prevention of Significant Deterioration. The shorter stacks in a new plant will increase ground pollution by 60% but owners can buy credits. The EPA hearing may be in mid October. Pam proposed a mailing on the EPA hearing involving the L.A. Chapter and Great Coastal Places.

The health commission report on the GMO task force will be discussed at Aug 14 HC meeting. BoS will review Ag Commission report on Aug 22.

MLPA: 8/2 Sac, 8/15 Monterey – Mandy is going to the meeting in Sacramento tomorrow. Gordon Hensley is going. Mandy will

ask for stricter protections for Central Coast sites. She will talk about the area from Piedras Blancas to the estuary and state that people are not coming to speak because of threats and intimidation in MB.

TDC amendments will come to the BoS for approval on August 22. We want TDC amendments with recommendation from the Planning Commission that receiving sites be allowed only within URL's.

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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.

SEPT. 3, 0930, Sun.,

Callender Dunes Hike: Meet at west of Callender Rd. at Hwy #1 We'll hike into remote dunes to Chumash Midden, see Black Lake. Dogs OK. Call 929-3647 or <bdenneen@kcbx.net> a few days before to confirm and for details.

Sat-Mon, Sept 2-4 - Tamarisk Eradication, carcamp, and hike in Surprise Canyon: After three previous service trips our outing should deliver the final blow to these invasive weeds. With a flowing stream and shade, this canyon in the Panamint Mountains is a pleasant setting or our work with Marty Dickes, Wilderness Coordinator for the Ridgecrest BLM office. In addition to the extensive mining history of the area, campfire conversation will include concerns about past and future use of the area by off-road vehicles. We work two days and the third is reserved for an exploratory hike to one of several possible destinations. Primitive camping, 2WD vehicles OK. Sign-up and information from leader: Craig Deutsche, (310-477-6670), deutsche@earthlink.net. CNRCC Desert Com

Sat., Sept. 9th, 8:45 a.m., Tentative Hike, The Big Sur Coast. Come take a hike along the Big Sur Coast. Destination is unknown at this time. Meet at the Washburn Day Use Area, San Simeon State Park, 8:45 a.m. Bring lunch, water, and dress for the weather. Details call Gary at 473-3694

Sun., SEPT. 10, 0930, Bike Tour of Woodlands: We'll bicycle about 8 miles the roads of this 'instant city'. Meet at junction of Willow & Albert Way. On the last bike-tour, we saw a "city" replacing a 1,000 acre "euke forest" — you have to see it to believe it — amazing. Who said water is limited on the mesa? Call 929-3647 or <bdenneen@kcbx.net> a few days before to confirm and for details.

Sat., Sept. 16th, Coastal Cleanup Day: Lend a hand to remove

trash from our local beaches. Contact ECOSLO for information. 544-1777 www.ecoslo.org

Thurs-Mon, Sept 14-18 - Toiyabe Crest: The Toiyabe Range is the longest mountain range in Nevada, running for over 100 miles. The Toiyabes include the large Arc Dome Wilderness, but the range to the north is still unprotected, although its wilderness qualities are just as fine. We will sample a little of both parts of the range on this three-day backpack. For more information or to sign up, contact John Wilkinson, 408-947-0858 or johnfw1@mac.com. Limited to 12 people. Loma Prieta Chap/CNCR

SEPT. 17, 0930, Sun. POINT SAL HIKE & CLEAN-UP Meet at end of Brown Road, hike to ridge (2.5 miles 1000 ft elevation) and then decide to go to PS Beach, Paradise Beach or return. Bring water, windbreaker, lunch & a friend. Dogs OK With road closed—little trash to pick up.. Call 929-3647 or <bdenneen@kcbx.net> a few days before to confirm and for details.

SEPT. 24, 0930, Sun., Callender Dunes Hike: Meet at west of Callender Rd. at Hwy #1 We'll hike into remote dunes to Chumash Midden, see Black Lake. Dogs OK. Call 929-3647 or <bdenneen@kcbx.net> a few days before to confirm and for details.

Sat-Sun, Sept. 23-24 - Tamarisk Removal Service Trip – Santa Rosa Wilderness: Service and Hike in Santa Rosa Wilderness: Tamarisk is indiscriminant and unrelenting. We will assist the BLM in eradicating this non-native invasive from a part of the Santa Rosa Wilderness Area within the recently created San Jacinto National Monument. Loppers and handsaws are the tools, and a bad attitude toward tamarisk is required. Saturday is for work, Sunday reserved for a recreational hike. Justin Seastrand, Wilderness Coordinator for the Palm Springs BLM, will be our mentor. Contact Leader: Craig Deutsche, (310-477-6670), deutsche@earthlink.net CNRCC Desert Com

Sat., Sept. 30th, 10 a.m. Creek Day 2006: Come help the City of SLO, the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County continue the tradition of keeping our creeks clean as we prepare for the winter months. Meet at Mission Plaza in San Luis Obispo for more information call 544-9096, or visit the website at <http://www.special-places.org/ecm/Home.html>

Sat-Sun, Sept. 30-Oct. 1, Cottonwood Campground Tree Planting and Cleanup Work Party: Join us for National Public Lands Day by planting cottonwood and oak seedlings at the BLM campground in McCain Valley. Saturday will be a work day; Sunday we will have several hikes in the area, possibly Sombrero Peak, or the palm grove in Four Frogs Canyon. This is also a critical area of concern because of the potential for a wind farm in the valley. Leader: Larry Klaasen, 619-582-7407, klaasen_L@juno.com, asst: Pat Klaasen CNRCC Desert Com/ San Diego Chap

OCT. 1, 0930, Sun. Coast Hike: An exploratory hike of about 4

miles near the ocean . Call 929-3647 or <bdenneen@kcbx.net> a few days before to confirm and for details.

Sat-Mon, Oct. 14-16 - Service and Celebration on the Carrizo Plain: In 2001, President Bill Clinton created the Carrizo Plain National Monument under the authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906. The area is now part of the National Landscape Conservation System, special landscapes managed by BLM. This outing, sponsored by the Sierra Club and The Wilderness Society, will celebrate the one-hundredth anniversary of the Act. On Saturday, we will remove and/or alter barbed wire fencing to benefit pronghorn antelope. Sunday's celebration will be a hike in a rugged and little-known area of the Caliente Mountains WSA. Those who are able will continue fence removal on Monday. For information, contact Leader: Craig Deutsche, (310-477-6670), deutsche@earthlink.net. CNRCC Desert Com/Wilderness Society

Sat., Oct 21 - Covington Flats Hike - Joshua Tree National Park. Would you like to go for a scenic loop hike in a seldom used but very beautiful area of the park? The plan is to mix a section of the California Riding and Hiking Trail with some cross-country hiking that will include great overviews looking down into the low desert, and some lovely hi desert scenery. The hike will begin at about 4000 feet, hopefully on a cool clear fall morning. This should be about a five-hour hike and about a seven-mile distance. A couple of quarts of water and a high protein lunch should do you fine and your momma proud. Call Ann and Al Murdy at 760-366-2932 (directly, no messages) or email aemurdy@eee.org. CNRCC/San Gorgonio Chapter

Sat - Sun, Oct 21-22 - Avawatz Mts. and Death Valley Tour of the proposed wilderness: The area includes rugged mountains, deep canyons, open valleys, pristine dry lakebeds and rare creeks. Saturday the tour will take us to Sheep Creek in the Avawatz Mts., through some of the "Bowling Alley", a proposed wilderness addition, and camping at Owlshead Springs. Sunday will include a stop at beautiful Saratoga Springs for lunch and then a trip to China Ranch with a hike to Amargosa River waterfalls. The roads are dirt and rough at times, so 4-WD is strongly recommended. The camping is primitive, so bring all food for weekend and lots of water. Camera and binoculars also highly recommended. Bryn Jones, of California Wilderness Coalition, will guide the tour with an abundance of information on the area. To sign up contact: Carol Wiley at earthlingwiley@webtv.net. To sign up by phone contact Carol Wiley (760) 245-8734 or Estelle Delgado (760) 241-7327. CNRCC Desert Com

Sat-Sun, Oct 28-29 - Carrizo Antelope Protection Carcamp: With little rainfall and few water sources, the species that live on the Carrizo Plain 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 removing fencing for their benefit. Work hard on Saturday; take some



Photo by Joaquin Palting

time Sunday to enjoy the monument. Camp at Selby campground, bring food, water, heavy leather work gloves, and camping gear for the weekend. Potluck Sat. night. Alternate date in case of rain: Nov 11-12. 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 CNRCC/Santa Lucia Chapter

Sat., October 28: Tomales Dunes with the Great Coastal Places Campaign: Sierra Club Coastal Director Mark Massara will lead activists from throughout the state on a easy and informative hike through one of California's great coastal places: the Tomales Dunes. This magnificent and relatively isolated spot lies across from Point Reyes National Seashore in Marin County and is one of the largest unprotected stretches of dunes in California. The Sierra Club has been working for years to protect the dunes from the threats posed by the unpermitted RV campground, Lawson's Landing - the largest RV campground in California.

The Great Coastal Places hike series is designed to bring people together to experience our fragile, threatened coastline and show the simple things you can do to make a difference in protecting the coast for



future generations. Tomales Dunes has sensitive wetlands, multiple endangered species and a future in doubt. Learn how much you can do with very little time commitment.

For more information email Mark at savethecoast@sierraclub.org or call Catherine Caufield at (415) 663-9312.

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.