

The Valley Women's Club NEWSLETTER

The Valley Women's Club is dedicated to community action, awareness and leadership in environmental, educational, social, and political concerns which affect the health and welfare of the San Lorenzo Valley and our community.

Hammer-Marcum Award Celebration

A Moving — and Tasty — Event



Mary Hammer, Donna Ziel, Annette Marcum and Jane Hurlbut

We honored the decades of commitment and self-sacrifice of Jane Hurlbut and Donna Ziel at a wonderful celebration on Sunday, May 3. Over eighty attendees came and applauded at the presentations of awards, flowers and Legislative Resolutions for Jane and Donna. Words of praise, and gratitude, and love, brought tears and smiles to everyone.

The celebration started with flowers and conversation, and then came the most wonderful abundance of desserts! Jeri Oneto, with the able assistance of her husband Bruce, baked dozens of cookies and cakes and creamy marvels for us all to enjoy. It was wonderful! Fresh and delicious!

While everyone was savoring their desserts, Stevi and the Green Beans provided beautiful songs for our entertainment. The quartet featured Mike Baroni (bass & vocals), Mark Becker (guitar &

vocals), Sam Sternlight (mandolin) and Stephanie Sakasai (guitar & vocals). Their original arrangements and harmonies were the perfect transition to the presentation of awards. Special words of recognition were given by both Annette Marcum and Mary

Hammer, along with beautiful bouquets of flowers, to Jane and Donna. Then Supervisor Mark Stone brought the Board of Supervisors' commendation, along with his personal praises. Ali Spickler, representing Assembly Member, Bill Monning, and Maureen McCarty, representing State Senator Joe Simitian, brought impressive Resolutions honoring our Awardees.

The Award itself, a beautiful, finely hand-crafted redwood box made by David and Kim Okrant, is the traditional gift from the VWC. The box has silver medallions representing Mary and Annette on the lid, and a plaque describing the award inside. Its beauty is a fitting tribute for two people who have given so much to so many. (To see a more detailed summary of Jane and Donna's contributions, go to the VWC website, www.vwcweb.org.)

VWC Yard Sale

New-found treasures and future family heirlooms await you at this year's VWC yard sale on Saturday, June 13th from 8 AM to 2 PM in the parking lot in front of WA Insurance (12788 Highway 9 in Boulder Creek).

Beginning June 1st, we will be accepting donations of jewelry, household items, sporting equipment, toys, and small furniture (no clothing or books, please). Contact Hilary Stanley to make arrangements to donate items for this year's sale: 338-2247. This is the major fundraiser for the annual Scholarships given to SLV Seniors heading for Cabrillo College, so plan to donate and come to buy!



Berry Creek Falls, Big Basin

Summer 2009

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VWC Board Retreat at Camp Joy

On March 15th, the Valley Women's Club Board of Directors retreated to the lodge at Camp Joy to take a step back and contemplate the big picture, a focus that is sometimes lost amid the hubbub of active lives and committee work.

Under the careful guidance of facilitator Judi Sherman, the board got to know each other a little better and grappled with the question of how to attract new, active members.

One issue that was identified as worthy of discussion is the "graying" of the current board and general membership. Many of the people who founded the VWC more than 30 years ago were young parents concerned about preserving the unique qualities of the Valley for generations to come. Those same people may still be passionate and energetic but they are not quite so young

anymore and the intervening years have not brought enough of an influx of young adult members to the VWC.

Among the topics explored during the retreat:

- Making better use of technology to communicate with potential members;
- Identifying generational concerns that coincide with the VWC's mission;
- Exploring the different reasons someone might want to join the VWC.

Members of the various committees are completing work plans to give their projects more focus over the next year. Your ideas and input are important to this, so please call President Nancy Gerd at 335-3130, with your ideas and concerns!

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Water Board Considers Water Supply Master Plan

At the May 21 SLVWD Board Meeting, Nicholas M. Johnson PhD, Water Resources Consultant, presented an extensive report on past consumption and future production potential toward the implementation of a Water Supply Master Plan, according to Felton FLOW volunteer, Connie Barr, who attended the meeting.

The in-depth report did the following:

- Documented the District's conjunctive use of diverted steam flow and pumped groundwater on a monthly basis for 1984-2008, where conjunctive is broadly defined as the optimized sustainable sources of water throughout annual and long-term climatic cycles.
- Evaluated the production potential of its available water resources defined by climate, watershed hydrology, aquifer hydrology, water quality, water rights, and infrastructure (i.e., water collection, treatment, storage, and conveyance).
- Demonstrated alternatives for sustainably supplying monthly water demand projected for 2030 and a repeat of the 1984-2008 climatic cycles.

* On the basis of this analysis, he recommends:

- Implementation of an intertie between the northern and southern service areas.
- Exercising the District's entitlement to a portion of the yield of Loch Lomond Reservoir.
- Technically supported subsequent District efforts regarding, environmental assessment, and project implementation.

The report took two hours of presentation at this meeting of the Board. The entire report, including supporting maps and charts will be available on the District's website. <http://www.slvwd.com>

VWC Has Special EARTH DAY Booth

What a special day the April 18th Earth Day festival down in Santa Cruz was. Environmental Committee leader, Carol Carson, had a vision of what it could be and it was perfect! And fun, and productive, and very special...

Our booth was really one of the best -- Carol invited Central Coast Wilds (www.centralcoastwilds.com), a wonderful native plants nursery off Hwy 9 in Santa Cruz, to bring plants to sell -- and they brought a wonderful selection of plants that made our booth really enticing and attractive.

Gabriel and Shaleah (apologies if I'm spelling her name wrong), and later owner, Josh, were so knowledgeable and friendly, and people wanted to know so much! They were very busy. They had landscaping guides for grass/meadow areas, under the Redwoods, and others -- their brochures are lovely and full of information too. Our big sign urged people to "Save the Earth" Plant a Native! (We received 20% of their sales too! -- really generous people.) They are ecological consultants and can solve a lot of problems and bring beauty to your lives too.

We had an information table with Kate Stafford's attractive information display on water conservation (one of the series funded by our State Fish & Game grant), with her own beautiful photos of farms and gardens, drawing people inside the booth. Two people were excited to join our efforts in the SLV and many others took brochures and videos (Don Alley's on Salmonids and Citizens for Forest Management's on the Coastal Redwoods) and walked away better informed.

AND...there was music! Stephanie Sakasai and Mark Becker started the day with songs and guitar, and others came as the day progressed, bringing more interest to our booth. And they are really GOOD! (They performed at the Hammer-Marcum Award Celebration too.)

Mary Jo Walker came early to help set-up and stayed many hours to help staff the booth. Carol came at noon (with our doggie mascot, "Bucky"), and was the one responsible for our two new members, and Sean Wharton came to help a while later.

Kevin Collins helped get the Sierra Club booth going and came by to visit, along with many other VWC members and Earth Day celebrants.

KUDOS to Ana Maria Rebelo (the County's Public Education Program Coordinator) and Ecology Action, for organizing the best Earth Day event ever!

Gabriel Carraher

Central Coast Wilds

(831) 459-0656

<http://www.centralcoastwilds.com/>

Polluted Runoff Can Affect the Quality of Our Lives

Submitted by Patricia Matejcek

This is no surprise, but we need to remind ourselves constantly of the effects of Nonpoint Source Pollution. The Surfrider Foundation tells us, "Runoff from residential landscapes affects the quality of our oceans and the quality of our lives. The sediment in water reduces clarity; nutrients increase algae populations and red tides; bacteria close beaches and sicken wildlife; debris can choke and suffocate aquatic species; and pesticides picked up off a landscape can poison fish consumed by humans -- all of which degrade the natural beauty, and our enjoyment, of the ocean. The good news is that you can help bring back healthy coasts and oceans through CPR -- Conservation, Permeability and Retention. It's a way for all of us to design and maintain our gardens so that we can reduce urban runoff -- and the pollutants that go with it." - excerpt from Surfrider Foundation's Ocean Friendly Garden web site section, <http://www.surfrider.org/ofg.asp>.

QUICK THOUGHTS on Environmental Issues

Film Online on True "Costs of Good"

Submitted by Anne Williams

Don't miss this ... A terrific film, made by a former Greenpeace activist on the facts about the true cost of goods to the environment, consumer, and society, with suggestions for how we can change. Go to <http://www.storyofstuff.com>

Awesome Article on Women Making a Difference for the Environment

Submitted by Sheila DeLany, Chair, Women's Issues

This is an excellent website featuring some remarkable stories about some amazing women. Enjoy! <http://www.nwhp.org/whm/honorees.php>

Purge the Paper, Cut the Shirt: DIY Cloth Napkins

An active environmental blogger, Ronnie Citron Frank, gave some hard facts on using trees to wipe our faces and blow our noses. "According to the EPA, the U.S. generates approximately 3,430,000 tons of tissue, napkins and paper towels of waste. That's a lot of trees...all non-recyclable." So consider cloth napkins for the following reasons • Cloth napkins can be used and reused over and over again. • Cloth napkins dress up your table. • Cloth napkins help with spills. • Cloth napkins take up less wash (in cold water) than a bulky tablecloth. • Cloth napkins are classy and chic. • Cloth napkins feel good. (Same arguments for handkerchiefs and placements.) Go to the VWC website (www.vwcweb.org) to find the directions for making your own napkins using old oxford or flannel shirts!

Timber Harvest Legislation Would Severely Reduce Environmental Oversight.

A Southern California Assembly Member, whose District does not have any forest lands, has introduced legislation (AB 1066-Mendoza) to extend the ability to renew a Timber Harvest Plan (THP) without review. The VWC joined the Lompico Watershed Conservancy and the Sierra Club in speaking out against this legislation.

Each Timber Harvest Plan (THP) costs the State of California's Department of Forestry many thousands of dollars - not to mention the costs to the Department of Fish and Game and local water districts and county agencies in dealing with the THP's -- and there is no fee assessed to file a Plan! This is a direct and unfair subsidy of a large industry. Supporters of AB 1066 are claiming that extending the life of a THP will save the State money by reducing the costs of administering the Plan. This is a farce when the State should not be bearing the burden of reviewing the plan and enforcing the (already too weak) environmental standards and oversight in the first place.

The entire Coast of California will suffer severely from reduced oversight and we are sure the Sierras and other harvested areas will be deeply, adversely affected. The end result of this bill will be to expand the negative impacts of timber harvest while reducing oversight of those harvests. We hope to see it defeated.

Smoke Detectors ARE Radioactive Perfectly Safe in Use, but Thrown Away?

Smoke detectors save lives and are a vital tool in every home and business. However, when being disposed of they MUST be taken to Household Hazardous Waste (Ben Lomond Transfer Station), Thursdays or Sundays, 7:30-3:30, for free disposal. Manufacturers are responsible for the tiny amounts of material. Why is it radioactive? Visit the [VWC website](http://www.vwcweb.org) for the explanation.

VWC VISION STATEMENT

We value activism and the development of leadership that empowers people to become responsible stewards of the environment and our community.

Tips for Parenting in a Commercial Culture — a Superb Resource

New research suggests that aggressive marketing to kids contributes not only to excessive materialism, but also to a host of psychological and behavioral problems, including depression, anxiety, low self esteem, childhood obesity, eating disorders, increased violence, and family stress. It is very difficult to raise children who are bombarded with enticements to eat, buy, covet, dress! You will find a remarkable booklet (in pdf form) on the VWC Website that could prove very useful to you as a parent or grandparent, and that you can share with others. Tips for Parenting in a Commercial Culture was written by The Center for a New American Dream (www.newdream.org, 1-877-68-DREAM).

Park Your Car Keys Beside Your Bed At Night

By Jenna Collier

This tip comes from a neighborhood watch coordinator: If you get into the habit of putting your car keys next to your bed at night, you can use the panic button on your car key the next time you hear a noise outside or someone trying to break into your house. The alarm will be set off and the horn will continue to honk until you turn it off.

The great thing about it is that it's a security alarm system that requires no installation. It will go off from almost anywhere inside your house and odds are the intruder won't stick around because, after a few seconds, all your neighbors will be looking out their windows to see what's going on.

And, remember to carry your keys in your hand while walking to your car in a parking lot because the alarm can be used to scare off unwelcome attention there as well.

It could also be useful for emergencies, such as a heart attack, when you can't reach a phone. Elderly people with stability issues can carry their car keys with them in case they fall outside the home. They can activate the car alarm and alert family or neighbors that there's a problem.

Beverage Consumption Is a Big Factor In Weight Gain—You are what you Drink!

When it comes to weight loss, what you drink may be more important than what you eat, according to researchers at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Researchers examined the relationship between beverage consumption and weight change and found that weight loss was positively associated with a reduction in liquid calorie consumption and liquid calorie intake had a stronger impact on weight than solid calorie intake.

“Both liquid and solid calories were associated with weight change, however, only a reduction in liquid calorie intake was shown to significantly affect weight loss during the 6-month

follow up,” said Benjamin Caballero MD, a professor with the Bloomberg School's Department of International Health. Of the seven types of beverages examined, sugar-sweetened beverages were the only beverages significantly associated with weight change.

Researchers divided beverages into several categories based on calorie content and nutritional composition: sugar-sweetened beverages, diet drinks, milk, 100 percent juice, coffee and tea with sugar, coffee and tea without sugar and alcoholic beverages. They found that, at 37 percent, sugar-sweetened beverages were the leading source of liquid calories.

Earlier studies project that by 2015, the number of overweight or obese adults in the U.S could increase from 66% to 75%. Researchers recommend limiting liquid calorie intake in general and reducing sugar-sweetened beverage consumption as a means to accomplish weight loss or avoid excess weight gain.

The results are published in the April 1, 2009, issue of the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

New SLV Group Concerned with Pedestrian and Biker Safety

As a result of a recent car accident that killed a pedestrian, a Boulder Creek woman has organized a new group called “Safe SLV Streets.”

Rachael Montague says she was prompted to do something after a teenager was killed while walking along the shoulder of Highway 9 in Boulder Creek several months ago. She began by reading the study completed by the county in 2006 examining ways to increase safety for both bicyclists and people on foot in the San Lorenzo Valley.

Montague says the group has decided to start by focusing on one project: trying to increase pedestrian and biker safety along the segment of Highway 9 between the high school and downtown Felton.

If you're interested in supporting this important effort, the group meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30PM at the Felton Firehouse. Please come to offer your help.

Cautions about Enjoying our Parks and Forests

By Lyse McGilvery

It's not as much of a concern this time of year, but when the rains return, people look to the forests as a source of a favorite food, mushrooms. It is remarkable how similar some of the most toxic mushrooms are in appearance with some of the common food favorites. Our Parks, like Henry Cowell, are popular sources for wild mushrooms. If you visit the Emergency Room at Dominican Hospital, there is usually a warning sign up about them, and virtually every year someone collects, cooks, and eats mushrooms that kill them or make them severely ill – damaging their livers. Enjoy how they look and take photos, but leave collecting to the experts.

Another reminder is to not feed wild animals in any park, as they may start to frequent places where people toss leftovers.

This:

- 1) lessens the likelihood of their searching for food in their normal spots, which
- 2) subjects them to the health hazards of refined foods, colorings and preservatives used in human food, or inappropriate foods that do not support their well-being, and
- 3) increases their chances of becoming roadkill as they gather where people do.

Our local Rangers are adamant about this. You may want to avoid this experience. One day, a man who prefers to remain anonymous was with his daughter watching a deer who “appeared to be interested” in the food on their picnic blanket. Totally alone and in full view of a “Do Not Feed the Wildlife” sign, they offered the deer part of a banana. Seconds later, a park ranger drove up, and saw a banana peel sticking out of the deer’s mouth. Caught!

Remember, don’t feed the wildlife.

Grants Fund Two Important Projects

Update of Watershed Brochure

Thanks to Tai Stills, the first Watershed Festival brochure, mailed to every SLV resident about five years ago, and very popular because of its charming map of the Valley, has been updated and reprinted. Tai wrote a grant request to the Santa Cruz County Fish & Game Commission, which was granted and funded earlier this year. Tai contacted our talented Newsletter graphics artist, Laurel Becker, who made the changes to the original brochure. Community Printers printed the new brochures with a significant and welcome discount. And now the new brochures are being snapped up at every event where they are on dis-



play – and you have one in this Newsletter!

These wonderful, informative brochures, give residents guidance on how to prevent their lives from adversely affecting our fragile hillsides, important plant communities, and vital waterways.

Do you have a neighbor, or neighborhood, or Church or other group to whom you would like to give copies of the brochure? Contact Nancy Macy (345-1555)! (It is also available on the VWC website in pdf format.)

Watershed Nature Walks and Articles

One of the most popular activities in our on-going Watershed Festival of events is the walks led by talented and informed experts into important parts of the Watershed. This year, Environmental Committee member (and immediate past Co-Chair), Carol Carson, felt it was important to provide an honorarium to the walk leaders, and had the inspiration to write articles for local

publication about each of the walks. She wrote a grant around these ideas to the SLV Water District’s Watershed Education Grant Program and, at press time, the grant request has been recommended for approval by the District’s Watershed Education Commission – the Board will vote on it at its next meeting.

The first walk will have taken place Saturday, June 6. Hopefully you all received the email about it, or saw the announcement in the paper, since this Newsletter is now out in time. Docent Judy Hill was to lead the walkers up into Fall Creek to explore the wildflowers, birds, lime kiln history, and some other Secrets Judy has learned in her years of research of Fall Creek. The other walks are in the planning and will be announced soon, and soon after Carol’s articles will be in the Press-Banner and online at the VWC website.

For further information about the walks, please contact Carol at 338-6343.

TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Residents up Big Basin Face Weeks of Severe Inconvenience and Danger

The large slip-out up Hwy 236 from Boulder Creek, just past Bracken Brae, has made the road one lane for weeks. Now residents are facing the complete closure of the road for “2 to 4 weeks” this summer, at the height of the tourist — and wildfire — season. The many hundreds of residents will be forced to use narrow and windy Jamison Creek Rd. up to Empire Grade, many miles out of the way, or possibly out China Grade Rd. to even more narrow and windier “upper 236.” to get to town. This prospect has residents up in arms for good reason. Supervisor Mark Stone has already written to the Department of Transportation expressing the County’s concern for the untenable situation.

Forcing residents to take these alternate routes will have an extremely detrimental impact on Boulder Creek’s businesses, already reeling from the bad economy. More importantly the closure is a significant danger to residents. Emergency services’ response time will be longer at best; the large fire trucks will be

forced up tiny Acorn Rd., which cannot handle two-way traffic. Propane delivery will be curtailed, along with other delivery vans and moving trucks. No buses will be able to go past the turnout near Bracken Brae.

Prime tourist time to Big Basin and the programs at Sempervirens will have frustrated tourists trying to find their way into the Park, if they even bother. Two other things bother the residents, the inadequate notification -- only 199 homes received letters when many hundreds are affected (over 500 in the Big Basin Water Company area alone). Also, CalTrans has no real idea of the number of vehicles affected since they haven’t taken a count... and summertime traffic is significantly higher.

Those concerned with the situation are invited to contact Rich Krumholz at the Department of Transportation. A quick email could help make the difference in how the road is repaired. Please add your voice to ours. Rich.Krumholz@dot.ca.gov

Grow A Farmer Campaign

By Beth Benjamin

Forty years ago, an innovative English horticulturist named Alan Chadwick was responsible for transforming 25-acres of fields, orchards and greenhouses into the UC Santa Cruz Farm & Garden, a hands-on training program.

Over the years, the organic training was formalized into a six-month apprenticeship and interest in the program is now at an all-time high, with a record 152 applications received last fall for the 38 positions in the 2009 Apprenticeship. Since its inception, more than 1,200 people have been trained at UC Santa Cruz, learning not only how to raise food and flowers, but how to make the food system itself more sustainable.

One critical element of the Apprenticeship has been the immersion learning made possible by a full-time residential program. For many years apprentices have lived in tents at the UC Santa Cruz Farm, but the University has decided that 2009 is the last season in which living in tents will be allowed.

Fundraising efforts, called "Grow A Farmer," are underway to establish permanent apprentice housing at the UCSC Farm and Garden. The University has given the fundraisers until June to raise the money to start actually building the shovel-ready project. You may have seen some of the events on posters around town.

The Apprenticeship self-generates most of its operating income through produce and plant sales, program tuition and fees, but it depends on donations and grants to complete its annual budget.

To learn more about this program, you can visit the website: <http://growafarmer.org>

To mail in a donation: Grow a Farmer
CASFS Farm, UCSC
1156 High Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

Phone: (831) 459-3240, E-mail: growafarmer@ucsc.edu

Please make checks to the UCSC Foundation, with "Apprenticeship Housing" in the memo line.

Closing the Gap in the Santa Cruz County Library Budget

By Paul Machlis, Felton Library Friends

More than 300 people jammed into the Santa Cruz City Council chambers for the May meeting of the Library Joint Powers Authority Board. Many had come to respond to reports that the Board was considering closing down either the Garfield Park Library or the library in La Selva Beach; other reports threatened the Felton branch.

These cuts are being considered because the library system is facing an economic crisis as sales tax and property tax income have plummeted while library expenses have not.

Projected income has fallen to \$11,355,000, but without making any cuts, expenses for the coming year are projected to be \$12,597,670. That leaves a \$1,242,670 shortfall for next year's budget alone.

Instead of closing a branch library, the Board has decided to explore the option of "sharing the pain" throughout the library

system. The Library Joint Powers Authority Board has asked library staff to come back to the Board in June with a variety of ideas to cut library services countywide.

At that time, the Board will decide on a mix of cuts that involve fewer hours at all branches, a reduction in staff at all branches, fewer programs, a lower book/media budget, the possibility of continuing to furlough all staff, and the possibility of closing the system for weeks at a time.

Those Valley Women's Club members who are not yet on the Felton Library Friends email list are invited to join by emailing feltonlibraryfriends@gmail.com. We send emails sparingly, but when it is important to quickly rally hundreds of SLV library supporters to protect our libraries through letters or meetings, the email list is our most effective tool.

Camp Joy Event Calendar Filled With Incredible Offers

Camp Joy Gardens, a 4.5-acre organic farm in Boulder Creek, is a remarkable educational non-profit organization with a focus on sustainable gardening, animal husbandry, food preservation, and other skills. It offers intensive eight-month garden apprenticeships as well as shorter classes on a variety of topics, for children and adults. (For more information please call 338-3626).

Ongoing Events Include:

- **Thursday is Volunteer/Open Garden Day.** Every season offers different tasks that could always use extra hands. Call or come by if you are interested! 9:00 till 1:00pm.
- **Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)** is a way to directly support us by subscribing to a weekly pick up of whatever is in season. Starting in June and runs until October, please call for more details if you are interested.

Children's Programs:

- **Thursdays 10-2 for Ages 3-5** provides an alternative educational opportunity in a garden setting. The program will provide children with a seasonal open-ended curriculum that fosters the connection between the earth and our health as humans on the planet. It will also facilitate social/emotional growth through a rich understanding of Early Childhood Development. To insure quality our group size will be small, space is limited so be sure to call a month prior to each session or register for all three!

Summer: 7/16-8/20, Fall: TENTATIVELY 10/8-11/12

(Another day may be offered for school age children if there is interest)

- **Garden Tours** for school-age children or your group will begin in the spring on Fridays starting in the fall September 4th till October 23rd Cost is \$5 per person. We'll show you around the farm then you can have your snack in the gazebo. BY RESERVATION ONLY.
- **Families in the Garden** 10-12:00, the second Monday of each month through October. Parents gather in the garden to explore through their child's senses. An open-ended curriculum provided and you can join us for a potluck lunch. Space

is limited.

Other exciting Classes and Events include Parent Education in June, three Garden Harvest Dinners in July, August and October, Cheese Making Saturdays in July and August, Basketry Classes in September, Backyard Composting Workshop, and, the 32nd Annual Wreath Sale on November 22.

No one will be turned away from learning! Scholarships are available.

Camp Joy Gardens is located at 131 Camp Joy Rd. (off Irwin Way), Boulder Creek, CA (831) 338-3651. They're on the web at www.campjoygardens.org.

Quail Hollow Ranch a Treasure Trove of Activities in a Beautiful Location

Quail Hollow Ranch County Park features four miles of gorgeous hiking trails on over 300 acres in between Felton and Ben Lomond. The park is open from dawn to dusk every day and is home to 15 distinct habitats so there's plenty to explore.

Coming up at Quail Hollow Ranch in June is a Beginning Birding class (Sunday, June 7, 8-10 a.m.), Snakes Alive (June 7, 1-4 p.m.); Propagation for Your Garden (Sunday, June 14, 10-noon); Creepy Crawlies (Sunday, June 21, 11-1); 4-H at Quail Hollow Ranch (Sunday, June 28, 1-3 p.m.)

For more information on any of these events, please call 335-9348.

Legislation of Importance in State Legislature

Thanks to Maureen McCarty

Those of you who attended the Hammer-Marcum Award Celebration will remember Maureen McCarty, State Senator Joe Simitian's Senior Field Representative for our end of the 11th District. Maureen is an active member of the VWC's Environmental Committee and is an excellent resource for SLV residents dealing with the State of California – from Unemployment Insurance to Forestry issues. Recently Maureen provided a list of current legislation that would be of interest to our community. This is a quick summary of a few of them but you can find more information on the State Senate website, <http://www.sen.ca.gov/>

SB 211: Open Space District (Simitian)

Joe introduced a bill on behalf of the Santa Cruz County Land Trust to provide for the creation of a regional park and open space district in Santa Cruz County. It passed the Senate Floor and is awaiting committee assignment in the Assembly. This could be vital in the never-ending struggle to maintain open space throughout the County.

SB 14 RPS (Simitian)

A Renewables Portfolio Standard or RPS, is a requirement for electric utilities to supply a minimum percentage of their electricity from renewable resources, such as wind, solar, and geothermal. California established its RPS back in 2002, which required a 20% minimum by 2017. In 2006 Joe introduced legislation, which was enacted that accelerated the date to 2010. Since then, he's been trying, so far unsuccessfully, to add a requirement of 33% by 2020. His RPS bill for this session is SB 14. It squeaked out of Senate Appropriations Committee and passed the Senate Floor on a party line vote. It's now at the Assembly desk pending referral.

SB 26 and SB 486 Drug take-back (Simitian)

Dovetails on last year's pharmaceuticals' take back program to facilitate the take back of unused drugs to prevent folks from throwing them in the trash and flushing them down the drain. (USGS Survey of 139 streams across 30 states found that 80 percent of waterways tested had measurable concentrations of prescription and nonprescription drugs, steroids, and reproductive

hormones. These bills focus on sharps waste that currently can only be taken back at Medical Waste facilities.

Two of Senator Simitian's "There Oughta be a Law" winners came from Santa Cruz. (This is a creative and important way for constituents to propose legislation to Senator Simitian, that he works to see passed.) Ron Pomerantz proposed that manufacturers of smoke detectors inform customers on proper disposal, because most smoke detectors contain Americium, a radioactive material. (See related article under Health & Safety). Liz Levy from Soquel proposed a Commute Trip Reduction program which would offer businesses incentives for promoting alternative transportation and other commute reduction plans.

Maureen points out that there is a long list of specific environmental legislation that the VWC has supported in the past, from a Styrofoam ban (AB 1358-Hill) and a PVC packaging ban (AB 1329-Brownley), to a consumer fee for single-use bags (AB 68-Brownley), and a waste water recycling mandate (SB 565-Pavley). A bill that would help our beaches is SB 4 (Oropeza/Surfrider). This bill bans smoking on public beaches and parks statewide, as cigarette butts are a significant and toxic component of marine debris.

As a member of the Product Stewardship Council, the VWC strongly supports AB 283 (Chesbro, Co-author Nava), the important Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2010. The bill requires the Integrated Waste Management Board to administer a program to have producers of designated products be responsible for the life-cycle of their product, including waste disposal/recycling. This would reduce the costs of dealing with solid waste and recyclables for local governments, who have been unfairly burdened with this for far too long.

All too obvious, AB 925 (Saldana) requires that plastic beverage containers have attached recyclable lids. This would really help at the VWC's recycling centers where lids cause all sorts of problems from jamming the crushers to gumming up the baler.

If folks want more info they can research the bills on the Senate web site: <http://www.sen.ca.gov> or email Maureen at maureen.mccarty@sen.ca.gov.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Santa Cruz Mountains Art Center

SUMMER ART CAMPS

The Santa Cruz Mountains Art Center is sponsoring a fantastic series of art camps for children of all abilities this summer.

Session I - Creature Features

Monday-Friday, 6/22-6/26/2009,

9 am-12 pm - Clay with Jen Hennig

We will be exploring a variety of techniques in creating with clay as well as glazing. This class is for kids with or without prior experience in clay.

12 pm-3 pm - 2D with Anouk Johanna

In these 5 fun-filled days we will draw, paint, collage and print all sorts of fantasy creatures on boxes, cards, puzzles, art journals and other creative projects. Meanwhile we will learn about composition, design, pen & ink, color mixing and perspective.

Session II - Secret Garden

Monday-Friday, 7/13-7/17/2009,

9 am-12 pm - 2D with Lori Wilson

A garden-themed mixed media class using paper mache and plaster. We'll make sun gods, flowers and masks.

12 pm-3 pm - Clay with Nora Sarkissian

Learn through various clay techniques such as pinch, coil, and sculpt to create your own special 3-D Secret Gardens.

Session III - Magic & Myth

Monday-Friday, 7/27-7/31/2009,

9 am-12 pm - 2D with Anouk Johanna

Come make magic for a week! We will paint, draw, collage, print and construct magical animals, objects and a very special magic wand. We'll put the images on paper, boards, boxes, plexi plates and books. You will make many cool art objects to give away as presents.

12 pm - 3 pm - Clay with Nora Sarkissian

Through learning a variety of clay techniques, such as, pinch, coil, sculpt you will create your own special creatures, fantasy or realistic, large & small.

Session IV - Art Planet

Monday-Friday, 8/10-8/14/2009,

9 am-12 pm - 2D with Lori Wilson

Learn to draw animals, flowers and plants.

12 pm-3 pm - Clay with Jen Hennig

Join local clay artist, Jennifer Hennig for a wondrous ceramic experience. We will be exploring a variety of techniques in creating with clay as well as glazing. This class is for kids with or without prior experience in clay.

Cost for the Camps:

- 5 Full Days: \$250 members / \$270 non-members - \$30 materials (bring a lunch)
- 5 Half-days: \$125 members / \$135 non-members / \$15 materials

Call Santa Cruz Mountains Art Center at 336-4ART for more information.

EDUCATION

Scotts Valley Courses on Cabrillo Chopping Block

Having worked hard for many years to bring a Cabrillo College Campus to, or close to, the SLV, we are concerned about this recent news. A meeting was held recently by Cabrillo's President, Brian King, to inform the Scotts Valley Center's Community Advisory Committee of Cabrillo's proposed budget cuts and their impacts on the SV Center. Mary Hammer and Donna Ziel, both members of the Advisory Committee and members of the VWC Board, were among those in attendance.

Overall, Cabrillo needs to cut \$5 million from next year's budget. At the Cabrillo Governing Board's meeting in March, the board voted to:

- Reduce the number of classes offered at the Scotts Valley Center
- Suspend many of the personal interest classes (dance, yoga, etc.)
- Eliminate the Cyber Session and Summer On-line courses
- Shut down classes taught at off-site locations around the county

Drop some certificate and degree programs A recent analysis of the enrollment patterns of students attending the Scotts Valley Center shows:

- 32% reside in the San Lorenzo Valley
- 29% reside in Scotts Valley
- 27% reside in the Santa Cruz area
- 62% of those enrolled at SV are enrolled in "personal development" classes (i.e., dance, yoga, Horticulture, Wine Tasting)
- 26% in General Education
- 12% in Continuing Education courses.

King explained that one reason the board is considering substantially reducing course offerings at the Scotts Valley campus is because two-thirds of students also take classes in Aptos. A discussion followed the presentation in which members of the Committee expressed appreciation for Cabrillo's effort to keep the Center open and asked to be kept informed of updates or changes to the plans as reported.

EDUCATION

Overall, King says his recommendations are in keeping with preserving the college's mission to focus on basic skills training and career education. Trustees first voted on the proposed cuts March 9th with final budget approval expected in June. In more encouraging news, the Governing Board voted in May to sign a 3-year lease for the Scotts Valley Center.

VWC Gives Backpacks Full of Goodies to Valley Kindergartners

Under the superb leadership of the Education Committee's Dusty Gilpin, the Valley Women's Club handed out Activity Bags to more than 180 kids who are about to start Kindergarten.

Inspired by requests from local kindergarten teachers, the bags were loaded with things like books, crayons, glue sticks, scissors and a library card application, all aimed at making sure parents work on the skills children need to be a success at San Lorenzo Valley Elementary and Boulder Creek Elementary. Also included were 25 children who will be home-schooled.

The VWC is grateful to the Carol Anicka Mihalik Foundation for its support of this program.

VWC CONTACT & MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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Roadside Clean-up (formerly "Adopt-a-Hwy")

Alexis Krostue (BL & F, Hwy 9) . . akrostue@cruzio.com • 335-5248

The Valley Women's Club

PURPOSE: Dedicated to community action, awareness and leadership in environmental, educational, social and political concerns that affect the health and welfare of the San Lorenzo Valley.

COMPOSITION: This organization shall be nonprofit and open to the public. The Board of Directors shall have not less than five and not more than fifteen members.

MEETINGS: Meetings of the Board of Directors take place the second Tuesday of the month, 6:30 PM, at Mountain Community Resources' Office, 6134 Hwy. 9, Felton. Meetings are open to the public. Please contact President Nancy Gerdt with agenda items or membership questions (335-3130). You are encouraged to attend the Environmental Committee meeting, held on the first Saturday of each month at 10:30 AM, at Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, Hwy 9, Felton; call 338-1728 for information and to confirm the meeting date, in case of changes.

DUES: \$25.00 a year for individual and family memberships; \$15 students and seniors; \$200 lifetime membership. Includes quarterly Newsletter subscription. VWC mailing address: PO Box 574, Ben Lomond 95005. Recycling Centers' mailing address: 15485 Bear Creek Rd., Boulder Creek 95006. Website: www.vwcweb.org.

VWC CALENDAR 2009

JUNE

- 6 **Environmental Committee Meeting**, Henry Cowell Park, 10:30 am
- 9 **Board Meeting**, MCR, Felton, 6:30 pm
- 13 **Scholarship Yard Sale**: Set-up 7-9 am; Sale 9 am-2 pm; Clean-up 2-4 pm, WA Insurance parking lot on Highway 9 in Boulder Creek.

JULY

- 11 **Environmental Committee Meeting**, Henry Cowell Park, 10:30 am
- 14 **Board Meeting**, MCR, 6:50 pm, Audit, Quarterly budget report.
- 19 **Roadside Clean-Up**: 8:30 am, 324 Laurel Dr., Felton. Email for more info.

AUGUST

- 1 **Environmental Committee Meeting**, Henry Cowell Park, 10:30 am
- 11 **Board Meeting**, MCR, 6:30pm
- 15 **Newsletter deadline**

SEPTEMBER

- 5 **Environmental Committee Meeting**, Henry Cowell Park, 10:30 am
- 8 **Board Meeting**, MCR, 6:30 pm
- 19 **River & Road Clean-up** joins Save Our Shores Beach Clean-up 9am to noon
- TBA **Fall Meet & Greet** meeting at Highlands Park



by Rachael Bachrach

“ IN EVERY COMMUNITY THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE.
IN EVERY NATION, THERE ARE WOUNDS TO HEAL.
IN EVERY HEART THERE IS THE POWER TO DO IT. ”

—Marianne Williamson

The Valley Women's Club
PO Box 574 Ben Lomond, CA 95005

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
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Ben Lomond
CA
Permit No. 12

Valley Women's Club
Yard Sale

Saturday, June 13

8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Parking lot in front of WA Insurance
(12788 Highway 9 in Boulder Creek)

For more info, contact Hilary at 338-2247