



THREE CONNECTING THINGS

by Priscilla Walton



Priscilla Walton

President's Letter

Three things connect Carmel Valley and make it a community: a road, a river, and a shared vision.

First, Carmel Valley Road, winding through the valley, was originally designed as a rural two-lane road, not intended for heavy urban traffic. Along the road is housing, much of it low density and rural in appearance. Where development has been more intense, the higher density development is generally hidden away. When you drive in Carmel Valley, you are for the most part in the beautiful rural countryside. To preserve this, CVA has over the years opposed all projects that create pressure to increase traffic capacity.

Another obvious connecting feature is the Carmel River, with a number of small bridges built over it through the years. It is continually affected by the natural forces

of occasional drought and flood, and also by the unnatural source of the intrusion of man through draining of its water for development, building in hazardous flood plains, and construction of dams that for years diminished its running waters until, thankfully, one dam has now been taken down. As a result of these actions, the Carmel River has been listed among the most endangered rivers in the U.S. Over the years CVA has opposed or questioned these activities. We believe that climate change is real and that intelligent planning should no longer allow developments in agricultural open spaces needed to refill aquifers and to provide space for the river. In retrospect, better long-term land use planning and enforcement might have prevented the urban density at the river's mouth, much of it in a flood plain. And better protection might have kept the river from being endangered.

Which leads me to the third connecting feature of the Carmel Valley: a shared

vision of its rural character and a shared mission to defend it. The CVA mission is "... to preserve, protect and defend the natural beauty, resources and rural character of the Carmel Valley."

The Carmel Valley Association has existed since 1949. In 2019 it will celebrate its 70th anniversary. We thank the organizers of Carmel Valley Property Owners Association for their prescient concerns about the future of Carmel Valley. It began with a small group of local residents who, while observing the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, discovered that during the 1940s real estate developers were asking for exceptions to zoning. So, this hardy group of people led the fight to establish an ordinance for a one-acre minimum for a single-family dwelling, and the organization had begun.

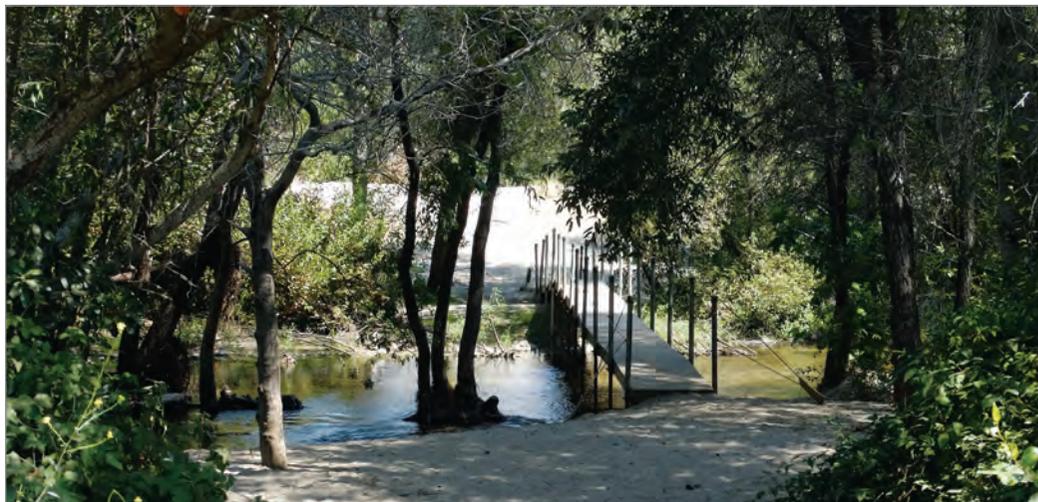
As I read articles about the early years of our organization, I noted a consistency in the issues that CVA has fought for over the years:

continued on page 3

Should the Weather Station Be Restored?

PART ONE

by Robert Siegried and John Walton



Carmel Valley River with foot bridge to the ball field.
Photo by Mibs McCarthy

Much of what we hear about water on the Monterey Peninsula and in the Carmel Valley has to do with questions of supply (is it sufficient for current and future uses) and cost (at what price and under whose control). Yet beyond these important, immediate concerns are deeper questions about water and soil quality, environmental and personal health. The next few issues of the Carmel Valley Voice will publish articles that examine some of these fundamental issues. These discussions reflect the expertise of individual members of the CVA Water Committee and are not to be taken as official committee or CVA statements. Rather, the aim is to provide a broad understanding of our shared water environment.

continued on page 2

HIDDEN VALLEY MUSIC SEMINARS

HIDDEN VALLEY STRING ORCHESTRA

Saturday, December 2
Carmel Valley



Sunday, December 3
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Weather Station, continued from Pg. 1

CIMIS stands for California Irrigation Management Information System. The system is a network of weather stations throughout the state that measure weather variables such as sunlight, wind speed, and humidity to estimate the water requirements of crops and to provide ground truth for satellite-based estimation. Data are accessible for about 250 stations, although 150 presently are active.

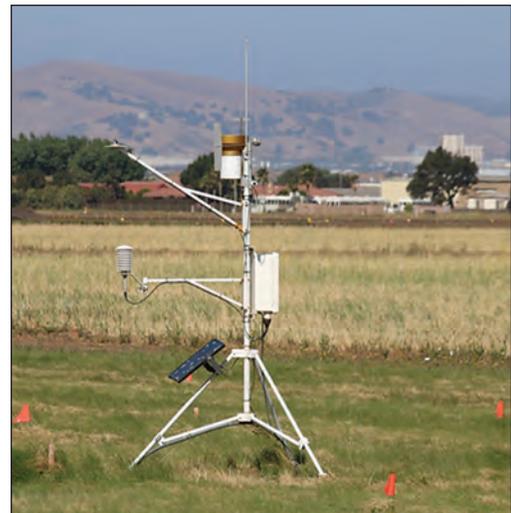
Originally designed to inform agricultural irrigation decisions, the system increasingly is used for urban landscape irrigation management. The information also is used for water accounting by advocates for and against groundwater extraction for new developments (sound familiar?). Comparable weather station networks exist in all the western states. Our CIMIS station began operation in July, 2008, at the former Rancho Cañada golf course. It is now dormant.

Stations are required to be sited in areas of well-managed, irrigated grass, so some management inputs are required for mowing, irrigation and monthly calibration. The CIMIS station at Gilroy is well-sited on two acres of irrigated grass. The grass cover is specified to be not short of water, the intent being that the grass use soil water without restriction. The water use of all crops and ornamentals, from radishes to walnut orchards, can be related to the water use modeled by the CIMIS station from measurements recorded in the environment provided by the grass. The site at Gilroy requires about 2.7 million gallons (8 acre-feet) of irrigation annually.

During the drought, irrigation of Rancho Canada ceased, and the station's main gauge was not maintained. This has resulted in the loss of an opportunity to collect important water budget

data. One assumes that the decision to cease irrigating the site was based on an estimate that more water would be used irrigating than would be saved by making accurate irrigation management information available. Of course, the amount of conservation brought about by use of the information strongly depends on how energetically MPWMD advertises and teaches the advantages of using the station's information.

Advocacy for relocation and recommissioning of the station, coupled with an effective outreach program to teach local growers and residents how to use the information, should be a CVA priority. CIMIS station data provide the foundation for conservation throughout the state and are essential to help bring science to the estimation of the Valley's water balance and thereby to reduce the draw on Carmel Valley groundwater. It is well known that local, residential well owners are the only group in the greater Monterey area not to have reduced water consumption during the drought.



CIMIS station in Salinas. UC Extension photo

KEEP INFORMED WITH CVA

by Sandy Schachter



Dick Stott at work

One valley resident would like to know how to assist in stopping development and noise pollution. Another would like guidance on how to participate in issues such as traffic. Someone else wants information on community-centered projects. And still another suggests more letters to the editor. These are some of the suggestions expressed in the newsletter/e-bulletin comments section of the CVA questionnaire distributed in the spring.

Did you know that this information can already be found in CVA media outlets? The Communications Committee has studied your comments and decided that residents need to know more about the information provided by our three outlets: the **CVA newsletter**, the **e-bulletin**, and the **website**.

First of all, you are now reading the *Carmel Valley Voice*, the official CVA newsletter. It is mailed to every household from the mouth of the valley through the village area at the beginning of February, May, August, and November. It contains articles, announcements, and photographs about valley issues, events, organizations, history, and personalities—both news and feature articles. The Communications Committee is always happy to receive suggestions for newsletter stories. Please contact Donna Kneeland at crmlndonna@aol.com with your ideas.

Since the newsletter is published quarterly, it cannot be up to date on all issues and events, and that is where the weekly e-Bulletin comes in. Sent out to over 850 valley residents every Thursday and administered by technology expert Dick Stott, it contains a calendar of events and the latest information on issues of vital importance to the Carmel Valley community, such as the progress and results of hearings and appeals or lawsuits. This is where you can find guidance on what you can do and who you can contact if you are interested in a current issue. The e-Bulletin also includes letters from valley residents voicing their opinions on various concerns, so this is where you can make your opinions known to other residents. It is also a good place to keep up to date on valley events and to publicize community happenings.

The e-Bulletin is free and does not require membership in CVA. All you have to do is send your email address to president@carmelvalleyassociation.org or subscribe through the website form. If you wish to publicize a community event sponsored by a non-profit organization, make an announcement of valley interest, or send a letter to the editor, you may do so at the same email address.

Finally, the website (carmelvalleyassociation.org), also administered by Dick, can give you other interesting tidbits of information, such as the history of the organization, backgrounds of the board of directors, summaries of the latest issues being discussed, and the history of previous issues. Current and previous newsletters can also be found here. And you can even join and donate to CVA through the website!

The CVA is happy to receive any suggestions about these three communication outlets and will do its best to address them promptly and professionally.

CVA ANNUAL PICNIC



CVA board and committee members grab a bite while working the table



Picnic attendees hear from John Laird, Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency, and Mary Adams, Fifth District Supervisor.

President's Letter, continued from cover

- Maintaining a rural environment
- Promoting the natural environment by supporting environmental protection
- Developing and sustaining a healthy local business community focused on local residents, rather than just the visitor-serving businesses
- Focusing on more attentive government services to meet the needs of Carmel Valley residents
- Tackling road and traffic congestion issues
- Monitoring water scarcity and allocation
- Dealing with land use issues such as rural intrusion and ill-advised subdivisions.

We share a mission to protect and defend this special place for now... for the next generation... and beyond. Thank you for your love of our valley, and for your support of our vital mission!

Story and photo by Paola Berthoin



The weather was ideal for a day outdoors



A guest peruses the silent auction items

Paid Advertisement

Carmel Valley Community Chapel
An inclusive and progressive spiritual home for the Monterey Peninsula

WORSHIP:
 10:30 am Sunday

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 7 pm Tuesday

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 Paso Hondo & Village Drive in Carmel Valley Village
www.carmelvalleychapel.org



CVA Natural Resources Committee Outing - participants reflect with art and poetry. Photo by Mibs McCarthy

The Exploring a Sense of Place program, (a program of the CVA Natural Resources Committee) has gotten off to a wonderful start with the knowledgeable and generous speakers, Nikki Nedeff and Dr. John Olson. Participants have learned about various aspects of the watershed beginning at the Los Padres Dam. There, stream biologist, Dr. John Olson, shared how the watershed is intricately connected to the river and vice versa through various energy systems, from wind and water to microbial and chemical aspects. He shared about the new science of eDNA and how that research is developing how to assess stream beds that have no water. Bringing in an arts perspective, John balanced scientific terminology with seeing the river as a theater, the fish, frogs and mayflies as actors, and the woody debris, gravel, and trees as props, all contributing in telling the ecological story of the watershed.

At our second outing we met at the Carmel Valley Little League Field to start our walk along the river. Nikki Nedeff, riparian ecologist, shared how the river has moved across the valley over the years since the 1930s and how it has been constrained in its movement as the floodplain gets built upon. We learned about the history of the floodplain terrace through millennia. Visualizing former floodplains such as the old airport field, Robles Del Rio, the Mesa at Garland Park, the Cottonwood Preserve, among other areas of Carmel Valley, stretched minds into realizing how

much the land changes over thousands of years. The key word describing the Carmel River: *dynamic*. It needs room to meander. Nikki also shared about the very rare and primitive lamprey. Not much is known about it, but it does love to vacuum up algae!

Further enriching the outings, we wove in different ways of experiencing the land and river through listening, drawing, writing, and reading poetry.

Such outdoor learning experiences build a deeper awareness of how finely-tuned the natural world is. We are all the river and watershed.

The November 11 outing is with Linda Yamane, a native Rumsian Ohlone expert, from 10 am - 12:30 pm at Garland Park, beginning at the Visitors Center.



Linda Yamane, basket weaver

LOCAL BOTANIST CONTINUES TO AMAZE

by Carolyn Rice



Corky with leopard lilies along Williams Creek at Mitteldorf Reserve 2007 (photo by Lynn Bomberger)

Corky Matthews, famed in Monterey County for her bountiful knowledge of native California plants, can recount some jaw-dropping activities and achievements that might surprise those who have known her only in recent times.

A Stanford graduate in international studies who planned a career in foreign service, she recalls, "I went astray. I'm afraid I went to mountain climbing and rock climbing." After her graduation she worked in Yosemite for four years, climbing with some young men who later became legends in the sport.

Named Mary Ann when born in 1930, Corky has gone by her nickname since junior high when friends pegged her with it, a spinoff of her maiden name of Corthell. She said as a child she had no interest in plants, and it wasn't until she lived in Yosemite, where she worked for the man in charge of all the hotels, that she started noticing plants when on hikes. "It really triggered my interest."

Since then, searching out both common and rare native California plants during the different seasons has intrigued her. Her favorite time of year is spring. "It's like seeing an old friend when the flowers come."

When at Yosemite, Corky met Graham Matthews, now deceased, who was on a field trip with students from Robert Louis Stevenson School. They married in 1955 and lived in Carmel Valley, where they raised two children, Katharine and W.V. Graham III.

The more she studied native plants throughout California, the more interested she became, carrying a magnifying glass to discern differences between similar plants and compiling notes on them. "It's one thing to see beautiful wildflowers and another to identify them. It becomes almost a game to identify them."

Going down another divergent path, she completed 24 units of Russian at Monterey Peninsula College and then took an advanced Russian course at Monterey Institute of Foreign Studies.

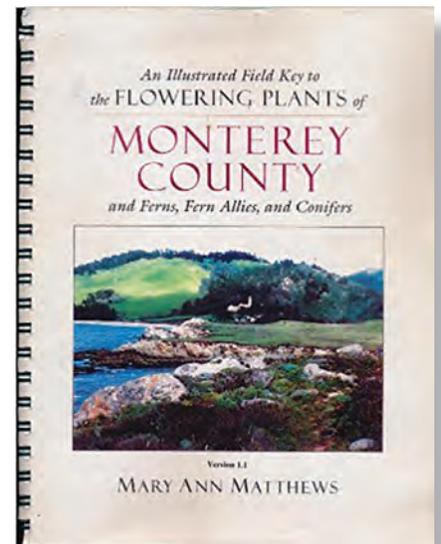
Then in 1986, when her children were young adults, she went to Cal Poly at San Luis Obispo to complete 14 units of botany. "My husband took a dim view of my disappearing for five days a week," she said, remembering how she came back to Carmel Valley every weekend. After these studies and her many years of studying plants in 1997 she published *An Illustrated Field Key to the Flowering Plants of Monterey County*.

Nikki Nedeff, current president of the Monterey Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, noted that plant identification is quite difficult. "Her field guide is an amazing and important tool for us when identifying plants." Michael



Rappelling of Eichorn Pinnacle, Cathedral Peak, Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite 1954 (photo by Dr. Robert Swift)

Mitchell updated the guide to incorporate DNA studies and scientific name changes. In Garland Park one-third of the 450 plants had changed identification since she had done her book, Mitchell said, explaining the changes had nothing to do with any fault in her work but resulted from new scientific information. He credits her with organizing an enormous amount of material from a wide variety of sources and including line drawings of plants to help identify them. Before, plant experts just had a plant list for Monterey County. "A plant list is fine if you know the plants, but if you don't, it's pretty much useless," he said.



For many years she helped other local native plant experts collect wildflowers for the Pacific Grove Museum annual wildflower show. "It was such fun to go out with them. They tried to outdo each other."

Her biography lists more than 20 organizations in which she served on the board or as an officer. She also worked on the Carmel Valley Master Planning Commission in 1962-83, calling it the most important thing she did.

Modest in her demeanor, Corky recalled that environmental concerns have been important to her, and she learned how to support issues. "I wasn't really very good at public speaking, but I forced myself to speak up." California has been on the leading edge for environmental standards, she noted, adding that now is a very discouraging time nationally for environmental concerns. But she is hopeful California will continue to lead the way with a strong environmental path.



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Carmel Valley Holiday Events



*** COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER**

Presented by the CV Angel Project

Thursday, November 23, noon-3:00 p.m.

Carmel Valley Community Youth Center, 25 Ford Road

Free and open to all Carmel Valley residents
(donations welcome)

*** 26th ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY**

Saturday, December 2, 4:30 pm

Carmel Valley Community Park, near the History Center

*** 59th ANNUAL SANTA FLY-In and PARADE**

Saturday, December 9, 10:30 am

Carmel Valley Airfield

*** CVA ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Sunday, December 10, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.,

Hidden Valley Music Seminar

Free for CVA members. \$25 includes membership for nonmembers



*** THE ANGEL STORE**

Sponsored by the CV Angel Project

Carmel Valley residents who find themselves financially challenged during the holiday season can pick up gifts for the family and necessities for the season. Families who would like to visit the store can call Susan at 831-601-7590 for an appointment, (*se habla español*). Donation barrels will be available throughout the valley, and tax-deductible financial donations may be made by mailing checks to PO Box 1305, Carmel Valley, CA 93924, or by going to the Angel Project website at thecvap.org.

