

Sierra Club YODELER

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER ♦ SUMMER 2017



**BAY AREA SEES SPIKE IN SOLAR JOBS ♦ DEVELOPMENT ON TOXIC LANDFILL
THREATENS HAMILTON WETLANDS ♦ CLUB BACKS OAKLAND COAL BAN
IN COURT ♦ COMPROMISE PROTECTS SHARP PARK'S ENDANGERED SPECIES**

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Recently I was playing with my son at a park in our neighborhood. It's one of the great parks you find in the East Bay with tons of slides, tunnels, and great hiding places for little ones. Best of all, it is within a few feet the train tracks. Each train that came rumbling through gave out a loud horn blast — something that was jarring to me at first, but thrilling to the children, who stopped to cheer and stare in awe.



It was a fun thing to see, like watching kids at a Fourth of July parade, but it was also a little frightening. Just the week before, the Bay Chapter had joined a large coalition down in San Luis Obispo County to oppose a refinery project that would have allowed for the transportation of oil by rail through the Bay Area and many other California communities. Had the project been approved, millions of gallons of toxic tar sands oil — which is regularly diluted with highly explosive petroleum products for transport — would have traveled within a few feet of those children playing in the park.

The thought of oil trains coming through our community sent a shiver down my spine. The fact that they would travel so close to a children's park doubled my anguish. When a freight train carrying crude oil derailed in the town of Lac-Mégantic, Quebec in 2013, multiple tank cars exploded, killing nearly 50 people and destroying about half of the downtown area. The blast radius of that train was over a half mile.

Oil trains are only one of many threats we face here in the Bay Area. As the Trump administration works to dismantle federal protections, it is more important than ever to have a watchdog like the Sierra Club to protect our local community and set a precedent for environmental advocacy nation-wide.

In this issue of the Yodeler, you'll read what our members are doing to protect the environment all around the Bay — from blocking the San Luis Obispo oil train project (p. 13) and preventing coal exports through Oakland (p. 7) to encouraging sustainable development and mass transit (p. 10) to protecting endangered species (p. 4) and advocating for good clean-energy jobs (p. 5).

The hard work to secure a safe and equitable environmental future starts here in the Bay, and we're glad to have you in our corner.

Minda Berbeco
DIRECTOR

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ABOUT THE COVER PHOTOGRAPH: A Bay Chapter hiking trip to Butano State Park in San Mateo County, led by Bob Solotar in March 2017. Photo by Samuel Lui.

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SUMMER 2017 CHAPTER NEWS

Save the date for the annual chapter picnic

Sunday, August 13th, 11:45 am - 3:15 pm
Temescal Regional Park, North Temescal Picnic Site (just off parking lot at North Entrance, 6500 Broadway, Oakland)
\$5/vehicle parking fee; \$2/dog entrance fee (must be on leash)



Join your fellow Sierra Club members for an afternoon of good cheer, good food, and good company at our annual potluck picnic.

Please bring a potluck dish (ready to eat) or beverage to share, reusable dishes and flatware (let's go zero waste!), blankets, games, friends, and family. Organizers will provide tablecloths, games, information about the chapter's latest campaigns, and prizes for a free raffle!

RSVPs appreciated: contact Joanne Drabek if you can attend at joanne1892@gmail.com or 510-530-5216.

Volunteers are needed to make this event successful. We need help getting things to the picnic site, setting up, welcoming guests, organizing food tables, cleaning up, and taking things back to the chapter office. To volunteer, reach out to Joanne at the contacts above.

Temescal Regional Park is located next to the Highway 24/Highway 13 interchange. It is 1.3 miles uphill from Rockridge BART. There will be informal carpools from BART to the park; drivers and riders should meet at the passenger pick-up. Carry your homemade Sierra Club sign to indicate that you are headed to the picnic!

Volunteers needed to help plan and coordinate our annual awards gala

The David Brower Dinner is the Bay Chapter's awards gala, held each year to celebrate our achievements, toast local environmental leaders, and raise funds for our work. This year's David Brower Dinner is planned for early-mid September, and we need your help to make it the best event yet!

We're looking for volunteers to coordinate the silent auction, help solicit sponsorships, line up entertainment, and publicize the event to Sierra Club members and the public. If you're interested in any of these roles, contact Jennifer Ong at drjenniferong@gmail.com or 510-521-0551.

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Reader response to article on Accessory Dwelling Units

In the Spring 2017 issue, Alfred Twu wrote about local ordinances in Berkeley and Oakland that make it easier to create Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs): in-law units or granny flats. The idea, in Twu's words, is to "add low-cost housing to existing neighborhoods, fighting sprawl, reducing commutes, and adding enough new residents to make transit and walkable businesses and amenities viable." Sierra Club member Michelle Welch wrote us with a response:

Wow, that sounds like a good idea (ADUs).

BUT what's to stop property owners from creating those units and then only renting them as vacation rentals (like Airbnb)?

There need to be strict guidelines/regulations for this type of conversion.

We got Alfred Twu to write back with an answer. He says:

Berkeley passed a short-term rental ordinance that specifically bans Airbnb and other short-term rentals in new ADUs. Simultaneously, Berkeley also passed an ordinance that allows short-term rentals in a different type of building: Accessory Buildings, which don't have kitchens. The idea is to get people to build Accessory Buildings if they want to Airbnb something. Homeowners can build one of each on their property, so they can have their main house, one ADU, and one short-term rental Accessory Building.

Oakland doesn't yet have legislation to fully regulate short-term rentals of ADUs.

Please keep your questions and comments coming to yodedit@sfbaysc.org! We'll do our best to answer them.

Compromise deal will protect Sharp Park's endangered species

ILANA DEBARE

Allied conservation groups reached a compromise with San Francisco city officials in March in which we agreed to support the city's new Natural Areas Plan in exchange for removal of a harmful project component at Sharp Park golf course. The agreement will improve the chances for survival for two endangered species that rely on the golf course fairways and wetlands for habitat: the California red-legged frog (made famous in Mark Twain's short story, "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County") and the San



Francisco garter snake. The city had planned to raise the height of the golf course fairways in a way that would jeopardize their habitat.

The Significant Natural Resource Areas Management Plan (SNRAMP) has been under development since 2006, with countless hours of community input. It is aimed at creating a framework to manage the city's natural areas over the next 20 years. But the plan hit a stumbling block when, late in the process, the city added in the controversial Sharp Park golf course redevelopment project.

In response, the



Sierra Club and our allies mounted a campaign urging the Board of Supervisors to remove the Sharp Park project from SNRAMP so the golf course redevelopment could undergo its own separate, comprehensive environmental review.

Shortly before the Board of Supervisors was set to vote on SNRAMP, Supervisor Aaron Peskin forged a compromise in which the city agreed not to raise the height of the Sharp Park fairways. In exchange, the Sierra Club and our allies (including the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Wild Equity, and National Parks Conservation Association) agreed to drop our legal appeal over inclusion of the golf course project in SNRAMP. With this compromise in place, the Board of Supervisors voted 9-1 to let the SNRAMP move forward.

Enactment of SNRAMP is a significant milestone for the City of San Francisco. It's one of the country's most thoughtful and progressive plans for promoting wildlife and habitat in an urban area. It establishes a framework to protect and enhance 32 areas where city dwellers can enjoy the beauty and solace of nature.

"We believe that this agreement goes far towards protecting these species on the brink of extinction," said Arthur Feinstein, a Sierra Club S.F. Bay Chapter Executive Committee member. "And by removing the elements of the project that constitute a golf course redevelopment, the Natural Areas program that we all support can now move forward."

Thank you to all of our members who sent emails and made phone calls supporting a Natural Areas Plan that protects at-risk species like the red-legged frog and San Francisco garter snake! Now we look forward to working to implement this plan with S.F. Recreation and Parks, our conservation allies, and the many city residents who treasure San Francisco's wildlife.

This article was adapted with permission from an article by Ilana DeBare on the Golden Gate Audubon Society blog, www.goldengateaudubon.org/blog.

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Local solar jobs increases highlight opportunity for 100% clean energy in Bay Area

The San Francisco Bay Area metropolitan area created more than 10,517 new jobs in the growing solar industry last year, according to a report released in March by the Solar Foundation. The metropolitan area, comprising San Francisco, Alameda, Marin, Contra Costa, and San Mateo County counties, is now home to 26,046 solar jobs, an increase of 67% from 2015 figures. The findings highlight the enormous jobs potential for a transition to 100% clean and renewable energy in the Bay Area, as well as the opportunity for the solar industry to be a leader in creating more family-sustaining union jobs across the region.

The county with the largest gain in solar jobs in the metropolitan region from 2015 to 2016 was San Francisco, with 6,831 new solar jobs — up 185% in one year. San Francisco's solar industry has benefited from the city's commitment to transition to 100% renewable electricity by 2030. Strategies to encourage solar — including breaking down barriers for renters, expanding access to residents at all income levels, and streamlining solar permitting — have fueled the rapid growth in solar jobs.

San Francisco is among 25 U.S. cities that have now committed to transition entirely to clean and renewable energy between 2030 and 2035. Cities including major metropolises like San Diego and Salt Lake City, and smaller towns like Georgetown, Texas and Abita Springs, Louisiana, are among the places that have made the commitment.

The Sierra Club is working with residents and city leaders to get Oakland and Richmond to join San Francisco on the list of cities committed to transitioning to 100% clean energy. Both cities are well positioned to do so; Richmond is a member of a local Community Choice clean energy program (Marin Clean Energy, or MCE), which reinvests ratepayer funds back into the local economy to develop local renewable energy infrastructure,

thereby creating clean energy jobs. According to the Solar Foundation report, Contra Costa County as a whole gained 1,966 solar jobs this year, up 71% from 2015.

Oakland, meanwhile, has committed to joining the community-governed Community Choice power supplier East Bay Community Energy (EBCE), which will start providing greener energy to Alameda County residents in the spring of 2018. As with MCE, EBCE will spur the growth of clean energy jobs by investing in local renewable facilities. Alameda County is already seeing strong growth in this sector; it gained 2,763 solar jobs this year, up 60% from 2015.

“Clean and renewable energy like solar is putting people to work across the region,” said the Bay Chapter's conservation manager, Brittany King. “Bay Area cities can and must go further in creating more opportunity and expanding prosperity for their residents by making a

commitment to transition to 100% clean and renewable energy. By endorsing a vision of 100% clean energy in their communities, city leaders will spur even more innovation, launch new businesses, create good-paying jobs, and drive economic growth that benefits everyone.”

The release of The Solar Foundation's study coincided with the Trump administration's executive orders

on climate change. Minda Berbeco, director of the Bay Chapter said, “While the Trump Administration wants to let power plants spew unlimited pollution into our air to pad corporate polluter profits, the reality is that they can't stop local action that's powering our nation's transition away from fossil fuels to clean energy. Trump's attack on safeguards for American families and the climate ignores reality — not just the reality of the climate crisis, but the reality that the clean energy economy is rapidly growing, creating jobs and protecting our air and water.”

Solar jobs listed in the report include both installation and construction jobs and non-installation jobs, including manufacturing, sales and distribution, project development, and other occupations that support the solar industry.

Explore an interactive map and download the full solar jobs report at <http://solarstates.org/#states/solar-jobs/2016>.



California senators continue fight to protect bees

EDDIE MORENO

Pollinators and flowering plants have had a blossoming relationship that extends as far back as 120 million years ago. Today, pollinators like the bee pollinate 85% of the world's flowering plants and 35% of global crop production. In California, bees play a significant role in the pollination of the 20 million pounds of fruits and nuts we produce each year. Our state's agricultural production ac-



counts for more food than any other state in the nation, contributing \$15 billion a year to the economy.

Unfortunately, bee populations have declined significantly over the last 25 years. The alarming rate of mortality is due to a number of factors, though a substantial and growing body of evidence points to neonicotinoid pesticides as a significant factor.

The California legislature is considering a bill that will give home gardeners and other consumers the power to protect bees by informing them of the presence of bee-harming pesticides in the plant products they purchase. Senate Bill 602, by Senators Ben Allen and Scott Wiener, is now awaiting a vote on the senate floor. It would require that neonicotinoid products sold in retail stores, with a few exemptions, include a clearly stated warning on the label about the hazards to bees and other pollinators. It would also prohibit the noncommercial use of these pesticides to prevent improper use and abuse.

Last year, a similar bill by Senator Allen and Senator Mark Leno failed on the Senate floor after intense opposition from the pesticide and agriculture industries.

If you want to help make sure SB 602 clears the state senate, call your senator now and urge an "AYE" vote on the senate floor. You can find who your senator is at <http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov>.

Climate change education and our youth: update from the Climate Literacy Committee

ANNALISA BELLISS, SARAH RANNEY & REBECCA FRANKE

When considering the impending challenge of climate change, it's clear that the lasting impacts and subsequent solutions will not be realized within our lifetime. Young people will be key in shaping our future responses and mitigating the effects of climate change — and that means it's critical to provide them with high quality, science-based climate literacy education.

The Bay Chapter has convened a Climate Literacy Committee to work toward this goal at the local level. Meeting monthly and open to all interested parties, the committee

has drawn together a group of concerned parents, teachers, educators, and community members to take action.

The Climate Literacy Committee is currently drafting a resolution that will be presented to Bay Area school districts for adoption. The resolution will require that high school students graduate "climate literate," and that all current and forthcoming textbooks appropriately represent the severity of the climate crisis and the impact of human activities.

Last year, California approved new frameworks for the Next Generation Science Standards and the history-social science curriculum — the first updates since the 1990s — making our resolution even more timely. The new frameworks do include standards for environmental education, but they won't necessarily ensure climate literacy. Our resolution seeks a commitment from school districts to be more specific about climate-education curricula and actually teach to those standards.

Would you like to take this resolution to your local school district? Know any educators or influencers in public education? Want to get involved? Email cl@sfbaysc.org.

Sierra Club stands with City of Oakland against lawsuit challenging coal ban

BRITTANY KING

There's news from the campaign to protect Oakland from dirty coal, and unfortunately it's a setback.

Last summer, the community achieved a major victory against air pollution and climate disruption when the City Council voted to ban coal storage, loading, and handling — effectively blocking a developer's dirty deal that would have made Oakland the largest coal-export facility on the West Coast. But in December, Phil Tagami, the private developer of a terminal at the former Oakland Army Base, sued the city to overturn the coal ban.

You can be sure that the Sierra Club will support the City's sensible ban every step of the way. In fact, we've already filed two motions with the court: one is to “intervene” to offer the environmental perspective in support of the coal ban. The other motion is to dismiss some of the claims in the developer's lawsuit altogether.

Our motions came before the court on April 20th. As of this printing we're still waiting to learn how the judge will rule on our motion to intervene, but he did reject the city's request to dismiss the lawsuit, and set a trial date for January. Check our blog, www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/blog, for updates as this case moves forward.

The lawsuit concerns a portion of the former Oak-

land Army Base that is being developed as a bulk export facility on city-owned land. Developer Phil Tagami explicitly promised not to include coal as a commodity handled by the terminal, but he later secretly solicited a partnership with four Utah counties that would have allowed coal companies to handle and store up to 10 million tons of coal in Oakland each year.

After that backroom deal was revealed, the City of Oakland carefully examined the significant health and safety impacts that storing and handling coal in West Oakland would have on nearby families already overburdened with air pollution. After conducting a review of the evidence and hearing the testimony of many experts and a local community deeply concerned about air quality, the City Council voted unanimously to use their legal authority to ban the storage and handling of coal in Oakland.

Oakland city officials were well within their legal rights to take a decisive stand against coal at the terminal on city-owned land. Tagami's lawsuit ignores the will of the people and disregards the health and safety risks coal poses to community members, especially in West Oakland.

The Sierra Club will continue to stand with the city, and we will let you know of any opportunities to support the sensible ban on the storage and handling of coal in Oakland.



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State supports Bay Area refinery emission "caps" to stop rise in greenhouse gases, toxic pollutants

In a dramatic turn in a years-long campaign, the California Air Resources Board has thrown its support behind emission limits to cap rising particulate and greenhouse gas air pollution from five Bay Area refineries. The state agency announced its support in an early April letter to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, which is currently considering several proposed regulations to reach a promised 20% reduction in refinery emissions by 2020.

Despite its stated commitment to lowering toxic and climate-warming refinery emissions, the regional Air District has repeatedly delayed the adoption of much-needed regulations, pointing to arguments from oil-industry lobbyists who claim that emission caps would conflict with the State's cap-and-trade program. The California Air Resources Board letter rebuts those arguments, and puts the impetus on the Air District to move forward with passage of proposed regulations.

CAPS NEEDED NOW TO PREVENT MASSIVE EMISSIONS INCREASE

The release of the State's letter comes as oil companies seek to process lower-quality grades of oil (like tar sands) that could increase the intensity of emissions per barrel of

oil refined *and* increase the overall amount of refinery emissions. The switch to higher-emitting crudes could increase region-wide refinery emissions by as much as 40-100%.

The Air District has primary responsibility for controlling industrial air-pollutant emissions in the region. Particulate-matter air pollution kills an estimated 1,700-2,500 people in the Bay Area annually, and greenhouse gas air pollution threatens severe climate disruption. Oil refining is the biggest industrial emitter of both pollutants in the Bay Area.

LOOPHOLES AND DELAYS

The Air District has taken steps to control emissions from various parts of refineries, but it has not yet set *facility-wide* refinery emission limits. This giant loophole could allow the oil industry's plans for refining higher-emitting oil to come to fruition.

Back in 2012, recognizing the need to close this loophole, the Air District's Board of Directors instructed its staff to develop a new regulation by the spring of 2015 (yes, we're already two years behind that deadline!) as a backstop against increasing refinery emissions. That regulation, called Rule 12-16, would set transparent, enforceable limits ("caps") on refinery emissions of greenhouse gases and four pollutants that cause particulate-matter air pollution: PM2.5, PM10, nitrogen oxide (NOx), and sulfur dioxide (SO₂). The emission caps would be set at 7% above existing emission levels of those pollutants at Bay Area refineries.

After many delays by the Air District staff (under industry pressure) the Board committed to consider adopting proposed Rule 12-16 at a public hearing this May. We

had hoped that they would live up to this commitment and not delay this rule any further, but as of this printing the timeline for adoption was up in the air.

Time is of the essence: we must institute a cap on emissions as quickly as possible, in order to prevent dangerous increases in greenhouse gas and toxic air pollutant emissions. The longer we wait to establish a "cap", the more time refineries have to complete large-scale infrastructure projects required to process tar sands. Any more delays will lock in these projects for decades, setting the course for higher



IMAGE CREDIT: Steve Ongerth (far left), Rebecca Auerbach (second from left), and other advocates of the refinery emission cap outside a recent Air District workshop. Photo by Brittany King.

emissions baselines once a cap is eventually put in place.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The State’s letter vindicates the position of community, environmental justice, and climate groups who have long argued for emission caps to prevent an increase in already harmful refinery pollution. But there’s much more work left to be done before the regulation is passed and goes into effect.

We will bring our demands to a May 31st meeting of the Air District’s board of directors. Will you join us?

Wednesday, May 31st (time TBD)

1st Floor Board Room, 375 Beale Street, San Francisco

RSVP to brittany@sfbaysc.org or 510-848-0800

If we succeed in passing precedent-setting emission caps, we can send a message to the entire nation: local communities can and must have a say over what goes into the air they breathe.



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**Maurice Holloway
& his family**

The Bay Chapter welcomes donations in general, as well as gifts in memory or in honor of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor, or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the Executive Committee. To make a gift, visit www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/donate, or contact Matt Bielby at 510-848-0800 ext. 321 or matt.bielby@sierraclub.org.

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Help Bay Area cities get moving on smart housing growth

MATT WILLIAMS

Back in 1986, the Sierra Club's national Board of Directors adopted a policy on the urban environment that guides our work in the Bay Area to this day. The policy stipulated that "urban areas, which consume the majority of our resources, [should] be highly efficient and non-polluting so as to minimize our impacts upon this planet's resources and environment." The policy also noted that "since the physical state of a city reflects the well-being of its people," urban environments should be "healthy and stimulating."

Today, our challenge in the Bay Area is to meet the housing demands of a rapidly growing population while also protecting the environment and preserving the quality of urban life. These days we know that protecting our environment entails not only preserving our remaining open spaces and fighting for clean air, water, and land, but also limiting greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate disruption.

We at the Sierra Club believe we can protect the environment and fully meet our housing needs while maintaining urban environments that are equitable, healthy, and stimulating. To achieve this vision, the Bay Chapter supports planning policies that are right out of the Club's 1986 policy: we advocate for compact infill development in urban areas, while simultaneously opposing sprawl development that puts pressure on our open spaces and increases climate-warming emissions.

A key mechanism for achieving this vision is the Bay Area's Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). So what is the SCS? The Bay Area's two main regional planning agencies, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), set it out in the 2013 Regional Transportation Plan, called "Plan Bay Area":

"[Senate Bill 375] requires each of the state's 18 metropolitan areas — including the Bay Area — to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light trucks. Signed by former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, the law requires that the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) promote compact, mixed-use commercial and res-

idential development. To meet the goals of SB 375, Plan Bay Area directs more future development in [Priority Development Areas] that are or will be walkable and bikable and close to public transit, jobs, schools, shopping, parks, recreation and other amenities."

On its website, ABAG notes that Priority Development Areas (PDAs) "are the foundation for sustainable regional growth." Through 2040, approximately 77% of the expected two million new residents in the nine Bay Area counties are expected to live in PDAs. There are 98 PDAs in the four counties comprising the Bay Chapter: 45 in Alameda, 39 in Contra Costa, 12 in San Francisco, and two in Marin. ABAG has posted a map of each of the PDAs at <http://abag.ca.gov/priority/development/>.

As a part of a legal settlement with the Sierra Club and Communities for a Better Environment, ABAG and MTC have made public lots of useful information about each PDA that we can use to track our region's progress toward sustainable growth. Unfortunately, the news isn't all good. Here's some of what we've learned:

- A PDA has to have a minimum level of mass transit service, but we know that 15 of Contra Costa County's 39 PDAs do not have adequate transit service.
- In the two-year period from 2013 to 2014 (the latest period for which we have information on housing units built), only 18 of Alameda County's 45 PDAs added any affordable housing units.
- In 2015, Contra Costa County issued 240 permits to build very-low, low, and moderate-income housing (that figure is not limited to PDAs, but is still useful). There is a state-required target of 11,846 permits for the three income categories, combined, over an eight-year period (2015 is the first year). At the 2015 rate, it will take Contra Costa 49 years to meet the eight-year target.

These data points paint a clear picture: we're not making enough progress on decent transit and affordable housing.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The Bay Chapter has launched a new effort to point out the facts to each city with a PDA and to advocate for things to get moving in the right direction as soon as possible. Chapter volunteer leaders will be meeting with city council members to review the situation and press for action. If you want to get involved in this work, email the chair of the Bay Chapter's Transportation & Compact Growth Committee, Matt Williams, at mwillia@mac.com.

Why the Sierra Club stands with immigrants

After the publication of the Spring 2017 Yodeler, we heard from a handful of our members who expressed concern about that issue's cover, which features a photograph of Bay Chapter director Minda Berbeco holding a sign that reads "Sierra Club Stands With Immigrants." Some have wondered whether our stand on this issue will dilute the environmental advocacy for which we are well known and respected. A few others have stated that they disagree with our support for certain kinds of immigrants. These are legitimate concerns, and we are more than happy to address them.

The mission of the Sierra Club has expanded since John Muir founded the organization in 1892. Although preserving wilderness is still a huge part of the work we do as a Club, we also know that protecting our planet for future generations requires taking a broader view of how humans use the Earth's resources. We engage in housing and transportation issues in order to promote sustainable, resilient communities. We support LGBT and reproductive rights because the effects of climate disruption aren't gender- or sex-neutral. We promote clean energy solutions because that's how we'll prevent the worst impacts of climate change — impacts that disproportionately affect low-income and minority communities. And we collaborate with unions to develop a shared vision for workers and the environment in the clean energy economy of the future.

To succeed in this important work, we need as many voices as we can get on our side. That requires building relationships with communities outside the "environmental movement" as it has been traditionally defined.

As we grow our coalition, we have an interest in ensuring that the democratic systems that translate our voices into concrete policy solutions are strong and healthy. Unfortunately, fossil fuel interests and others see a financial incentive in weakening our democratic institutions and suppressing our voices.

If you believe, as we do, that clean air and clean water are human rights, then you'll agree we have a responsibility to fight for, and alongside, all citizens of Planet Earth — re-

gardless of their immigration status. This is not just our position as a chapter, but the policy of the national Sierra Club.

Immigrants are our natural allies in the fight for a clean and safe environment precisely because of the threats they face. Consider that immigrants are more likely than native-born Americans to live in poverty. Studies also show that immigrants are disproportionately likely to breathe dirty air (with harmful health effects), reside in areas with less access to public transportation (though they rely more on transit), and spend long days toiling in some of the least desirable, most dangerous jobs, for poverty wages.

The value of alliances is not a new notion for the environmental movement; it was John Muir, after all, who pointed out that "[w]hen we try to pick out anything by itself, we find

it hitched to everything else in the Universe." Muir himself was an immigrant from Scotland. As the Sierra Club's national executive director Michael Brune recently wrote, "Immigrants — and refugees — helped build this nation. They also helped build the Sierra Club. Of the 182 people who signed up as charter members of the Sierra Club in 1892, at least 29 were immigrants, coming from seven different countries." We are proud to continue this great,

fundamentally American tradition today.

Immigrants have always had to do more than their share of fighting for acceptance, equity, and opportunity. We will not back away from today's fights, whether they're in defense of a safe and clean environment for every person, or in defense of the democratic values and systems that protect our very right to be heard. In the fights ahead, we will take strength from the knowledge that we are working alongside of each of you: the 35,000 diverse members of the Sierra Club's San Francisco Bay Chapter.

About the authors:

This open letter was penned by the following elected leaders of the Sierra Club's San Francisco Bay Chapter: Igor Tregub is chapter chair; Jennifer Ong is vice chair; Becky Evans is the immediate past chair; Luis Amezcua is Northern Alameda County (NAC) Group chair; Olga Bolotina is NAC Group conservation chair; and Gabe Quinto is West Contra Costa Group chair. The authors are all immigrants or descendants of immigrants, with home countries ranging from Mexico, the Philippines, Russia, Ukraine, Scotland, and Ireland.



Novato seeks Army Corps easement to preserve open space and Hamilton Wetlands

SUE LATTANZIO

You may recall reading in the Yodeler last year about a proposal by a commercial developer to build a massive private sports complex right next to the Hamilton Wetlands Preserve, a model wetland-restoration project on the San Pablo Bay in Novato. The proposed development would be built right on top of a former U.S. Army hazardous-waste landfill, located in an environmentally sensitive FEMA-designated floodplain. Unfortunately, this proposal is still alive.

Thanks in part to public pressure, the developer, MSA Commercial, retracted its application to the City of Novato for the complex — but we have learned that they are working behind the scenes in Washington to get direct approvals from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Backroom maneuvering in Washington was how the Army Corps acquired its easement on the 55-acre bayside parcel from the city in 2012 — for just \$10.

Members of the Sierra Club Marin Group have been trying unsuccessfully for over a year to get information from the Army Corps on the status of the development approvals. Local residents have been informed that the Army Corps is in control of the landfill and does not need city approvals to move the project forward.

Fortunately, the Army Corps' 2012 easement has an extinguishment clause that we propose should be acted upon. We have asked the City of Novato to seek to gain control of the parcel to protect its environmental value and to assure local control and public benefit. The City voted in early April to consider this action item on an upcoming agenda: "Request to the US Army Corps of Engineers to grant an easement to the City of Novato for the purpose of creating passive recreational uses over Landfill 26 located at Hamilton Field."

Disturbing the landfill by building on top of it could

increase the release of toxic waste into the wetlands and the bay. Noise, traffic, light pollution, and litter from the proposed sports-complex development would also put the wetland ecosystem at risk.

The 980-acre Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project was completed in 2014 at a cost to taxpayers of over \$280 million. With habitat for over 38 special-status and endangered species, Hamilton Wetlands is one of the best places in the Bay Area to watch wildlife, from a large diversity of migratory birds and waterfowl to river otters and western pond turtles. Preserving open space adjacent to the newly restored wetlands and Hamilton Bay Trail is essential for the future of the wetlands, wildlife, and public enjoyment.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Please write the Novato City Council to show your support for their actions to gain control of the Landfill 26 Easement and assure local control and protection for the amazing wetlands and wildlife in this unique and beautiful natural treasure.

Novato City Hall Council Chambers
901 Sherman Avenue, Novato, CA 94945
415-899-8900

Mayor Denise Athas, dathas@novato.org
Mayor Pro Tem Josh Fryday, jfryday@novato.org
Councilmember Pam Drew, pdrew@novato.org
Councilmember Pat Eklund, peklund@novato.org
Councilmember Eric Lucan, elucan@novato.org

For campaign updates and action items, visit the Marin Group online at www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/marin and www.facebook.com/sierraclubmarin.

Phillips 66 oil train project denied – yet again

In March, communities up and down California celebrated another victory in our three-plus-year fight against the proposed Phillips 66 crude-by-rail facility in San Luis Obispo County. The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors denied Phillips 66's appeal of the County Planning Commission decision rejecting the oil terminal project, which would have brought more than seven million gallons of toxic and volatile tar sands crude to the refinery each week.

The oil trains would have traveled through hundreds of communities (including many in the Bay Area) — risking oil spills and spreading diesel particulate matter — before arriving at the refinery on California's Central Coast. After being partially refined there, tar sands

products would be sent back north to Contra Costa County's Phillips 66 Rodeo refinery, via a 200-mile pipeline.

The Board of Supervisors denied Phillips 66's appeal in a 3-1 vote after two days of public testimony. During the hearings, activists unfurled a scroll displaying nearly 4,000 petitions from San Luis Obispo County residents opposed to the project. Local opposition was backed up by signatures from over 34,000 Californians who have echoed the call to stop oil trains. 47 California cities, counties, and school boards along the rail route sent official letters opposing the project.

We're grateful that the Supervisors heard our message that toxic, dangerous oil trains have no place in our communities, near our homes, parks, schools, environmentally sensitive habitat, and precious water resources. This victory proves that people power can triumph against Big Oil!



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Join us for a Bay Area Presentation

Steve Bakaley: From city to shining sea (and mountains)

KAREN ROSENBAUM

It was the aircraft carrier USS Midway that “carried” Steve Bakaley from the urban East to the California coast — and ultimately to his rewarding experiences with the Sierra Club and with wilderness.

During his childhood and youth in metropolitan Philadelphia, Steve walked, biked, and accompanied his assistant Scoutmaster father on rambles in the woods. But he didn’t know then how short those trails were!

After earning a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering at the University of Pennsylvania in 1971, Steve joined the Navy. This was, he is sure, one of the best decisions of his life. The Navy sent him to Athens, Georgia, trained him in data processing, then assigned him to the USS Midway, its home port at first in Alameda, later at Yokosuka, Japan. He was subsequently stationed in San Diego, part of the Fleet Material Support Office. Not only did the Navy afford him valuable professional training, Steve feels it helped him gain self-confidence and helped turn him from a follower to a leader.

It also introduced him to southern California. Upon his discharge from the Navy, he enrolled at San Diego State University, where, in 1978, he earned an MBA. He also joined the Sierra Club and explored San Diego beaches and nearby wild areas.

While working in information systems, Steve was recruited by the Raychem Corporation in Menlo Park. In 1982, he moved north to Fremont and began hiking in the Bay Area. In 1983, he joined a Sierra Singles hike to Alameda Falls, in the Point Reyes National Seashore. It took two and a half hours to drive to the meet-up point. When the leader announced the group would hike just two miles to Bass Lake, not to the falls, Steve and a few others grumbled. The leader allowed them to go on by themselves, but gave them a deadline to return. After his race-walking-to-the-falls experience, Steve complained to Earl Sawyer, coordinator of the Sierra Singles hikes. Earl suggested that

Steve might like to lead hikes of his own.

Steve indeed wanted to lead hikes of his own. For five months he scouted potential sites. On a Club hike at Butano State Park, he asked leader Bob Solotar if he could “steal” the hike and lead it himself. Bob remembers this as the first time the two men — who would become hiking buddies, great friends, and committed fellow members of the chapter activities committee — met. (Steve remembers their first meeting on one of *his* Mount Diablo hikes to Mount Olympia!)

Steve became a hike leader for Sierra Singles in January of 1985 when he led a group up Mission Peak and then over to the Weibel Winery. Soon one could find his name on the Club’s hike calendar every month. He worked out a

year-long hike schedule, coordinating with John Calderwood, Jake van Akkeren, and others, to make sure there were hikes in the schedule almost every weekend.

In May of 1986, on a Sierra Singles hike he wasn’t leading, from Rock Springs to Alpine Lake, Steve met Marjie Miller, who would become his wife. Steve started to lead more strenuous hikes. Every hard hike he did, Marjie did—until the birth of their daughter Maya, in 1994. The year before that, Steve led 28 hikes — a personal record! The year after Maya’s birth, he took a

sabbatical of sorts and led just a few.

By then, Steve had begun working for the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (the LBNL), a job which he has loved. In 1996, the family moved to Pleasant Hill. Not content with his Club contributions as a hike leader, Steve ran successfully for at-large member of the chapter Executive Committee, then started attending meetings of the activities and conservation committees.

By 1998, Steve was chair of the activities committee — a position he would hold for 19 years. He presided over quarterly meetings in which the committee oversaw the outings program, leader requirements, coordination with the national organization, and communications between local groups. According to vice-chair Bob Solotar, Steve also went through his “repertoire of awful jokes,” some of which are (Bob is convinced) as old as Steve is — if not older.

At the end of June, Steve is retiring from LBNL, so it





military. He may become a docent at a wilderness area. He maintains his interest in nature outreach programs. He is eager to see the epicenter of the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

Steve has other activities in mind too. He played drums in elementary school, high school, college; in amateur orchestras, bands, and bar restaurants. He thinks he might revive his passion for percussion. He anticipates taking classes and learning new things. More important than travel, Steve says, is “engaging with people.” He is determined to continue his volunteer work — especially that which furthers the appreciation and

welfare of the natural world.

The USS Midway, incidentally, after an unrivaled 47-year service, was decommissioned in 1992 and is now a museum in San Diego. One of her less well-known contributions to U.S. history is the part she played in turning Steve Bakaley into a Sierra Club leader.

seemed also an appropriate time to retire from being chair of the activities committee. (He hopes to remain an active member of the committee indefinitely.) His hike fans are counting on him to stick around to lead them on the trails. “He is a wonderful leader,” says Diane Smith of the Mount Diablo group, “full of enthusiasm and information.” She remembers one hike last spring on Mount Diablo on which he identified more than 110 different wildflowers.

Mount Diablo hike veteran Jake Van Akkeren (“the Duke of Diablo”) applauds Steve’s “trail knowledge, concern for safety, and good-humored conversation.” Steve has, Jake says, “introduced hundreds of people to our parks — many of them becoming ‘regulars’ over the years.” Steve’s hiking troop knows “he’ll have picked out a perfect place for lunch, and, often as not, he’ll offer a post-hike dinner option.” Some ex-hikers come just for the dinners!

Outings coordinator Joel Berger, who describes Steve as “extremely conscientious and dedicated,” notes that Steve has attracted new people to Sierra Club activities by listing his hikes on the Meetup website and that Steve handles well the larger and more diverse groups that Meetup attracts. Joel adds that Steve has been “encouraging and mentoring new leaders so the Sierra Club tradition of environmental education through enjoyment of the natural world continues.”

Leading hikes in the Bay Area may soon require a commute because Steve and Marjie are contemplating a move to Santa Cruz, but Steve figures that retirement will allow him to lead more hikes than ever — somewhere. He has been interested in starting hikes for folks in the

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ABOUT THIS CALENDAR

Activities listed here are abbreviated. For full listings, visit: sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities. The online calendar will also include changes, cancellations, and outings submitted after the print deadline.

Hike and backpack ratings

Hike ratings are based on distance and elevation gain (the sum of all gains in elevation per day):

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. up to 6 miles | A. under 1,000 feet |
| 2. 6 - 10 miles | B. 1,000 - 2,000 feet |
| 3. 10 - 15 miles | C. 2,000 - 3,000 feet |
| 4. 15 - 20 miles | D. over 3,000 feet |
| 5. over 20 miles | E. over 3,500 feet |

Backpack ratings include a third digit for travel:

- T. trail
1. limited/easy crosscountry
 2. moderate crosscountry
 3. strenuous/difficult crosscountry

What to bring

For day hikes always bring lunch and enough water. Consider layered clothing, sunscreen, good hiking boots with treads, and hiking poles. Non-service dogs are allowed only if specified in the listing; canine hikers should bring leashes, litter bags, and water for their dogs.

Liabilities

To participate on a Sierra Club outing, you will need to sign a liability waiver. To read a copy of the waiver form, call (415)977-5630, or visit <http://tinyurl.com/outingswaiver>.

Problem resolution

If you have an outing-related concern that you are not able to address via the outing's leader, please contact the chair of the sponsoring section or group. If that is not sufficient, you can contact the Activities Committee ombudsman, Seth Feinberg, at sethfeinberg@yahoo.com or (510)969-7151; or the Chapter office at (510)848-0800.

Carpooling

Carpooling helps the environment and allows people without cars to participate. If you are driving to a hike, please stop by the carpool point to pick up others. If you're a rider, pay a share of expenses. Many activities are listed on the Chapter's Meetup site a couple weeks in advance of the event. Join the Meetup group and post a comment requesting or offering a ride: www.meetup.com/sanfranciscobay.

SUMMER 2017 OUTINGS CALENDAR

TUESDAYS

Lake Chabot Reservoir 1A hike. Optional dinner afterward. MEET: 4 pm at boathouse. LEADER: Dolores Gruenewald, (510)351-6247 or doloresgru@aol.com. (Solo Sierrans)

WEDNESDAYS

Lafayette Reservoir 1A hike. Optional dinner afterward. MEET: 4 pm in parking lot (takes five quarters or annual pass). LEADER: Lee Cowden, (925)934-6357. (Solo Sierrans)

MAY 5 • FRI

Curry Canyon & Windy Point 2B Hike. Descend into lovely riparian Curry Canyon before climbing steeply to just below Windy Point. Return via Knobcone Point Road, passing by the landmark of Balancing Rock. Outstanding views, abundant wildflowers. Steady, relaxed pace with breaks. Prepare for mud and poison oak. Rain cancels. COST: \$10 vehicle entry fee. MEET: 9:30 am at Curry Point trailhead on South Gate Road, Mount Diablo State Park. LEADER: Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group)

MAY 6 • SAT

Tree planting. We'll join the Sierra Club Tree Team to plant and prune trees in underserved neighborhoods in Oakland. With sufficient interest we'll be trained and can take our show on the road! Check in with leader about meeting place and what to bring for the morning of work. MEET: 9:30 am. ENDS: 1:30 pm. LEADER: Pamela LoPinto, (415)641-0644 or pamlo@att.net. (Gay & Lesbian)

MAY 7 • SUN

Sycamore Grove 1A saunter. Riparian ramble under stately sycamore trees. Leisurely nature walk follows the course of Dry Creek, which, despite its name, has plenty of water and teems with aquatic life. Spring wildflowers abound along the trail and we will stop at the park's native plant garden. After our outing you may wish visit local vineyards and wineries. Rain cancels. COST: \$7 parking fee (exact change required). MEET: 9 am at Sycamore Grove Park, 1051 Wetmore Road, Livermore. ENDS: noon. DIRECTIONS: Near the restrooms in the parking area. LEADER: Elizabeth Watson, (925)768-3717 or sweettrails00@gmail.com. (Mount Diablo Group)

Pacifica ridgetops 3B hike. Visit three units of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in Pacifica for panoramic vistas and a wildflower hotspot. See where the Bay was first viewed by the Spanish and learn how the area was saved from development. Rain cancels. MEET: 10:30 am at northeast corner of Oceana and Paloma Avenues, Pacifica. ENDS 5:30 pm. LEADER: Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or bob_solotar@hotmail.com. (Hiking)

MAY 10 • WED

Mount Tamalpais 3C hike. A moderate hike on the south side of Mount Tam. Rain cancels. MEET: 9 am at the bus stop at Miller and Locust in Mill Valley. LEADER: Pao Chen, (510)237-7570 or paoc945@yahoo.com. (Hiking)

Moonlight 2C hike. Hike from Ohlone College to Mission Peak summit on the Peak Trail. Headlamps or flashlights recommended, but the objective is to enjoy moonlight hiking with limited artificial illumination. Not a beginner's hike. COST: \$4 parking fee in Ohlone College garage, or park on Mission Boulevard Road. MEET: 6:30 pm at trailhead north of the tennis courts. ENDS: 10 pm. LEADER: William Yragui, 650-642-5150 or wyragai@missionpeakconservancy.net. (Southern Alameda County Group)

MAY 12 • FRI

Morgan Territory 2B hike. Our route will hug Bob Walker Ridge on the way out with some magnificent views of Diablo, North Peak, Los Vaqueros Reservoir, and Round Valley. Return via a shady riparian canyon, a stretch of chaparral, and a lovely oak parkland. Late spring wildflowers. Steady, relaxed pace with breaks. MEET: 10 am at Morgan Territory Regional Preserve Staging Area. Note: Storm-related road closure of Morgan Territory Road near its junction with Marsh Creek Road may mean trailhead is inaccessible from Clayton. If so, take alternate route out of Livermore; see online posting for details. LEADER: Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group)

MAY 13 • SAT

Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge 1A wildflower walk. Your chance to see this unique 55-acre wildlife preserve (normally closed to the public) along the San Joaquin River shoreline. One-hour docent-led walk to see wildflowers and habitat restoration for three endangered species: Antioch Dunes evening primrose, Contra Costa wallflower, and Lange's metalmark butterfly. Rain or shine. For information, call leader or the Refuge, (707)769-4200. MEET: 10 am at the main Refuge gate and parking area on right, just before a sharp left turn to the Shipyard Road. LEADER: Janess R. Hanson, (925)458-0860. (Delta Regional Group)

Bootjack 2B loop hike. Varying terrain. Hike to Cataract Falls, view wildflowers, take in views of Mount Diablo and San Francisco. Lunch in Potrero meadows. Moderate pace. COST: \$8 parking, exact change. BRING: Cash for treats at West Point Inn. MEET: 10 am at Bootjack Campground parking lot. ENDS: 5 pm. LEADER: Donna De Rego, (925)667-0182 or donnaderego@gmail.com. (Hiking)

MAY 19 • FRI

Mount Olympia & Mitchell Canyon 3D hike. After making our way over to Donner Canyon, climb to the rocky perch of Mount Olympia, where great views abound. From there we'll swing over to Prospectors Gap and descend via Bald Ridge, Deer Flat, and Mitchell Canyon. Abundant wildflowers. Parts are steep with loose rock. Steady, relaxed pace with breaks. Prepare for poison oak. Modified for extreme heat. Rain cancels. COST: \$6 per vehicle. MEET: 9:30 am in front of the Mitchell Canyon Visitor Center, Mount Diablo State Park. LEADER: Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net. (Mount Diablo Group)

MAY 20 • SAT

Wunderlich County Park 3B hike. Explore one of the peninsula's best kept secrets: the lush redwood and madrone forests of Wunderlich County Park, which used to be the Folgers Estate of coffee fame. Mostly shady with occasional views of the East Bay hills. Rain cancels. MEET: 11 am at Wunderlich parking lot. CARPOOL: Parking is limited, carpools strongly suggested (arrange at www.meetup.com/sanfranciscobay). LEADER: Steve Bakaley, (925)945-8205 or sibakaley@lbl.gov. (Mount Diablo Group and Sierra Singles)

MAY 21 • SUN

Walnut Creek Regional Trails 1A hike. Leisurely walk on scenic paved canal trails. Optional refreshment stop after the hike. Wheelchair accessible. Rain cancels. MEET: 10 10 am in Heather Farms Park parking area on right, near pre-school and restrooms. ENDS: Noon. LEADER: Lidia Campos, (925)240-5795. (Delta Regional Group)

MAY 26 • FRI - MAY 29 • MON

Memorial Day car camping at Van Damme State Park. Join GLS for a spectacular and relaxing members-only weekend on the northern California coast just south of the town of Mendocino. Explore giant ferns, old-growth redwoods, and a 100-year-old pygmy forest, as well as beaches, coastal bluffs, and wetlands. Enjoy a variety of daily hikes (from moderate to strenuous), food, and camaraderie around the campfire. For an additional fee, join a guided kayak tour to explore nearby sea caves. COST: \$50 members, \$65 non-members (gives you a year's membership with GLS). MEET: Park Road, Little River. LEADERS: Susan Fracisco, susan.fracisco@yahoo.com; Anita Bowen, click@anitabowen.com; Pamela LoPinto, (415)641-0644 or pamlo@att.net. (Gay & Lesbian)

MAY 27 • SAT

Mount Tamalpais 3C hike. A moderate hike on the north side of Mount Tam. Rain cancels. MEET: 9 am at Fairfax Parkade, opposite the theater. LEADER: Pao Chen, (510)237-7570 or paoc945@yahoo.com. (Hiking)

Corona Heights Natural Area habitat restoration. One of the best wildflower displays anywhere in the city, plus numerous resident and migratory birds. GLS and other volunteers have been restoring and maintaining this area since the early 1990s, removing invasive species, nurturing and adding to the number of natives, and doing light trail work. Rain or shine. Children welcome with adult. BRING: Close-toed shoes. All tools and gloves provided. MEET: 10 am on north side of Randall Museum (parking lot is on south side). ENDS: Noon. LEADER: Russell Hartman, (650)242-2679 or rph1917@comcast.net. (Gay & Lesbian)

MAY 28 • SUN

Colma Cemetery 2A walk. An historical walk through many of the cemeteries of Colma, the 'City of Souls.' This is Part 1; Part 2 is in October-November. Leisurely pace, but takes all day. Post-walk dinner at local restaurant. Rain cancels. MEET: 10 am at Colma BART station near station agent's office. ENDS: 5:30 pm. LEADER: Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

JUN 2 • FRI - JUN 4 • SUN

Lost Coast Beach Walk 3A1 backpack. Three-day trip of the classic Lost Coast Beach Walk between Shelter Cove and Mattole. Enjoy remote and wild coastal scenery, spring flowers, and possibly migrating whales. Advance sign-up and approval required. BRING: Individual commissary. Bear canisters required. LEADERS: Thomas Meissner, (707)795-7980 or meissner.thomas@sbcglobal.net; Sanjay Reddy, (925)828-3229 or reddysanjay@comcast.net; Danielle Henkel, (570)271-5505 or danielle.henkel@gmail.com. (Backpacking)

JUN 2 • FRI

Mount Diablo 'round the mountain 2C hike. This classic loop provides views in all directions as we circle the park's dominant peak. Late spring wildflowers should be abundant. Steady, relaxed pace with breaks. Rain cancels. COST: \$10 per vehicle. MEET: 10 am at large parking lot on left at entrance to Juniper Campground. LEADER: Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group)

JUN 4 • SUN

Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline, 1A walk. Leisurely loop with scenic views of Carquinez shoreline and bay. In Port Costa, visit historic old cafe for refreshments. MEET: 11 am in Bull Valley Staging Area. ENDS: 1:30 pm. LEADER: Lidia Campos, (925)240-5795. (Delta Regional Group)

JUN 10 • SAT

Piedmont 2A architectural walk. An architectural and historical walk past Piedmont mansions, emphasizing homes designed by Julia Morgan. Leisurely pace, but walk takes all day, returning to start about 5 pm. Post-walk dinner at local restaurant. Rain cancels. MEET: 9:45 am on Piedmont Elementary School lawn at corner of Piedmont Avenue and Echo Street, Oakland. LEADER: Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

JUN 10 • SAT

Moonlight 2C hike. Ohlone College to Mission Peak summit on the Peak Trail. Headlamps or flashlights recommended but the objective is to enjoy moonlit hiking with limited artificial illumination. Not a beginner's hike. COST: \$ 4 parking fee in Ohlone College multi-story garage. MEET: 6:30 pm at Ysc trailhead, north of tennis courts. ENDS: 10 pm. LEADER: William Yragui, (650)642-5150 or wyragai@missionpeakconservancy.net. (So Alameda County Group)

JUN 11 • SUN

Pescadero Creek County Park 3B/C hike. Explore less-traveled territory through first- and second-growth redwood forests, with the occasional panoramic view. Moderate pace. Choice of two routes. Not for speed demons or beginners. MEET: 10:15 am at Sam MacDonald County Park parking lot. ENDS 6:45 pm. LEADER: Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or bob_solotar@hotmail.com. (Hiking)

JUN 17 • SAT - JUN 18 • SUN

Wine Country 2BT backpack. With one of the wettest years in history, we can expect the high country to be buried in deep snow well into mid-summer. On the bright side, the Bay Area will still be green in June. Climb up Hood Mountain, with great views across Sonoma Valley, and camp near the shores of Santa Rosa Creek. Beginners welcome. Advance sign-up and approval required. COST: \$30. BRING: Individual commissary. Bear canisters required. LEADER: Thomas Meissner, (707)795-7980 or meissner.thomas@sbcglobal.net. (Backpacking)

JUN 17 • SAT

Redwood Regional Park 2B hike. Pleasant hike among redwoods and ferns. Leisurely pace. Rain cancels. COST: \$5/car. BRING: Food to share at post-hike potluck/barbecue in park. MEET: 11 am at "Wayside" parking lot on left side of main park entry road. ENDS: 4:30 pm. LEADER: Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

JUN 24 • SAT - JUN 25 • SUN

Point Reyes 2BT backpack. Moderate overnight trip. Hike to Coast Camp and spend a night near the ocean. Limited to 12 participants; email mike.bandrowski@gmail.com to register. BRING: Individual commissary. COST: \$35. MEET: Bear Valley Visitor Center. LEADERS: Mike Bandrowski, (510)834-3235 or mike.bandrowski@gmail.com; Ernest Castiaux, (510)909-3301 or ecastiaux@hotmail.com. (Backpacking)

JUN 24 • SAT

Big Basin 3B loop hike. Moderately paced day hike through giant redwoods, along babbling brooks, and around impressive falls. Worth the drive. Rain cancels. COST: \$10 parking. BRING: Insect repellent advised. MEET: 10 am at the Redwood trailhead across from Big Basin State Park headquarters. CARPOOL: Leader at Walnut Creek BART at 7:45 am; no-host carpool from Rockridge BART at 7:30 am. LEADER: Steve Bakaley, slbakaley@lbl.gov. (Mount Diablo Group and Sierra Singles)

JUL 1 • SAT - JUL 4 • TUE

Emigrant Wilderness 1A1 family backpack. We'll go to the end of the road and touch not a single trail, walking down a clean granite flank to our home by the West Fork of Cherry Creek for the long weekend. After two days splashing in the water, soaking in the sun, and enjoying meals around a campfire, we'll return to our lives completely refreshed. COST: \$20 per person. Email leader to register. BRING: Individual commissary. Bear canisters highly recommended. LEADER: Brian Gunney, (925)667-5236 or brian@gunney.net. (Backpacking)

JUL 1 • SAT

Art Deco Oakland 2A hike. An urban walk featuring architecture and history of downtown Oakland. Leisurely pace. Post-walk dinner at local restaurant. Rain cancels. BRING: Lunch, \$1.85 for return to Lake Merritt BART, money for post-walk dinner. MEET: 11 am at 10th Street and Fallon side of Oakland Museum, next to statue of nursing bear. ENDS: 5:30 pm near 12th Street BART. LEADER: Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

JUL 10 • MON

Moonlight 2C hike. Ohlone College to Mission Peak summit on the Peak Trail. Headlamps or flashlights recommended but the objective is to enjoy hiking in the moonlight with limited artificial illumination. Not a beginner's hike. Four hours to complete seven-mile hike with significant elevation gain before park closes at 10 pm. COST: \$ 4 parking fee in Ohlone College multi-story garage. MEET: 6:30 pm at Ysc trailhead, north of the tennis courts. ENDS: 10 pm. LEADER: William Yragui, (650)642-5150 or wyragai@missionpeakconservancy.net. (Southern Alameda County Group)

JUL 12 • WED

Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve 1A loop hike. Enjoy a leisurely stroll in scenic Berkeley Hills. Optional picnic lunch after hike. MEET: 11 am at Huckleberry entrance, just past Sibley Preserve. ENDS: 2 pm. LEADER: Lucy Henderson, (925)254-2898. (Delta Regional Group)

JUL 15 • SAT

Hidden Golden Gate Park 3A hike. A lengthy walk in seldom-seen parts of Golden Gate Park. Lunch stop in the Dutch Windmill garden. Leisurely pace. Post-walk dinner at local restaurant. Rain cancels. MEET: 9 am at entry to San Francisco Botanical Garden (Strybing Arboretum) inside Park near Ninth Avenue and Lincoln. ENDS: 6 pm. LEADER: Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

Central Point Reyes 3C loop hike. Leisurely to moderately paced scenic day hike through varied terrain. Highlights include the top of Mount Wittenberg and Kelham Beach. If you wish to hike fast and get back early, this is not the hike for you. Mellow hikers welcome. Rain cancels. MEET: 9:30 am in front of the Bear Valley Visitor Center. CARPOOL: Leader at Walnut Creek BART at 7:30 am; No-host carpool at Rockridge BART at 7:45 am. ENDS: 7 pm. LEADER: Steve Bakaley, (925)945-8205 or sbakaley@lbl.gov (preferred). (Hiking, Sierra Singles, and Mount Diablo Group)

JUL 22 • SAT - JUL 23 • SUN

Yosemite Chilnualna Falls 2CT backpack. Hike past Lower Chilnualna Falls and up 5 steep miles to the five Upper Chilnualna Falls. If the water is low enough, we can enjoy a dip in the swimming hole at the bottom of the upper fall and cross Chilnualna Creek to explore the fields of flowers above. We will camp near the top of the middle waterfall where we can enjoy a campfire after dinner. COST: \$30 by PayPal; instructions emailed after acceptance. Does not include park entrance fee. LEADERS: Rodney Omachi, (415)518-6503 or rodomachi@yahoo.com; Lesley Kao, (415)504-7109 or lesleymkao@yahoo.com. (Backpacking)

JUL 22 • SAT

Mount Tamalpais 3C hike. A moderate hike on the north side of Mount Tam. Rain cancels. MEET: 9 am at Fairfax Parkade parking lot opposite the theater to carpool to trailhead. LEADER: Pao Chen, (510)237-7570 or paoc945@yahoo.com. (Hiking)

JUL 28 • FRI - JUL 30 • SUN

Mokelumne Wilderness loop 2C2 backpack. Enjoy the spectacular and lightly traveled Carson Pass Wilderness Area. High-altitude lakes and a variety of mountain scenery. Cost: \$40. Trip limited to eight; email kentlewan@gmail.com with a brief summary of your backpacking experience. Plan to drive up Thursday. LEADERS: Kent Lewandowski, (510)759-6646 or kentlewan@gmail.com; Kathryn Leonard, (520)520-3500 or kleonardnet@yahoo.com. (Backpacking)

JUL 29 • SAT

Corona Heights Natural Area habitat restoration. Volunteers remove invasive species, nurture natives, and do light trail work. Children welcome with adult. BRING: Close-toed shoes. Tools and gloves provided. MEET: 10 am on north side of Randall Museum (parking lot is on south side). ENDS: Noon. LEADER: Russell Hartman, (650)242-2679 or rph1917@comcast.net. (Gay & Lesbian)

AUG 5 • SAT

10th annual Beaver Festival. Wildlife and ecology exhibits, crafts, naturalist-led walks, and music in celebration of the beaver family who lived in Alhambra Creek in downtown Martinez. Information: www.martinezbeavers.org. MEET: 11 am at corner of Alhambra and Marina Vista in downtown Martinez. ENDS: 4 pm. LEADER: Janess Hanson, (925)458-0860. (Delta Regional Group)

AUG 7 • MON

Moonlight 2C hike. Ohlone College to Mission Peak summit on the Peak Trail. Headlamps or flashlights recommended but the objective is to enjoy hiking in the moonlight with limited artificial illumination. Not a beginner's hike. COST: \$ 4 parking fee in Ohlone College multi-story garage. MEET: 6:30 pm at Ysc trailhead, north of the tennis courts. ENDS: 10 pm. LEADER: William Yragui, (650)642-5150 or wyragai@missionpeakconservancy.net. (Southern Alameda County Group)

AUG 12 • SAT

Point Reyes Laguna loop 2B day hike. A moderate to leisurely paced hike in the hills and along the coast trail above Limantour Beach. Hourlong lunch on the beach. Rain cancels, fog drizzle does not. MEET: 11 am at Bayview trailhead, Inverness. CARPOOL: Leader at Walnut Creek BART at 9 am. Drivers needed or non-drivers may be turned away. LEADER: Steve Bakaley, (925)945-8205 or sbakaley@lbl.gov (preferred). (Hiking, Mount Diablo Group)

Oakland Hills 2B stairways walk. Pathways and stairs in Oakland Hills, much of it in the area of the 1991 Oakland Hills Firestorm. Leisurely pace, takes all day. Walk returns to College Avenue not far from Rockridge BART about 4:30 pm for dinner stop at local restaurant. Rain cancels. MEET: 11 am at Rockridge BART near base of escalators. LEADER: Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

Martinez Regional Shoreline 1A sunset walk. Leisurely stroll along scenic shoreline and marina. Wheelchair accessible. Optional dinner stop after. MEET: 5 pm in front of former Amtrak station at intersection of Ferry Street and railroad tracks. ENDS: 6:30 pm. LEADER: Lidia Campos, (925)240-5795. (Delta Group)

SPECIAL PROGRAMS & TRAININGS ON NEXT PAGE

SPECIAL EVENTS & PROGRAMS

GREEN FRIDAY

MEET: Bay Chapter office, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Ste. I, Berkeley. Doors at 7 pm, program 7:30 to 9 pm including questions and discussion. Refreshments are served. **COST:** \$3 requested donation.

Fri, May 12 - "Parents for a Safer Environment"

Join us for a presentation by Susan JuneFish, founder and director of Parents for a Safer Environment (PASE). Exposures to toxic chemicals such as pesticides risk unnecessary harm to our health, wildlife, and water supplies. PASE works to conduct research; undertake outreach and education to the community and decision makers; and advocate for policy change, primarily in Contra Costa County. The work by PASE to effect systemic change has made impacts at the State of California level and beyond, preventing illnesses, fostering health for generations of people, and protecting the environment.

Susan has a master's degree in public health from UC Berkeley and has worked for the California Environmental Protection Agency.

SAN FRANCISCO DINNERS



MEET: Social hour 6 pm, dinner 7 pm, program 8 pm. Grace Lutheran Church, 3201 Ulloa St. at 33rd Ave. **COST:** Send a check for \$22 made out to "Sierra Club, S.F. Bay Chapter," to Gerry Souzis at 1801 California St., #405, San Francisco, CA 94109. Please indicate the program date, number of guests, vegetarian meals requested, and your phone number. Non-members welcome. **BRING:** Wine or soft drinks. Glasses and ice available. **LEADER:** With questions, contact Gerry between 4 and 9 pm at 415-474-4440 or gsouzis@hotmail.com.

Thu, May 18 - "Trekking the Haute Route"

The Haute Route starts in Chamonix at the base of Mont Blanc, France, and concludes in Zermatt at the base of the Matterhorn, Switzerland. Join Seiji Kawamura and his friends as they trek 100 miles hut-to-hut with 30,000 feet of elevation change over 11 high passes. The route passes by green valleys, crystal-clear lakes, massive glaciers, and formidable mountain ranges — a challenging and most picturesque trek.

Seiji is a retired high school physics teacher. He has trekked extensively in the Alps, Asia, South America, and Africa. For the last eight years he has done volunteer trail maintenance work on the Pacific Crest Trail.

Checks must be received by May 12th.

EAST BAY DINNERS



MEET: No-host cocktails/social hour at 6 pm, dinner at 7 pm, program at 8 pm. Berkeley Yacht Club on the Berkeley Marina. **COST:** Dinner and program is \$30, including tax and tip; \$10 for program only. **RESERVATIONS:** Send your check, payable to "Sierra Club, S.F. Bay Chapter," with your name, telephone number, and the names of your guests, to: Jane Barrett, 170 Vicente Road, Berkeley, CA 94705. With questions, call 510-845-8055. Attendance is limited to the first 115 reservations received. Reserve early; programs fill up.

Thu, May 25 - "The Power of Solar"

It is the best of times, it is the worst of times. It is the season of light and of darkness. How did Dickens know? Solar power is a powerful force on the planet today and a gift for our season of light, but it is often maligned, misunderstood, and miscalculated.

What *is* solar power? Is it merely "cute" as Bill Gates said in 2011? Is the economic payback really 32 years as Candidate Trump claimed? Is it unreliable and expensive, as blogger Anthony Watts and many others have claimed?

No, no, and no! Come join us as local solar advocate Doug McKenzie leads us through the realities and the potential of solar power. From the giant solar plants in California deserts to residential solar systems on your neighbors' roofs, learn where solar fits in the context of climate change, clean renewable energy, energy independence, and your monthly utility bill.

Doug retired early from a career as a "people, project, and program manager" in software development and customer support at HP. He is now living his dreams as a solar educator and consultant and as a career coach. He's the East Bay development manager for non-profit solar installer *SunWork.org* and is on the Board of NorCal Solar. Doug lives in Berkeley and drives an electric vehicle powered by rooftop solar.

Checks must be received by May 18th.

DELTA GROUP

Please join the Delta Group for the following hikes and activities. For information about Delta Group activities, call Janess Hanson at 925-458-0860.

Sun, Jun 4 – Carquinez Regional Shoreline, Crockett, 1A walk

Wed, Jul 12 – Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve 1A walk

Sat, Aug 5 – 10th annual Beaver Festival, Martinez

Sat, Aug 12 – Martinez Regional Shoreline 1A sunset walk

MOUNT DIABLO GROUP



MEET: 7 pm at Ygnacio Valley Library, 2661 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek. **RESERVATIONS:** Mount Diablo Group programs are open to all and no reservations are necessary. **LEADER:** If you have questions, call Ken Lavin at 925-852-8778.

Wed, May 10 - "Exploring Mount Diablo and beyond"

Our May meeting features a spectacular photographic tour of our local parks and open space. Photographer Bill Karieva has been exploring Mount Diablo and surrounding parklands, camera in hand, since 2003. He was challenged by a friend to hike all of the ever-growing network of trails on and around Mount Diablo. Along with his inclination to follow deer paths, this trail challenge provided Bill with a multitude of photographic opportunities. Bill will show us secret waterfalls, colorful flowers, elusive wildlife, seasonal changes, and the drama of the Morgan Fire.

Bill Karieva is a board member of the Mount Diablo Interpretive Association and maintains his own website, www.explorediabolo.com. Bill's photos appear in *Hiker's Guide to Mount Diablo State Park*, *Mount Diablo Review*, *Diablo Magazine*, and *Black Diamond Living*.

Wed, July 19 - "Mount Diablo's night shift"

Mount Diablo State Park's Mitchell Canyon is one of the Bay Area's iconic hiking spots. But what is it like after the human visitors head home and the resident flora and fauna reclaim the mountain?

Join us at our July meeting for a slide presentation and talk describing the secret lives of the crepuscular critters and evening bloomers that hide in shadows during the day, but shine brightly (figuratively and sometimes literally) as darkness falls. We'll also share some of Mount Diablo's early history and folklore, including (tall) tales of trappers, miners, and the mountain's one and only pirate.

Ken Lavin is a Mount Diablo State Park volunteer and a Sierra Club hike leader. He has worked as Greenbelt Alliance outings coordinator for 10 years.



CLASSES & TRAININGS

WILDERNESS FIRST AID CLASS

Saturday, July 22 and Sunday, July 23, 8:30 am to 5 pm, Bay Chapter office, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite I, Berkeley.

This class satisfies first-aid requirements for most Bay Chapter outing leaders (confirm requirements with your section/group officers). Students have two options: You can take the one-day class on Saturday and receive the Basic Wilderness First Aid certification of the American Safety & Health Institute — \$50 for members/\$60 for non-members.

Basic WFA is a practical, eight-hour course that prepares you to recognize and avoid wilderness hazards, and do first aid outdoors with whatever equipment you have or can improvise. Or, you can take the two-day class for an additional \$30/\$40, and receive the higher-level WFA certification. This option adds more advanced skills and role-playing scenarios.

Visit www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/wfa or call 510-848-0800 for instructions on how to register for this class.

Remembering environmental educator & activist Elena Belsky

SUE LATTANZIO

The Sierra Club remembers and celebrates the life of Elena Belsky, a true environmental defender, unsung hero, and extraordinary individual who passed away in October.

Elena's significant contributions to the Sierra Club were as member of the Marin Group Executive Committee from 2006 to 2016 and chair of the Marin Group from 2008 to 2010. Marin's natural environment is better off thanks to her tireless efforts and the wonderful science programs she developed to inspire and open the minds of elementary school students throughout Marin.

Elena was born in Berkeley, and in the 1990s her family moved to the San Geronimo, where her lifelong commitment to environmental activism began



in her own backyard. As a naturalist, hiker, and horse-woman, Elena quickly came to love Marin's unique and beautiful places and wildlife. Elena's parents encouraged her fearlessness, activism, and belief that anything was possible — qualities that led Elena to her career protecting and preserving the environment.

In her personal life, Elena was a true Renaissance woman: an accomplished photographer, artist, performer, dancer, actress, musician, chef, costume creator, and educator. As an activist, Elena became a student of environmental sciences and environmental law. She took classes in environmental education, hazardous materials, and riparian and aquatic system monitoring, and was a graduate of the Environmental Forum of Marin. She also learned informally from other environmentally minded experts.

With that knowledge in hand, Elena successfully advocated for environmentally responsible development and restoration of creeks and wildlife habitat. She built Clean Water Act cases and volunteered in a wide range of capacities. As a volunteer, Elena advised on numerous political and advocacy campaigns, and was involved with dozens of organizations in the environmental, cultural, social, educational, and health sectors.

Elena's accomplishments include preserving standards for protecting west Marin's natural environment; protecting Tomales Bay and the Russian River; exposing toxic pollution and forcing cleanup of the former Hamilton Air Force Base; and leading the Sierra Club's legal fight to protect and preserve our coast, challenging the Coastal Commission.

In 2000, Elena led the formation of the nonprofit Watershed Preservation Network (WPN), whose goals include public education and legal action to preserve the environment. Elena created the *Earth Harmony* environmental education program under WPN, which taught local native history, culture, and skills to elementary school children. Elena founded WPN's *Amazing Science!*, a summer and after-school enrichment program that teaches hands-on youth science throughout Marin County.

Elena's greatest loves were family, art, nature, and, above all, her friends. We celebrate Elena's life and cherish her many lasting contributions in Marin and Northern California.

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IMAGE CREDIT: Elena instructs a rapt audience of elementary school children. Photo courtesy Sue Lattanzio.

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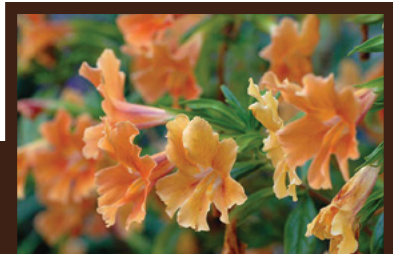
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#SierraSnapshots | This beekeeper in Woodacre, Marin County, is part of the series “Goldwert: The Collapse of an Indicator Species” by photographer Marie-Luise Klotz. The series presents a narrative of honeybee life and the environmental impact of large-scale bee die-offs. More at www.marieluiseklotz.com. Read about a state legislative effort to protect bees and other pollinators from pesticides on page 6. For a chance to be featured in the next issue, share your photos on social media with hashtag #SierraSnapshots, or email them to yodedit@sfbaysc.org.

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Our website is home to helpful information and resources including:

- The Yodeler blog, updated regularly
- Our full events and activities calendar
- Group information and leadership roster

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Save the date: annual chapter picnic on Sunday, August 13 at Temescal Park (page 3)
- Important public meeting on refinery emission limits, May 31 – Be there! (page 9)
- Volunteers needed to help plan our 2017 awards gala (page 3)
- Next Wilderness First Aid course will be held July 22-23 (page 21)

EMAIL

Visit sierraclub.org/sfbay/email to sign up for Bay Chapter emails, including monthly news bulletins and action alerts.