

# Redwood Needles

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 55 Number 4

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

August/Sept. 2014



## CELEBRATING WILDERNESS AND COMMUNITY IN VALLEJO!

In September the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region will host Visions of the Wild, a festival celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act with art exhibits, speakers, film screenings, music, and field trips. All events are free and open to the public. For full program information, visit [www.visionsofthewild.org](http://www.visionsofthewild.org).

Events will take place from September 3 to September 6 at seven different venues in historic downtown Vallejo, a city known for its cultural diversity, beautiful waterfront setting, and vibrant arts community. Venues include the landmark Beaux Arts-style Empress Theatre, arts and performance space The Hub, the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, and a small "Ranger Station" that will serve as the festival headquarters.

"We're putting together a unique and varied menu of activities that will appeal to people of all ages and walks of life," said Heather Davis, Visions of the Wild coordinator. "There will be something for everyone. The festival will be a 'one-stop shop' for wilderness information for residents across the Bay Area."

The four days of the festival will provide an opportunity to explore topics such as what "wilderness" means in diverse cultural contexts; how wilderness values are expressed through the

arts; how we can "re-wild" our humanized landscapes; how we can expand the circle of people who care about wild places; and how our understandings of wilderness and wilderness conservation paradigms will change in an era of global environmental change.

Redwood Chapter and both Napa and Solano Groups are looking forward to participating in the festival, and we encourage all Club members to attend. At press time, the Chapter was just finalizing arrangements to sponsor a panel discussion on invasive plants in wilderness, with participation from the California Invasive Plant Council, Tuleyome, and the East Lake Resource Conservation District. The workshop will take place at 11 a.m. on Friday September 5, at The Hub. Napa Group Chair Marc Pandone is also one of the artists whose work will be exhibited at the Vallejo Maritime and Historical Museum as part of this event.

Presenting an event of this size and scope requires an enormous investment of time and effort, and volunteers are still needed. To volunteer, contact festival coordinator Heather Davis at [hdavis@thesca.org](mailto:hdavis@thesca.org) or visit [www.visionsofthewild.org](http://www.visionsofthewild.org).

*Portions of this article are excerpted with permission from Bay Chapter's The Yodeler*

## Great News for the Gray Wolf



Two of Journey's pups peek out from under a log. Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

BY VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

At their meeting in Fortuna on June 4 the California Fish and Game Commission voted to protect the grey wolf under the California Endangered Species Act. Very unusually, this action was taken despite contrary recommendations by Commission staff.

Redwood Chapter previously submitted a letter recommending that the wolf be listed under CESA, as had been requested in a Center for Biological Diversity petition. Chapter Conservation Chair Diane Fairchild Beck, who attended the hearing to make the case in person, reported that this event was one of the "most thrilling times" she has had in her long career as a Club activist, especially the moment when the decision was

"Great News for the Gray Wolf" cont. on page 3



## HUMBOLDT COUNTY CELEBRATES WILDERNESS 50

BY NED FORSYTH,  
NORTH GROUP VICE CHAIR

On July 8 Humboldt County became the third county in Redwood Chapter (and the seventh in California) to issue a formal proclamation celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the landmark federal Wilderness Act. This legislation, signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on September 3, 1964, created America's National Wilderness Preservation System, for "the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will . . . provide for the protection of these areas and the preservation of their wilderness character."

The federal King Range, Mount Lassic, and Rocks and Islands Wildernesses and the state-designated Murrelet Wilderness all lie within

the borders of Humboldt County.

In accepting the proclamation on behalf of the Sierra Club, I pointed out that we humans are a wild species, a part of nature, and that wild places deserve protection for their own sake. As Wallace Stegner said in his 1960 "Wilderness Letter": "the wilderness idea [is] something that has helped form our character and that has certainly shaped our identity as a people . . . we simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in. For it can be means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, a part of the geography of hope."

Stegner was writing of, and for, Americans.

"Humboldt Celebrates Wilderness 50" continued on page 3

## Action Alert: Berryessa-Snow Mountain National Monument

BY VICTORIA BRANDON,  
REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

Permanent protection of the Berryessa-Snow Mountain region has been a top Redwood Chapter priority for a number of years. These very special 350,000 acres of federal lands contain lush forests, wildflower meadows, three designated Wilderness areas, and a Wild and Scenic River. The region is home to tule elk, river otters, the second largest population of California's wintering bald eagle populations, and the rare Pacific fisher. Berryessa-Snow Mountain is a biodiversity hotspot and also paradise for hikers, campers, birders, anglers, and equestrians.

Under the leadership of Congressman Mike Thompson and with strong support from Congressmen Jared Huffman and John Garamendi, whose district now includes most of the area proposed for protection, we've been trying to convince Congress to designate the region as a National Conservation Area. Since that legislation seems to be stalled in Washington gridlock, it's time to look for another quicker, surer route to the same destination, by asking the President to use his powers under the Antiquities Act to



Tired hikers in the extreme south of the proposed National Monument get a glimpse of Lake Berryessa. Photo courtesy of Tuleyome.

create a Berryessa-Snow Mountain National Monument.

Stating that "permanent protection of Berryessa-Snow Mountain will ensure the preservation of this special place and will grow the local economy by bringing visitors and jobs to the region year-round," the national Sierra Club has created an online petition urging President Obama and Department of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to designate Berryessa-Snow Mountain as a National Monument. Almost all of the Monument would be right here in Redwood Chapter, in four of the Chapter's six local Groups; please take a moment to help protect it for the enjoyment of future generations by visiting [redwood.sierraclub.org](http://redwood.sierraclub.org) and adding your name to the petition.

## Oppose the Rohnert Park Wal-Mart Supercenter

BY MARTIN J. BENNETT

Sonoma County is one of the most environmentally conscious places in California. Through conservation of open space, protection of the coast, organic farming, investments in rail transit, clean power, smart growth policies and a GoLocal cooperative, residents have tried to preserve natural beauty, reduce greenhouse gasses, and create a sustainable economy.

However, the proposed expansion of the Wal-Mart discount store in Rohnert Park to become a supercenter selling both general merchandise and groceries undermines these efforts.

The Rohnert Park City Council approved the proposed expansion in 2010 but a Superior Court judge ruled in favor of the Sierra Club and Sonoma County Conservation Action in a suit claiming the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was flawed. Wal-Mart has now submitted a revised EIR that the planning commission will soon review.

A supercenter will increase dependency on the automobile and increase traffic in an already congested 101 corridor; the supercenter operations and its supply chain will increase greenhouse gas emissions and reduce air quality in the region; and Wal-Mart campaign contributions will support candidates opposed to environmental protection.

A recent report by the Institute of Local Self Reliance, "Walmart's Assault on the Climate," cites Wal-Mart's own documents to show that its total carbon emissions since 2005 have increased by 14 percent and reached 21 million metric tons in 2013.

According to the report, Wal-Mart is one of the largest climate polluters in the nation; the company lags behind its peers in shifting to clean energy; and Wal-Mart admits that their greenhouse gas emissions will climb over the next decade. Why?

First, only 4 percent of the electricity for Wal-Mart store operations is derived from clean energy sources such as wind and solar. Wal-Mart lags far behind other large retailers in making the shift to renewable energy. Staples and Kohl's, for instance, get all of their electricity for store operations from renewable sources.

Second, the Wal-Mart big-box retail model is based upon customer transportation by auto and paving over open space to construct huge stores with large parking lots on the urban periphery. In addition, Wal-Mart's growing monopoly in the retail sector has forced tens of thousands of downtown and neighborhood hardware, grocery, and apparel stores to close.

"Oppose Wal-Mart Supercenter" continued on page 3

# Redwood Chapter Sierra Club Directory

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The Redwood Chapter is governed by an executive committee, with one (1) member delegated by each of six (6) regional groups and six (6) members elected at large. Each group elects its own executive committee.

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## Classified Ads

Women's Trips to the National Parks! 5 days/4 nites-daily guided hikes. Visit sierrasisters.net or Janet 707-874-2126.

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## Redwood Chapter & Sonoma Group Office

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The Office is staffed most weekday afternoons. Call ahead to confirm, 544-7651. The Office is also open during evening meetings (see listings on last page) and at other times when volunteers are present.

## Redwood Chapter Online

Redwood Chapter Website: <http://www.redwood.sierraclub.org>  
for Group Websites, add:  
/napa, /north, /sonoma, /lake, /mendocino, or /solano  
Sequoia Paddlers: [groups.yahoo.com/group/sequoiapaddlers](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sequoiapaddlers)  
Redwood Chapter Blog: [sierraclubredwoodchapter.wordpress.com](http://sierraclubredwoodchapter.wordpress.com)  
Redwood Chapter Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/SierraClubRedwoodChapter](http://www.facebook.com/SierraClubRedwoodChapter)

## Redwood Needles

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## Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

3-Day, 3-Island, Live-Aboard Cruises 2014 Schedule:

August 24-26 Sept. 14-16

Join us as we explore these enchanting islands! Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines. Marvel at pristine waters teeming with frolicking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on unusual sea and land birds. Watch for the highly endangered island fox. Look for reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or just relax at sea. A ranger/naturalist will travel with us to help

lead hikes, point out items of interest and present evening programs. All cruises depart from Santa Barbara, California. The cost, \$590, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, and beverages plus the services of a ranger/naturalist. To reserve space, send a \$100 check, written to Sierra Club to leader Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. For more information contact leader; 626-443-0706; jholtzhl@aol.com

## Check us out on Facebook!

[www.facebook.com/SierraClubRedwoodChapter](http://www.facebook.com/SierraClubRedwoodChapter)

## Redwood Chapter Blog:

[sierraclubredwoodchapter.wordpress.com](http://sierraclubredwoodchapter.wordpress.com)

# “Oppose Wal-Mart Supercenter”

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Hence, shoppers have fewer choices and must drive longer distances. Since the nationwide expansion of Wal-Mart in the late 1980s from a regional chain to the nation's largest retailer, the number of miles the average household is driving to shop has increased by 42 percent.

According to the Sonoma County Community Climate Action Plan, 62 percent of Sonoma County's greenhouse gas emissions come from the transportation sector.

Wal-Mart has built more than 3200 supercenters that average 180,000 square feet and require up to twenty acres. According to the Institute for Traffic Engineers, supercenters attract customers from regional markets who drive longer distances to shop. There are no supercenters in Sonoma, Marin, Lake, and Mendocino counties; and a supercenter, located on the 101 corridor will certainly contribute to increased traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.

Wal-Mart's calculation of its greenhouse gas emissions significantly underestimates the retailer's carbon footprint and the company does not account for several major sources of pollution. Wal-Mart's global supply chain is dependent on shipping products from offshore factories in Asia by supersized container ships that are a leading source of greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, between 2005-2012 Wal-Mart constructed 200 million square feet of new store space that required clearing vast tracts of CO2 absorbing forests and fields.

A supercenter will undermine local agriculture, too. In just two decades Wal-Mart has captured 25 percent of the national grocery market, reduced the small farmer's share of the food dollar and fostered a greater concentration of meat packers, dairies and

food processors. Wal-Mart relies on distant factory farms for its meat, dairy products, fruits and vegetables. Sonoma County suppliers of agricultural products are cut out of the Wal-Mart supply chain.

Wal-Mart claims it is becoming a more environmentally friendly company. However, the ISLR report reveals that Wal-Mart's Political Action Committee is one of the largest donors to Congressional candidates and a major contributor to climate change deniers, to lawmakers who vote for oil company subsidies, to those who voted against EPA regulations of greenhouse gasses, and to those who support the Keystone XL pipeline. Between 2005 and 2012 more than half of the campaign contributions by Wal-Mart and the Walton family were made to members of Congress who received lifetime voting scores under 30 percent from the League of Conservation Voters – in other words, they voted against the environment 70 percent of the time.

All who are concerned about our environment, the climate crisis, and local agriculture must just join together to oppose the supercenter.

The Rohnert Park Planning Commission meets the second and fourth Thursdays of every month at 6 pm, at 130 Avram Street, Rohnert Park. The exact date of the commission hearing (likely in August) for a revised Environmental Impact Report for the proposed supercenter will be posted at: <http://www.livingwagesonoma.org/>, or call 707-346-1187.

*Martin J. Bennett, Sonoma Group member, is Instructor Emeritus of History at Santa Rosa Junior College and co-chair of North Bay Jobs with Justice.*

# Environmental Education: Walking the Walk in Redwood Chapter

Most of our members and the general public are well aware of the Sierra Club's role as an advocate for environmental protection— we write letters, speak at meetings, lobby decisionmakers, and when necessary take polluters to court. We're also well known for connecting people with nature by leading hikes and other outdoor adventures: it's not by accident that the Club's mission is not only to “protect” the planet but also to “explore and enjoy” the marvels all around us.

But fewer people know about the deep bonds between the Club and the community, or about our commitment to education and to the next generation.

For example, North Group has been raising money specifically for environmental education for nearly 20 years, and has sponsored the attendance of local children at environmental camp since at least 1994. Precise numbers of sponsorships and the camps involved have varied from year to year, but the commitment of Group resources has been significant. In recent years the Group has sent four kids to a one-week camp near Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park every summer to participate in programs in Redwood Ecology (for 6th-8th graders) and Towering Trees & Tidepools (for 4th-5th graders). The cost to the Group is \$600 for each child; the rewards, priceless. North Group also annually sponsors a \$50 community science fair prize.

Solano Group has been presenting scholarships for about the same amount of

time. They are awarded annually to a student at Solano Community College who has demonstrated an interest in the environment and has earned at least a 3.3 GPA in at least 24 units of coursework at the college. Prize amounts vary according to the earnings of an endowed scholarship fund; the award was for \$375 last year.

Lake Group's educational efforts are also substantial though more recent: every year since 2011 the Group has presented two \$1000 scholarships to local high school graduates who demonstrate a commitment to the Club's core values and whose career goals relate to safe and healthy communities, smart solutions to climate change, or the protection of America's wild places. The recipients, each of whom is also given a year's membership in the Sierra Club, have been too diverse to categorize: for example, one of this year's scholars is heading to UC San Diego to pursue a career in environmentally friendly transportation, and the other will enter Humboldt State where she plans to major in Fisheries Biology.

Napa Group's efforts in educational philanthropy are just beginning. For the first time this year, the Group is contributing a full scholarship for one child at the weeklong Napa County 4H Camp held in Las Posadas forest near Angwin. Educational components on the environment are included in the curriculum, though it is not solely an “environmental” camp.

—VICTORIA BRANDON,  
REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

# “HUMBOLDT CELEBRATES WILDERNESS 50”

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Ned Forsyth (right) accepting a proclamation celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act from Humboldt County Third District Supervisor Mark Lovelace. Photo by Sue Leskiw.

It's fitting that the Humboldt proclamation came right after Independence Day, because America's political freedoms provided a path for ordinary citizens to bring our Wilderness Act into being in 1964, and the same liberties guaranteed by our Constitution exist today.

In response, Supervisor Mark Lovelace remarked that his time spent in the Trinity Alps had a profound effect on his personal development; Supervisor Estelle Fennell stated that the King Range Wilderness is a special place, and a valuable attraction, in her district, and praised longtime Arcata BLM Field Manager Lynda Roush for her energetic and innovative service.

# “Great News for the Gray Wolf”

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announced and the environmentalist segment of the audience broke into a spontaneous fervent cheer—another highly unusual feature of the normally staid Commission hearings.

Wolves were once common throughout California, but until several years ago had not been found here for many years. Then in the fall of 2011 a young radio-collared male officially known as OR-7 (and nicknamed “Journey” by his many admirers) was tracked moving diagonally across the state of Oregon and into northeastern California. Journey has paid the state a return visit every year since, and late this winter was observed in southern Oregon in the company of a female wolf presumed to be his mate. A denning site was located in the Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest, which straddles the Oregon-California border, and on June 2nd—just a few days before the Commission hearing—several pups were photographed.

The den site itself is over the line in Oregon, but considering Journey's peregrinations in the past few years his return to California is highly probable, this time not as a lone wanderer but as the alpha male of a new pack. It is wonderful that now, when wolves are finally coming back to California after so many years of absence, CESA listing will provide the protective tools necessary to allow these top predators to reestablish themselves in the state, for the benefit of a magnificent animal and for all Californians.

See the Lake Group report for additional endangered species news.



# Redwood Chapter Election Results for June 3rd, 2014

Overall, Sierra Club endorsed candidates did very well in the recent election: statewide endorsees Kamala Harris (Attorney General), John Chiang (Treasurer), Dave Jones (Insurance Commissioner) and Tom Torlakson (Superintendent of Public Instruction) all advanced to the second round and are likely to prevail in November. Betty Yee (Controller) also appears to have won a position on the fall ballot by a few hundred votes, but at press time putative third-place finisher John Pérez had initiated a recount so the final result could not yet be confirmed.

In federal contests, incumbent Congressmen Jared Huffman (District 2), John Garamendi (District 3) and Mike Thompson (District 5) all came out on top by substantial majorities. Under California's “top two” nonpartisan primary system this means they have to win all over again in November, but their decisive June

victories make ultimate success seem highly probable, and in the case of Congressman Garamendi might discourage the intervention of well-funded far right Super PACs.

Endorsed State Senate candidate Mike McGuire (SD2) and Assembly candidate Jim Wood (AD 2) also placed first and advanced to November, while Joe Krovoza (AD 4) lost.

In local contests, incumbent Napa County District 3 Supervisor Diane Dillon won outright, and Sonoma County District 4 candidate Deb Fudge advanced to November in her bid for that open seat. Lake County Measure L, a sales tax to protect and restore Clear Lake that had received particularly strong public support from the Sierra Club, lost very narrowly, receiving 65.2 percent of the vote out of the 66.7 percent required for special-purpose taxes.



With your help we can protect the wolf

Wolves are vitally important to maintaining nature's balance, culling out weak and sick animals to keep populations of elk and deer healthy and in check. The Sierra Club is working to defend wolf populations from continued threats from politicians.

Lead the pack & JOIN Sierra Club.

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# Outings

## Thurs. Aug. 7 – Sonoma Group. Evening Exercise Walk in Annadel.

An exercise walk up to Lake Ilspanjo and back on Spring Creek and Canyon trails. Bring liquids, good walking shoes, snacks if you want. About 3.5 miles. Class M-3.5-B. Meet at the Vietnam Vets trailhead at the corner of Carissa and Annadel Heights at 5:45pm. Leader: Carl Inglin 538-8271 or chinglin@sonic.net

## Fri.-Sun. Aug. 8-10 - Perseid Meteor Shower at Black Rock Desert.

Meet in Reno Friday evening and drive the 100 miles north to Black Rock. Contact leader if you want to meet us on the Playa. Burning Man setup will be going on so the playa will be pretty busy. There

will be 50+/- people camping at Mid-Playa to watch the meteor shower. Unfortunately, it's close to full moon, but we'll be visiting hot springs and having a potluck, possibly dutch oven cook-off. Dogsonleash, Hamradio activity, we'll have portapotties but no other facilities. RV's & Trailers OK, no hookups + expect dust! Sign-ups 7/25 thru 8/5, David, 775-843-6443. Great Basin Group/CNRCC Desert Comm.

## Fri.-Sun. Aug. 15-17 – Napa & Sonoma Groups-Loon Lake Boat in/Camp out.

Loon Lake is a granite bound lake on the edge of the Desolation Wilderness. We'll canoe/kayak to the primitive camps on the east end of the lake. Opportunities for day hiking, photography,

drawing, and just kicking back. Info. <http://www.meetup.com/Redwood-Chapter-Sierra-Club-Outings-Group/> Leaders: Isabelle Saint-Guily [izstguily@gmail.com](mailto:izstguily@gmail.com) and Carl Inglin [chinglin@sonic.net](mailto:chinglin@sonic.net), 707 538-8271.

## Thurs. Aug. 21 – Sonoma Group. Evening Exercise Walk in Annadel.

An exercise walk around the west end of Annadel, using Cobblestone and Orchard trails. Bring liquids, good walking shoes, snacks if you want. About 3.3 miles. Class M-3.3-B. Meet at the Cobblestone Trailhead on Channel Drive at 5:45pm. Leader: Carl Inglin 538-8271 or chinglin@sonic.net

## Sat.-Sun. Sept. 6-7 - 2nd Saturday-Sunday Benson Hut Work Party.

Benson Hut work party involves

hiking 3 miles to the Benson Hut Saturday morning, hut maintenance Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, and then hiking back Sunday afternoon. Maintenance involves stocking the hut with wood, repairs, staining and cleanup. Good exercise, wonderful setting and great fun. Friday night stay at Clair Tappaan Lodge included with work party (Dinner Friday night and breakfast Saturday am). Contact leader Jim Gannon (707)-525-1052 [jgannon99@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jgannon99@sbcglobal.net) for signup or questions.

## Sun. Sept. 7 – Sonoma Group. Tomales Bay State Park Hike.

We'll do the scenic tour of Tomales Bay State park, past sandy coves on the shore of Tomales Bay and through old Bishop pine forests to the top of the ridge, using Johnstone and Jepson Trails, with a lunch stop at Pebble Beach. Bring lunch, liquids, good hiking shoes. Dress in layers for coastal weather. Class M-8-A. Carpools: Meet 9:30 am in front of the Coddington Library. Contact the leader if you want to be met at the Petaluma Park-n-Ride on Lakeville. Leader: Carl Inglin 538-8271 or chinglin@sonic.net.

## Sat Sept. 20 - Lake Group. Robert Louis Stevenson State Park Table Rock Hike.

Enjoy gorgeous rolling hills, wooded forests, interesting volcanic rock formations and stunning views of Napa Valley! Bring lunch, snack, water, hat and sturdy shoes. Class M-4-A Meet: 9 am in RLS State Park Parking lot

on Hwy 29, 6.1 miles south of Twin Pine Casino in Middletown. By reservation only. Leader Julie Kreis 707-987-9040 or [tikaljak@yahoo.com](mailto:tikaljak@yahoo.com)

## Sun. Sept. 21 - North Group Prairie Creek State Park Hike: Zig-Zag #2 to Ossagon.

From lush riparian creek side, climb to high, open forest on West Ridge, eventually within sound and glimpses of ocean far below. Descend steeply to Coastal Trail south of Ossagon Rocks. Optional pause here to explore before return by Ossagon Trail to Parkway mile 132.74, where we may shuttle some vehicles before our start. Bring lunch, liquids, layers. No dogs. M-6-B. Carpools 8:30 am SW corner Arcata Community Sports Center (101/Samoa exit) 9:30 am Newton B Drury Parkway mile 130.54 leader Melinda 668-4275 Rain cancels.

## Sat.-Sun. Oct. 18-19-3rd Saturday-Sunday Benson Hut Work Party.

Benson Hut work party involves hiking 3 miles to the Benson Hut Saturday morning, hut maintenance Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, and then hiking back Sunday afternoon. Maintenance involves stocking the hut with wood, repairs, staining and cleanup. Good exercise, wonderful setting and great fun. Friday night stay at Clair Tappaan Lodge included with work party (Dinner Friday night and breakfast Saturday am). Contact leader Jim Gannon (707)-525-1052 [jgannon99@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jgannon99@sbcglobal.net) for signup or questions.



Angelo Coast Range Reserve hike, leader Jonah Freedman pictured in left photo.

## 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CLAIR TAPPAAN LODGE FUNDRAISER FRIDAY-SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 16, 17, 2014

"The mountains are calling and I must go" John Muir 1838 - 1914



Come Celebrate!  
Clair Tappaan  
80 years  
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90 years  
Peter Grubb Hut  
75 years  
Benson Hut  
65 years



Guitarist  
Stephen  
Holland

Theme Hikes-  
archaeology,  
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Saturday evening speaker  
David Scott  
Sierra Club President

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2 nights, 6 meals (also vegetarian) - \$195  
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web: <http://ctl.sierraclub.org>



If you wish your bequest to be used locally, be sure to specify

"Sierra Club Redwood Chapter" or the name of your local Group in your bequest.

### Instructions to hikers

Outings will start not later than 15 minutes after scheduled meeting time. The leader is in charge of the trip and is responsible for your welfare and the good name of the Club. He/she must have your cooperation to make the trip safe, pleasant and rewarding. Never charge ahead of the leader and keep within sight or shouting distance of the person ahead of you so you do not miss an intersecting trail. Do not lag behind rear leader: if you need help, the rear leader will remain to assist you. Do not leave the group without the leader's permission.

Be adequately equipped and prepared. You should carry lunch and liquids. Wear footwear appropriate for the outing. In most cases that would be hiking boots.

Guard against fire. Do not smoke on Sierra Club outings. Build fires only with the leader's permission, and extinguish them completely. Guns, pets, or radios are not to be brought on hikes.

The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Participants assume the risks associated with travel. Reimburse the carpool driver. Carpools are not part of the outing but a means of conserving natural resources.

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver please go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or contact the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version.

### Visitors are welcome

All Sierra Club trips are open to the public unless otherwise announced. You are free to bring all members of your family and guests. Children are usually welcome, but please call the leader to make sure it is an appropriate hike.

DIFFICULTY	MILEAGE	ELEVATION GAIN
E - Easy	Actual	A - Less than 1,000
M - Moderate	Mileage	B - 1,000 to 2,000
H - Hard		C - 2,000 to 3,000
S - Strenuous		D - over 3,000
V - Very Strenuous		

The actual mileage will be listed for each trip. Elevation gain will reflect the gain from the start of the hike to the highest point. If you need to know the cumulative gain, please contact the leader.

### To submit outings write-ups

Send all outings write-ups to: Carol Vellutini, Outings Chair, ([carolvsr@sonic.net](mailto:carolvsr@sonic.net)) by the 8th of the month. All leaders must coordinate their outings with their Group Outings Chair.

CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

**Preserve the Future**

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering Sierra Club in your will. There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

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## Outings Chair Report

In the last issue of the Needles I was addressing the sadness of the passing on of several outing leaders. This month I will add Sandy Taylor to that list. Sandy passed on June 21st. From 1988 to 1996 I offered a beginner's backpack workshop for the Sonoma Group. Sandy and Helen Baum were the speakers for First Aid and Health on the Trail. They did a fantastic job. We would have 5 workshops followed by a "slide" show and a Swap meet. Then we would take beginners out backpacking. Sandy was also known for her "Ceremony Tree" hike in Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. This hike was to an ancient maple

tree via Lower Bald Mountain trail to Vista trail to Headwaters trail. Her hike is now part of the history of the park. Many leaders from other hiking organizations follow the same trails that Sandy took so many years ago. Sandy was a soft spoken leader who was happiest when she was in the mountains. I will honor Sandy by leading a spring hike to this tree.

On the brighter side Ned Forsyth will finish his leader's training this year and will begin leading hikes for the North Group. Tim Bartice's knee is mending and he will hopefully resume leading in the Fall. I am excited to introduce Julie Kreis as the new leader from the Lake Group. (See her photos on this page.) Please meet her on September 20th when she leads her 1st hike with Sierra Club. Here is her bio in her own words:

"I've always loved the outdoors. I used to explore the woods and creeks near my home in Michigan, with my childhood friend Cindy, when we were in our preteens. We traversed the backwaters and came upon a lamprey, a type of suckerfish, which I duly preserved in a bottle of alcohol for over 10 years, quite a specimen!

Later in life when I attended the University of Costa Rica, I joined the Mountaineering Group. I survived their tough initial outings designed to get the foreigners to drop out. We scaled vertical muddy mountain sides and were subject to falling boulders. The challenge mostly worked as myself and one other were all that remained of about 10 stateside participants. I gained their admiration and hence hiked many of their national parks and did some awesome exploring with the group—in less risky conditions! My husband flew down to join me and we bussed then backpacked into Corcovado National Park in Southern Costa Rica near Panama, a tremendously pristine tropical forest with various microclimates. The park rangers befriended us, taught us about the local flora and fauna and took us into the jungle to visit little known gems of nature.

I've been a teacher at the high school and elementary level and as a result I understand how important it is to involve young people in activities that lead to environmental awareness and a love of nature. I've led students into the Son Tra Peninsula of central Vietnam, the home of the red-shanked langurs, monkeys who truly need our help in their preservation. I've also participated in youth rope courses and group-bonding weekends.

I love nature and have made many personal trips up the Robert Lewis Stevenson Trail to the Peak of St. Helena in all kinds of weather! I've also hiked many other trails in Lake County, the Redwoods and Southwest desert with my husband. My desire is to instill a love of nature



**New Lake Group leader Julie Kreis.**

into fellow earthlings and be a force in bringing more young people into the Sierra Club as well. So for all these reasons I believe in the mission of the Sierra Club to Explore, Enjoy and Protect, just like John Muir who is one of my life heroes."

Please take care this summer as drought and wildfires have changed many landscapes and water sources on trails that you may be hiking.

—CAROL VELLUTINI,

REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR



**Clair Tappaan Lodge Outing Leadership training- new Lake Group leader Julie Kreis completes training (front row, second from left.)**



**Photos by Cristina Legorreta.**



## Yolla Bolly backpacking, leader Val Nordeman.

**Sonoma County Search and Rescue is looking for potential new members who are comfortable working in the outdoors and interested in serving their community. Go to [www.sonomasar.org](http://www.sonomasar.org) for more information and to apply.**

### Ratings for Outings Leaders

#### How fast or slow do you go?

Wonder if an outing leader walks fast or slow? Keep in mind that the leader's speed is but one part of hiking. How high up a mountain the hike starts, the total mileage and elevation gain (up hill) and loss (down hill) greatly affect the difficulty of a hike, regardless of how fast or slow you walk. If you have any doubts about being able to do a hike or have other questions, please call the leader to discuss your concerns. These ratings only serve as a guide and are not a substitute for you being in appropriate physical condition before participating in an outing.

Leaders are grouped according to how fast they normally hike. Please keep in mind that this info is to help you decide if a hike is right for you. The outing rating instructions to hikers is also important for participants to read. Look at the difficulty of the hike. If the rating is moderate with few or more frequent stops a fast pace hiker must hike slower to accommodate that rating.

**Varies, see hike description for details:** Jim Gannon Isabelle Saint-Guily

**Fast-pace with few or no stops:** Paul Bozzo Carol Magill

**Moderate-pace with few stops:**

Don Anderson Tiffany MacNeil Boone Lodge Lorrie Lagasse Julie Kreis

**Moderate-pace with more frequent stops:**

Pete McGee Tim Bartice Melinda Groom Val Nordeman Carol Vellutini Yvonne Kramer Martin Farber Brian Collett Carl Inglin Tom McFarling Nanette DeDonato Jonah Freedman Steve Devoto

**Slower-pace:** Allison Bronkall

### Sierra Club Volunteer/ Activist Opportunities

**Sonoma Group Hike Leaders:** Sonoma Group outings leaders training. Always a need for more leaders for outings. If you would like a training, please email Tiffany at [tiffany.macneil@sonic.net](mailto:tiffany.macneil@sonic.net) or call 696-3387 for info. People are requesting families with children, camping and easy hikes.

**Meet with the Sonoma Group Water Committee!** Meet with the Sonoma Group Water Committee! Help conserve water. Come to our meetings at the Environmental Center at 7:00 PM on the third Wednesday of most months. The Water Committee is working on measures to conserve, save, and reuse our water resources. Our goal is to preserve and improve the natural water environment, by promoting the responsible use of water and the safe reuse or disposal of our wastewaters. Help protect the quality of our water for people, wild life, fish and other aquatic life. Check for our meeting dates on page 8. To get on our Water Committee e-mail list, e-mail Len Holt at [lholt@sonic.net](mailto:lholt@sonic.net). If you are not able to attend our meetings, you may e-mail Len Holt with your concerns and ideas.

**Get CHARGED by attending the Climate & Energy Committee.** Join us on the 1st of the month at 5:00-5:45 p.m. at the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa, learn about what is going on in our community to fight climate change through renewable energy programs. Contact Shirley Johnson-Foell Climate & Energy Committee Forum-Chair. Email: [Shirlgirl707@Yahoo.com](mailto:Shirlgirl707@Yahoo.com), home 206-1138, or call office 433-7651.

## Lake Group Report

### Endangered Species Update

Lake Group has been concerned for a number of years about the well-being of the Clear Lake Hitch (*lavinia exilicauda chi*). Found only in Clear Lake, populations of this once-abundant fish have plummeted in recent years, and in 2012 the Center for Biological Diversity petitioned the Fish and Game Commission to list it as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act. Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists subsequently prepared a detailed status review.

At their meeting in Fortuna on June 4 the Commission formally accepted the status review for consideration. It recommends that the hitch be listed as "threatened" under CESA because the fish "is likely to become an endangered species in the foreseeable future in the absence of the protections and management efforts required by CESA." Note that this action, which was approved on the consent calendar without discussion or public input, does not yet constitute a determination that the species is threatened or that listing is warranted. Consideration of that action is expected at the Commission's next meeting, which will be held in San Diego on August 6.

### Measure L Goes Down

Along with other friends of the environment, the preponderance of the business community, and a strong majority of Lake County voters, Lake Group was profoundly disappointed by the failure of Measure L, the half cent sales tax to protect and restore Clear Lake. When the final results were certified, it had received 9873 "yes" votes — 65.2 percent and barely

200 fewer than needed for passage.

These figures confirm that most people in Lake County -- far more than half -- recognize the vital importance of protecting the lake, a unique and remarkable ecosystem and the most important asset our community has. Most voters recognized that powerful safeguards built into Measure L would ensure that the revenues would be spent as mandated, realized that despite irresponsible assertions to the contrary no plausible alternative source of funding was available, and were willing to assume this minuscule financial burden for the sake of our quality of life and our children's future.

On the other hand, we see yet again how extremely difficult it is for the will of the people to prevail given the crippling supermajority rules that Californians have saddled ourselves with. This is the fourth time in less than two years that a crucial special-purpose tax has gone down in flames in Lake County -- with every single one of them getting more than 60 percent of the votes cast. What is needed is a change in the law to prevent the will of the majority from being repeatedly thwarted.

### Party Time!

To close on a happier note, at press time Lake Group was looking forward to our annual midsummer potluck barbecue on July 18. This delightful yearly party is always memorable: a great opportunity to get together with friends old and new, chat about the environmental issues of our community in a congenial informal atmosphere, and generally have a great time.

—VICTORIA BRANDON,  
LAKE GROUP CONSERVATION CHAIR

## Access Adventure at Rush Ranch



I love new adventures! It isn't everyday that you get to go on a carriage ride with John Muir's great-grandson driving a team of horses. That is exactly what I did at Rush Ranch, with Access Adventure. Michael Muir, who founded Access Adventure, has lived with multiple sclerosis since he was 15 years old. He has turned into quite a horseman. In 2001, he led an international team of people with disabilities driving wheelchair accessible horsedrawn carriages on a 3,000 mile, ten-month

Journey Across America, from Mission San Diego to Washington DC.

I am in a wheelchair, and to be able to comfortably ride in a carriage is heaven! Rising out of the northeast edge of the Suisun Marsh, Rush Ranch stretches across 2,070 acres of marsh and rolling grassland. Purchased in 1988 by Solano Land Trust, Rush Ranch provides recreational and educational opportunities to thousands of visitors each year. For more information the website is: <http://access-adventure.org/index.html>

—SHIRLEY JOHNSON-FOELL, CLIMATE AND ENERGY COMMITTEE CHAIR



## Napa Group Report

Over the last 8-12 months the Napa Group has fielded many calls of environmental concern and often outrage over the development practices being perpetuated throughout the county. Even in the midst of extreme drought, it appears no winery or development is too big to be turned down within city limits or throughout the county. The mantra "there is plenty of water" and the belief that there will be no measurable impacts, along with the determination that based on current regulations and rules there is no problem with any of these projects, continues to be echoed from hearings to board rooms.

Yet the calls keep coming in: dewatering by Nestle Corporation of creeks on the Lake County/Napa border which used to be a robust Rainbow trout spawning and rearing habitat, wells slowing and going dry, new hotels and wineries sprouting like spring flowers even while we lacked real spring flowers this season, and a large, 2000 acre Atlas Peak vineyard at the planning commission desks ready to be approved.

The public is asking for a review of the WDO (Winery Definition Ordinance) and Napa Sierra Club supports that along with the revival for approval of the CAP (Climate Action Plan). Both have immediate impacts on the carrying capacity and tolerances of the land and its resources.

We remain active in the Berryessa-Snow Mountain campaign (see article on page one for more details) as well as with the progress of a revised Lake Berryessa visitor plan. Additional preservation and access to parks and open space is an ongoing focus. In addition, we continue to participate in the current studies of groundwater availability and are encouraging future wider

studies beyond the valley floor. Locally, 'drill baby drill' means less ground water for creeks, rivers and the environment.

The Napa Sierra Club is asking for assistance to confront and stand up to the rapid takeover of our natural places by the economically privileged. We encourage everyone—member and non-member—to attend our flourishing and revived General Meeting talks and symposiums, currently scheduled every other month at the Napa Library. These talks cover a wide variety of environmental topics from recreation to preservation.



Lastly, we are pleased to announce our participation as both Group and Chapter with the "Visions of the Wild Festival", a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the passage of the Wilderness Act, in Vallejo this Sept 3rd thru Sept 6th. See the schedule and details at <http://www.visionsofthewild.org/>. Join us for some of the celebration's many events from hikes, to art (with Napa ExCom Chair as one of the exhibiting artists), to music, talks, and even a river cruise. It should be a terrific event celebrating the signing of the Wilderness Act. We hope to see you there.

To receive timely notice of these and other events via our monthly e-newsletter, send your email address to [napavalleyclub@gmail.com](mailto:napavalleyclub@gmail.com). "Like" us on Facebook, where we are Sierra Club Napa Group. Join hikes on Meetup at the Redwood Chapter Sierra Club Outings Group link.

—MARC PANDONE, CHAIR NAPA GROUP

## Mendocino Group Report

### Little River Airport Public Forestland to be Harvested

Mendocino County is planning to harvest its 57-acre forest property next to the Little River Airport this year. There are approximately 100 old-growth trees, both Redwood and Douglas-Fir on the property. While no individual old-growth tree will be cut, second-growth trees will be cut that are adjacent to these old trees. Therefore, we are asking that a core area that contains a concentration of the old trees - about 5 acres - be set aside and not entered at all. This would help protect the old growth from incidental damage and degradation from felling and skidding trees out of this special grove - activities that would forever diminish both its beauty and functionality for wildlife. The old grove could also serve as a destination point for a recreational hiking trail that would start at the county road. The county's promise, as part of the harvest plan, to create a passive recreational component has never been realized.

Please call Dan Hamburg, the Mendocino County supervisor who's district this is and ask for both a set-aside of the old trees—most importantly and urgently!-- as well as a recreational trail. His office number is 707-463-7231.

### Pygmy Forest Under Pressure

The County wants to build a Garbage Transfer Station in the Pygmy Forest three miles east of Fort Bragg. To do this, the City of Fort Bragg, Mendocino County, State Parks and CalFire, along with Wes Chesbro, have concocted a three way swap which gives the seventeen acre proposed Transfer site to the City of Fort Bragg and County, (it's currently owned by Jackson State Forest.) The present Transfer Station in Caspar will go to State Parks, (it's now owned by the County of Mendocino,) and Parks will give twelve plus acres to Jackson State Forest. The enabling legislation was prepared by Wes Chesbro. Two other Transfer Stations have been built on Pygmy land and we think this is highly inappropriate. The Pygmy Forest in Mendocino is unique in all the world and it ought to be valued as a heritage site. It is not trash land. It is an important and endangered ecosystem.

Please call Dan Gjerde, 4th District Supervisor and the Mendocino Board of Supervisors, 707-463-4221, and insist on protection for the Pygmy Forest.

—MARY WALSH, MENDOCINO CHAPTER CHAIR

## Non-Sierra Club Outings

The following activities and events are not sponsored nor administered by the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has no information about the planning of these activities and makes no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of such activities. They are published because they may be of interest to the readers of this publication.

### Saturday Saunters for Santa Rosa Area.

Every Saturday. Meets 9 am and usually ends around 11:30. These walks are moderate. Fun way to exercise with friends. For info call Bob Martin 707-539-6300.

### Sonoma County Regional Parks trail work days.

On the day of the project you can call 707-548-4424 for an update or if you get lost coming to the park. Your support and dedication to our County's trails really makes a big difference. To RSVP for any of these projects please call John at 707-565-3356. [ParksVolunteer@sonoma-county.org](mailto:ParksVolunteer@sonoma-county.org)

### Volunteer Days Riverkeeper Stewardship Park in Guerneville, Every Wednesday.

9:30 - 11:30 am, for all or part of the time. Park is located on the north bank of Russian River directly upstream Guerneville pedestrian bridge. Access entrance from the driveway in front of Sonoma Nesting Co. (16132 Main Street, just east of Armstrong Woods Rd. At bottom of driveway look for blue & white "Russian Riverkeeper Stewardship Park" sign. Bring drinking water & wear sturdy footwear. Light refreshments provided. Info Victoria Wikle 865-2474 [VictoriaWikle@usa.net](mailto:VictoriaWikle@usa.net).

### Sat. Sept. 27 - Annual Russian River Watershed Cleanup.

Join volunteers on foot and in canoes in cleaning up our local river. For more information go to [www.russianrivercleanup.org](http://www.russianrivercleanup.org).

Coastal Cleanup day is Saturday, Sept 20, 2014, 9 am to noon. Many sites in Solano County.

Recycle.solanocounty.com has been updated for 2014. This downloadable recycle guide has 21 pages of local recycling information. Bookmark it or put on your desk top.

Jane can also get you a zip file with individual pages so you won't have to send the whole guide out.

**EXCOM Members needed.** The Solano Group is in need of people who want to make a difference in Solano County. Put on your Sierra Club Hat and join us for monthly meetings where we review local issues and come up with plans to protect our local environment. For more information, email sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com or leave a message at 707 319-6398.

**Thanks** to Adam Mangosing, Justin and Alicia Ashorn, Errol Dempster, Matt Hoffman, and Jane for staffing the May, June and July paper shredding events.

## Solano Breeze Corner

Covering Benicia, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun, Vacaville and Vallejo

sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com 707-319-6398

### VALCORE Recycling and Confidential Paper Shredding 2014.

#### WEEKEND

Solano Group will be working every 3rd Saturday of the month at 38 Sheridan Street, Vallejo from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (July 19, Aug 16, Sept 20). There is a charge of \$10 (CASH or CHECK ONLY) per twenty pounds of paper shredded. (maximum: 100 pounds). Sierra Club volunteers help tend the money and direct traffic. Once a year is all we ask and you only need work an hour

or so. Volunteers get free shredding.

#### NEW WEEKDAY SHREDDING

From 10am to 4 pm – closed 1pm to 2 pm for lunch, CREDIT or DEBIT ONLY.

**We continually work at Lori's Native Plant Garden** located at 225 Amador St, Vallejo. We weed, plant, prune and mulch year-round. If you have an hour, call Jane and she'll work with you to get you started. 707-319-6398

**Executive Committee (EXCOM) and other volunteers needed:** Come join us for our monthly meetings, which rotate between Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville. We meet on the first Thursday of the month and are making a positive impact on our county and need a few more members to help carry the load. Call Jane (707) 319-6398 or Greg (707) 386-6411 for current meeting info.

—CONTRIBUTOR: JANE BOGNER; EDITOR: GREG PETERSON

## North Group Report

### Bill Knight Memorial Service

North Group members and supporters are invited to attend a memorial service for former Outings Chair Bill Knight, who passed away in late April. The event will be held on Sunday, August 17 starting at 10 a.m. at Friends of the Dunes Humboldt Coastal Nature Center, 220 Stamps Lane, off Samoa Boulevard (Route 255) in Manila. Brunch will be served. Please join with his family and friends to share memories of Bill. RSVP required to Liz Knight at (707) 448-6596 or knight95688@aol.com.

### Grazing Oversight Lacking on Public Lands

During this 50th anniversary year of the Wilderness Act we should celebrate the enduring legacy which has been preserved; we should also take stock of the limits on what we have accomplished and determine how to get the rest of the job done.

The Northcoast and Klamath Mountains contain outstanding wilderness areas characterized by diverse Old Growth forests, sub-alpine meadows and numerous glacier-formed lakes. From mid-July through mid October, however, significant portions of most wilderness areas are grazed by cattle. Livestock grazing was "grandfathered in" when the Wilderness Act became law. Along with over-aggressive fire suppression actions, grazing is the #1 factor degrading wilderness values, including water quality. That is true in Northwest California and across the West.

While livestock grazing in wilderness is legal, the manner in which grazing is (mis)managed in wilderness is often not legal. Rather than herd their cattle, most grazing permit holders these days turn them out in July and don't come back until time to remove them in October. Unlike elk, which graze but move continually, unmanaged cattle find preferred locations and remain there; consequently springs are trampled, wetlands fouled and riparian areas degraded.

Because grazing in wilderness is virtually unmanaged, impacts to water quality often violate the Clean Water Act and other laws. Unfortunately, neither Forest Service managers nor the regional water quality boards enforce those laws. Forest Service staff often do not even visit some grazing allotments for months or even years. So it is not surprising that Native American tribes, environmental groups and the Forest Service's own monitoring have documented bacterial and nutrient pollution in streams draining wilderness where grazing occurs.

As the grazing chair for the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club and the North Group's water chairperson, it is my duty to work to end the degradation of water quality, habitat and other wilderness values which result from poorly managed wilderness grazing. That's why I have gone with Forest Service and North Coast Water Board members into wilderness to view the damage done by unmanaged grazing and challenged those officials to require the regular herding which is necessary to keep cattle from trampling springs, streambanks and wetlands.

Confronting responsible federal and state officials with documentation of the damage poorly managed livestock grazing visits on our public lands and challenging those officials to require the owners to rotate cattle among pastures and keep them out of wetlands is also my mission as coordinator of the Project to Reform Public Land Grazing in Northern California. The Project, which is sponsored by EPIC, the Klamath Forest Alliance and Montana-based Wilderness Watch, uses volunteers to go onto public land grazing allotments and gather photos like those on this page - photos which show the trampled springs and other damage which are ubiquitous where cattle graze on our public land.

Many Redwood Needles readers are frequent wilderness users. I'll bet many of you encounter cattle in local wilderness areas and that you are appalled by the damage they create. If you do encounter grazing damage in wilderness, please take a photo or two and send them to me. In that way you can strengthen efforts right here in Northern



Trampled spring, Big Meadow, Marble Mountain Wilderness.

California to require better management of wilderness grazing.

It is unlikely in the current political climate that efforts to ban livestock grazing in wilderness will succeed. We can, however, insist that public land grazing be properly managed. Please help the effort. Mail your photos of cattle-caused wilderness degradation to my attention, North Group, Redwood Chapter, P.O. Box 238, Arcata, CA 95518. Be sure to also describe where the photos were taken and, if you have them, include GPS coordinates for photo locations. And if you'd like to get more involved in grazing reform, call me at 707-954-6588.

—FELICE PACE,

REDWOOD CHAPTER GRAZING CHAIR

## Wanted:

**Redwood Needles is seeking a database volunteer, starting in August, to assist with the transition of sending the newsletter electronically for many members. Some experience desired, but not absolutely necessary. Contact Mary at odavison@sonic.net for more information.**

## Sonoma Group Report

National Club has approved our request to proceed with our lawsuit against the county regarding the Ohlson Ranch development. In a nutshell, we are challenging provisions in the county's Vineyard Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance (WESCO), that allow development of ridge top land without an EIR.

In August we bid farewell to Jessica Jones, who during her brief tenure on the ExCom went from student liaison at SRJC, to an accomplished environmental arm-twister. Jess showed up at City Council and Board of Supervisors meetings to campaign for "yes" votes on Sonoma Clean Power and the Sonoma County single-use shopping bag ban. Jessica also developed her skills in the art of behind the scenes politics, meeting with elected officials individually over breakfast, coffee or lunch. She's served as President of the Associated Students, and has received several SRJC awards as an outstanding student activist, including the 2013 Floyd P. Bailey Award Winner for Outstanding Service to SRJC. Jessica enters UC Davis next month, bringing all of her skills to the next level.

That open position is transitioning smoothly to Richard Sachin Jr., a leading electric vehicle (EV) advocate and entrepreneur. Richard's company, Sunspeed Enterprises, has begun setting up a string of EV charging stations along the North Coast,

a project he calls the "Pacific Coast SunTrail". Richard enjoys staging events, as well as being the "go-to" person when it comes to the growing world of electric vehicles.

Our Political Committee met in July to begin preparing for City Council candidate interviews. Debra Fudge and Mike McGuire are among the candidates we have endorsed, who made it through the primary and are now campaigning in a November runoff election.

The Sonoma Group continues to host an educational/meet our neighbors booth at the Roseland Tianguis (open air market) located in the parking lot of the former Albertson's shopping center. We are handing out free reusable bags (which we obtained from sources such as the City of Santa Rosa), along with bilingual literature about water conservation, handling of toxics, and greening the home. Lots of opportunities to talk about our mission, and listen to what local folks have to say about their community and what is important to them. We also are enjoying games of mental strategy courtesy of new Sierra member & chess master James Holwell, who joins us every week.

A new documentary film about the Russian River has been filmed and is in the editing process. Some of our members have attended a showing of the first cut, and agree that it is a high quality film with an important message.

—DAN KERBEIN, SONOMA GROUP CHAIR

### Water Service in Santa Rosa Restaurants

Many Santa Rosa Restaurants have not started displaying "WATER ON REQUEST" placards. The policy for voluntary water conservation is for all restaurants in Santa Rosa to serve water only on request. If you are dining at a restaurant in Santa Rosa and they serve you water automatically and they are not displaying the placards, you may ask that they contact the Santa Rosa Utilities Department to request them or implement placards and the policy on their own. To report noncompliance or receive placards contact the Santa Rosa Utilities Department Water Efficiency Group at 707-543-3985.

—LEN HOLT,

SONOMA GROUP WATER COMMITTEE CHAIR

## Pacific Coast SunTrail™ Route

*Electric Vehicle Charging for the Pacific Coast  
The First EV Charger Network to use 100% renewable Energy  
Chargers are Open at 4th and B street, Point Reyes Station*

## Fall Colors At Discounted Rates

Come to **Silver Lake and Carson Pass** areas to relax and enjoy the spectacular fall colors of the Sierra. Fish, hike, or wander along the many lakeside and mountain trails to experience the brilliant gold and red colors of fall. After a hike, refresh in the cool water, lounge on our beach, or glide on the pristine Silver Lake waters, very peaceful. Then join us for a gourmet meal at our restaurant or spend the evening in your comfortable lakeside room or cottage, ending your day star-gazing from your deck or meeting others at the crackling campfire.

**Kit Carson Lodge**  
Highway 88 at Silver Lake  
[www.kitcarsonlodge.com](http://www.kitcarsonlodge.com)  
or call: (209) 258-8500

OPERATES UNDER USFS PERMIT

# Drive Electric Day North Bay September 20th, 11am to 4pm Coddington Mall, Santa Rosa

Learn how you can spare the air every day with today's electric vehicles at September's Drive Electric Day North Bay. Dealers will be available for test-drives and owners will be there to share their experiences driving an electric vehicle (EV). This event will be co-sponsored by the North Bay Electric Auto Association (NBEAA) and the Sierra Club's Sonoma Group.

Any Sierra Club members who are also EV or Plug-In Hybrid owners who wish to come and share their driving experience at the event should contact Richard Sachen 707-327-8298 / richard@rsachen.net or Alan Soule (President NBEAA) at alan@asoule.net .

## Changes Ahead for Redwood Needles Delivery

Starting with the October issue, all members who have email addresses in the Sierra Club database will begin to receive the Redwood Needles electronically rather than on paper. This shift offers several advantages: we can include live links to web-based information and email addresses, graphics can be offered in full color, and we'll save a few trees and a little gas. It will also provide a significant financial benefit to the Chapter, allowing us to use more of our limited funds for the direct protection of the environment. If you really would rather continue to receive a paper copy of the newsletter through the mail, or have any comment, please contact: ERedwoodNeedles@gmail.com.

# Meetings

Send all Meeting events by the 8th of the month to Carl Inglin: chinglin@sonic.net Sierra Club meetings are open to all members. You are welcome to participate or observe as often as you wish. Meetings are located in Sonoma County unless otherwise noted. Visitors should call the committee chair to verify time and place. The Sonoma County Environmental Center is located at 55A Ridgway Avenue in Santa Rosa (West of Hwy 101, two blocks North of College and 1 1/2 blocks West off of Cleveland Ave, South of Coddington).

### Mon. Aug. 4 - Sonoma Group.

Santa Rosa Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway is the site of three related meetings:

- The Climate & Energy Committee meets at 5:00 p.m. Info: contact Shirley, shirlgirl707@yahoo.com , 707-206-1138.

- Sonoma Group Conservation Committee at 5:30 p.m. Info: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net

- Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Info: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net

### Thurs. Aug. 7 - Solano Group ExCom.

Come join us for our monthly meetings which rotate between Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville. We are making a positive impact on our county and need a few more people to help carry the load. Call Jane for information. (707)319-6398.

### Tues. Aug. 12 - North Group ExCom.

The public is invited to attend the monthly meeting of our governing committee. Join us for a discussion of local conservation issues between 7:45 and 8:45 p.m., following the ExCom

business meeting from 6:45-7:45 p.m. Meet at Adorni Center Conference Room on Eureka Waterfront. For more info, call Gregg at 707-826-3740.

### Tues. Aug. 19 - Napa Group ExCom.

7 p.m. Our location varies; it is generally at a member's home. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting should contact the vice chair, Nancy Tamarisk at napaquail@gmail.com

### Wed., Aug. 20 - The Sonoma Group Water Committee.

7:00 PM at the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

### Mon. Sept. 8 - Sonoma Group. (Temporary scheduling change for Labor Day Holiday)

Santa Rosa Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway is the site of three related meetings:

- The Climate & Energy Committee meets at 5:00 p.m. Info: contact Shirley, shirlgirl707@yahoo.com , 707-206-1138.

- Sonoma Group Conservation Committee at 5:30 p.m. Info: Info: Dan

Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net

• Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Info: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net

### Tues. Sept. 9 - North Group ExCom.

See Aug. 12.

### Sat., Sept. 13 - Redwood Chapter ExCom.

Location: Environmental Center in Santa Rosa. Conservation Committee meets at 10 a.m., ExCom meets 1-3 p.m. Info: Victoria vbrandon@laketive.info

### Wed. Sept. 17 - The Sonoma Group Water Committee.

7:00 PM at the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

### Thurs. Sept. 18 - Solano Group ExCom.

Come join us for our monthly meetings which rotate between Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville. We are making a positive impact on our county and need a few more people to help carry the load. Call Jane for information. (707)319-639

## Waste Less Food Projects: Zero Waste Sonoma County

**40% of US Food Wasted! \$165 Billion Annually = \$2,275 Per Family**

**Food waste is the single largest component of solid waste landfilled. Just a 15% reduction in losses in the food supply could feed 25 million Americans annually.**

**-NRDC 2012**

Zero Waste Sonoma County, in collaboration with the Share Exchange, held three meet-ups earlier this year for individuals and groups working on reducing food waste. More than 50 people took part and many others showed interest. Suzanne Doyle of the Sierra Club Sonoma Group provided valuable information and a poster on Sonoma County Direct Food and Agriculture Production. Initial panelists included representatives from Sonoma Compost, Russian River Slow Food, Farm To Pantry Gleaners and CrobMobster. Then we expanded to Park Avenue Caters and Food Columnist Michelle Anna Jordan for the second meet-up, and at the third heard from FEED Sonoma, Sonoma County Green Business Program and Sustainability Consultant Jude Frates, who told us about the efforts of Oliver's Market, Community Market and a number of Northern California grocers. We also had attendees speak up that worked for Community Market, Whole Foods Market, Frog Song Farm, WorldCentric, Bambluware and other groups. Each panel was fascinating; hopefully those notes will be written up soon and posted on the ZWSC webpage and blog.

When asked for next steps, the consensus was to get out of the meeting room and into the field. Participants asked for tours of the landfill, compost facility, farms and food manufactures as well as presentations to groups at their regular meetings. The October 17 event has been postponed. A large brainstorm will be held - perhaps in early December, when the farmers are available. Also a team of presenters will be trained to give talks about wasting less food and Zero Waste. Plans are being made now. If you

would like to assist or take part in any of these activities, please send a note to zwsonoma@sonic.net.

This fascinating series also helped lay the foundation for more concerted efforts this Fall:

**Zero Food Waste Forum:** The Northern California Recycling Association (NCRA) in partnership with the Natural Resources Defense Council and FoodShift, is holding the Zero Food Waste Forum on October 16, 2014 Berkeley. The event will feature the Bay Area premiere of the movie Just Eat It!, speakers from around the country as well as entrepreneurs using technology to address the challenge. Tristram Stuart, the author of Uncovering the Global Food Waste Scandal and founder of the Feeding the 5000 is also scheduled to speak. The awesome line-up and registration information can be found at [www.ncrarecycles.org/ZeroFoodWasteForum](http://www.ncrarecycles.org/ZeroFoodWasteForum).

**North Coast Waste Less Food Advocacy Project:** ZWSC is now organizing an on-going project to reduce waste on the North Coast and help pave the way for community-based Zero Waste initiatives. With food as the focus, the objective is to initiate a vibrant reduction and reuse conversation - within business communities as well as general communities, resulting in an on-going reduction of discards. The process would work in concentric circles starting in Sonoma County and moving out to Marin and Lake Counties and then up the coast to Mendocino, Del Norte and Humboldt. The project and process is designed so that it can be easily replicated elsewhere. Affiliates willing to work are welcome; please send a note to zwsonoma@sonic.net.



### WILDERNESS GUIDEBOOK AVAILABLE

As mentioned previously, to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the landmark federal Wilderness Act, Redwood Chapter has published a Guidebook to the 21 officially designated wildernesses in our territory. Copies are available at the Environmental Center (55A Ridgway) in Santa Rosa and at Watershed Books (304 N. Main) in Lakeport for a suggested donation of \$5, and may also be ordered by mail by sending a \$6 check (to cover postage and handling) made out to Sierra Club Redwood Chapter to Victoria Brandon, 15995 Lucy Circle, Lower Lake CA 95457.

*Redwood Needles*

### October Deadline: Due Sept. 8

Submit Articles/Reports/Ad Copy via e-mail to:

**odavison@sonic.net**

Send Outings to Carol Vellutini via email: carolvsr@sonic.net

Send Meetings to Carl Inglin: chinglin@sonic.net

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