

Redwood Needles

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 56 Number 4

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

August/Sept. 2015

Monumental News: Obama Designates Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument

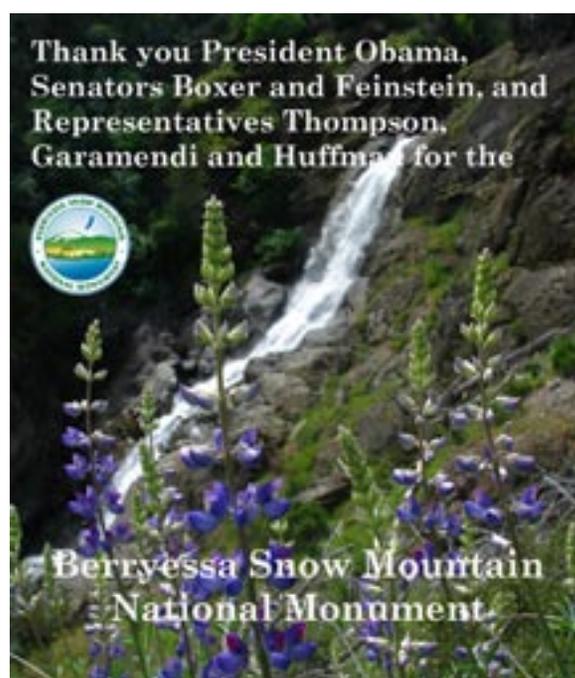
BY VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

Redwood Chapter rejoices at President Obama's announcement that the Berryessa Snow Mountain region will be permanently protected as a national monument, with by far the largest portion here in Redwood Chapter.

Containing three federal Wilderness areas and a Wild and Scenic river, these 330,000 acres of federal public lands at the wild heart of the inner Coast Range are a place of extraordinary biological diversity. Iconic creatures such as tule elk, black bears and bald eagles live there, as do impressive populations of other birds, bats, and dragonflies. Unique assemblages of rare plants make it a biodiversity "hotspot" of global importance. Stretching 100 miles north to south and with altitudinal variation ranging from just above sea level to more than 7000 feet, it offers a landscape level refuge to animals imperiled by climate change.

National monument designation gives this "undiscovered landscape" a name, provides collaborative tools and additional funding sources to the Bureau of Land Management and National Forest Service, augments the region's recreational potential in ways consistent with good stewardship, and offers financial benefits to surrounding communities: it's good for the land, good for the people.

Permanent protection has been a top Chapter priority for many years, starting at least as early as January 2008, when Lake Group hosted a town hall forum in Lower Lake that unveiled the public phase of the campaign. Since then we have kept the issue front and center among our membership, led many hikes into the region and hosted numerous gatherings, including a Wilderness 50 celebration in Santa Rosa in 2014



when Congressman Mike Thompson put out the first call for a presidential monument designation.

On this day of jubilation we thank the President, Senators Boxer and Feinstein, Congressmen Thompson, Garamendi and Huffman, State Senators Wolk and McGuire, Assemblymembers Dodd, Wood, and Levine, and all the local elected officials, businesses, organizations and individuals who have made this great objective a reality.

BLM National Conservation Lands: A Cause for Celebration

BY VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

Chapter Conservation Chair Diane Beck, North Group Delegate Ned Forsyth and I recently had an opportunity to attend a delightful party thrown by the Bureau of Land Management—right here in Redwood Chapter—to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the agency's National Landscape Conservation System. Consisting of National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Scenic and Historic Trails, and Desert Conservation Lands, these special places include mountain peaks, rockribbed coastlines, abyssal canyons and lush forests; some are remote and rugged, some easily accessible. Local BLM conservation lands include the California Coastal National Monument, King Range National Conservation Area, Headwaters Forest Reserve, the Eel, Klamath, and Trinity Wild and Scenic Rivers, and all or part of eight designated Wilderness areas.

The 15th anniversary celebration started on Friday June 19 at the Headwaters Forest Reserve near Eureka, acquired in 1999 to preserve stands of old-growth redwoods that provide habitat for threatened marbled murrelet and coho salmon. Former Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, national BLM Director Neil Kornze, California State Director Jim Kenna and other notables joined an enthusiastic crowd of adults and children to look towards the future by planting 50 infant redwood trees in a "Visionaries Grove" dedicated to the activists who worked to protect Headwaters, and to the "future generations who will help steward their legacy."

Participants then strolled a half mile along the Elk River Trail through towering redwoods to the Education Center (a beautiful

"BLM Celebration" cont. on page 3

"Community Choice" or a Chance for Profit?

BY VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

Recent upheavals in the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) business model are threatening to put this very promising new method of supplying our energy needs at risk.

Here's the way it is supposed to work: by "aggregating" consumer buying power to create an alternative to a utility company monopoly, CCAs can negotiate with competitive suppliers and developers to obtain better prices and a higher percentage of renewables. Nearly five percent of Americans in over 1300 jurisdictions now buy energy in this way. That includes residents of Sonoma County here in Redwood Chapter, where Sonoma Group worked hard for years for the creation of Sonoma Clean Power.

CCAs offer a number of benefits: lower rates, a "greener" power grid, job creation, opportunities to source electricity locally, and the ability to create a stable, long term power supply system that remains under local control rather than being operated for the benefit of long distance investors. It's also a very safe investment

for local governments, since there's typically a 20-30 percent spread or "margin" between the wholesale and retail price of electric power. After providing for a five percent rate decrease and allocating another five percent to run the program, 10-20 percent is left to build up a reserve fund, develop new local renewable power sources, and subsidize energy efficiency projects in new and existing buildings. Such a substantial margin allows startup costs to be repaid very quickly, and reserves accumulate at a rate several times higher than the original investment. For example, Sonoma Clean Power's initial investment of \$2 million was paid off after less than a year's operation, and annual profits of \$12 million are now flowing into the system. Furthermore, if several local governments collaborate to operate a CCA under a Joint Powers Authority (JPA), the general funds of all are completely shielded from potential debt liability.

"Choice or Profit?" cont. on page 3

Another Celebration: Marine Sanctuary Expansion

On Sunday, June 28, several hundred exultant coastal advocates gathered at the Gualala Arts Center to celebrate the expansion of the Cordell Banks and Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries. More than doubling in size, these protected areas now extend north up the Sonoma and Mendocino coast beyond Point Arena, providing permanent protection to this very rich and fragile habitat.

The event was marked by nearly constant rounds of applause, punctuated with cheers and standing ovations. One of the loudest shout-outs came when Congressman Jared Huffman speculated about pushing the boundaries even farther north. Noting that numerous people have proposed that the whole California coast should be protected, and maybe Oregon as well. He said we had to think big: "there's no logical stopping point short of the Arctic."



Sierra Club wilderness advocate Vicky Hoover came all the way from San Francisco to join the celebration.

For more Redwood Chapter information: <http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood>

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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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“Choice or Profit?”

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CCA proposals have recently been made in Humboldt, Mendocino and Lake Counties. There are many potential advantages, but the decision has to be approached carefully, after weighing all the alternatives and conducting detailed independent feasibility studies.

That's particularly true because these proposals do not follow the model that has proven successful elsewhere. Instead, a private for-profit company called California Clean Power is offering a “turn key” operation by which they would pay upfront costs and guarantee minor savings to ratepayers and a more substantial payment to local government in exchange for future profits, none of which will necessarily be devoted to accumulating reserves, developing local renewable power sources, or financing energy efficiency. In effect, local ratepayers would have a choice between two monopoly utility companies, without the public option that was the intent of the 2002 legislation that enabled CCAs in California.

A great many questions arise.

Where will the money go? Here are the figures for Lake County: assuming the usual 20 percent opt out rate of customers who prefer to stay with PG&E, and a 20 percent margin (a minimum), the CCA can be expected to reap a profit of about \$3 million annually—money that will enrich outside investors instead of staying within the CCA for the benefit of local consumers. According to an independent analysis conducted by the County of San Mateo, “The community benefits represented by CCP appear to be much smaller than the CCA could otherwise achieve under a self-administered model . . . In particular, CCP appears to be retaining a disproportionate share of the financial benefits that could otherwise accrue to the CCA under a self-administered model.”

As a corollary, why should ratepayers be offered a mere two percent savings (instead of the five percent that is usual elsewhere) while more than twice that amount is presented to local government? This is after all the ratepayers' money.

Is this proposal even legal? Three specific points seem to be very shaky.

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) legal counsel and other experts have unanimously held that all ratepayer money (including return on investment) has to stay within the CCA: it is not available for payments to the general fund, much less to be siphoned

off as profit.

Transfer of ratepayer money to county coffers may also be impermissible under Proposition 26 since it could be considered a tax requiring voter approval, especially since CCP proposes to “guarantee” these payments.

Entering into a contract without first investigating alternative providers evades the competitive procurement process normally required by governmental entities.

What about public oversight and transparency? Under the draft agreement, all revenues would go to CCP, with no apparent obligation on their part to provide an accounting, or for the county to conduct an audit. In contrast, all other operating programs in California have public finances. CPUC requirements for a CCA require “due process” and “disclosure,” which may be difficult to achieve when finances are not scrutinized by the local government that authorized CCA formation.

What about risk? Investors can protect themselves from a downturn by pocketing short term profits, declaring bankruptcy, and switching customers back to PG&E (at substantial cost to ratepayers), but the contract does not appear to promise ordinary risk management practices such as building significant operational reserves, establishing public fiscal oversight, and emphasizing long-term procurement. And without formation of a JPA, the general fund might be at risk for program liabilities—even though the county will have no operational control or oversight.

And finally, what's the hurry? These proposals were put forward with very little public notice or participation. Multi-year contracts are proposed, involving billions of dollars of ratepayer money. San Mateo County's independent evaluation raises many serious substantive concerns. A different contractual model (for example based on fee for service), formation of a JPA between each county and its municipalities, formation of a JPA involving all three counties, or arranging to join the ongoing operations of Sonoma Clean Power or Marin Clean Energy are all options worth considering.

It's time for the responsible agencies in Humboldt, Mendocino and Lake Counties to step back, draw breath, and exercise the due diligence that the citizenry deserves— before handing over millions of dollars of our money.

“BLM Celebration”

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old redwood barn that has been reconstructed on the site) for socializing, refreshments and a “Conservation Conversation” that began with reminiscences about the events that led to Headwaters protection: events in which many Sierra Club activists were intimately involved, and which were instrumental in the formation of the BLM conservation lands system itself. Until its creation under President Bill Clinton in 2000, the BLM— the nation's largest landholder by far— was charged solely with resource development such as grazing, logging, and mining. Wilderness areas and other lands with extraordinary conservation values were automatically removed from BLM jurisdiction and handed over to the National Park Service, Forest Service or Fish and Wildlife Service for management. Establishment of the National Landscape Conservation System gave the agency a massive new stewardship mandate that now includes 30 million acres of special status lands, more than half of them in California. Questions

from the audience after the presentation touched on subjects such as climate change, both the challenges and the opportunities involved in building a constituency for nature in our increasingly diverse nation, problems caused by chronic funding deficiencies, and President Obama's manifest commitment to building his own conservation legacy.

The following day the celebration moved south and west to Black Sands Beach at Shelter Cove, in the King Range National Conservation Area. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell arrived early for a hike on the beach, everyone reveled in the sunshine, wheeling gulls, lively music, and most excellent array of local edibles, and the conversation resumed. As on the previous day, every glance backwards— for example, Secretary

Jewell's reminiscence of her two visits to Point Arena-Stornetta a bit more than a year ago— was paired with a look towards the future, the most dramatic being Conservation Lands Foundation chairman Ed Norton's exhortation to “keep the pressure up” on the president to continue using his Antiquities Act powers to designate national monuments—a comment that elicited a particularly fervent cheer from the Berryessa Snow Mountain



Black Sands Beach at Shelter Cove, King Range National Conservation Area.

advocates in attendance.

In closing, Jim Kenna announced the release (that very moment) of a new online mapping tool to help the public use computers, smart phones and tablets to locate nearby recreational opportunities on BLM land; unveiled a stunning ceramic walkway evoking the varied character of the agency's conservation lands in California and including a brick for each specially designated area (with plenty of room to add more!); and orchestrated a series of alternating cheers for “Lost Coast” and “King Range”.

Many happy returns to the BLM, and to the National Landscape Conservation System! It was a GREAT party.

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

Volunteer Days Riverkeeper Stewardship Park in Guerneville, Every Wednesday.

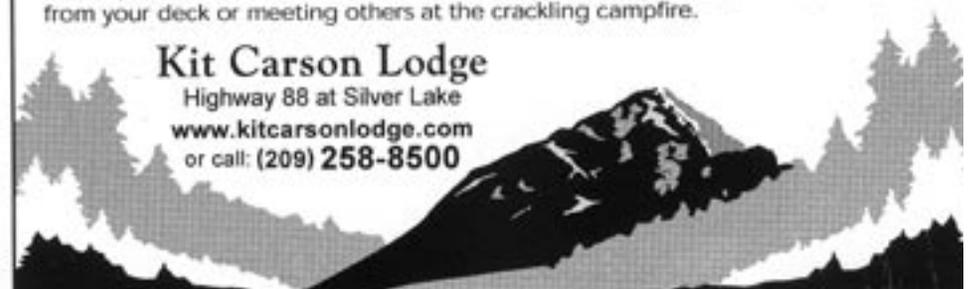
9 a.m. - Noon, for all or part of the time. Park is located on the north bank of Russian River directly upstream Guerneville pedestrian bridge. Access entrance from the driveway in front of Sonoma Nesting Co. (16132 Main Street, just east of Armstrong Woods Rd.) At bottom of driveway look for blue &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

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
or call: (209) 258-8500



Outings



Sun. Aug. 2 - North Group. Redwood National Park Skunk Cabbage Trail Hike.

Join us for a summer hike in the cool coastal zone. The trail follows Skunk Cabbage Creek its whole length, and there will be good views of the beach and coastline when we reach a high point at Gold Bluffs. Bring water and lunch. Class M-7.5-A. Carpools: Meet 9 am Ray's (Valley West) Shopping Center, 10 am trailhead, clearly marked left turn 1 mile north of Orick. Leader Ned, nedforsyth48@gmail.com, (707)825-3652 message phone.

Fri.-Sun. Aug. 14-16 - Perseid Meteor Shower Campout in the Black Rock Desert.

New moon will mean great stars and meteor watching. We'll be camped mid-Playa about 102 miles north of Reno but with portable toilets. We'll probably visit hot springs, and the Emigrant Trail,

among others. And watch out for Hams on the Playa, they'll be there too. Be sure to bring your radio. For more info and GPS location go to www.blackrockdesert.org. There'll also be a map and directions in the Friends of Black Rock Desert office on Main in Gerlach. David Book, 775-843-6443. Great Basin Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

Fri.-Sun. Aug. 21-23 - Napa & Sonoma Groups. Canoe/kayak camping on Utica Reservoir.

This is a 2 nights, 3 days camping trip: We load our boats and paddle across the lake to a beautiful spot to camp. This is wild camping, no facilities. Bring your own boat, camping gear, hiking boots, food, books, sketchbooks, musical instruments and most important, your enthusiasm! Space is limited. A \$25 check per person will reserve your spot. The check will be returned to you at the put-in. (make it to "Napa Outings SC" & mail it to P.O. Box 5531 Napa CA 94581) These canoe/kayak overnights are tons of fun. Leaders: Carl Inglin chinglin@sonic.net & Isabelle Saint-Guily scnapaisabelle@gmail.com.

Sun. Aug. 23 - North Group. Redwood National Park Emerald Ridge Loop Hike.

We'll begin along

Emerald Ridge with a gentle descent through lush forest to Redwood Creek. Next, we head downstream by way of gravel bars and several shallow crossings to reach the Tall Trees area. Back on shady trail, we stroll the 1 mi. Tall Trees Loop, and finally make a leisurely 700' ascent back to our trailhead. Bring water, lunch, sunscreen, and footwear suited for trails, loose gravel, and water. No dogs. Class M-5-A. Carpools: 9 a.m. Valley West (Ray's) Parking Area. Meet 9:45 a.m. Kuchel Visitor Center (Hwy. 101, 1 mi. s. of Orick) leader Melinda 707-668-4275

Fri. Sep 4 - Solano Group. Mare Island Hike.

Start the Labor Day weekend off right with a moderate walk past a historic cemetery and some abandoned bunkers, up to the top of Mare Island. We'll take in great views of the Carquinez Strait, San Pablo Bay, Mt. Tam and Mt. Diablo. Vallejo never looked so good. Bring sturdy shoes, water, hat, sunscreen, and a snack. \$5 suggested donation for the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve's conservation efforts. Class: M-3-A. Meet: 10am Trailhead Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve Parking at the end of Railroad Ave. Vallejo. Take Azure Dr. south through the roundabout. Left on

14th, right on Railroad Ave. Follow Railroad Ave. through the South Gate to the Park kiosk and park in the lot on the right. Leader Phil Kohlmetz philcoagogo@sbcglobal.net

Sun. Sept. 6 - Sonoma Group. Pomo Canyon Trail.

Hike from the beach to the redwoods and back with great views of the coast. Long uphill on the way out and on return. Side trip to Red Hill on the return. Bring lunch, water, good hiking shoes, layered clothes for coastal weather. Class M-6.6-B. Carpools: Meet 9:30 am River Road park & ride or 10:30 am Shell Beach parking lot at. Leader: Carl Inglin 707-538-8271 or chinglin@sonic.net.

Fri.-Sun. Sept. 11-13 - Sonoma/Napa Groups. Car-Camping at French Meadows Reservoir.

This is a 2 nights, 3 days car camping trip. Bring your own camping gear, hiking boots, food, books, sketchbooks, musical instruments and most important, your enthusiasm! Space is limited. A \$25 check per person will reserve your spot. The check will be returned to you at the campsite or if we get a group campsite, fee will be adjusted. (make it to "Napa Outings SC" and mail it to P.O. Box 5531 Napa CA 94581) Leaders: Carl Inglin chinglin@sonic.net & Isabelle Saint-Guily scnapaisabelle@gmail.com



April 25 hike on Little Bald Hills Trail (Smith River NRA to Jed. Smith SP.) Leader: Melinda Groom. Photo by Nancy Gregory.



Sat. Sept. 12 - North Group. Mad River Buttes 6 Rivers National Forest Hike.

Come explore this beautiful potential wilderness area just 50 road miles from the coast. See ancient forest, vast prairies, chaparral, crags and cliffs. Uphill hike in the sun on the way back. Sturdy boots a must. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Class M-8-A. Carpools: Meet 9 am Ray's (Valley West) Shopping Center. Leader Ned, nedforsyth48@gmail.com, (707)825-3652 message phone.

Sat.-Sun. Sept. 12-13 - Benson Hut Work Party #2.

Benson Hut work party involves hiking 3 miles to the Benson Hut



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



With your help we can clean up our water

Sierra Club Water Sentinels are the first line of defense of America's waters. We live on the water planet. However, water is a finite resource with only about 1% of the world's water actually being available for human consumption. Water pollution & over-use are threatening both the quality & quantity of our water resources at an alarming rate.

Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.

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Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible. They support our efforts, offset fund-raising & lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$1.00 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine & \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to:
 Sierra Club, PO Box 421941
 Palm Coast, FL 32142-1941
 or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org



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, (carolvstr@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.

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: Isabelle Saint-Guily
 Jim Gannon

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

Moderate-pace with few stops:
 Don Anderson 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 Ned Forsyth Nick Caston

Slower-pace: Allison Bronkall

Outings

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 for signup or questions.

Sat.-Sun. Sept. 26-27 - Service And Hiking in the Carrizo Plains.

This is an opportunity to visit and to assist an outstanding and relatively unknown national monument. Saturday is National Public Lands Day, and we will join other volunteers on several maintenance projects. We will be car-camping, with a pot-luck and campfire on Saturday night. Sunday we will tour a number of the historic, prehistoric, and geologic sites in the Monument with details to be determined by consensus of the group. Leader Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670. CNRCC Desert Committee

Mon. Oct 12 - Solano Group. Green Valley Falls Hike.

Take advantage of a rare opportunity to experience the seasonal Green Valley Falls, located on land accessible only with special permission. Trail is over uneven ground, mostly level, but with a steep 500' elevation gain



April 25 hike on Little Bald Hills Trail (Smith River NRA to Jed. Smith SP.) Leader: Melinda Groom. Photo by Nancy Gregory.

at the end. Bring sturdy shoes, water, hat, sunscreen, and a snack. Total trip time estimated to be 3 hours. Possible snake and poison oak encounters. The hike is limited to 30 persons 14 and older. Persons under 18 must be with a parent. Due to processing fees imposed by the City of Vallejo, we are asking for a donation of \$7 per person. Class: M-4-A. Carpools: Meet at 10am. By reservation only by Oct. 5. Rain cancels. Directions will be given when you register. Leader Phil Kohlmetz philcoagogo@sbcglobal.net

Sat.-Sun. Oct. 31-Nov. 1 - Ghost Town Extravaganza.

Celebrate Halloween by visiting the ghosts of California's colorful

past in the eerie desert landscape near Death Valley. Camp near the historic ghost town of Ballarat. Saturday, a challenging hike to ghost town Lookout City with historian Hal Fowler who will regale us with tales of this wild west town. We'll return to camp for Happy Hour and a potluck feast, followed by a midnight visit to Ballarat's graveyard. On Sunday, we'll make a quick visit to the infamous Riley townsite. Send \$8 per person (check payable to Lygeia Gerard), home and work phones, email address and rideshare preferences to Leader: Lygeia Gerard, P.O. Box 721039, Pinon Hills, CA 92372, 760-868-2179. Mojave Group/ CNRCC Desert Committee

Outings Chair Report

Backpack leader Val said many of the trails in the Marble Mountains have not been maintained. After forest fires and drought, many trees are across the trail. The landscape was changed in the area she chose for her outing. Hot temperatures and drought have affected many of the lakes. Val chose to cancel her July backpacking trip to the Yolla Bolly Wilderness because of conditions.

New leader Nick is off to a great start. I am thankful that we have a leader with a young son who offers day hikes with baby carriers. Leaving technology behind and enjoying nature is a preferred way to raise your child. Nick will take two months off for grape harvesting but will offer hikes this fall. Allison also offers family hikes.

Solano Group now has a leader. Phil offers two hikes. One is resurrecting the hike that Brian did at Mare Island and the other is Green Valley Falls. Hopefully Brain will return from Kuwait this December and I look forward to his hikes on Mare Island.

Carl and Isabelle continue to



Phil Kohlmetz and pal.

offer camping trips to lakes and reservoirs. Melinda and Ned have some of the most beautiful places in the north to have outings. Most Lake Group leaders and some Mendocino Group leaders take the summer off because of the hot weather in their area. Jim will have his last Benson hut work party in September. If you are thinking of becoming a winter hut leader, take advantage of seeing the huts in the summer. Jim is a fantastic mentor.

-CAROL VELLUTINI,

REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR

Environmental Justice Crusader is New Sierra Club President



On May 16, the Sierra Club's national board of directors elected longtime environmental justice advocate and civil rights leader Aaron Mair of Schenectady, New York, as the Club's new president. The first African American to hold the office, Mair got his start in environmental

activism more than 30 years ago, fighting a waste incinerator in Albany that was disproportionately affecting black residents of the city. He was also a grassroots leader in the fight to clean up the Hudson River, and key to getting the Sierra Club involved in that campaign.

Planet: What would you like to see the Club accomplish under your presidency?

Mair: Building a strong, diverse, and inclusive environmental movement. We were able to bring a major corporate polluter, General Electric, to account with the Hudson River campaign. To achieve real progress on climate change, we need to bring together all groups. No green group by itself, no EJ group by itself, no political faction by itself, can bring about lasting changes or solutions to our climate challenges. It is only by creating a large, diverse, equitable, and inclusive environmental movement that we can bring about lasting change to save not only the planet but our species.

Planet: You are the first African American to be elected Sierra Club president. Can you say a few words about this and elaborate on its significance?

Mair: Nature is the great equalizer. Nature knows no difference between black and white, or the size of one's wallet. The disparate responses to climate change occur at the human and political level. These are things the Sierra Club can help influence and change: the resource allocation, the response, the equal treatment of all humanity and nature. This can only come from a point of respecting diversity, when people see other people as fellow human beings and not as competitors sharing the planet.

More than 100 years ago, a president of the United States and the president of Sierra Club came together to save and preserve the last unprotected and unspoiled green spaces of the United States. That image (of two white males) came to define the environmental movement.

I now challenge our current president (who is a national leader on the environment) to meet me on

the very spot in Yosemite where Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir stood, to witness the impacts of climate change on the receding glaciers and parched earth and come together not just to save a few green patches within the United States, but to save the planet.

Read the entire interview at http://action.sierraclub.org/site/MessageViewer?em_id=383998.0

Excerpted from an article appearing online in the *Planet*, by Tom Valtin.



Island Hopping 2015: Channel Islands National Park

2015 Trip Schedule: Aug. 23-25; Sept. 27-29

This is a tour of a precious area of our state not seen by many. This spring and summer, you can experience the Channel Islands, including hiking and kayaking, with Sierra Club members and a park naturalist. This is a gift that gives twice because your tour benefits the political work of Sierra Club California, the environment's strongest voice in the State Capitol. While you are floating about the islands, you will be helping to protect them and other natural resources found only in California.

Enticingly within view of Ventura and Santa Barbara, one of California's (and the country's) most unique environments is part of Channel Islands National Park and National Marine Sanctuary. It is also one of the least visited national parks in the U.S. The Channel Islands are only accessible by boat or plane.

The trips are organized by Sierra Club member Joan Holtz. Trip tickets cost \$615 and include meals and lodging aboard the tour boat that leaves from Santa Barbara. Please contact the trip leader, Joan Jones Holtz, for more info at jholtzhl@aol.com or 626-443-0706



Wave action, San Miguel Island



Lake Group Report

Three Cheers for Berryessa Snow Mountain

Lake Group is jubilant about the President's recent designation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument, as discussed in detail on the front page of the *Redwood Needles*. With more than two thirds of the monument situated in Lake County, permanent protection has been a top Group priority for many years, and it was a Sierra Club forum in Lower Lake in January 2008 that kicked off the public phase of the campaign. The Group has subsequently hosted several public meetings on the subject, kept the issue front and center among our membership, and participated in efforts to gather support from local government (including the city of Lakeport just last month), businesses, landowners and individuals. Now we're looking forward to the party!

Watch out for Walmart (yet again)

After several years of delay, Walmart has again announced plans to move forward with expansion plans at their Clearlake store. The proposal will involve adding about 39,000 square feet of additional retail space, including a full-service grocery and hard liquor sales, and the closure of the tire and automotive service department.

The Environmental Impact Report on this project has been in preparation (on and off) for several years, and it is anticipated that a draft will be available for public

review in several months. Lake Group has every expectation of submitting comments, that may among other considerations raise questions about the validity of basing a decision on studies that could be categorized as near-antique by this time. In the meantime we're wondering what has happened to the Clearlake General Plan update? We submitted comments on the draft EIR more than a year ago, with the expectation of seeing a final EIR in a matter of months, but nothing has been forthcoming, and rumors now are rife that the revisions were so extensive that the long overdue document will have to be recirculated for another round of public comment. In the meantime the city is moving forward with the (likewise long overdue) revision of its Zoning Ordinance. Since zoning is supposed to be based on the general plan this order of march seems to be going at things backwards.

Party Time

At press time Lake Group was looking forward to our 12th (or maybe 13th?) annual midsummer BBQ held on Friday July 24 at the home of Kathy and Peter Windrem on the banks of Kelsey Creek Drive. 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

North Group Report

Forty isn't old, some say, if you're a tree. Forty years it's been since I first set foot in Redwood Country, my adopted home. Forty years of seeing countless log trucks with forty-to-eighty-year-old trees on their way to industry and commerce. And forty years since our watershed restoration movement started to hit its stride with real accomplishments on the ground, overcoming logging excesses of the 1950s and 1960s and beyond, attracting strong and meaningful support from the community and from elected officials.

This summer of 2015 I hear voices in the woods—Vireos, Tanagers, scolding Jays, groaning Firs, and yarder whistles—in Forest Glen, Summit Valley, Lacks Creek with its forty-foot-tall second growth and, from Sacramento, another evocative number resonates: AB 1492.

The implementation of this law, officially the "Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund Program," began in 2013. It makes major revisions to the original Forest Practices Act of 1973, enacted during the first Jerry Brown administration. Funded by a new one-percent tax on retail sales of wood products, the revised program will be administered jointly by the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and CalEPA, coordinated by a newly created CNRA Assistant Secretary for Forest Resources Management position. A total of \$4 million in new grant funding over the next two years has been allocated for "forest restoration projects to benefit listed salmonids," and annual staffing expenditures have risen to over \$22 million, after a series of budget reductions, including line-item vetoes by governors Schwarzenegger and Brown, had left California Department of Fish and Wildlife at less than one-third of that amount for Timber Harvest Plan review, to a level that was no longer a "functional equivalent" of judicial review, according to comments filed by CNPS, EPIC, Forests Forever, Center for Biological Diversity and many others.

In 2015, concerns linger among conservation advocates that watershed-scale cumulative impacts analysis, and opinions from the public and from independent scientists, should be considered independently from the "Effectiveness Monitoring Committee," a holdover from the original structure within the existing Board of Forestry staff. AB 1492 calls for the creation of "Ecological Performance Measures," which would, at least in concept, be more independent

of economic or political concerns of, for example, individual or industrial landowners, now that the costs of regulation and restoration are borne by the lumber-buying public, not just the permittees or the General Fund. Policies are still being developed by and for various working groups this fiscal year and next, according to a Preliminary Executive Summary on CNRA's website.

As I, a layman, look out over these (mostly) green landscapes today, in the latest year of our latest drought, I can see that an uninformed skeptic might inquire, "Why does the forest need restoration? It's recovering by itself." Not only our forests, but also our fisheries, need help. The mostly unseen impact on the watercourses, the deranged hydrology, the debris and disturbance that present-day hands on the land have been painstakingly remediating to allow our brother salmonids to perpetuate their kind, are rightfully addressed within the public trust. It's a right livelihood indeed, and a growing one. The past forty years have seen a tremendous increase in skill and knowledge, and results, in the development of fluvial geomorphology, the science of how our magnificent rivers, from Redwood Creek, the mighty Eel River, and the Mattole, to name just a few, have responded to logging, and restoration, in the Industrial Age. Today's successful in-stream restoration projects include placement of "large woody debris," i.e., whole trees and logs, using helicopters and track-driven excavators to create critical habitat for juvenile and mature salmonids. After the pre-Columbian landscape endured successive advances in mechanized timber harvest, today workers are using big machines to enhance in-stream habitat, creating spaces for our salmon to thrive.

As the advent of AB 1492 coincides with historic drought, with its recurring hazards of fish mortality and disease, we can continue the myriad scientific investigations and just plain hard work in the watersheds to sustain our wild creatures, and, ultimately, to sustain ourselves. The implementation of this new law is happening now. This is a good time to contribute to the current discussion, or to find out how to make a living in this exciting field of fisheries/forests restoration for our salmonids. They need us! Do add your voice, and get out in the woods.

And let's wish the 1973 California Forest Practices Act, however imperfect, a belated Happy Fortieth.

—NED FORSYTH, NORTH GROUP VICE CHAIR

Sierra Club Volunteer/ Activist Opportunities

"What you do speaks so loudly that I cannot hear what you say."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Group Hike Leaders: Many Redwood Chapter Groups need Outings Chairs. This volunteer position is working with leaders, coordinating with the Chapter Outings Chair, training leaders, keeping records, encouraging new leaders and community outreach. There is Outings Chair training available. Contact Carol 546-6308 or carolvsr@sonic.net for information.

Work with the Sonoma Group Water Committee! NOTICE: The Water Committee is now meeting at 5:30 PM on the first Mondays of most months in conjunction with the Conservation and Energy Committee meetings. The Water Committee develops and promotes 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, wildlife, fish and other aquatic life. Check for our meeting dates in the *Redwood Needles*. To get on our Water Committee e-mail list, e-mail Len Holt at 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 5:00-5:30 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 Chair Shirley Johnson-Foell: Email: Shirlgirl707@Yahoo.com, home 206-1138, or call office 433-7651.

Protecting Green Places

Between Sonoma's Communities

In 2016, Sonoma County risks losing voter-backed protections for open space and agricultural lands between our towns and cities that were passed with more than 70% of the countywide vote. For 20 years, we've prevented housing tracts and shopping malls from sprawling into our precious green places with community separator policies. Eight community separators hold back development in nearly 17,000 acres of natural and agricultural lands.

We need to start now to build support for a ballot measure in next year's general election that will renew, strengthen and add priority greenbelt lands to community separator designations. Otherwise we risk opening the door to new development with a simple majority vote of the board of supervisors.

The purpose of the community separators is three-fold:

- to serve as green buffers between cities and towns,
- contain urban development,

- and preserve the rural charm of Sonoma County's landscape.

Community separators preserve agriculture, waterways, drinking water, groundwater and recharge, wildlife corridors, hillsides, and woodlands and provide clean air, water, and climate resiliency.

Take Action

Sierra Club's Sonoma Group is working to let county leaders know that we need to protect and strengthen our community separators more than ever. We'll need you to take action when the Board of Supervisors decide on the scope of the community separator renewal in September (date to come).

Please also come to the Sonoma Valley Citizens Advisory Commission meeting at 6:30 pm, Wednesday, August 26 to support community separators in the First District.

To join the campaign, contact Teri Shore at tshore@greenbelt.org or 707-575-3661.

Solano Breeze Corner

Covering Benicia, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun,
Vacaville and Vallejo
sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com
707-319-6398

Thanks to, Jane, Justin, Adam, Camelo, Beverly and friends for staffing the VALCORE Recycling and Confidential Paper Shredding event.

VALCORE Recycling and Paper Shredding updates:

Solano Group will be helping out with paper shredding every 3rd Saturday of the month at 38 Sheridan Street, Vallejo from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There is a charge of \$10 (CASH or CHECK ONLY) per twenty pounds of paper shredded. (Maximum: 100 pounds). NEW WEEKDAY SHREDDING from 10 am to 4 pm, closed 1 pm to 2 pm for lunch (CREDIT OR DEBIT ONLY).

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!

We continually work at Lori's Native Plant Garden located at 225 Amador St, Vallejo. We also 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.

Coastal Cleanup in Solano County is Saturday, Sept 19. Call your local recycling coordinator.

The 2015 Recycling Guide is online at <http://www.solanocounty.com/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?blobid=11475>

The fifth annual National Drive Electric week is Sept 12 to Sept. 20, 2015

Check out Pluginamerica.org for events.

Solano EXCOM member Erin Tator works for Plug in America and drives an electric car that she charges at her home. Her favorite source of charging stations is www.plugshare.com, which includes maps. Check out the web for more options.

CONTRIBUTOR: JANE BOGNER EDITOR: GREG PETERSON

Mendocino Group Report

The Mendocino Solid Waste Management Authority (State Clearinghouse #2014012058) has published the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the Central Coast Transfer Station. It may be found on the MSWA website, www.mendocinocycle.org. Mendocino Group finds the mitigation for the removal of Pygmy cypress forest and impacts to individual Mendocino pygmy cypress and Bolander pine unacceptable, as the pygmy is so rare that any additional loss cannot be mitigated for. Another site already developed should be used for the project. This site is pristine and should remain undeveloped. The County and State must refuse to destroy any more Mendocino Cypress Woodland plant communities, and put in place protections and funding for the enforcement of these protections. Lip service is not enough.

The risk of fire is very, very high. The danger is compounded by the thousands and thousands of acres of standing dead tanoak trees killed by the pesticide Imazapyr in the method known as "hack and squirt" on Mendocino Redwood Company (MRC) industrial lands. Here's a video <https://youtu.be/tc5b3UbeHDQ>. Mendocino Group is in support of the local Fire Chiefs' negotiations with the County and CalFire regarding the matter. There is a conversation going on, people from the neighborhoods to the State level are being educated. We each have our emergency plan.

—MARY WALSH, MENDOCINO GROUP CHAIR

Sonoma Group Report

Forest Protection Committee

The Sonoma Group is restarting its Forest Protection Committee, which will work to protect our county's redwoods, extend protection to oak woodlands, and stop conversion of forest to vineyards. Contact Richard Sachen at richard@rsachen.net if you are interested in joining.

Community Separators

In 2016, renewal of Sonoma County's community separator lands will be on the ballot. These eight areas are companions to the urban growth boundaries, serving as green buffers between cities and towns. While a good start, the community separators need updating. Stay tuned.

Compost Facility Decision

Although the Board of Supervisors is shutting down the current Sonoma Compost facility at the county landfill, the Board decided to build a new, state of the art facility, also at the landfill, to be ready in a year or two. Until it is ready, our yard and food waste will be trucked out of the county.

Sonoma Developmental Center

The state is determined to close down the

Sonoma Developmental Center near Glen Ellen, which houses some of our neediest developmentally disabled residents. Besides the social cost of losing this long-term home, the Developmental Center is surrounded by 9000 acres of open space which has great environmental value and will now be threatened by development. Sonoma Land Trust is leading a movement to save this relatively undisturbed habitat, which is full of wildlife, valley and blue oak forests and steelhead streams, and provides a crucial piece of an east-west wildlife corridor through the county. For more information, check the website at Transformsd.com, or the SDC Resource Assessment on the Sonoma Group website.

Vineyard Conversion

Sonoma County's regulations do not prohibit new vineyards from being developed anywhere in the county, except on hillsides with a greater than 50 degree slope! The Vineyard Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance (VESCO) does not require thorough environmental (CEQA) review of new sites, no matter

how much a vineyard in that location might fragment habitat, damage salmon streams, or drain aquifers in water scarce areas. Contact your Supervisor to make sure that any changes being considered now to VESCO include thresholds that will trigger CEQA environmental review for potentially damaging projects. Trigger thresholds might involve the new vineyard site being in a known water scarce area, or in important endangered species habitat, or having a slope greater than 5% (as is used in Napa County).

Upcoming Meetings

Next Sonoma Group meetings, held at the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway in Santa Rosa:

August 3 and September 7: Conservation issues from 5:00 to 6:30pm; Executive Committee meeting from 6:30 to 8:00pm.

—SUZANNE DOYLE,
SONOMA GROUP VICE CHAIR

Napa Group Report

The Summer of Our Discontent

Is Napa County doomed to a future of unbridled tourist-oriented growth, to traffic congestion pushing the expansion of Highway 29 and the Silverado Trail to 4 or 6 lane freeways? Is our valley floor becoming a gigantic winery-event-center mall (think Las Vegas, with tasting rooms replacing slot machines), while our watersheds are fragmented by conversion from woodlands and chaparral to vineyards and still more winery-event-centers?

Most Napers will not benefit from the rush to develop. The local job market, dominated by tourism, will offer mostly minimum wages to workers serving as housekeepers, wait staff, and limo drivers. Fewer and fewer working families can afford to live in Napa. Increasingly, the big money will be pocketed by multi-national corporations buying up our land and wine labels, with the profits spent elsewhere.

The rush to develop has sparked unprecedented pushback. Currently, locals are fighting several development schemes:

- Calistoga Hills Resort and Walt Ranch will destroy close to 40,000 trees and hundreds of acres of woodlands.

- On the valley floor Melka, Reverie, Yountville Hill and Davies wineries are

being challenged, along with the Syar Quarry expansion.

Under current county regulations over 4000 parcels are eligible to be granted winery permits, and though we have regulations limiting tourist numbers and events in rural locales, enforcement is almost non-existent, and the planning commission seems willing to rubber stamp almost any request for increased visitation or exceptions to the regulations.

It will take imagination, hard work, and public outrage to stem Napa's rush to commercialization of our rural lands. Only massive people power can win against big money, and the outcome is far from certain.

Upcoming events

Join us for our next Evening at the Library, Thursday, Aug 13th 6:30 pm at the Napa Library. We will be celebrating The Poetry of Nature, and you are invited to bring a favorite poem, either by yourself or another poet, to share with the group. The event is free.

Find our trips in the Outings listings.

To keep up with the latest Napa Sierra Club news, sign up for our monthly e-newsletter by contacting us at napavalleysierraclub@gmail.com.

—NANCY TAMARISK, NAPA GROUP CHAIR

Extreme weather events like the ongoing drought in California and recent record flooding in Texas and Oklahoma are an increasing threat to our health, security, and prosperity, and it is clearer than ever that we must go all in on clean energy to stem the climate crisis. During the 114th Congress, it is important for us to stand with the President and the EPA to enact the Administration's Clean Power Plan, which includes first-ever federal protections from carbon pollution from existing power plants.

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.



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**

2015 Redwood Chapter and Group Elections Schedule

August 10, 2015: Appointment of Chapter Nominating and Elections Committees

September 8, 2015: Appointment of Nominating Committee by Groups

October 6, 2015: Receipt of all candidates' applications (statement of intent to run) with contact information, for consideration by Group Nominating Committees

October 13, 2015: Group Nominating Committee inform all potential candidates of their status and submit list of candidates, with contact information, to their respective ExCom and Chapter Election Committee

October 27, 2015: Group Nominating Committees submit ballot statements to Election Committee

October 27, 2015: Statements are sent for December *Redwood Needles*

November 6, 2015: Receipt of ballot petitions and ballot statements by Election Committee

Approved statements sent for December *Redwood Needles*

December 30, 2015: Ballots due in office

January 4, 2016: Ballots counted. Notify all candidates, Chapter ExCom and *Redwood Needles* of results

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. 3 - Sonoma Group.

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

Water Committee meets 5:00 - 5:30 p.m. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

Climate & Energy Committee at 5:30 p.m., Contact Shirley, shirlgirl707@yahoo.com 707-206-1138.

Conservation Committee at 6:00 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

Thurs. Aug. 6 - 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. 11 - North Group.

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 707-826-740.

Mon. Sept. 7 - Sonoma Group.

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

Water Committee meets 5:00 - 5:30 p.m. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

Climate & Energy Committee at 5:30 p.m., Contact Shirley, shirlgirl707@yahoo.com , 707-206-1138.

Conservation Committee at 6:00 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

Tues. Sept. 8 - 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. Sept. 15 - 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 chair, Nancy Tamarisk at nancy@aya.yale.edu

Thurs. Sept. 17 - 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.

Sat., Sept. 19 - Redwood Chapter ExCom. And ConsCom.

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

Mon. Oct. 5 - Sonoma Group.

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

Water Committee meets 5:00 - 5:30 p.m. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

Climate & Energy Committee at 5:30 p.m., Contact Shirley, shirlgirl707@yahoo.com , 707-206-1138.

Conservation Committee at 6:00 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

Action Alert: Protect California Bobcats

In 2013 the state legislature passed AB 1213 "The Bobcat Protection Act," a measure that established a partial ban on bobcat trapping in California, and contained provisions to extend the ban—provisions which have never been enacted due to pressure from commercial trappers, who can get as much as \$1500 for a single pelt.

At their next meeting the California Fish and Game Commission will make a final decision on one of two options: to establish extensive bobcat closure areas near national parks, monuments and wildlife refuges, or to ban bobcat trapping completely. The Sierra Club Wildlife Team supports a complete ban.

The Commission meeting will take place at 8:30 a.m. on August 5, at the River Lodge Conference Center, 1800 Riverwalk Drive in Fortuna. North Group members and others are encouraged to attend and add their voices in defense of this iconic predator species.



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