

Redwood Needles

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 55 Number 1

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

February/March 2014

Court Rejects Artesa Environmental Impact Report

Late in 2013 everyone who loves our amazing coastal forests had good reason to join Redwood Chapter activists in rejoicing when Sonoma County Superior Court Judge Elliot Daum effectively rejected Artesa Winery's plan to clearcut 154 acres of Gualala River watershed redwood forest in order to plant vineyards on the site. As related in previous editions of the *Redwood Needles*, the Chapter has contended that the permitting for this project has violated the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and in partnership with Friends of the Gualala River and Center for Biological Diversity we brought suit to overturn permitting based on faulty environmental review.

On December 6, 2013 the judge issued a ruling agreeing with our contention that the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the "Fairfax" forest-to-vineyard conversion project fails to satisfy CEQA requirements, in part because it did not properly analyze alternatives less damaging to the environment, such as non-forested alternative sites. This judgment means that the project, funded by Spanish company Codorniu S.A., the owner

of Napa Valley's Artesa Winery, may not proceed unless the EIR, which was approved by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), can be revised to comply with state law.

"Clearcutting forests to plant vineyards is foolish and short-sighted," said Justin Augustine, staff attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity. "Turning redwood stands into vineyards will increase greenhouse gas emissions and harm stream flows, water quality and habitat for wildlife, including endangered salmon and steelhead trout."

We're not done yet— an appeal is still possible, and as is true of all CEQA litigation this court decision doesn't in itself permanently strike down the permit for the project. But it does make the regulatory path forward much more uncertain, slow and burdensome for the developer— so the Sierra Club, our partners, and all lovers of the forest have a genuine reason to celebrate.

As we move forward, there is still a lot of work to do.

We have to continue our efforts to convince Artesa to find an environmentally suitable alternative location for their project, and to sell the current forested site to a conservation-oriented landowner.

To help persuade them to take an environmentally responsible course of action, we're encouraging all members to add their name to an online petition being circulated by Friends of the Gualala. Visit the Redwood Chapter website,

www.redwood.sierraclub.org/ for a link to the petition.



WILDERNESS— THE CELEBRATION

BY VICTORIA BRANDON,
REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

2014 is going to be a spectacular year for everyone who loves wildlands, which is a category that includes most of us here on the North Coast, with our wealth of towering coastal forests, dramatic rivers with their incredible runs of spawning salmon, and extraordinary recreational opportunities. Since 2014 is the 50th anniversary of the passage of the landmark federal Wilderness Act, we'll be celebrating

these natural wonders throughout the year with a series of special hikes and other events. Passed by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of the United States Congress, this farsighted legislation was signed by President Lyndon Johnson on September 3, 1964, creating the National Wilderness Preservation System. The lands included in this system protect our air, water, and critical habitat for rare and endangered plants and animals. They also offer opportunities to enjoy diverse

"Wilderness— the Celebration"

cont. on page 3

Moving the Santa Rosa Southeast Greenway Forward

BY STEPHEN FULLER-ROWELL

The next Santa Rosa Southeast Greenway Campaign public meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 8, 2014, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at The Glaser Center at 547 Mendocino Avenue in Santa Rosa.

Moving the Southeast Greenway Forward: A Community Partnership

will include:

Progress Report on the Southeast Greenway Campaign by the Campaign leadership;

Parks for People: A presentation by Trudy Garber, Project Associate with the Trust for Public Land;

Community Partnerships - New Models for Parks and Open Space: A Forum with representatives of the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, Sonoma County Regional Parks, City of Santa Rosa Recreation and Parks Department, and LandPaths.

The public is encouraged to **RSVP to Linda@SoutheastGreenway.org** for this free event which is co-sponsored by the **Southeast Greenway Campaign, ArchiLOGIX, TLCD, LandPaths, Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce, and the Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy.**

The Southeast Greenway Campaign is a community-based effort to develop a vital urban greenway on the stretch of open space in Santa Rosa that links Spring Lake to Highway 12 at Farmers Lane. This will create a community asset that will:

- Strengthen our regional network of bike and pedestrian trails, providing safe ways to bike and walk to school, work or shopping
- Encourage healthy lifestyles by providing community gardens, gathering places and recreational opportunities
- Preserve and restore native trees, grasses, wildlife habitat, creeks and wetlands
- Contribute to our local economy and quality of life

Caltrans released a draft of a long-awaited new Highway 12 study

"Greenway Moving Forward" cont. on page 3

Ghosts of NAFTA & the Future of Globalization

AN EVENT FOCUSED ON THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP & FAST TRACK

Sponsored by the North Bay Central Labor Council (AFL-CIO), the Sierra Club's Redwood Chapter, Sonoma County Conservation Action, Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 9400

On January 9, 2014, the White House & Republican leadership joined forces to expand NAFTA. They want to create a massive new "free trade agreement" called the Trans-Pacific Partnership (or TPP) that would grant corporations vast new rights to challenge our pro-worker, pro-environmental agenda and further erode our democracy.

We have a make-or-break opportunity to change the direction of globalization— to stand up for balanced and responsible "fair trade" as a replacement for corporate "free trade." But if we are to succeed, we need Rep. Mike Thompson to vote with us in support of working families, the environment, consumer safety and sustainable development.

The good news is that we can stop TPP and create a new model for globalization. The event will cover the history of "globalization," review some case studies of how NAFTA and similar "trade" deals impact democracy and discuss people-oriented alternatives for globalization.

February 11, 2014

6:45p-8:30p

Glaser Center Theatre

547 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

For more information: Jesse Swanhuysen at (805) 689-1469

Redwood Chapter Sierra Club Directory

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Redwood Chapter

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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WOMEN'S TRIPS - Yosemite, Kings Canyon, Sequoia! Visit sierrasisters.net or call Janet at (707)874-2126.



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Redwood Chapter & Sonoma Group Office

Location: Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Ave., Santa Rosa

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

Redwood Chapter Blog: sierraclubredwoodchapter.wordpress.com

Redwood Chapter Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/SierraClubRedwoodChapter

SierraClubRedwoodChapter

Redwood Needles

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club of California

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Redwood Needles Deadlines

Address Corrections:	Issue	Deadline
address.changes@sierraclub.org	Feb./March	Jan. 8
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 (415) 977-5653	April/May	March 8
Non-member Subscriptions:	June/July	May 8

Check us out on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/SierraClubRedwoodChapter

Redwood Chapter Blog:

sierraclubredwoodchapter.wordpress.com

Sierra Club Chapter & Group Election Results

Redwood Chapter

Victoria Brandon
Keith Kaulum
Len Holt

Solano Group

Joseph Feller
Duane Kromm

Lake Group

Carolyn E. Ruttan
Victoria Brandon

Napa Group

Marc Pandone
Isabelle Saint-Guily
Cristina Benz

Mendocino Group

Mary Walsh
BC Macdonald
Carrie Durkee

North Group

Felice Pace
Ned Forsyth
Gregg Gold

Sonoma Group

Suzanne Doyle
Jessica M. Jones
Dan Kerbein

"Greenway Moving Forward"

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in August 2013. The draft report confirms at long last that the freeway section of State Route 12 will not be extended east from Farmers Lane through Spring Lake Park. This is good news. The report also makes it clear that the decision on the future use of the corridor lies with the City of Santa Rosa and Sonoma County in conjunction with the local community. It explains that the State's responsibility, once the land is declared excess, is to sell it at the highest possible value. This policy reflects the original cost of purchase by the tax payer through the State.

Fortunately, the California Transportation Plan and Caltrans Smart Mobility Framework seek to enhance the economy, support communities, safeguard the environment for the benefit of all, respond to climate change and reduce CO2 emissions. Our community will therefore have many approaches to ensure that appraisals of these 52 acres reflect critical values that enhance community benefits for all. These non-monetary values would include the potential for alternative transportation, conservation, mitigation, and climate adaptation. The offices of our State representatives are ready to assist with any special legislation that may be needed to

facilitate transfer of title from Caltrans to a local agency.

Once the draft report becomes final, it is expected to take approximately one year for Caltrans to go through the process of declaring the Highway 12 right-of-way as excess land. During this time—2014—it will be essential for our community to come together and agree on a creative and viable proposal for Caltrans to transfer title of the property to a local entity on reasonable terms. Community partnerships and a show of broad-based support for the Southeast Greenway from all stakeholders in Sonoma County will be crucial.

According to the National Park Service: Greenway corridors have the potential to create jobs, enhance property values, expand local businesses, attract new and relocating businesses, increase local tax revenues, decrease local government expenditures, and promote a local community.

Visit www.SoutheastGreenway.org for more information, maps and background reports and attend the meeting on February 8 to learn more about how our community can come together to acquire this incredible asset.



"WILDERNESS— THE CELEBRATION"

continued from page 1

recreational activities including hiking, backpacking, climbing, kayaking, canoeing, rafting, horse packing,

hunting, fishing, and bird watching. Above all, the Wilderness Act mandates opportunities for solitude and simplicity, in recognition of the profound human need to find spiritual refreshment in nature.

2014 also marks the 30th anniversary of the creation of California's exemplary state wilderness system, which has preserved state lands in a wild condition similarly to federal wilderness, giving us an additional reason for rejoicing.

Here in Redwood Chapter we are particularly blessed with an abundance of protected wilderness: our nine counties contain no fewer than nineteen designated federal wilderness areas, and three that have been named by the State of California. So as our particular contribution to the nationwide celebration of Wilderness 50 organized by the national Club, we decided to prepare a Guidebook to these 21 very special places.

These lands are extraordinarily varied, ranging in size from Trinity Alps at more than a half million acres to the diminutive six-acre Rocks and Islands, and ranging in altitude from sea level to a towering

9000 feet. Some are easy to reach, with trail head parking immediately adjacent to state highways, others can be approached only after long drives on four-wheel forest roads, and one (Rocks and Islands again) can't be accessed at all. Some are managed by the Forest Service, others by the Bureau of Land Management or California State Parks. Some have a network of developed trails and substantial numbers of visitors, others no trails at all, and hardly any people either. But each is special in its own way, and each merits the highest level of protection offered to any of our public lands.

Copies of the Guidebook will soon be available at the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa for a suggested donation of \$5, and arrangements will be made to order copies by mail, phone, and through our website. For details, please check the next issue of the *Redwood Needles*.

In the meantime, we're also encouraging Redwood Chapter's cities and counties to join the Wilderness 50 celebrations by presenting resolutions proclaiming the significance of the wilderness to our land, our nation, and its people. At press time, the Lake County Board of Supervisors had just done exactly that (see the Lake Group report for details and a photo), and we were anticipating opportunities to receive similar proclamations from the Sonoma, Solano and Mendocino counties' Boards of Supervisors.



Built by Sierra Club members in 1934, this rustic, hostel-style lodge stands atop historic Donner Pass, just an hour and a half from Sacramento.

The Lodge grooms its own cross country ski and snowshoe trails, rents equipment for these activities and offers cross country ski lessons. The unbeatable location of the Lodge provides quick and easy access to the legendary Donner Summit backcountry ski terrain or any of its downhill or cross country ski resorts.

Guests enjoy excellent family style meals, a friendly staff and a casual and communal atmosphere.

See you on Donner Summit...

Redwood Needles

April Deadline: Due March 8

Submit Articles/Reports/Ad Copy via e-mail to: odavison@comcast.net

Send Outings to Carol Vellutini via e-mail: carolvslr@sonic.net

Send Meetings to Carl Inglin via e-mail: chinglin@sonic.net

★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★
★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★
★ where the stars
put on a grand performance ★
★ every night ★
★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★
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For more information about our special programs or to receive a full schedule and description of Clair Tappaan programs please visit our website at www.ctl.sierraclub.org or call (800) 679-6775.

Outings

Sat. Feb. 1 – Napa Group Mt. Tamalpais East Peak Day Hike.

Co-led with Mother Lode Chapter. Loop hike from Mountain Theater to East Peak. 700 ft gain, enjoy outstanding panoramic views, well-maintained trails. The pace will be just a bit on the slow side of Moderate. Bring lunch and liquids. Class: M-9-A. By reservation only. <http://www.meetup.com/Sacramento-Sierra-Club/events/149103562/> or 707-253-9606 kowsoi@juno.com. Leader Martin Farber. Rain or shine.

Sun. Feb. 2 - Lake Group Highland Springs hike.

Trail to be decided later. Bring water and snacks. Neutered and spayed dogs permitted only if on leash. Class: E-4-A. Meet: 9:00 am. in picnic area. By reservation only. Leader Steve Devoto sdevoto@mchsi.com.



Edward Moreno SF Chapter lobbyist and Estrella Perez Puerto Rico community lobbyist in Bartholemew Park in Sonoma.

Fri.-Sun. Feb 7, 8, & 9, Napa Group Ski Trip-Hutchinson Lodge.

All are welcome to join us for our second skitip of the year at Hutchinson Lodge located in Norden/Soda Springs off of Hwy 80, south of Truckee. There are many ski resorts located down the road or around the area for X-country skiing, down hill skiing, snow shoeing, or just for fun in the snow. X-country ski or snow shoe rentals are available at Claire Tappaan lodge which is located next door. Cost is \$90 which includes 2 breakfasts & 2 dinners, trip limited to 15 people. Full payment confirms your reservation. Leader Nanette DeDonato nandedo@netzero.net.

Sat.-Sun., Feb. 8-9 - Winter Escape in the Carrizo Plain.

This outing combines a day of service in the Carrizo Plain National Monument with a day of sightseeing and/or hiking.

Weather can be cold, gray, and rainy, or it can be warm and bright - we take our chances. The service will be in removing or modifying fences to give pronghorn greater mobility on the Plain, and the recreation will be determined by the wishes of the group. This is an opportunity to combine carcamping, day-hiking, exploring, and service in a relatively unknown wilderness. Contact leader: Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670. CNRCC Desert Committee

Sun. Feb. 9 -- Mendo Group Glen Eden Trail

This 8 mile round-trip, non-loop, 1600' elev. gain hike begins in Scotts Valley (Lake County) and ascends initially through private lands to the Cow Mountain Recreation Area and to our destination at Goat Rock Campground. The views of Clear Lake, Mt. Konocti, and the wilderness of Cow Mtn. are wonderful, including the area near Goat Rock which is rapidly regenerating after a fire. This is a strenuous hike (Class S-8-B) requiring at least 1 liter of water per person, ankle high boots, layered clothing per season, raingear, lunch and snacks. Meet to carpool in Ukiah at Raleys lot opposite ORIelly Auto Parts at 9am or at the trailhead at 10am. From Ukiah, take Hwy 20 East to just past Blue Lakes and turn right on Scotts Valley Road. Proceed about 3 miles to the trailhead parking on left. Please call or email leader to confirm attendance. jonahfreedman@sbcglobal.net/4671877. Rain cancels.

Sun. Feb. 16 - Lake Group Boggs Lake hike.

Hike around Boggs Lake, a vernal pool in a volcanic caldera. If it has rained, there should be lovely flowers. Class: E-1-2-A Meet: 9:00 a.m. parking area located on Harrington Flat Road 1 mile east from Bottle Rock Road. Follow Bottle Road 4.5 miles from its intersection with Hwy 29 to Harrington Flat Road. By reservation only. Pete McGee 942 1373 or Montesol@hughes.net.

Sat. Feb. 22 - Southern Nevada Wilderness Service.

A one-day project helping BLM enhance wilderness in or at the edge of one of the new (2002) wilderness areas in southern Nevada managed by the BLM. Option to enjoy the area on Friday and campout Fri night

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.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Create an Environmental Legacy.

Bequests have played a key role in Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years.

Planting now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. We have many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more info on confidential bequests, contact:
Sierra Club
Gift Planning Program
85 Second Street, Second Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
gift-planning@sierraclub.org • (800) 932-4279

with Vicky Hoover, contact Vicky to sign up 415-977-5527, vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org CNRCC Wilderness Committee

Fri.-Mon. Feb. 28-Mar. 3 - Death Valley Exploration.

Meet on Friday at 11:00 to set up. Hike at 12 noon in Amargosa Canyon. Sat. travel through lower Death Valley, hiking at Natural Bridge and Golden Canyon. Camp at Texas Springs Campground in Furnace Creek. Sunday travel north through the park stopping at sites along the way to Mesquite Sand Dunes. Camp at Stovepipe Wells. Monday hike up Mosaic Canyon. Bring your own food and water, and start with full tank of gas. There are some services at Furnace Creek and Stovepipe Wells. You may join the trip for just Sat. & Sun.. Contact leader: Carol Wiley, earthlingwiley2000@yahoo.com, 760-245-8734. CNRCC Desert Com

Sat. Mar. 1 - Lake Group, Pope to Putah Trail Hike.

Hike a new trail still in the making. The P2P trail connects the two upper arms of Lake Berryessa. Tuleyome (see tuleyome.org) is pioneering a new connector trail between these two arms. We'll hike as far as the trail goes, overlook the secluded Putah Creek arm, then hike back, getting wonderful views of Pope Valley and Pope Canyon. Bring water, lunch and hiking boots. Class: M-7-A. Carpool: 8:30 am. Store 24, north end of Middletown across Hwy. 29 from high school. Leader Tom McFarling, (707) 994-5490. Rain cancels.

Sun. Mar. 2 - Mendo Group, Valley View Trail, Cow Mt. Hike.

Look for the first signs of spring as we hike up Valley View Trail to the top with fabulous views of the Ukiah Valley. We will have lunch at the top and then take a mile hike through a fern lush canyon to a waterfall before



Peter Grubb Hut. Leaders: Jim Gannon, Don Anderson

our descent. Wear sturdy shoes, bring water, lunch. Class: M-7-B. Carpools: Meet 9:00 am CVR Pharmacy in the Orchard Shopping center off Perkins St. in Ukiah or 9:30 Mill Creek Park parking area. By reservation only. Leader Yvonne Kramer 463-0342 kramer@saber.net. Heavy rain cancels. Santa Rosa carpools call Carol 546-6308 carolvsr@sonic.net.

Thurs.-Sun. Mar. 6-9 - Joshua Tree National Park - Spring Weekend.

Visit Joshua Tree National Park when temperatures are cooler and wild flowers may be blooming. We may explore palm oases, boulder areas, and desert canyons or climb peaks within the Park. Camp in the Indian Cove campground (picnic tables, fire grates, and pit toilets). Bring your own drinking water or fill up at the Indian Cove Ranger Station. Hikes may be off trail. Some vehicle travel on dirt roads may be required. Cost is \$30 per person and includes 3 nights of camping. \$20 deposit required to confirm participation. Group size limited to 16. For reservation information call leader: Rich Jurcich, rich.sierraclub@pacbell.net, 916-492-2181. Delta Sierra Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

Sat. Mar. 15 - Lake Group Knoxville Wildlife Area Hike.

This 20 thousand acre CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife preserve is little used by hikers. We'll hike up a secluded valley, discover an old gravesite above Knoxville, pass an old windmill along

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) 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: Jim Gannon Isabelle Saint-Guily

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

Moderate-pace with few stops:

Penny Proteau Don Anderson Tiffany MacNeil Lorrie Lagasse
Boone Lodge Chip Bouril Paul Farley

Moderate-pace with more frequent stops:

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

Slower-pace: Allison Bronkall

Outings

a beautiful meadow and creek, cross a 600 ft. high ridge and get excellent views of Mt. St. Helena to the west and look right up at Blue Ridge to the east returning down into Long Canyon and back to the cars. Bring lunch, water and hiking boots. Class; M-8-A. Carpool: 8:30 am. Lower Lake Coffee Company, main street Lower Lake. Leader Tom McFarling. (707) 994-5490. Rain cancels.

Sun. Mar. 16 – Sonoma Group. Snowshoe Day Trip.

We were UnSnowed out in January. Cross your fingers for better snow in March. A day trip for those interested in an easy excursion or a first experience on snowshoes. We'll probably do about 2 miles on easy/moderate terrain. Location will be on either the I-80 or Hwy 50 corridors, depending on snow conditions. This outing is contingent on snow, weather and driving conditions. Contact leader for more details. Leader: Carl Inglin 707-538-8271 or chinglin@sonic.net.

Sat.-Sun. Mar. 16-17 - Benson Hut Trip (Adv Intermediate - Advanced).

Snowshoe/Ski 6 miles (2300') to Benson Hut for a Sat. overnight. \$23 (\$25 Non Sierra Club members) by Feb 15th to Jim Gannon; PO Box 1038, Rohnert Park, CA 94927. Checks are non-refundable in case of weather cancellation. Please include email address/phone#. Optional stay at Clair Tappaan Lodge Fri 15th. Make reservations early to avoid disappointment. Lodge reservations 530-426-3632 indicate you are with Benson trip-Redwood Chapter. Central commissary is planned. Meeting time/locations provided with trip sign up. Contact leader Jim Gannon (707)-525-1052 jgannon99@sbcglobal.net

Thurs -Sun. Mar. 20-23 - Hutchinson Lodge Backcountry Weekend (Beginner to Intermediate).

Stay at spacious Hutchinson Lodge located at Donner Pass next door to Clair Tappaan Lodge. Share and explore winter backcountry skills March 20 to 23, 2014 (Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights). The weekend will be aimed at creating an environment of sharing information and skills for exploring the Sierra backcountry. Depending on interest, weather and conditions we will organize activities around backcountry gear, navigation tips, where to go, safety, conservation and skills. We'll plan to organize short day tours from the lodge or consider a day at one of the nearby resorts to work on skiing skills. Clair Tappaan Lodge staff will provide an update or conservation issues facing Donner Summit Saturday night at 8pm.

This lodge is accessible from Donner Pass Road and offers a great Sierra winter experience. Come for two or all three days. Backcountry advocates of all skill levels using skis, snowboards

or snowshoes are welcome. Warm sleeping bag, pad, winter clothing (think layering) and your skis or snowshoes along with a sense of adventure are what you bring. Cost is \$58 for a minimum two nights of lodging. Additional night is \$25. Fees may not be fully refundable due to road closure, weather or you cancel and we can't fill your spot. Breakfast and Dinner will be a commissary which will be \$12 per day per person. You will be on your own for lunches. Accompanied minors who can actively participate in the weekend are ok. No pets. Send \$\$ and dates to Jim Gannon PO Box 1038, Rohnert Park, CA 94927 to hold your reservation. Jim Gannon 707-525-1052 or e-mail: jgannon99@sbcglobal.net

Sun. Mar. 23 - Sonoma Group Lawndale Trail and Ledson Marsh Loop Hike.

Come look for newts as we hike up to Ledson Marsh at the far eastern edge of Anadel State Park. Start in the forest with eucalyptus giving way to redwoods, pines and oaks, emerging at the top in an open clearing for views of Bennett Valley. Bring water and lunch. Class M-7-A. Carpools: meet 9:15am Sonoma County Fairgrounds Park & Ride southwest corner, Leaderless carpools leave shortly after or meet trailhead 10am. Hwy 12 to Lawndale Rd. in Kenwood. Leader Tiffany MacNeil (707) 696-3387 tiffany.macneil@sonic.net.

Sun. Mar. 23 - North Group. Scenic Trinidad Hike.

A scenic spring hike looping through Elk Head, Trinidad Head and Indian (Tsurai) Beach. Bring food and water. No dogs. Class M-7-A. Meet: noon Trinidad State Beach parking lot on Stagecoach Road near Trinidad School. Leader Bill 707-839-5971. Rain cancels.



SUN. MAR. 23 - LAKE GROUP REDBUD TRAIL TO BATON FLAT HIKE.

This is a moderate hike in the Cache Creek Wilderness with possible sightings of bald eagles or other raptors. Bring water, binoculars and snacks. Class: M-5-A. Meet: 9:30 am parking lot off Highway 20 just before the Hwy 20 bridge over the North Fork of Cache Creek. Eight miles east of Clearlake Oaks. By reservation only. Leader Steve Devoto sdevoto@mchsi.com. Rain cancels.

Fri.-Sun. Mar. 28-30 - Mojave National Preserve.

Meet at Sunrise Campground at 11.00 am on Friday, 4 mile rt hike to Teutonia Peak that afternoon. Potluck that evening. Saturday enjoy a 6 mile hike around Barber Peak from Hole-in-the-Wall. Hike to Kelso Dunes on Sunday. For those wanting to stay over on Sunday, we can camp at Granite Pass. Camping is primitive so bring plenty of

Outings Chair Report

In November I received an email from two Vermont Sierra Club chapter activists (Denis Rydjeski & Betsy Eldredge) who were traveling to California in December to attend a lobbying colloquium at Westerbeke Ranch conference center by Sonoma. They wanted to do a local hike after the conference. One of the greatest advantages of belonging to a national organization like the Sierra Club is the wonderful training sessions that are available. This was the Annual State Colloquium, a training Sierra Club offers for Chapter Directors and those individuals doing lobbying at the state level. (I had never heard of it.) I asked my leaders who wanted to help. Tiffany, one of my Sonoma Group leaders, offered. She scouted out Bartholemew Park for the hike. I also received an email from my favorite Wilderness activist Vicki Hoover. She needed a place to stay for one night (she was speaking at the conference) and wanted to stay for the hike. Again Tiffany offered. On the day of the hike I was overwhelmed. I met Dave Scott (our president) Mike Brune (director) and Denis & Betsy from Vermont. Nice seeing Greg Casini from Rocky Mountain Chapter again. The best part, according to Vicki, was going on our 1st hike together. We had networked in 1987-1993 when we pushed for Alan Cranston's 7.1 million acre Desert Protection Act, but never went on an outing together. Hiking with us also was Estrella Perez, community lobbyist from Puerto Rico. (see photo.) She brought me up to speed on what is happening in Puerto Rico. I had met Eduardo Gonzalez from Puerto Rico at Outings Chair training in March of 2005 at the Marconi Conference Center in Marshall.

Same year in September at the Sierra Summit in SF I met Cano Menedez. Both were trying to establish an outing and conservation program in their country. I spoke at length with both of them about how we run outings in the Redwood Chapter. I knew they were successful and that Sierra Club was active in Puerto Rico. I was fortunate to meet so many activists from all over the US. Many were in the 25-35 year old range. We had about 25 people on the hike. I was rear leader. I did interpretation for the hikers who were by me as some had never been to California before and wanted to know the names of the trees and plants. I also talked about forest preservation, vineyards, invasive plants, etc. Estrella & I are keeping in touch by email and she has our website address. The weather was warm that day and the members from back east were going back to subzero temperatures. Everyone had a great time, some staying for wine tasting at Bartholemew. This was my 1st time at Westerbeke and I have lived here all my life. It is in the shadow of our Sonoma Mountain and a beautiful retreat center. I can't thank Tiffany enough for putting the hike together and being the leader.

On April 13th there is a Wildflower Festival at Pepperwood in Sonoma County. Leader Tim Bartice (not leading the last two

—CAROL VELLUTINI, REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR



Redwood Chapter Outings Chair Carol and Estrella Perez from Puerto Rico Chapter at Bartholemew Park

years because of complicated knee surgeries) asked me to have Sierra Club participate at the festival & put up a table 9-4. Who is interested in helping? We had many work parties & hikes up there in previous years. His wife Julie is on staff there. Sierra Club members volunteer there for work parties. It is a beautiful property.

Bill Knight (North Group) was back from working in Montana long enough to make the Redwood Needles deadline for outings but then had to go back for a week to work. If you have been keeping track of the subzero temperatures in Montana you know Bill will have adventures.

Needed are outing leaders for all groups but especially Solano. Call if you are interested in training.

Mendo Group has been doing some great outings. Tom and Pete from the Lake Group are offering some interesting hikes. Steve will bring hikers into the wilderness in March, weather permitting.

Being a Sierra Club outing leader is fun and you meet great people. See you on the trail.

water. More information will be available at time of sign-up. Contact: Carol Wiley at desertylily1@verizon.net or 760-245-8734. CNRCC Desert Com

Sat. Apr. 19 - Sonoma Group Napa/Bothe Coyote Peak Loop Hike.

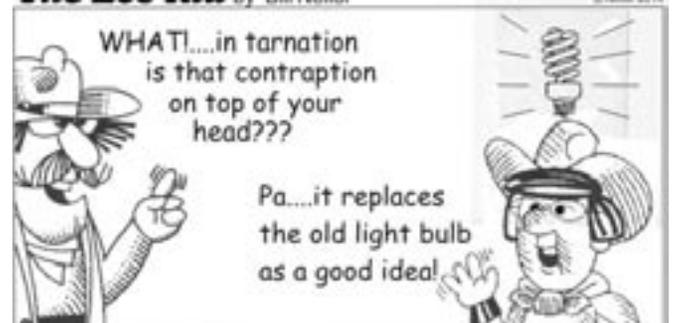
Enjoy hiking among redwoods along Ritchey Creek, then climb out of the canyon for beautiful open views. Descend back into ferns and a variety of plant communities, stopping for lunch at a serene secluded spot along the creek. Bring water, lunch and good hiking shoes. Class M-4-A. Carpools: meet 9am Sonoma County Fairgrounds Park & Ride south-west corner, (Leaderless) carpools leave shortly after or meet trailhead 10am. Ritchey Canyon/Redwood trailhead Napa Bothe State Park 3801 St. Helena Hwy No. Calistoga. \$8 fee per car at park entrance. Leader Tiffany MacNeil (707) 696-3387 tiffany.macneil@sonic.net.

Sat.-Sun. Apr. 19-20 - Carrizo Service And Flowers.

This outing combines a day of service in the Carrizo Plain National Monument with a day of sightseeing and/or hiking. If there are winter rains, wildflowers can be spectacular. Weather will be cool in evenings and comfortable in the day. The service will be in

removing or modifying fences to give pronghorn greater mobility on the Plain, and the recreation will be determined by the wishes of the group. This is an opportunity to combine carcamping, exploring, and service in a relatively unknown wilderness. Contact leader: Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670. CNRCC Desert Com

The Eco Kid by Bill Nellor



Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

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

April 12-14 May 4-6 June 8-10 July 22-22 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

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Lake Group Report



BOS Chair Denise Rushing, Lake Group Chair Ed Robey, Vice Chair Cheri Holden



Lake Group started the year with a bang when chair Ed Robey and vice chair Cheri Holden teamed up to accept a proclamation from the Board of Supervisors in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the landmark federal Wilderness Act—an event kicking off a year of nationwide celebrations that seems to have been the first of its kind in the United States. After passage by an overwhelmingly nonpartisan Congressional vote, this legislation was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on September 3, 1964. It created America's National Wilderness Preservation System, federal lands to be preserved permanently 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."

On Tuesday January 7, 2014 as virtually the first item of business of the New Year, Board Chair Denise Rushing read a resolution proclaiming the significance of our National Wilderness Preservation System to "America's cultural, scientific, historical, and spiritual heritage," reflecting on the "profound influence of the great outdoors on our lives and our national character" and committing to "preserving them for generations to come." All or part of the federally-designated wilderness areas Cache Creek, Sanhedrin, Snow Mountain, and Yuki lie within the borders of Lake County.

At press time the Group was also looking forward to its first general membership meeting of 2014, when local market gardener Sky Hoyt will talk about a subject to which we all devote a lot of attention but which few of us understand very well: the weather. He will review a few basic weather concepts, examine the Lake County Ag Forecast web page, and discuss microclimate observations, with lots of opportunities for questions and group discussion. Sky, who has been self employed in agriculture full time since 1974, began farming vegetable crops in Lake County in 1985 and his top quality produce has been a fixture of local farmers markets ever since—but few people are aware of his passion for meteorology.

—VICTORIA BRANDON,
LAKE GROUP CONSERVATION CHAIR

Napa Group Report

Napa Group Welcomes New Executive Committee Members

As you read this, the Napa Sierra Club group is welcoming two new members to its executive committee. Able candidates have come forward to serve.

Chris Benz is an outdoors enthusiast and backpacker, who served for five years as a hike leader with the Napa Land Trust and has acquired trail maintenance skills.

"I greatly enjoy the outdoors and now I want to be more active in protecting it and in encouraging other people to enjoy it and protect it," Benz stated. "I want to 'walk my talk.'"

Isabelle Saint-Guily is known by many of our members as a Sierra Club hike and paddles leader. She serves as membership chair and has been instrumental in coordinating the Napa group's public meetings at the Napa City-County Library.

Find out more about Isabelle's efforts "to see the 'club' part of the Napa Sierra Club be active and flourishing" in our electronic newsletter. If you do not now receive this free and timely e-newsletter, please send a request to napavalleyclub@gmail.com. "Bringing the members together is, I think very important," Isabelle stated.

The Napa group is very happy that Marc Pandone agreed to serve another term on the executive committee. A professor of fine arts at Solano College, he is a long-time member of the Sierra Club and has served on Napa Group's Executive Committee for 10 years.

Roger Hartwell and I are stepping down to devote time to our other pressing matters, but we will keep Napa's environmental health foremost in our other endeavors. Roger's expertise as a fish and wildlife biologist has been especially

beneficial to the Napa Group, providing oversight and valuable input during hearings held by the State Water Resources Control Board reviewing land use, runoff, and instream impacts. I will continue to serve on the Napa County Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee as it develops a countywide groundwater monitoring plan and formulates sustainable groundwater use objectives, which are part of the GRAC mission as set by the Napa County Board of Supervisors.

Syar Quarry Expansion

Business-wise, Napa Sierra Club recently submitted comments to the county regarding Syar Industries' request to double production at its Napa quarry, located adjacent to Skyline Park. The proposed 291-acre expansion would affect local creeks and groundwater, destroy 4,000 feet of trails in Skyline Park, and degrade the scenic views from the park. Affected Skyline Park trails cross easements generously granted by the company. These trail are links to the Bay Area Ridge Trail system and as such represent a recreational treasure for locals and a draw for visitors.

Our concerns include habitat loss and potential for flash runoff in Arroyo Creek watershed, and further depletion of groundwater in the Milliken-Sarco-Tulocay (MST) area. Sierra Club believes that the expansion project can and should be modified to address these environmental impacts.

—MARILEE TALLEY,
FORMER NAPA GROUP CHAIR

Sonoma Group Report

Sonoma Group ExCom members met with **Tennis J. Wick**, the new director of the county's Planning, Resource Management Dept. (PRMD), at our December 2 Conservation Committee meeting. He fielded questions about the General Plan, Riparian Ordinance and other current issues. He also asked our views about a number of issues. He assured us that CEQA would remain the arbiter of environmental policy, and shared an understanding of the need for EIRs.

Mr. Wick was a planning consultant for the Port Sonoma/ Carneros landfill project which had been withdrawn earlier in 2013, but is not consulting with the developer on their newly introduced project, different in several respects and larger in scope. The Sonoma Group will be watching and reporting on that project as things develop.

Sonoma Group Chair Dan Kerbein and ExCom member Jessica Jones, in league with the Living Wage Coalition, are meeting with county supervisors to request approval of a living wage ordinance. We have also been active in calling for environmental and economic impact reports from WalMart, which has come back to the City of Rohnert Park with a scaled-down, "SmallMart" plan. According to the Sierra Club's Environmental Justice statement, "Blue-Green" coalitions like the Democracy Project and the Living Wage Coalition are necessary in the current age of "race to the bottom" wage trends, since environmental risks increase and democratic participation suffers as people fall into poverty.

Jessica Jones has taken the lead in championing a county-wide, uniform single-use bag ordinance (or bag ban). A Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) was passed by the county, but in order to have consistency everywhere,

the city councils within Sonoma County have been invited to join the JPA Ordinance to ban plastic bags in local grocery stores. Jessica has met with council members and spoken at council meetings across the county and has co-created a Facebook advocacy page called "Sonoma County Ban the Bag". A ban on plastic bags is likely to pass in less than 6 months, enjoying full support from the Grocers Association, numerous electeds, the Sierra Club, SCCA and others. As the *Redwood Needles* goes to press, Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park and Petaluma have not decided whether to join the JPA, or to develop their own bag ordinance.

Shirley Johnson, Climate Chair, working with Climate Committee member Woody Hastings, brought us a letter to Sonoma Clean Power, the county's new Community Choice electricity vendor, proposing that revenue from its top-line green mix customers be used in promoting distributed rooftop-based solar electric generation, rather than entirely rely on the Geysers as its primary "green" power source. We approved the letter.

Chapter ExCom member Rue Furch has been active on the Santa Rosa Plain Ground Water Committee, which expects an important report from the USGS this summer.

Political Committee Chair Suzanne Doyle is gearing up to address the upcoming city and county elections. Two seats are open for county supervisors, also various city council seats., and candidates are beginning to campaign.

At the SCCC Holiday Networking Party, we reconnected with old friends and shared some good food at the Sebastopol Grange. We look forward to a productive retreat in February, and the SCCC Awards Dinner in March.

—DAN KERBEIN, SONOMA GROUP CHAIR

Mendocino Group Report

On December 19, 2013, in the Northern California District Court, Judge White found for the Army Corp and CalTrans on each of the claims that were raised by the Redwood Chapter et al. He found that the Army Corp did not err by adopting CalTrans' purpose and need for the Project and that the Corps' acceptance of CalTrans traffic study was not implausible, arbitrary or capricious. While the Judge acknowledged that the Project would result in new environmental impacts, he agreed with CalTrans and the Corps that those impacts were not significant (language supplied by Aruna Prabhala, Staff Attorney, Center for Biological Diversity). CalTrans has requested exorbitant court costs reminiscent of the SLAPP suits of days gone by.

Earlier in 2013 it was learned that CalTrans had not yet hired a wetlands mitigation contractor, the bids having been returned at three times the amount that CalTrans had

budgeted. (http://www.willitsnews.com/localnews/ci_24387193/bypass-mitigation-bids-are-triple-estimate).

The Army Corp was very close to suspending the permits for wetlands alteration when the State Transportation Commission said CalTrans could have until July 2015 to hire such contractor. (http://www.willitsnews.com/localnews/ci_24749950/bypass-mitigation-contract-deadline-extended-2).

In another vein the Mendocino Group is preparing comments to the California Coastal Commission as regards the US Fish and Wildlife proposal to apply broad-spectrum poison within the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. For more info please see http://www.huffingtonpost.com/maggie-sergio/the-farallon-islands-mous_b_4538506.html

Best regards for the New Year,

—MARY WALSH, MENDOCINO GROUP CHAIR

"Ghosts of NAFTA" continued from page 8

is under tremendous pressure from the White House to facilitate passage of the TPP, opted not to sign the Dear Colleague letter. Please take a moment to call the office of Congressman Thompson right now to tell him that you oppose fast-tracking the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement:

Santa Rosa: (707) 542-7182
Napa: (707) 226-9898
Vallejo: (707) 645-1888
Washington DC: (202) 225-3311

You can also write to Congressman Thompson at <https://secure.sierraclub.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=12351>.

To learn more and help change the trajectory of globalization, join us on February 11 (event details on page 1), visit www.sierraclub.org/trade and sign up for our trade newsletter.

JESSE COLORADO SWANHUYSER,
CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE,
HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival

Solano Group will be staffing a table at the 18th San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival held on Mare Island (Vallejo) on Feb 7, 8 & 9. Come by and say hello. Details at <http://www.sfbayflywayfestival.com/>

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! Thanks to Nancy McCoy, Matt Hoffman, Adam Mangosing, Justin Ashorn and Jane for staffing the Nov. and Dec. paper shredding.

VALCORE Recycling and Confidential Paper Shredding 2014

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. (Jan 18, Feb 15, Mar 15). There is a charge of \$10 per twenty pounds of paper shredded. (maximum: 100 pounds). Sierra Club volunteers

Solano Breeze Corner

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

sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com 707-319-6398

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.

Lori's Native Plant Garden

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

Solano Group Monthly Meetings

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

Brianna Settle

Recipient of Sierra Club Solano Group scholarship at Solano Community College



Photo by Cheryl Reynolds

At 19 years old I have been a full-time biology student at Solano Community College for the last year and a half. I was thrilled to learn that I had won a scholarship from the Sierra Club towards my education! I plan to transfer to UC Davis and become a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, and get my Ph.D with an emphasis in pathology.

I completely fell in love with aquatic bird rehabilitation when I started volunteering at International Bird Rescue (IBR) two years ago. I became very interested in the work and completed an internship with IBR over the summer.

I was homeschooled with my four sisters all the way through 12th grade, and absolutely loved it. I have always loved learning, and actively pursue many interests. In my spare time I enjoy volunteering, reading, writing stories, drawing, knitting, and practicing math.

North Group Report

Volunteer opportunities are available at North Group. You can play a part in our efforts to know, protect and enjoy our relatively unspoiled corner of California. No experience necessary. Curiosity and dedication are a must.

For example: become an Outings Leader, and help to plan and lead hikes and camping trips; seek out information on local conservation issues from public-agency meetings and other sources to share with other environmental activists; make use of social media and other platforms such as this one to share our experiences and ideas; communicate directly with local, state, and other elected officials to advance natural values; bring your own ideas or projects to Sierra Club, and take advantage of the Club's structure and resources.

Some recent local issues:

•Klamath River—Redwood Chapter continues to coordinate with Mother Lode and Oregon chapters to advocate a rational policy for dam removal. Also, the wildfires

of 2013 and resulting suppression activities highlight a need for long-range watershed conservation planning in our local communities. Get details from Felice Pace, unofelice@gmail.com.

•Humboldt County General Plan Update—Northcoast Environmental Center, of which North Group is a member, has continued its participation in this 14-year process, through twists and turns including revision of previously adopted draft policy by newly elected County Supervisors. 2014 is another election year, bringing an opportunity for us to make a difference.

•Humboldt Bay Nuclear Plant decommissioning—While this nearly \$1 billion project is proceeding in an orderly fashion, it's a useful reminder of how issues of global importance are unfolding here in our immediate neighborhood.

Do join us! Make plans to attend a hike or Executive Committee meeting, or contact Ned or Gregg for details.

—NED FORSYTH, NORTH GROUP VICE 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

Volunteer Days Riverkeeper Stewardship Park in Guerneville, Every Wednesday.

8:30 - 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.



SATURDAYS IN FEBRUARY.

BLM HIKES CACHE CREEK WILDERNESS.

On Saturdays in February the Bureau of Land Management is conducting a series of moderately strenuous hikes into the Cache Creek Wilderness to view wintering bald eagles & other wildlife. Led by BLM rangers, the hikes start at the Redbud Trailhead adjacent to Highway 20 eight miles east of Clearlake Oaks, and last 3-4 hours. Hikers should wear sturdy hiking boots and layered clothing, and carry water, lunch, and binoculars. Hikes are planned on Feb. 1, 8, and 15—rain cancels. By reservation only, call the BLM Ukiah field office 468 4000.

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 Carol carolvsr@sonic.net or call 546-6308 for info. People are requesting families with children, camping and easy hikes.

North Group Hike Leaders: North Group is desperately seeking hike leaders. Please contact Bill Knight, the Outings Chair, at bill.knight.email@gmail.com.

Meet with the Sonoma Group Water Committee! 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 issues related to measures to conserve, save, and reuse this valuable resource. Our goal is to preserve and improve the natural water environment, the responsible use of water by people, 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, promote water conservation and intelligent reuse. 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 5:00-5:45 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, home 206-1138, or call office 433-7651.

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Don't Get Left Out In The Cold... Join Us!

Sierra Club Outings are a terrific way to meet new people and enjoy the great outdoors. Whatever your interests - hiking, canoeing or birdwatching - there is an outing for everyone. If you are new to the area, let your local Chapter or Group show you around. Join today and become part of America's largest environmental organization with the most enjoyable outings.



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Join today and receive a **FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!**



Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

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Sonoma County Conservation Council & Sierra Club Sonoma Group
present the 38th Annual
Sonoma County Environmental Awards Dinner 2014



Building a Stronger Coalition Between Agriculture and Environment

Speaker: Joseph McIntyre
President, Ag Innovations Network

Sunday, March 16, 2014
5:00 to 8:30pm
Sebastopol Community Center
390 Morris St., Sebastopol

2014 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

Nominations open Nov. 18 until Jan. 17 midnight
www.envirocentersoco.org/awards

Live Music - Duo Giuliani, with Terry Mills (guitar) & Richard Heinberg (violin)

Silent Auction - Gourmet Dinner, A La Heart Catering
Benefits the Environmental Center of Sonoma County

TICKETS

\$40, after 2/14; \$60 Students with ID: \$25, after 2/14; \$35
Non-Profit Group Discount: 5 tickets for the price of 4, \$160 until 2/14

Purchase online at www.envirocentersoco.org
or send a check payable to SCCC to: PO Box 4346, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Volunteers Needed: contact Wendy at 544-4582 or wiki@sonic.net for limited work trades.

SPONSORSHIPS

Subsidize student/activist tickets and support year-round SCCC operations.

Golden Legends \$1,000, 10 tickets	Roaring 20's \$240, 3 tickets
Glory Years \$720, 6 tickets	Young Heroes \$150, 2 tickets
Green Warriors \$360, 4 tickets	

Reduce Your Carbon Footprint in 2014!

Join over 500 of your local fellow Sierra Clubbers! To receive future copies of the Redwood Needles via email send a message to: RedwoodNeedles@gmail.com with your name and address, and "newsletter by email" in the subject line; or to receive notification that the current newsletter is available online and a link to it, please specify: "Notification newsletter is online".

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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. Feb. 3 - 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. Feb. 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. Feb. 11 - 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. Feb. 18 - 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

Wed. Feb. 19 - 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. Mar. 3 - 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: Info: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net

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

Sat., Mar. 15 - Redwood Chapter

ExCom.

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

Tues. Mar. 11 - North Group ExCom. See Feb. 11.

Wed. Mar. 19 - 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. Mar. 20 - 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.

Wed. April 16 - 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

Wed. May 21 - 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

Ghosts of NAFTA and the Future of Globalization: A Discussion about the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement

Chances are that you've never heard of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). The TPP is a "free trade agreement" that would expand NAFTA-style corporate globalization to the entire Pacific Rim. And while the public and the media cannot see the details, hundreds of business executives from Chevron, Halliburton, Citi Group and others are actively crafting the pact. Given the extreme secrecy of negotiations, and what we know about the special interests writing these rules, the Sierra Club is concerned the TPP would not only have direct, devastating impacts on our environment, but would undermine efforts to expand environmental and climate protections.

More Fracking!

The TPP would facilitate increased exports of liquefied natural gas. As a result of the TPP, the United States would be legally required to automatically approve all exports of U.S. fracked gas to countries in the agreement without any analysis or delay. This could mean a massive, nationwide increase in hydraulic fracturing activities, potentially including in California, in order to feed foreign markets. Worse still, environmental economists believe this would cause an increase in natural gas and electricity prices, which would in turn increase use of dirty

coal power plants. In this way, the TPP directly conflicts with our efforts to move beyond coal and address critical climate change issues.

Citizens United for Trans-National Corporations

A leaked version of a special chapter on "investor protection" confirms that the Administration intends to include rules that give corporations the right to directly sue governments in private (i.e. non-public) tribunals. While Citizens United maintains corporate personhood inside the U.S., these rules elevate multinational corporations to the status of countries. Under these rules, corporations can sue governments for unlimited cash compensation over nearly any law or regulation that the corporation argues is hurting their expected future profits.

To date, Exxon Mobil, Dow Chemical and others have launched more than 500 "investor protection" cases against 95 governments using the rules in so-called "trade agreements" that are built according to NAFTA's blueprint. Many of these cases directly attack environmental policies, such as efforts to phase-out toxic chemicals or stop dangerous mining practices. In the most recent of these cases, one U.S. company is literally claiming a "right to frack" and is using NAFTA to challenge a fracking moratorium designed to protect drinking water

for millions of Canadians and Americans.

Sound impossible? Sadly, it's true. The TPP could allow a foreign corporation to sue the U.S. government in a private tribunal over a new California law that addresses fracking, climate change, mining or logging. And while there is plenty to be concerned about here at home, the implication of these rules for a developing country is vicious. "Investor protection" rules could almost entirely undermine efforts by developing countries to establish basic environmental and environmental justice laws.

Where are Our Representatives?

There is some good news. Representatives Huffman and Garamendi, joined by about 170 other House Democrats, sent a Dear Colleague letter to the White House in which they expressed their grave concerns with the TPP and vowed to oppose "fast-track" - the legislation that could allow the TPP to quietly and quickly get approved by Congress. Rep. Huffman went further. He sent a letter to the Administration specifically addressing the impact of TPP on liquefied natural gas exports and related increases of fracking activities.

Representative Thompson, who "Ghosts of NAFTA"
cont. on page 7