



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 53 Number 3

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

June/July 2012

Bohemian Club Settlement Provides Protection

The settlement reached by the Sierra Club, the Bohemian Redwood Rescue Club, and the Bohemian Club regarding the Bohemian Club's revised Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) includes a number of significant changes to the original long-term logging plan. "We are pleased that the Bohemian Club has made significant changes to its long term forest management plan which will result in improved long-term protection and restoration of the majestic Bohemian Grove," said Jay Halcomb, Sierra Club's Redwood Chapter Chair.

The Bohemian Club has agreed to protect a greater number of large trees in the healthiest parts of the forest (technically called the RD4D strata) so that tree volume metrics are kept very similar to those in one of the finest old-growth stands on the property—the Upper Bull Barn old growth reference stand.

The revised plan will include a stated objective that, at the end of 100 years, the RD4D strata that include the oldest and

highest-quality trees will average 200 square feet of conifers per acre. Based on our calculations, this will include at least 46 square feet basal area per acre of the largest trees (those over 40 inches or more in diameter); and an additional 76 square feet basal area per acre of trees between 32 and 40 inches in diameter. This condition represents a significant change over the initially approved plan, which contemplated that these areas would contain 150 square feet of conifers per acre, including 30 square feet basal area per acre of trees 32 to 39 inches and 20 square feet basal area per acre of trees 40 inches and greater. The settlement ensures that more big trees will be growing 100 years from now and that the property will more quickly achieve its goal of old growth restoration.

The revised plan also provides that redwood stand conditions in the RD4D strata will be achieved predominantly by 'thinning

from below,' a light harvest technique that encourages old growth conditions by limiting cutting to smaller and suppressed trees.

The revised plan also provides that conifer harvest entries will not be more frequent than once every twenty years, absent unusual circumstances, such as fire danger.

In addition, although not reflected in the revised NTMP, the parties agreed that old growth stands and trees 40 inches in diameter at breast height or greater will be marked and permanently protected across the property with verification by an independent forester before and after each logging entry; that areas of highest fire danger will be identified and targeted for early treatment; and that vehicular uses of a road passing through the largest hillside old growth stand on the property—the Bull Barn Stand—will be limited to firefighting.

Election 2012: Your Vote Matters

This winter and spring Sierra Club activists throughout the Redwood Chapter have been busy evaluating questionnaires, interviewing candidates, and doing all the grassroots investigation that goes into a Club endorsement. The task has been complicated by redistricting, and by the non-partisan "top two" primary that will apply for the first time this June. Although most of our endorsed Congressional and State Legislative candidates are exemplary incumbents who have earned our support by their fine environmental records, one seat—the new "coastal" Congressional District 2—required particular care and the investment of a great deal of time and effort. More than ten candidates are vying for this open seat, split evenly between Redwood and San Francisco Bay Chapters, and most of them have fine environmental values and would serve us very well in Congress.

Club Groups have also been engaged in the painstaking task of identifying the best candidates in county supervisorial races. The results of these grassroots contests often have momentous consequences, with the question coming down to this: do we want to foster the best qualities of the North Coast—abundant open

space, towering forests, free-running rivers, charming, friendly small towns with a rural atmosphere—or do we want to become like the rest of California?

We think the choices are clear, and that the election of candidates endorsed by the Sierra Club offers the best hope of making those choices wisely. So please examine the endorsement list on the back page of this newsletter, and give your vote to those individuals that appear on your ballot. Please also consider making a personal endorsement, volunteering a few hours of time, or donating money: the future of all our communities hangs in the balance this June, and action by Club members can potentially tip that balance.

Lake Group members are also urged to check out the discussion of Measure D in the article to the right, which is opposed by the Sierra Club.

Additional local endorsements were in progress as this issue of the Needles went to press. The names of endorsed candidates will be posted to redwood.sierraclub.org/Committees/Political as they are approved.

—VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER POLITICAL CHAIR

Club Opposes Lake County Measure D

As recommended by the Lake Group Executive Committee, the Sierra Club has taken a position in opposition to Measure D, the Marijuana Cultivation Initiative that will appear on the Lake County June 5 ballot. Measure D seeks to create an ordinance that would regulate the cultivation of medical marijuana in Lake County. The Club opposes Measure D for numerous reasons, including:

- Measure D would override existing environmental protections for agricultural practices. Measure D states "If this Article is found to be in conflict with any other County Codes, laws, ordinances or resolutions, the provisions of this Article shall prevail". This means that there would be no way that the County could enforce erosion control, pesticide and other toxic chemical use, or grading rules on medical marijuana cultivation.

- Measure D would override existing zoning laws, allowing medical marijuana cultivation in Residential areas, including vacant lots, where agricultural practices are not now allowed under existing rules. This is in direct conflict with zoning laws that protect owners' property rights in residential areas.

- Measure D is bad public policy, because it cannot be amended or changed by the normal legislative process. Because it is a ballot measure, if it is passed by the voters, it can only be changed by another ballot measure approved by the voters. With the current fluctuating state of medical marijuana law implementation and court decisions it is clear that any regulation of medical marijuana cultivation will need to be amended and fine tuned to address issues that are certain to arise in the future.

We do need sensible regulation of medical marijuana cultivation, but Measure D, written by the growers, ignores the interests of the greater community and the environment. Measure D acknowledges that "medical marijuana is an agricultural product," yet exempts it from all the normal rules and requirements that other agricultural products must comply with.

Therefore, the Sierra Club urges voters to vote NO on Measure D.

—ED ROBEY, LAKE GROUP CHAIR



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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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'Tis the season for political endorsements, continued.

Our Sierra Club Groups and the Redwood Chapter continue to make endorsements. Please see page 12 for a list of our recommendations, pages 4 and 5 for endorsed candidate statements, and an explanation of our opposition to Lake County's Measure D on page one.

Sierra Club and local environmentalists reach mediated settlement with Bohemian Club in Bohemian Grove logging dispute.

In March 2011, the Sierra Club and BRRC won a lawsuit (Sierra Club v. CAL-FIRE) in Sonoma County Superior Court, which required CAL-FIRE to rescind an Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) it had previously issued to the Bohemian Club to log its Bohemian Grove property outside Monte Rio on the Russian River. The Court's ruling was based largely on the fact that the NTMP had not considered a range of feasible, less damaging alternatives, a central provision of the California Environmental Quality Act.

The Sierra Club and the Bohemian Redwood Rescue Club (BRRC) are pleased to announce that a mediated settlement has been reached with the Bohemian Club over its long-range logging plans. A resubmitted NTMP, revised to reflect the terms of the settlement agreement, has recently been released for public comment by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL-FIRE). The Sierra Club, Bohemian Redwood Rescue Club and John Hooper personally have written CAL-

Chapter Chair Report

FIRE expressing their support for the revised NTMP.

In May 2011, the Bohemian Club approached the environmental petitioners to inquire if a mediated settlement could be tried. The Sierra Club and BRRC accepted the idea and mediation went on for nearly a year. "This settlement process was not without a few bumps in the road along the way, but all parties realized that working together would produce superior results than being adversarial," stated John Hooper, a lifetime Sierra Club member and former Bohemian Club member who resigned from the Bohemian Club over its logging practices in 2004 and who is now the treasurer of BRRC.

The court decision in Sierra Club v CAL-FIRE has put the agency on notice that it can no longer approve logging plans until it has considered a range of feasible, less damaging alternatives. "A proper consideration of alternatives should improve environmental review and better protect our forests," said Paul V. Carroll, the attorney who represented the Sierra Club and the BRRC through the legal proceedings and mediation.

The settlement includes substantial improvements to the Bohemian Club's original long-term logging plan, which was rejected by the Court. Details of the settlement are in an accompanying article on page 1.

Sonoma County Vineyard Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance (VESCO).

In late January, the So. Co. Supervisors put a moratorium on

issuing permits for new vineyards involving slopes greater than 15% and/or tree removal. They did this while the Agricultural Commissioner updated the County's Vineyard Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance to address tree removal and slope concerns. The revised ordinance language became available in late April and was then approved in an initial reading by the Supervisors, 5-0. The revision looks, at press time, to be headed for final acceptance by the Supervisors on May 8. Unfortunately, the revision is 'purely ministerial' and accordingly avoids significant California Environmental Quality Act concerns in the permit review and approval process. The National Marine Fisheries Service commented "We believe the most significant shortcoming of the current Ordinance is the lack of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis during the County's permitting process in order to review and refine it with regard to tree removal and minimizing hillside erosion.... [The County's process] avoids meaningful environmental review." (Emph. added, Jerry Butler, letter to Agricultural Commissioner, April 6, 2012). The NMFS letter can be found at: <http://redwood.sierraclub.org/sonoma/NOAA%20Ltr%20toCty%204.6.12.pdf>. NMFS recommends the model of the Napa County Vineyard Ordinance, which requires CEQA review for any projects on slopes greater than 5%. Redwood Chapter criticism can be found at http://www.redwood.sierraclub.org/sonoma/SCtoBOSVescoAmendment_042412.pdf

-JAY HALCOMB, REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

Non-Sierra Club Outings

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

Saturday Saunters for Santa Rosa Area.

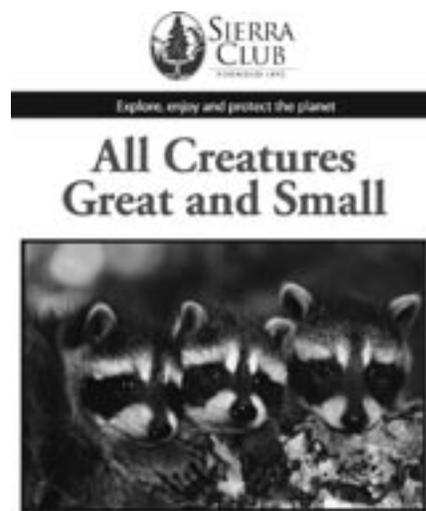
Every Saturday. Meets 9 am and usually ends around 11:30. These walks are moderate. Fun way to exercise with friends. For info call Bob Martin 707-539-6300.

Sonoma County Regional Parks trail work days.

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

Sierra Club endorsements for the June 5th election appear on page 12. Please Vote for the Environment!

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



"Every good thing, great and small, needs defense"

- John Muir

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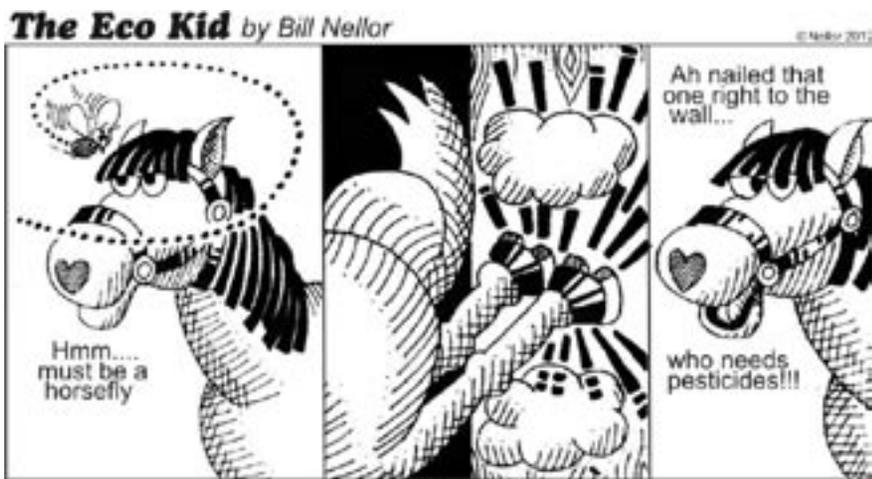
Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
 Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX
 Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____
 Exp. Date ____/____/____
 Signature _____

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Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
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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/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

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Statements of 2012 Sierra Club Endorsed Candidates

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

District 1

Susan Gorin



My vision of Sonoma County is a pristine and protected environment AND a vibrant local economy with green jobs at a living wage.

I'm honored to be the only candidate for First District Supervisor who has the endorsement of both the Sierra Club and Sonoma County Conservation Action. As your Supervisor,

I'll bring decades of experienced leadership to protect our environment, revitalize our economy and demand pension reform.

I'll fight for protection of our agricultural lands, mountaintops and open spaces and open and accessible parks.

I support CSA's and farmer's markets, community gardens, appropriate use of open space land for farming, and hubs for distribution and sale of locally grown products. I strongly support the state ballot measure to label GMO food.

I will address the numerous serious water issues in the county, including saltwater intrusion, ground water depletion, illegal water diversions and agricultural run-off. I will continue to support water conservation efforts, careful expansion of recycled water reuse, implementation of the Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Plan and strict enforcement of water policies.

I love Sonoma County - my home for 30 years where I raised my family, owned a small business and earned degrees in Political Science and Economics.

Environmental leader Bill Kortum endorses me because of my 40 years of defending our environment. Join Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, Senator Noreen Evans, Sonoma Councilmember Steve Barbose, Progressive, Latino and Young Democrats and labor organizations in building a sustainable economy that protects our environment and quality of life. Go to: www.SusanGorin.com.

Mark Bramfitt



There is belief in environmental sustainability, and then there's living it.

I've employed my engineering education in the service of energy efficiency, working for twenty-five years with businesses in Northern California to achieve dramatic reductions in energy use and their inherent environmental

impacts.

I'm now a nationally recognized leader in the design and delivery of utility energy efficiency programs targeting server farms and information technology – and as a consultant I am helping a half-dozen utilities across the country follow California's lead.

For eleven years I have served on the Board of the Valley of the Moon Water District, and at my direction we extended our conservation programs to residents who live outside our service area, because we operate wells and thereby have a responsibility for local groundwater conditions.

More importantly, I have led the Sonoma Valley Groundwater Basin Advisory Panel. We have charted a course of action that will preserve groundwater resources for generations to come, while addressing near term declines in water availability and quality.

The impacts of development on our precious landscape continue to be a prominent issue in spite of the poor economy. As the longest-serving member of the Sonoma Valley Citizens Advisory Commission, I have learned how to balance the needs of our business community with the essential protection of our natural and scenic resources.

Engineers by nature consider the sustainability of their designs and decisions. I have applied these tenets to public policy, and believe I can serve you best as First District Supervisor.

Mark Bramfitt, www.bramfitt2012.com

District 3

Shirlee Zane



Together, we must protect our key environmental resources— our watersheds, wetlands, the Russian River, the Coast, our air and forests. As Supervisor, as a member of several local and regional Boards, and as a Director for the Sonoma County

Water Agency, I advocate for city centered growth, community separators, clean energy production, reduction in green house gas emissions, healthy food, local agriculture, and improvements to water resource management. As a member of the Board of Directors for SMART, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and the Sonoma County Transportation Authority/Regional Climate Protection Authority, I develop policy that provides transportation options that benefit the elderly, differently-abled populations and youth. I am a strong believer in public transit, bicycle and pedestrian pathways, and cleaner emission vehicles, particularly in business and government fleets.

As Supervisor I was instrumental in providing the top leadership that created the Sonoma County Energy Independence Program, the largest PACE program in the U.S., to support our goals of reducing our GHG emissions. I serve as Chair of the Solid Waste Advisory Group, where, along with representatives from each of the County's city governments, we are working to keep our central land fill open and, at the same time, increase our diversion rate to 90%. We are also exploring expansion of composting throughout the county with the goal to turn this biomass into a clean energy source.

My voting record as Supervisor has shown, and will continue to demonstrate, my commitment to protecting the County's natural resources.

Lake County Board of Supervisors: District 1

Victoria Brandon



Lake County faces tough economic, social and environmental challenges in these times of great change, and needs strong leadership to find new solutions that build on our great assets – natural beauty, healthy living conditions, and friendly small towns. We deserve a fearless advocate who can work productively with state and federal bureaucracies and is not indebted to narrow special interests here at home.

My long track record as a Sierra Club activist proves that I am a serious, roll-up-your-sleeves worker who returns phone calls, follows through, and gets the job done. As Lake County Supervisor, I will provide the independent leadership we need to promote:

- Local jobs, local business, local farmers
- Well-planned, innovative development consistent with the General Plan
- Countywide high-speed internet

- Fair, effective code enforcement
- Healthy communities with clean air, land and water
- A sustainable future for our children and grandchildren
- Who I am . . .
- Lake County resident for over thirty years
- Citizen who values diversity and treats people fairly
- Advocate for Mt. Konocti, Cache Creek, Federal Wilderness, and our State Parks
- Lake Group Chair for five years
- Member of the Redwood Chapter Excom since 2005
- A California Woman of the Year in 2008.

Please visit www.VictoriaBrandon.net to find out how to help my campaign: you can volunteer, donate, and endorse no matter where you live. And if you are a South Lake County resident, please vote for me on June 5.

Statements of 2012 Sierra Club Endorsed Candidates

Solano County Board of Supervisors

District 1

Katy Miessner



I am Katy Miessner, non-profit finance manager and public advocate and I'm asking for your vote on June 5 for Solano County's Board of Supervisors District 1 seat, representing Vallejo.

As a former Solano Group ExCom Member, I have proven experience as a strong advocate for sustainable development and conservation. I have fought for conserving and protecting open space through work on the Orderly Growth Initiative, the Potrero Hills Landfill lawsuit, anti-LNG, advocacy for sensible development on Solano County Fairgrounds, and more.

I deeply believe in transparency in government, with the goal that an informed constituency is active and engaged, making our community stronger.

Towards this end, I have produced five Vallejo City Council candidate forums, two in conjunction with the ExCom, and have managed Sierra Club Supervisorial and Assembly-member candidate endorsements.

In light of the County's three-plus year financial crisis, the biggest threat we face today is poor financial management, with pressure to continue bad decisions that irrevocably impact our environment, such as dumping 600,000 tons of garbage into the Potrero Hills, adjacent to the Suisun Marsh. This is 500,000 more than the voter mandated 95,000-ton limit.

I am the only District One candidate who has a proven record of fighting to protect our precious open space. As Supervisor, I will not succumb to financial pressure. I will continue to advocate for open space, farmland, for fiscal and environmental responsibility.

Thank you, Sierra Club for your endorsement. I'd be honored to have your vote on June 5th! www.KatyForSupervisor.com

District 2

Linda Seifert



It is my great honor to run for re-election to the Solano County Board of Supervisors with the endorsement of the Sierra Club.

Living in Solano County, we are reminded every day of the importance of protecting our environment, wildlife, and agriculture. As a Supervisor and as Vice Chair of the Solano Land Trust Board, I work hard every day to preserve our natural heritage.

I am most proud of working with the Solano Land Trust, Green Valley Landowners Association, and others to preserve 1,500 acres of pristine pastoral land in Green Valley. This land is home to some of the most sensitive habitat in the Bay Area. Developers tried for thirty years

to build houses on it, and now it will be open space, and potentially become part of a regional trail system.

I have also advocated ensuring that the Delta is safe and continues to offer abundant potable and non-potable water supplies for homes, agriculture, recreation, and wildlife. I have been an active partner with our state legislators, the City of Benicia staff, its elected officials, and community organizations to assure that Solano County's two state parks remain open for recreation and enjoyment.

I continue to advocate for the implementation of programs that help property owners install solar energy equipment, conserve water, and make other energy efficiency improvements.

If you live in District 2, please cast your vote for me by mail or at the polls June 5. For more information, please visit www.seifertforsupervisor.com where you can learn my position on issues and review the lengthy list of people and organizations that have endorsed my campaign. Thanks so much to the Sierra Club community for your support and for continuing to champion environmental protection.

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

District 2

Clif Clendenen



Thank you for your endorsement and the confidence you have placed in me. I'm running for re-election because I want to keep doing everything I can to work for a sustainable community, one that we'll be proud to leave to our children and grandchildren.

To me, working for a sustainable community means protecting and preserving our working resource lands, rivers and fisheries. I am proud of my support for programs like the Williamson Act which help do exactly this.

As we look towards the final discussions of our General Plan Update (GPU), I'll work to see that process is completed so that Humboldt County can

move forward in compliance with federal and state environmental laws and best practices. In reviewing the Planning Commission draft of the GPU, I'll support policies and programs that balance the investment and hard work of property owners with protection and restoration of our working resource lands.

A sustainable community also includes connectivity and I'm proud of providing leadership to extend Redwood Transit service to Southern Humboldt. As our Board's representative on the Humboldt County Association of Governments, I helped move forward a unified trail system for the county, and as a board member of the North Coast Rail Authority I've been working to make the Annie and Mary rail trail project a reality.

And building a sustainable community also means supporting local food production, having affordable housing and much more.

Thank you again for your endorsement— it means a lot to me.

Clif Clendenen, 2nd District Supervisor

District 3

Mark Lovelace



Humboldt County is a great place to live, work and raise a family. Whether we moved here from elsewhere, or were born here and chose to stay, we've all voted with our feet to call Humboldt County our home.

And yet, as our County struggles with change and growth, we run the risk of becoming something other than what we are, and of succumbing to that creeping sameness that is covering the rest of the State in a sprawling suburbia of drive-throughs, strip malls, fast food and big-box stores. The challenge

before us is to build a healthy and prosperous future without losing the unique character and quality of life that makes this such a special place.

As your Supervisor, I have worked tirelessly to protect our working lands and open space, to restore our fisheries and to bring down the dams on the Klamath River. I've helped to promote sustainable agriculture and local energy independence. I've helped to protect over 50,000 acres of working forests across the North Coast, and I've worked to bring us closer than ever to completing the Arcata Ridge Trail.

Looking forward, I will continue to work hard to protect our environment and to build vibrant, safe and healthy communities.

It's an honor to serve as your County Supervisor, and I'm proud of what we have accomplished together. Let's make Humboldt County the best Humboldt it can be!

Outings

Sequoia Paddlers - Canoe and kayak roll practice.

Ridgway Swim Center in Santa Rosa Thurs. 7:15 pm - 8:45 pm. The pool is located on Ridgway Ave off Mendocino right next to Santa Rosa High School. The water is warm but the air is often cold, so wet suits are recommended as well as PFD's and helmets. Paddlers must bring their own clean boats and gear. Instruction is not provided although advice and tips are available for the asking. Showers are available. Cost \$5. Co-sponsored by the Sequoia Paddlers and the Santa Rosa Parks & Rec. Dept. Info: Sig, poolcoord@sequoiapc.org or 292-4947

Sequoia Paddlers Section.

The canoe, kayak and rafting section of the Redwood Chapter. Outings are often dependent on river conditions and do not have long lead times. Please check the Activities Page of our website, www.sequoiapc.org,

for upcoming trips.

Sat. June 2 - Sonoma Group. National Trails Day Hood Mountain Regional Park.

This will mark Sierra Club's 30th year of participation on the Nattkemper Trail. Co-sponsored by Sonoma County Regional Parks. It also marks my retirement after 30 years as organizer of this event. Co-leader Elisa Stancil will take over. Sierra Club volunteers built the Nattkemper Trail. We need your help to keep it in good repair. Work sites depend on the trail conditions. Bring lunch, liquids, gloves, hiking boots, snacks, and daypack. We have tools. You will be carrying a tool about one mile to the workplace. We always have fun and the work is rewarding. This is a steep single track trail. By reservation only by May 30th as I need to order tools. Carpools: Meet 8:30 am Adobe Canyon Rd. on the right after turning off Hwy 12 toward Sugarloaf Park (close

to Vineyards Restaurant) leave 8:45. We will finish around 4:30. Reservations: Carol Vellutini 546-6308 carolvrs@sonic.net Co-leader Elisa Stancil elisastancil@gmail.com Rain cancels. We have not set a rain date at this time. We have put in 2,035.70 hours on this trail.

Sat. June 2 - Sonoma Group. Hood Mountain Hike.

Hike to start from the lower lot of the new Johnson Ridge Trail to Hood Mountain summit then will return via the Goodspeed trail to Adobe Canyon Parking area. A 9 mile hike with over 1700 elevation gain. Bring lunch, water and sturdy hiking boots. Class S-9-C Meet 9:00 am lower lot of the Johnson Ridge trail (Pythian Road). This will be a car shuttle hike so we will need to manage cars to the Adobe Canyon trailhead. Jim Gannon (707)-525-1052 jgannon99@sbcglobal.net

Sun. June 3 - Sonoma Group. Mt Tam Hike.

Loop hike from Rock Springs - Lakes Loop. Bring lunch, 2 liters of water and good hiking boots. 12+ mi hike with about 2000' elevation gain. Hike starts 9:00 am. Class S-12-C Carpools 8:00 am Rohnert Park Park & Ride (South side of 101). Trailhead is Rock Springs. Leader Jim Gannon (707)-525-1052 jgannon99@sbcglobal.net. Heavy rain cancels.

Sat. June 9 - A Spring celebration walk at Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve in Vallejo.

We will walk to the highest point on Mare Island and encounter various wildflowers and spectacular views towards the Carquinez Strait and San Pablo Bay with the likelihood of seeing fledgling ospreys and great blue herons along the way. The route also includes various historical features along the way. This walk is a fairly easy 3.0 mile r/t walk on paved roads. Class E-4-A. 9:30- 11:00. Take U.S. 101, I-80 or Hwy 29 to Highway 37 and take the Mare Island exit just west of Vallejo. Follow Walnut Ave. south to 'G' St. (1st stop sign) and turn left. Take the 2nd right at Nimitz and go to 15th S. stop sign and turn right. Go to Railroad Ave. and turn left. Follow Railroad through the South Gate to the Park kiosk and park along the road. Leader Brian Collett 530 220-3121

Sat June 9 - Lake Group Boggs Mountain Forest.

Hike various trails. Need sturdy shoes, plenty of water, prior long distance hiking. Neutered/spayed dogs on leash welcome. Class M-7-8-A. Meet 7 am Boggs Forest. Reservation required. Leader Carol Magill, c.magill@mchsi.com 707-928-5423, 707-295-0862 (cell).

Sat. June 9 - North Group. Friendship Ridge, Prairie Creek State Park Hike.

Enjoy old growth, ocean views, flowers, ferns, a waterfall and

possibly elk on this loop beginning at Fern Canyon Trailhead. Our route will proceed clockwise: northward on the Coastal Trail, up Westridge, along Friendship Ridge, and closing with a short section on James Irvine Trail. Expect some steep, rough spots and a few soggy stretches. Bring food and water; wear hiking footwear and layered clothing. No dogs. Rain cancels. Class M - 8- A. Carpools: Arcata Safeway (7th & F Streets) 9 am, or Fern Canyon Parking Area (Hwy 101 north, exit Davison Road, follow sign to parking lot) 10:30 am. Leader Melinda 707-668-4275 or mgroomster@gmail.com

Sat., Jun. 9 - Napa Group Hood Mountain Day Hike.

After a drive through scenic Sonoma Valley, we'll summit Hood Mountain via the coolest, shadiest route, following Hood Creek along well-maintained trails, with peaceful lakes, panoramic views, and surprising late-spring wildflowers. Portions of the trail are steep, and the 2000 ft gain can be tiring. For greater variety of scenery, environment, and wildflowers, we'll return to the valley by a different trail, with a short car shuttle at the end. A bit of a challenge at 9 miles in length, with elevation gain about 2000'. The trail is well-maintained; conditions vary from wide, shady, and smooth to exposed, rough, steep, and rocky. Bring lunch and liquids. Class: M-9-C. Please RSVP online, at <http://www.meetup.com/Sacramento-Sierra-Club/events/63547932/> or contact the leader. Co-led with Mother Lode Chapter. Leader: Martin Farber 707.253.9606, kowsoi@juno.com Rain cancels.

Tues.-Fri. June 12-15 - Mendo Group. Yolla Bolly Wilderness Backpack Trip.

5 mile backpack trip. Located outside of Covelo in the Mendocino National Forest, this wilderness area is one of the most isolated and least visited. We will backpack Soldier Ridge 5 miles, set up a base camp at Kingsley Lake, a shady campsite surrounded by trees, and stay for 3 nights, hiking out on the 4th day. Flowing water to purify for drinking, not much to swim in. Bring all your own meals for 4 days and 3 nights, bear canister optional. Bring several containers for water, hot and dry country. Wear sturdy hiking boots, bring rain gear. Class M-5-B. Hike limit 10. You must be an intermediate backpacker, rough country. For directions to trail head & time call leader. Bring 10 essentials. By reservation only. Leader Val Nordeman, 707-477-4199, nordeman@willitsonline.com.

Sat. June 16 - Sonoma Group. Singles Potluck in Rohnert Park.

Join us at Elaines, 5 pm for social

hour, dinner 6. Bring a dish and beverage to share and \$1 for the club fund. No place setting is needed if you wash the ones provided. From 101, take Rohnert Park Expressway exit. Turn East onto RP Expwy, proceed thru 6 lights then turn right onto Snyder Lane. At next stop light turn right onto Southwest Blvd. Go one short block to Avenida Cala. Turn left (south) to the first drive on the left. 7064 Avenida Cala is behind 7062 in a row of townhouses, 2nd on the left. Guest and on-street parking. Info Elaine before 8:30 pm 665-9861.

Fri.-Sun. June 15-17 - Santa Rosa Wilderness Trail Maintenance (1 hr north of Winnemucca).

Join Graham Stafford & Pat Bruce of Friends of Nevada Wilderness. We will be building an enclosure on a spring near Mahogany Creek. This is north of the Black Rock NCA near the Summit Lake reservation. It is a family friendly event. All meals included except lunch. For details contact Leader Graham Stafford, 775-686-8478, graham@grahamstafford.com. Great Basin Group-Toiyabe Chapter

Sun. June 17 - Lake Group (with Friends of Boggs Mountain). Boggs Mountain State Forest.

Hike various trails. Appropriate footwear required, water/snack advised. Neutered/Spayed dogs on leash welcome. Class M-6-7-A. Meet 9 am-kiosk-main parking area. Entrance at Forestry Road 1.3 miles north of Cobb Village on Hwy 175. Leader Boone Lodge fobm@mediacombb.net (707) 928-5819. Bad weather cancels.

Sat. June 23 - North Group. Trillium Falls Trail, Redwood National Park.

Bring your kids and walk this lovely loop winding through many memorial redwood groves and past the trail's namesake waterfall. If we are lucky we may see some elk in the meadow. Wear sturdy shoes and bring liquids and lunch. No strollers. Class E-2.8-A. Carpools: 9:00 a.m. Arcata Safeway parking lot, or trailhead 10:00 a.m (Hwy 101 north, exit Davison Road, follow sign to parking lot). Leader Allison 707-268-8767.

Sat.-Sun. June 23-24 - 1st Benson Hut Work Party.

Benson Hut work party involves hiking 3 miles to the Benson Hut Saturday morning, hut maintenance Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, 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

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, (carolvrs@sonic.net) by the 8th of the month. All leaders must coordinate their outings with their Group Outings Chair.



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leader Jim Gannon (707)-525-1052 jgannon99@sbcglobal.net for signup or questions.

Fri.-Sun. June 29-July 1 - Emigrant Trails in the Black Rock Desert.

We'll probably leave Reno, NV, Friday evening and head to Double Hot Springs about 30 miles north of Gerlach, NV to meet a group of Trails West people who are doing a survey of the Emigrant trail between Double Hot Springs and Mud Meadows about 20 miles north. Some hiking, some driving, some time in hot springs. We'll probably visit the ghost town site of Hardin City and the Lassen-Clapper Murder site nearby. Sorry, no RV's or Trailers, 4WD strongly preferred. Sign up 6/15-6/27. Leader: David Book, 775-843-6443 Great Basin Group-Toiyabe Chapter

Fri.-Mon. July 13-16 - Highland Range Nevada Service.

Once again we partner with ranger John from the Ely, Nevada office of BLM for a scintillating Wilderness service project in Highland Ridge, just south of Great Basin National Park. Help find and mark old historic trail, clean up aspen grove in order to keep vehicles on designated cherry stem route, historic Arboglyph inventory in aspen stand, maybe also put up a small post and rail fence, route obliteration/rehab etc. Good work at a beautiful location. Sign up with Vicky Hoover (vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org, 415-977-5527). Central commissary offered. CNRCC Wilderness Committee

Sat. July 14 - A walk at Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve in Vallejo.

We will walk to the highest point on Mare Island and encounter various wildflowers and spectacular views towards the Carquinez Strait and San Pablo Bay with the likelihood of seeing fledgling ospreys and great blue herons along the way. The route also includes various historical features along the way. This walk is a fairly easy 3.0 mile r/t walk on paved roads. Class E-4-A. 9:30- 11:00. Take U.S. 101, I-80 or Hwy 29 to Highway 37 and take the Mare Island exit just west of Vallejo. Follow Walnut Ave. south to 'G' St. (1st stop sign) and turn left. Take the 2nd right at Nimitz and go to 15th S. stop sign and turn right. Go to Railroad Ave. and turn left. Follow Railroad through the South Gate to the Park kiosk and park along the road. Leader Brian Collett 530-220-3121

Sat. July 14 - North Group. Ma-le'l Dunes, Ledik Trail to Du'k Loop Trail.

Come with your kids and explore this BLM and Fish & Wildlife Service Cooperative Management Area. Experience a biologically diverse dune community, one of the most pristine in the Pacific Northwest. We will see a coastal forest, sand

dunes and the beach. Wear sturdy shoes and bring liquids and lunch. No strollers. Class E-1.5-A. Meet: 10:00 a.m. Ma-le'l Dunes South parking area: Take Samoa Blvd (Hwy 255), turn onto Young Lane, follow sign to parking lot (park near restroom). Leader Allison 707-268-8767.

Sun.-Sat. July 15-21 - Mendo Group. Yolla Bolly Wilderness Backpack Trip.

Backpack 7-8 miles per day with 1 lay over day into the Yolla Bolly Wilderness to North Yolla Bolly Spring, one of the most beautiful spots anywhere. Spend 1 night on the trail at Frying Pan (an extinct lake that is now a large meadow with frequent wildlife sightings) Spend two nights at the Spring which is at about 7500' elevation, with wide scenic views of the entire Yolla Bolly range. We can day hike to the fire tower, or just hang out. We'll hike out with one night on the trail. Bring all your own meals for 6 days and 4 nights, and optional bear canister. Wear sturdy hiking boots, bring rain gear. Bring several water bottles. Must be intermediate hiker, able to carry a 30+lb. pack. Terrains vary, 1500 overall elevation gain. Class S-15-B. Meet 8 a.m. Highway 101 intersection with Covelo Road. Pull out is on the east side of 101. Covelo Road is about 10 miles north of Willits, 10 miles south of Laytonville. We'll leave 8:30 a.m. for the Covelo Ranger Station, where we'll leave cars parked for the duration of the trip. Hike limit 10. By reservation only. Leader Val Nordeman 707-477-4199, nordeman@willitsonline.com

Fri.-Sun. July 20 - 22 - Napa Group/Sequoia Paddlers. Loon Lake Canoe / Kayak Campout for artists/doodlers and Others.

3 days, 2 nights camping on Loon Lake, off Hwy 50, east of Placerville. Bring your paints, pastels, pencils... whether you are an accomplished artist, or like me, someone who just likes to put color on paper, this trip is for you. We will go and look for inspiration on the water or on land. Partners not interested in the arts or contemplation are also welcome. Leader: Isabelle 707-253 2293 izstguily@gmail.com Co-leader Carl Inglin 707-538 8271 chinglin@sonic.net

Fri.-Sun. July 20-22 - Little High Rock Canyon Wilderness.

We will be rebuilding a culvert and doing route rehabilitation on the edge of Little High Rock Canyon Wilderness in the Black Rock Desert High Rock Canyon Immigrant Trails NCA. All meals except lunch provided. For details contact Graham Stafford 775-686-8478 graham@grahamstafford.com or Pat Bruce of Friends of Nevada Wilderness pbruce@nevadawilderness.org.

Outings Chair Report

I am happy to announce two Mendo Group leaders in training. Both live in Ukiah. Jonah Freeman (retired physician) is a transplant from Santa Rosa. He has lived in Ukiah about 6 years. I met Jonah when I came up for Yvonne's wonderful nature walk. Jonah will be doing day hikes after he is certified. Shauna Thompson has family in Ukiah but has been studying in Vermont & Washington DC. She is interested in Climate Change and Green Technology. She will be looking for employment in the North Bay but will be free to lead hikes on weekends back in the Ukiah area. I look forward to working with them to finish their leadership requirements.

On a sad note I found out recently that Steve Stockstader died in October or November last year. Steve led hikes at Ridgewood Ranch for Sierra Club 2007-2010. He lived on the property owned by the Church of the Golden Rule. Steve previously had been part of the Seattle Mountaineering Group, and took EMT and Search & Rescue training. I went on many of Steve's walks at Ridgewood. Steve knew the history and flora & fauna of Ridgewood. On one particularly interesting hike we walked part of the railroad track (a



Mendocino Group Walk: introductions. Leader Yvonne Kramer.

step back in time). I learned so much from him and miss his wonderful leadership qualities. I called Tracy Livingston, the president of the Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation, to ask if Sierra Club leaders could still lead hikes there. He said yes and as soon as we have the leader's trained we will all meet and go over logistics. There are not many places in the Ukiah-Willits area to go hiking and I am so fortunate to have met Tracy.

The climate change is a challenge for hike leaders. Water sources, fog patterns, strong winds, extreme temperature changes are unpredictable sometimes. Always listen to weather reports before attempting any overnight trip.

Support your local parks this summer. Many are having celebrations. In Sonoma County we are celebrating the Russian exploration and museums & parks have had many wonderful educational talks & exhibits.

See you on the trail. Have a wonderful summer.

-CAROL VELLUTINI, REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR

org. Great Basin Group-Toiyabe Chapter

Sat., July 21 - Sonoma Group. Armstrong Redwood State Reserve / Austin Creek Hike.

Loop hike of Austin Creek trails via Armstrong Redwood State Reserve.

Moderate pace, 6 miles with elevation gain. Bring lunch, water and good hiking boots. Hike starts 9:30am. Class M-6-B Carpools 8:15am meet at PG&E Park&Ride on River Road. Trailhead Visitor Center at park entrance. Leader Jim Gannon (707)-525-1052 jgannon99@sbcglobal.net. Heavy rain cancels.

Sat. July 21 - Sonoma Group Singles. Afternoon Swim and Potluck in Santa Rosa.

Karin hosts the annual swim/hot tub and potluck/ Mission Lakes Homeowners pool/clubhse. Come 3pm to swim with other residents and dine with Sierra Club Singles 5:30pm at the pool (same as clubhse). Swimmers/hot tub users will be asked to sign a release of liability and to follow posted rules. Bring a towel, sunscreen, swimsuit, food and beverage to share, \$1 for the club fund. Dishes will be provided if you help to clean up. Please bring foods not requiring refrigeration or heating up. From 101, head east on Hwy 12. Continue on Farmer's Lane to 4th St that turns into 12 again heading east. At Mission Blvd, turn left and make an immediate left into the complex. Park anywhere except by the mailboxes. A map is located next to the mailboxes as you drive

in. Meet at Clubhse/Pool. Carpool when possible. Info. Karen before 8:30pm 664-1448.

Sun., July 22 - Sonoma Group. Mt Tam Hike.

Loop hike from Pan Toll. Bring lunch, 2 liters of water and good hiking boots. 12+ mi hike with 2000'+ elevation gain. Hike starts 9:00am. Class S-12-C Carpools meet 7:30am Rohnert Park Park&Ride (South side of 101). Trailhead is Mountain Home. Leader Jim Gannon (707)-525-

1052 jgannon99@sbcglobal.net.

Sat. July 28 - Ft. Ross State Park Cultural Heritage Weekend.

Support your state parks. Celebrate the cultural history at Fort Ross with costumed participants and interactive activities, highlighting the area's history as well as celebrating contemporary culture through song, dance, scenarios, and special events. Tall ships from

"Outings"

continued on page 8

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.

Fast-pace with few or no stops:

Jim Gannon Paul Bozzo Carol Magill

Moderate-pace with few stops:

Carl Inglin Penny Proteau Don Anderson Steve Devoto
Isabelle Saint-Guily Lorrie Lagasse Boone Lodge Val Nordeman
Chip Bouril Doug Condrotte Xandra Manns Jackie Farley

Moderate-pace with more frequent stops:

Bill Arenander Pete McGee Tim Bartice Bill Knight Susan Whiteside
Carol Vellutini Yvonne Kramer Martin Farber Brian Collett
Jean Crossley Ken Roberts Melinda Groom Tom McFarling
Nanette DeDonato

Slower-pace: Gina Hitchcock Allison Bronkall Jim Carr

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. June 4 - Sonoma Group.

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

- The Climate & Energy Committee meets at 4:30, Info: contactShirley,shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, 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: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net

Thurs. June 7 - Solano Group ExCom.

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

Tues. June 12 - North Group ExCom.

North Group Sierra Club is holding its monthly Executive Committee meeting. All are welcome to discuss local conservation issues between 6:45 and 8:45 p.m. Meet at Adorni Center Conference Room on Eureka Waterfront. For more information, call Gregg at (707) 826-3740.

Tues. June 19 - Napa Group ExCom.

7 p.m. Our location varies; it is generally at a member's home. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting should contact the chair, Nancy Tamarisk at nancy@aya.yale.edu

Wed. June 20 - The Sonoma Group Water Committee.

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

Mon. July 2 - Sonoma Group.

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

- The Climate & Energy Committee meets at 4:30, Info: [contact Shirley,shirlgirl707@yahoo.com](mailto:contactShirley,shirlgirl707@yahoo.com), 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: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net

Thurs. July 5 - 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. July 10 - North Group ExCom.

Monthly North Group Sierra Club Executive Committee meeting. See June 12 for details.

Sat., July 14 - Redwood Chapter ExCom.

Location: Willits. Conservation Committee meets at 10 a.m., ExCom meets 1-3 p.m. Info: Jay, halcomb@sonic.net

Wed. July 18 - The Sonoma Group Water Committee.

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

Wed. Aug. 15 - The Sonoma Group Water Committee.

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

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.

Open Seat on ExCom. The Sonoma Group ExCom has an opening to fill! Folks who like fun and who are interested in being Sierra Club policy wonks should contact Dan Kerbein at dkerbein@sonic.net or come to an Executive Committee meeting on the first Mondays of the month, 6:30, at 55A Ridgeway Ave, Santa Rosa.

Help the Sonoma Group Water Committee! Come to our meetings at 7:00 PM at the Environmental Center held 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 waste waters. We are currently discussing Water Fluoridation, The Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Plan, and Russian River Ecology. Come to our meetings with your suggestions and to help in this enterprise. To confirm meeting dates or if you are not able to attend our meetings, you may e-mail Len Holt at lholt@sonic.net. Help protect the quality of our water for people, wild life, fish and other aquatic life, promote water conservation and intelligent reuse. Contact Len Holt at lholt@sonic.net

The Climate & Energy Committee is getting Amped up! Join our discussion on the 1st Monday/Month at 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa, get Charged about community renewable energy programs. Contact Shirley Johnson-Foell Climate & Energy Committee Forum-Chair. The next meetings are April 2nd and May 7th at 4:30. Email: shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, home 206-1138, or call the office 544-7651.

Climate Ride 2012

Eureka to San Francisco

Sept. 9-13 • 5 days • 320 miles

You can enjoy an incredible 5-day bicycle ride in Northern California while supporting Sierra Club California.

Climate Ride is a fully supported bicycle ride from Fortuna to San Francisco under towering redwoods, through the Russian River Wine Country, and along the Pacific Coast Bicycle Route.

Climate Ride is more than a bike trip. It's an inspiring journey with 150 like-minded people who are united by their passion for sustainability, renewable energy, and bicycles—the ultimate carbon-free form of transportation. Climate Ride also features an acclaimed nightly speakers series, known as the “green conference on wheels”, where we hear from bright minds in policy, advocacy and innovation.

Please Sign Up for Climate Ride 2012 and Support Sierra Club California

Registration for Climate Ride is \$75 (which includes a beautiful jersey and more), and then you raise at least \$2400 to participate in the five-day, all-inclusive event. The ride is fully-supported by a team of talented leader-hosts, bike mechanics, medics, and massage therapists.

When you sign up, you'll be joining many other people who want to do something to help create a better future for us all. Climate Ride is a great way to get involved and experience an amazing adventure, powered by your own energy. The best bet is to sign up early not only so you have time to fundraise and train, but also because spots fill up!

Visit www.climateide.org to find out about the route, tips for getting in shape, and finding sponsors for your trip.

Everyone who registers for the ride gets to choose which organization they will be raising money for – and we hope you will choose Sierra Club California!

Please visit www.SierraClubCalifornia.org to learn about the work the Sacramento advocates do at the Capitol and state agencies. If you would like to learn more about the event or other ways to support Sierra Club California, please contact Vicki Lee at 510-741-1201.



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.

Clair Tappaan Lodge is the perfect summer base camp for anyone who enjoys the wide variety of activities offered by the Tahoe area. Explore wildflower gardens and expansive views while hiking the nearby Pacific Crest Trail. Short hikes to secluded mountain lakes begin at the Lodge and are perfect for introducing the family to the mountains. Donner Lake offers great kayaking, swimming, and fishing while Donner Summit has long been a destination for rock climbers and mountain bikers.

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

See you on Donner Summit...



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.

Napa Group Report

Napa Pipe: At Last the Planning Commission Rules

After extensive public comment, the County Planning Commission has rejected the developer's proposal for 2000 housing units at the Napa Pipe site in unincorporated Napa County. Three of the commissioners supported the slimmed-down county staff proposal for 700 to 900 housing units at the site. The Sierra Club has opposed the 2000 units based on several factors, including expansion of population into the unincorporated county, use of groundwater for urban growth rather than agriculture, and high flooding and earthquake hazards.

But the Board of Supervisors is the real decision-maker! They can choose to disregard the Planning Commission recommendation. Make the Sierra Club position count! Contact your Supervisor, write a letter to the editor, or display a lawn sign opposing the creation of a suburban sprawl area at Napa Pipe! Contact me, nancy@aya.yale.edu to get your very own lawn sign delivered to your house!

3-Way Supervisor Race: No Sierra Club Endorsement.

Mark Luce, County Supervisor for District 2, faces two challengers this spring. Mark Van Gorter and Julianna Inman, both sitting on the Napa City Council. Sierra Club has endorsed two of the three, Luce and Van Gorter in prior races. Each person has strengths and weaknesses, and each has shown past environmental leadership: for example, Luce, by staunch support of the Parks and Open Space District, Inman by early opposition to Napa Pipe, and Van Gorter by advocacy of green building standards. With a 2/3 majority required for endorsement, the Napa Sierra Club was unable to settle on one candidate. If the race goes to a runoff in November, we will reopen our endorsement deliberations.

Sierra Club Loses Lot Line Adjustment Ordinance Appeal

The Sierra Club lawsuit against Napa County over its Lot Line Adjustment ordinance has ended in a defeat for the Club. We had contended that a County ordinance which allows developers to rearrange the boundaries of numerous parcels without undergoing public or environmental review, as long as they only submit the changes in groups of four, was illegal under state law. The judge disagreed. Unfortunately there are several areas in Napa County, such as Pope Valley, where developers are now free to pursue redesigning multiple parcels to accommodate luxury home subdivisions or other projects without any review for the public good.

County Takeover of Bothe and Bale Grist Mill Parks

It's official! The County Parks & Open Space District will take over management of two Napa County State Parks, which were slated for closure due to budgetary constraints. To support this effort visit their website at napaoutdoors.org.

Road Tax Referendum

The Napa County Transportation & Planning Agency is moving ahead with a proposal for a sales tax increase for road maintenance to be placed on the November ballot. We do not have a position on this proposal, but we do have concerns. The tax will not take effect until 2018, so taxpayers will face millions of dollars in deferred maintenance expenses. We also would like to see more solid funding dedicated to the County Parks and Open Space District, and the Flood Control Project over the long term.

Help Us Go Green

Send your e-mail address to nancy@aya.yale.edu to receive our e-mail newsletters.

—NANCY TAMARISK, NAPA GROUP CHAIR

Lake Group Report

Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area Gets Unanimous Support!

Lake Group is delighted to be able to announce that on April 17 the county Board of Supervisors formally adopted a resolution of support for the proposed NCA, and they did so unanimously! This innovative proposal offers immense potential benefits not only to Lake County but also to the whole region— it's good for the land, good for the economy, good for the people. Passage has been a top Lake Group (and Redwood Chapter) priority for at least four years, and the Board vote, which came after extensive public comment including that of Lake Group Chair Ed Robey, was a historic moment for everyone who cares about good stewardship of our public lands. Everyone is now eagerly awaiting an announcement from Congressman Mike Thompson that he has introduced enabling legislation in Congress.

A Reprieve for Anderson Marsh State Historic Park

In more good news, an announcement was recently made that the State Parks Department has given preliminary approval to a proposal from the Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association (AMIA) to operate AMSHP for the next three years, with the hope that by that time a source of stable long term funding to support the entire Parks system will have been assured. The Park contains Clear Lake's largest remaining natural wetland as well as much additional important wildlife habitat, is an important venue for outdoor recreation such as hiking, kayaking, and birdwatching, and furthermore protects a wealth of significant archeological and historic cultural resources, with human habitation dating back thousands of years. AMIA is now knee deep in the major fundraising effort needed to back up their commitment, with significant financial support from many individuals and organizations, including Lake Group.

2012 Hitch Migration

The annual spring spawning run of this remarkable fish (*Ivalia exilicauda*), a California Species of Special concern unique to Clear Lake) was delayed this year, first by drought conditions that reduced most creekbeds to a trickle, then by heavy rains producing heavy flows and turbid conditions in Clear Lake's tributaries. Although predator action was observed since the middle of March, the first sighting of small schools of spawning hitch did not occur until April 5 (much later than usual) and the main run didn't start until several days after that. The good news is that hitch were seen in several creeks where they have not been observed for many years, and that tribal grant-funded fish tagging operations took place for the second year in a row. For more information, including striking photographs of this year's run and those of previous years, visit www.lakelive.info/chicouncil.

Sierra Club Opposes Measure D

As recommended by the unanimous vote of the Lake Group ExCom on April 4, the Club has taken a position opposing Lake County Measure D, which would establish regulations on the cultivation of medical marijuana that we consider grossly inadequate from an environmental perspective. For details, please see the article on page one in this edition of the Needles.

—VICTORIA BRANDON, LAKE GROUP

Sierra Club California & Angeles Chapter

Present

Historical Virginia And Nearby Areas

September 23 to September 30, 2012

If you always wanted to see some of the most famous historical spots in and around the State of Virginia, this is the trip for you. We will fly into Washington Dulles Airport, then bus to the restored Revolutionary Era Town of Williamsburg; Jamestown, the site of the first English settlement in America; and Yorktown Battlefield where George Washington won the climatic battle of the Revolutionary War. From there, we will tour such historical sites as Appomattox Court House where Lee surrendered his army to U S Grant; to Monticello, home of Thomas Jefferson; to the Shenandoah Valley, Luray Caverns, the Skyline Drive and the Appalachian Trail; Harpers Ferry, site of John Browns revolt; then explore Gettysburg Battlefield, the turning point of the Civil War; and finish up with Fort McHenry, site of the Star Spangled Banner and the City of Annapolis and the U. S. Naval Academy and maybe even a cruise on the Chesapeake.

The trip will be 8 days, 7 nights. Trip cost is \$1250 for SC members (\$1350 for non-members). \$500 will reserve your spot on the trip with the remainder due July 1, 2012. Trip includes all lodging costs, transportation to and from Dulles Airport and while on the trip, all admission fees to scheduled locations and all breakfasts. Lunches and dinners and airfare to and from Washington Dulles are not included.

For information, visit http://sierraclubcalifornia.org/2012/02/01/historical_virginia_trip/ call (949-768-3610), email (mikesapp@cox.net), or write Mike Sappingfield at 26352 Via Juanita, Mission Viejo, CA 92691. If you prefer to use postal delivery instead of email, please include 2 self-addressed stamped envelopes (SASE). To register, send \$500 (made out to Sierra Club) with the application forms to Mike at the above address. Leaders: Mary Morales, Mike & Patty Sappingfield.



Sonoma Group Report



Jessica Jones at Sonoma Group's Earth Day table.

Subject to interviews and a recommendation by the Political Committee, the Sonoma Group ExCom voted to endorse Ernie Carpenter for 5th District Supervisor. At our March meeting the Sonoma Group ExCom followed the Political Committee's recommendation and approved a dual endorsement of Susan Gorin and Mark Bromfitt for for the 1st District Supervisor, and for the 3rd District endorsed the incumbent Shirley Zane, whom we also endorsed during the last election.

We issued a letter of support for the cause of SOS Trees, to call a halt to clear-cutting by PG&E of trees under the pathways of power lines.

We voted to support Sierra Club national policy regarding fluoridation, rather than sign on to the position paper drafted by the Sonoma County Water Coalition (SCWC). After discussion with SCWC Chair Stephen Fuller-Rowell at our April 2 meeting, it was agreed that Stephen should move ahead with his efforts working jointly with the Sonoma Group Water Committee to develop a position and contact the National Sierra Club. The issue will be revisited at the June ExCom meeting.

Campus/Student Outreach Chair Jessica Jones reports that an Alternative Transportation Survey is out to Santa Rosa Junior College students and faculty and a real time ride share program called "We Go Sonoma" will start in August. A composting program will be tested on the Petaluma Campus.

ExCom Chair Dan Kerbein tabled at the KBBF-FM Fiesta event. We distributed literature in English and Spanish, and signed up a new Sierra Club member. Dan and Jessica tabled at Santa Rosa's Earth Day event on April 22, which was well attended.

—DAN KERBEIN, SONOMA GROUP CHAIR

A Significant Win in Potrero Hills Lawsuit!

In our ongoing litigation battle with Solano County and Potrero Hills Landfill over enforcement of a voter initiative to limit trash importations into Solano County we had a significant win in April. Federal District court once again decided that jurisdiction over this complicated case belongs in California State court, where we are winning. Most significantly, our opponents have declined to appeal the decision so we can concentrate our efforts on the State Court of Appeals, where there should be a hearing later this summer or fall.

The garbage companies efforts to sponsor State legislation blocking the ability of local communities to control the flow of trash into their communities remains on the back burner. We are diligently monitoring legislative activity and hope that our garbage company opponents realize their efforts are futile.

We appreciate any and all support for this major judicial battle.

–Duane Kromm, 827 Coventry Ln., Fairfield, CA 94533
707-434-0316 Home & FAX or 707-580-7321 Cell

Our Volunteers:

Thanks to Nancy McCoy, Adam Mangosing and Aaron Koford staffing the 4/21 Paper shredding at VALCORE

Earth Day – Vallejo – Sierra Club staffed a table at the Vallejo Event and we taught handmade paper making. Thank you: Andrew May, Sara Harmon, Tracy Capellone, Beverly McGain and Jane Bogner.

Solano Breeze Corner

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

sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com 707-319-6398

VALCORE Recycling and Confidential Paper Shredding in 2012

Solano Group will be working every 3rd Saturday at 38 Sheridan Street, Vallejo from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (May 19, June 16, July 21, Sept 15, Oct 20, and Dec 15). There is a charge of \$10 per twenty pounds of paper shredded (maximum: 100 pounds). We need help tending the money and directing traffic.

We may be able to earn \$300 by staffing Vallejo Events such as Juneteenth on June 16. The event is by the Vallejo Library from 11 to 6. We need people who could commit to 3 hour shifts. Work entails monitoring all the recycling and garbage (Equipment provided). Call Jane ASAP if you're available at (707) 319-6398

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.

We need Sierra Club supervisors to help other groups tend the garden on August 25 and October 27.

Solano Group Volunteer Opportunities:

Membership Co-Chair – About 4 hours a month, mostly computer work.

Web Page Master – We need someone who knows front page to update the Solano Page (about 2 hours every other month).

VALCORE Recycling Board Alternate – May need to attend one meeting per year.

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 members to help carry the load. Call Jane for information. (707)319-6398.

HELP PAY FOR OUR LANDFILL LAWSUIT.

(Our attorney's fees are 3000 cans per hour)

Please bring your CRV – CA Cash Refund containers down to VALCORE (38 Sheridan St. Vallejo, Mon - Sat, 10am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 4:30pm.

OR Cash them in at your local recycle center and send us a check for the refund amount.

CONTRIBUTORS: DUANE KROMM, JANE BOGNER

EDITED BY GREG PETERSON

North Group Report

Science Project Receives Award

For the sixth year, the North Group sponsored an award at the annual Humboldt County Science Fair, held in mid-March. The \$50 first prize for the best project dealing with environmental issues went to "Land Use and Stream Health," a project by Paloma Herrera-Thomas, a 7th-grade student at Jacoby Creek School. Paloma set out to measure a number of water-quality indicators in three different watersheds; Brown Creek, located in Prairie Creek State Park, and Jacoby and Janes creeks in Arcata. After interviewing local environmental professionals, she gathered a welter of data on indicators such as nitrogen levels, pH, dissolved metals, and bacterial growth on three occasions: a light-rain day, a sunny day, and a heavy rainstorm. Not surprisingly, the Brown Creek data were the lowest, in spite of its name. Jacoby Creek, draining the largest area with the most intensive agricultural practices, showed the highest levels of pollutants, and also the largest increases during rain events. Janes Creek showed high levels of nitrogen, and high pH, likely due to human causes, like grazing and runoff. Paloma's display showed an enormous amount of work, an inspired approach, and a well-organized thoroughness making her "citizen science" accessible to anyone. Brava!

Klamath Refuge Presentation

On April 23rd the North Group offered an evening program in Arcata focused on how the world renowned Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges are being managed. This winter the Bureau for Reclamation cut off water to two key Klamath Refuges in order to store water for irrigation. This led to severe overcrowding as 80% of the Pacific Flyway funneled through the Basin heading north. Overcrowding created perfect conditions for avian cholera which became epidemic. An estimated 10,000-20,000 birds – including migrating snow and white fronted geese – died on Lower Klamath and Tule Lake NWRs.

The main presentation by Del Norte resident and senior Oregon Wild biologist Wendell Wood focused on water management and marsh restoration efforts in the Upper Klamath River Basin. Marsh restoration around Upper Klamath Lake has not been very effective because of land subsidence since the wetlands were drained and converted to agriculture. Wood also talked about commercial agriculture on Tule Lake and Lower Klamath refuges. These are the only refuges in the country where commercial agriculture is allowed because of a 1950's era law. Wood and Oregon Wild have long campaigned for elimination of commercial agriculture – and the pesticides used in those operations

– from the refuges

Local fisheries biologist Pat Higgins then presented information on management of ESA endangered Shortnose and Lost River suckers on Tule Lake and Clear Lake NWRs. As part of the Klamath Basin water deal known as the KBRA, Tule Lake and Clear Lake refuges have been removed from critical habitat for these two endangered fish. Dropping ESA Critical Habitat restrictions in the Lost River Basin frees the Bureau of Reclamation to maximize irrigation water delivery there. The Lost River Basin has no outlet but has been connected to the Klamath River Basin through a series of canals and pumps built for irrigation and to drain marshes.

You can learn more about why the Klamath Refuges are important, about the bird deaths, and about ESA management on the refuges and in the Basin at these links:

- <http://www.oregonwild.org/waters/klamath/refuges>
- <http://www.klamather.org/media.html>
- <http://klamblog.blogspot.com/2012/05/kbras-brave-new-world-public-again.html>
- <http://klamblog.blogspot.com/2012/01/klamblog-report-brave-new-world-of.html>

Road Through Eureka Marsh Dead

A road opposed by North Group for more than 10 years was killed by a 3-2 vote of the Eureka City Council on April 17. The so-called Waterfront Drive Extension (WDE) was proposed to be built through wetlands that Eureka purchased via Coastal Conservancy grants. Touted as congestion relief for Highway 101, the 9,000-foot, 2-lane road would have required filling part of the PALCO (aka Eureka) Marsh complex that the City has been improving for wildlife habitat.

Several years ago, California Coastal Commission staff explicitly advised Eureka to stop spending staff time and money on the project, as it could never be permitted under the Coastal Act due to unavoidable impacts to Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHAs) and wetlands. Since the project was proposed in 2001, North Group has submitted extensive written comments and given oral testimony against WDE. City staff finally was convinced that the road had a "likely fatal flaw" that would bar it from receiving CCC approval. Staff asked the City Council for direction on whether to continue expending resources on WDE, which led to the majority vote. (NOTE: City staff is actively pursuing reprogramming of WDE funds to build a multi-use trail along the Eureka Waterfront. Less than 2 weeks after April 17 vote, North Group and other conservation groups were invited to a meeting to discuss options for the trail.)

–SUE LESKIW, NED FORSYTH AND FELICE PACE,
NORTH GROUP

Mendocino Group Report

The lawsuit challenging the Willits Bypass was finally filed in federal court on May 1.

The suit was joined in the last few days by EPIC, giving more weight to the Complaint from the North. The Redwood Chapter and the Center for Biological Diversity are also parties along with the Willits Environmental Center (WEC), which is party to only one of the three claims because of a prior agreement.

The suit charges violations of the National Environmental Quality Act, the Clean Water Act and the Administrative Procedure Act. The defendants include Caltrans, The Federal Highway Administration and the Army Corps of Engineers. The Complaint says that the Mitigation Plan is insufficient because it is based on the 2006 Environmental Impact Statement, which precedes decisions to build the Bypass in "phases", funding for which only the first phase is available. This effectively turns the project into a two lane bypass. Alternatives to a four lane highway were never considered. A two lane bypass was never considered as an alternative to a four lane project. These considerations are required under law when evaluating the least damaging option to a project that will harm the environment, damage in this case to nearly 100 acres of wetlands, threatening endangered plants and fish habitat. This phased project is a major alteration to the original proposal and warrants proper public review and comment.

The mitigation plan itself is being challenged, which the lawsuit claims has "substantially changed the project and will cause additional environmental impacts". The mitigation plan involves 2000 acres in the Little Lake valley, some or all of which are sometimes under water, or wetlands.

The project is projected to cost \$200 million, money "which should be building efficient public transit and maintaining existing roads rather than using the money clinging to outdated visions of new freeways," according to Ellen Drell of the WEC, who has followed the project for twenty years.

The Mendocino Group wishes to acknowledge the work of the late Hannah Burkhardt who for many years opposed this project.

–MARY WALSH, MENDOCINO GROUP CHAIR

Redwood Needles

August Deadline: Due July 8th

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

odavison@comcast.net

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

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



Sierra Club Endorsements

National Candidates:

- Susan Adams**
Congress, District 2
- Jared Huffman**
Congress, District 2
- John Garamendi**
Congress, District 3
- Mike Thompson**
Congress, District 5

California Legislature:

- Lois Wolk**
Senate, District 3
- Wes Chesbro**
Assembly, District 2
- Mariko Yamada**
Assembly, District 4
- Michael Allen**
Assembly, District 10
- Susan Bonilla**
Assembly, District 14

**See pages 4 and 5 for
Local Candidate Statements**

See page 1 for "NO on Measure D" statement

Please VOTE for the Environment on June 5th

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Redwood Needles
Sierra Club
Redwood Chapter
P.O. Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Local Candidates

- Lake County:**
- Victoria Brandon**
Supervisor, District 1
- Sonoma County:**
- Susan Gorin**
Supervisor, District 1
- NO on Measure D**
Marijuana Cultivation Initiative
- Mark Bramfitt**
Supervisor, District 1
- Solano County:**
- Shirlee Zane**
Supervisor, District 3
- Katy Miessner**
Supervisor, District 1
- Ernie Carpenter**
Supervisor, District 5
- Erin Hannigan**
Supervisor, District 1
- Humboldt County:**
- Linda Seifert**
Supervisor, District 2
- Clif Clendenen**
Supervisor, District 2
- Skip Thomson**
Supervisor, District 5
- Mark Lovelace**
Supervisor, District 3