

# Redwood Needles



Volume 56 Number 6

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

Dec. 2015/Jan. 2016

## Redwood Chapter and Group Executive Committee Election

A Special Section of the December 2015 Redwood Needles Newsletter

See Page D of this Special Section (back page) for detailed election information.

### REDWOOD CHAPTER

#### Keith Kaulum

I am again a candidate for Chapter ExCom because many environmental issues in the North Coast continue to confront us, and experienced volunteer leadership is hard to find these days. I presently serve as Chapter Legal Chair and as a member of the Political, Water, Forestry and Finance Committees. Also I am the Chapter Alternate Council of Club Leaders Rep. to the National Sierra Club.

Presently we are in court in Sonoma County, along with the Sierra Club Sonoma Group, and others, to challenge the Sonoma County VESCO Ordinance which allows the establishment of new vineyards by the Ag. Commissioner on a discretionary Permit basis without environmental review or any public input. The recent surge of new vineyards and added tasting facilities have highlighted the need for environmental review of these large projects. I would like to continue this legal effort to a hopefully successful conclusion. In addition, the Chapter may provide advice and support for other legal actions brought by our six Groups.

I would appreciate your vote.  
Keith Kaulum  
707-538-5569

#### Victoria Brandon

We've had some remarkable conservation victories lately, with the expansion of the Cordell Banks and Greater Farallones Marine Sanctuaries and —especially— with the creation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain national monument, but the combination of an expanding economy and accelerating climate change is creating new challenges. While to look ahead to participating in an exciting new Wildness proposal, we're also working for community-supported clean energy, expanding partnerships to create and maintain new trails, and trying to keep our forests and oak woodland from being destroyed by unsustainable new development. At the same time we're trying to bring our communications strategies into the 21st century and seizing every opportunity to connect with you, our members.

I'm currently attempting to guide Redwood Chapter through these tricky times as chapter chair —and asking for your vote for another two-year term on the executive committee. Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions, suggestions, concerns.

Victoria Brandon  
707-994-1931  
vbrandon@lakelive.info

### SONOMA COUNTY GROUP

#### Adrienne Leihy

I have had the opportunity of serving on the Sierra Club Sonoma Group Executive Committee for the last year. During that time, I have served as a liaison for students of Santa Rosa Junior College, the largest college in the northern San Francisco Bay area. I have advocated, and continue to advocate for the continuation of the Sonoma County free bus program for Sonoma County students to help make education affordable and accessible for our community while reducing: traffic congestion, parking demand, CO2 emissions and excessive wear on roads. Recently I have been assisting with the Redwood Chapter's social media outreach and look forward to continue doing so in order to help keep our community informed of our work as well as local through international environmental concerns.

Prior to joining the Executive Committee, I assisted with various environmental efforts including the campaign for the creation of Sonoma Clean Power and the campaign to ban single use bags in Sonoma County. I continue to maintain the Sonoma County: Ban the Bag Facebook page and to help inform our community about the environmental impacts of plastic pollution. Thank you for your support.

Adrienne Leihy  
adriennenow@sbcglobal.net  
707-536-1410

Park. I've been a Sierra Club member for 20 years and have lived in Sonoma Valley since 1988. I've advocated for wildness protection throughout California and led backpack trips for the Redwood Chapter and San Francisco Bay Chapter. Over the past two decades, I've worked as a professional environmental advocate with non-profits based outside Sonoma County, including Turtle Island Restoration Network and Friends of the Earth. This year I joined Greenbelt Alliance at the Regional Director for the North Bay where I can now focus full-time on to protect greenbelts and encourage smart growth in Sonoma County and the North Bay. I ask for your vote so I can continue serving on the Sonoma Group ExCom. Please join us the first Monday of every month to help make a difference for people and the planet.

#### Suzanne Doyle

I've been a volunteer for the Sierra Club Sonoma Group for more than 15 years, serving as conservation chair for the last 8 and as acting chair for the Sonoma Group Executive Committee for the last year. It's been very rewarding to work for the Sierra Club: the Club's volunteer structure is well organized and functions in a way that is both effective and democratic. We have excellent leadership at the national level as demonstrated by the Beyond Coal Campaign, which has closed or stopped construction of hundreds of coal-fired plants since 2001. The Sierra Club also relies on grassroots volunteer activists at the Group and Chapter levels to work on local and regional issues and to be the Club's moral compass, keeping the national organization pointed in the right direction. I am honored to serve on the Sonoma Group Executive Committee and ask, not only for your vote to keep doing the work I do, but for you to join us and become active Sierra Club members. Come to our meetings on the first Monday of every month. Help us advocate for reducing our county and region's green house gas emissions and for protecting our water, wildlife and forests.

#### Teri Shore

I have been pleased to serve on the Sierra Club Redwood Chapter Sonoma Group Executive Committee since I was appointed to fill a vacancy early in 2015. Since then, I've engaged primarily on conservation and open space issues and regularly contributed articles to Redwood Needles. Working with the ExCom, I've developed Sierra Club positions favoring renewal of Sonoma County's community separator policies, protection of the wildlife corridor at the Sonoma Developmental Center and preserving natural areas as part of the master plan update of Maxwell Farms Regional

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# 2015 Redwood Chapter and Group ExCom Election

## NORTH GROUP

(Humboldt, Del Norte, Trinity, and W. Siskiyou Counties)

### Gregg Gold

I am running for the North Group Sierra Club Executive Committee because I believe that the environment is the North Coast's most valuable asset. I also believe that the Sierra Club is the organization that has historically provided the best means of preserving the beauty that surrounds us, and that will continue to do so in the future. Particularly at this time, I wish to continue to be a part of this effort, and would welcome the opportunity to do so. My qualifications include the experience I have gained as a member of the committee over the last 15 years, and as Chair for the last 9; my experience at Humboldt State as a professor of psychology and a member of the Environment and Community Masters program; advisor to the HSU Wilderness Protection Club; the campus Focus the Nation effort (on global warming); and my past experience lobbying for wilderness in Washington. I would appreciate your vote.

### Ned Forsyth

I have served on the North Group Executive Committee since 2001, because I believe strongly in the Sierra Club's mission to "Explore, Enjoy, and Protect" our planet. North Group continues to advocate for wild things and smart growth and to support our political allies. Now is a good time to take part in decisions that will have lasting effect on our wild heritage and the quality of life for future generations. I wish to continue in this work.

The Club's democratic ideals and national reach give members political strength to take collective action that will benefit not only the natural environment, but humanity too.

North Group and Redwood Chapter are dedicated to openness, and to working with allied groups. Sierra Club maintains a worthy tradition of grassroots citizen science. We care about the future of Humboldt Bay, climate science, and local housing and transportation projects. Do join our outings and other informative activities, and help us advance and fulfill our shared interests. Thank you for voting.

### Felice Pace

I am a candidate for the North Group Executive Committee because I think the North Group can continue to make a critical, positive contribution on North Coast environmental issues if it has a strong and active Executive Committee and membership. I want to help with that essential work, lending my 35 years of experience as an environmental activist and environmental professional to the North Group and to the issues our members think are important.

My environmental work includes 15 years as conservation director and executive director of the Klamath Forest Alliance and 10 years as conservation chair of Marble Mountain Audubon. I was very active in the Ancient Forest Campaign – including helping to create the Jobs-in-the-Woods program to put loggers to work restoring forests. During that period I also coordinated several legislative campaigns for American Lands designed to secure funding for forest and watershed restoration.

I was one of the organizers and the first chair of the Klamath Basin Coalition – conservation and fishing groups working to protect and restore the Klamath River Basin. Currently I work to reform grazing in Klamath Mountains wilderness areas, write a blog about Klamath issues at [www.KlamBlog.blogspot.com](http://www.KlamBlog.blogspot.com), and work professionally as a contract employee for environmental and Native American non-profit organizations.

I've served on the North Group Executive Committee since 2008 and I would like to continue serving the members and the environment.

Felice Pace  
707-954-6588

## SOLANO COUNTY GROUP

### Greg Peterson

I am Greg Peterson from Fairfield, and I am running for ExCom of Solano County Group. I have served on the Solano County Group ExCom for 5 years and have been a member of the Sierra Club for 30 years.

I am the Editor of the Solano Breeze newsletter. I am active in land use and agriculture issues in Solano County, and former Development Director of Solano Land Trust. I am the former Chair of the Environmental Committee of the Northern Solano Democratic Club, and a member of the Environmental Caucus of the California Democratic Party. I am running for my two school age children, who will live with the consequences of our actions (or inaction) long after I'm gone.

Thank you,  
Greg Peterson  
[gspeterson1@gmail.com](mailto:gspeterson1@gmail.com)

### Joseph Feller

I am running for the EXCOM for the 3rd time this year. My past experience includes fighting big box in Solano County, opposing the development of the fairgrounds and supporting the Solano Land Trust.

We have some big work this year in the upcoming Municipal elections and stateside elections. We also have fights in Vallejo against the cement factory and the continuing effort to develop the fairgrounds. Thank you for your continued support.

Joseph Feller  
(415)902-3395  
[joe@americantelecomwest.com](mailto:joe@americantelecomwest.com)

### Amynoel Coughran

Hello, I am Amynoel Coughran and I am running for a second time to serve on The Solano County ExCom Group Sierra Club.

It is my privilege to be a voice for Sierra Club on a local and global level and be able to do work that is essential for the health of our planet and our health also.

Being concerned about our wildlife depleting, our waters being polluted, and our planet dying is a major concern affecting us all. By believing in conservation and applying it we can make a change.

Less pollution, using green methods and being eco-friendly, I believe these methods are crucial to our planet's survival.

Protecting our open spaces, being environmentally responsible, and protecting and preserving our planet are the issues of most importance to me.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Amynoel Coughran  
Vallejo, California, 7076545171  
One Love.

### Jane Bogner

I try to live my life by the following mottoes:

I think Globally and act Locally. I am responsible for everything that I touch, instilling in others to do the same.

Jane Bogner  
707-644-918  
cell 707-319-6398

## MENDOCINO COUNTY GROUP

### Mary Walsh

I am asking for your vote to elect me to the Mendocino County Group Executive Committee. I have been an active member of the ExCom for over 20 years and involved in many campaigns including the Georgia Pacific Mill Site cleanup, the siting of the Mendocino County Solid Waste Transfer Facility and the defense of the Pygmy Forest.

Thanks,  
Mary Walsh

### Rixanne Wehren

I am running to support the county effort as well as to continue working on coastal access, habitat protection and trails. I have 20 years experience with Mendocino Group.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Make a gesture that lasts a lifetime.



A Sierra Club Life Membership is a gesture on behalf of all life - from our oceans to our forests, and from the tiniest insect to the largest sequoia. As a Sierra Club Life Member, you'll be helping to support programs and campaigns that protect endangered species and preserve threatened wilderness areas (and all the life that they support) - not only for today, but for decades to come.

Make a really grand gesture.  
Become a Sierra Club Life Member.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

**I am pleased to enroll as a Life Member of the Sierra Club.**

Please enroll me as an individual Life Member.

- Full payment of \$1000 is enclosed.  
 \$350 first annual installment is enclosed.

We are enrolling as joint Life Members.

- Full payment of \$1250 is enclosed.  
 \$450 first annual installment is enclosed.

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.

Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$1.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,  
PO Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32140-1041  
or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

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# 2015 Redwood Chapter and Group ExCom Election

## NAPA COUNTY GROUP

### Christina Benz

I became a member of the Napa Sierra Club Executive Committee in 2014 because I wanted to do something. That “something” became many things: organizing meetings for our members and the community, attending Planning Commission meetings to comment on the Syar mining expansion, and this year serving on Napa County’s Agricultural Protection Advisory Committee.

The biggest issue that will affect us in Napa is climate change—we can and must address it. We can make a difference by shifting our focus and actions to reduce the short-lived climate pollutants. Educating our community on what can be done and organizing to do it is my current focus. This includes providing input to the Napa County Climate Action Plan that is being developed and working on transportation

and traffic issues.

I hope to continue to serve on the Executive Committee and get more Napa County residents involved.

### Karen Culler

I moved to Napa Valley in 1984 as a young winemaker just out of UC Davis. I came here because it offered the best wineries in the US to start my career, but I also moved here because of the beauty of Napa Valley. Thirty years later, it is still an enchanting place to live. I have always enjoyed the balance of the wine industry and other businesses, and the balance of agriculture and cities and wild areas. My hope is that balance will continue and that we can preserve it all in a cohesive way that favors those who live, work and play in Napa Valley.

## LAKE COUNTY GROUP

### Tricia Evans

I am an enthusiastic lover of the great outdoors who is passionate about exploring and protecting the earth. Lake County has so much natural beauty to offer— from Clear Lake and Mt. Konocti to the vast national forests. I am proud to be part of this community and want to serve the people and land of Lake County in whatever way possible.

Thank you,  
Tricia Evans

### Victoria Brandon

These are crucial times for the environment in Lake County: while we rejoice in the establishment of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument,

we also recognize the damage four years of drought have wrought on the landscape, and mourn the devastation left by this summer’s overwhelming wildfires. The land will heal, and so will our communities, and the Sierra Club wants to play a positive role in the regeneration of both, while being very conscious of the need to manage growth in ways that will be sustainable and environmentally beneficial in the long term. Decisions made in the next year will determine our future for a long time to come. Please give me the opportunity to continue working for conservation in our community by electing me to a two year term on the Lake Group executive committee.

Victoria Brandon  
707-994-1931, vbrandon@lakelive.info

## Thousands File Opposition Comments on Giant Tunnels

BY KYLE JONES

More than 30,000 Californians, including thousands of Sierra Club members, filed comments with the Natural Resources Agency last month, opposing the Brown Administration’s proposed San Francisco Bay Delta tunnels project.

The project would build a pair of giant, four-story-high tunnels to move water out of the San Francisco Bay Delta system to parts south. The effect of the tunnels construction and operation would be to further damage water quality in the Bay Delta and rivers that feed into the Delta. They would destroy habitat for already endangered species, and likely destroy certain key fisheries.

The tunnels project would also divert tens of billions of dollars of investment that would be better spent on smart water projects that would increase regional resilience and help Californians better respond to changing rainfall and drought patterns.

The overwhelming number of public comments opposing the tunnel came in response to the combined Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Environmental Impact Report. That report is a key document required before the state can begin to apply for permits for building the tunnels.

Federally, the tunnels must get permits from the Army Corps of Engineers under the Clean Water Act because it involves dredging of waters. The tunnels must also pass the muster of the Fish and Wildlife Service’s duties under

the Endangered Species Act.

At the beginning of the year, the State Water Resources Control Board will hold hearings on the Department of Water Resources request to move the tunnels project’s water diversion from the current pumping facilities in the southern part of the Delta farther upstream to the Sacramento River. The Board will also handle the permitting for water quality under the Clean Water Act.

The environmental documentation has been done poorly, with much information missing as proponents attempt to fast track the process. Even so, it also clearly demonstrates that species and habitat will be seriously harmed.

Sierra Club California continues to oppose the tunnels. We believe the Delta should be restored and that ratepayer funds are better spent improving local water supplies through more sensible programs, including conservation, efficiency, recycling, stormwater capture, and groundwater cleanup.

The tunnels are a distraction from the real issues facing California’s water supply and the Delta ecosystem, and should be dropped in favor of a plan that is sustainable.

*This article originally appeared on the Sierra Club California website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/california>*

**If you are a  
Sierra Club  
member, you  
will receive  
your ballot and  
instructions in  
the mail. If you  
do not receive  
your postcard  
ballot by  
December 5th,  
please contact  
544-7651 for a  
replacement.  
Please return  
your ballot by  
December 30th.  
The Sierra Club  
is a grassroots  
organization and  
relies on member  
participation.  
Please vote.**

## 2015 Redwood Chapter and Group ExCom Election

# November 21: March to Save the Climate and the Planet

By VICTORIA BRANDON,  
REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

It's time to send delegates to the upcoming Paris Climate Summit a strong message that we want and need serious, binding commitments to reduce fossil fuel use and curb global warming.

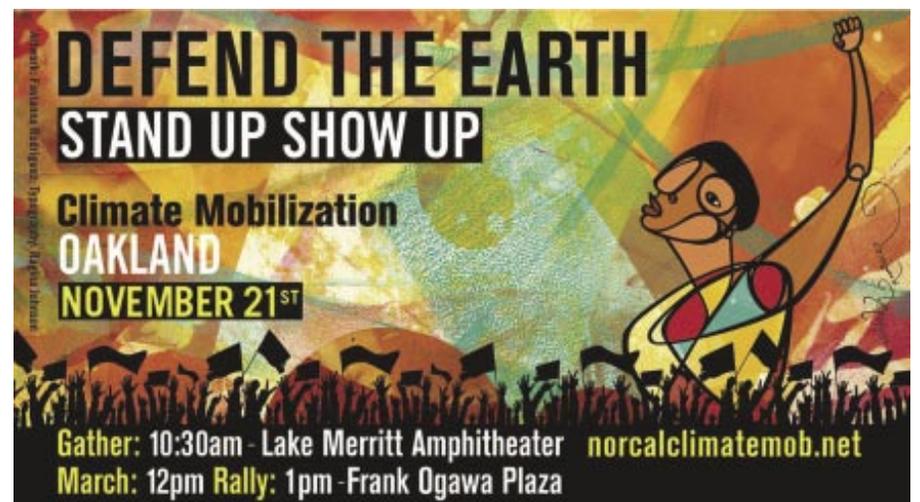
The Paris Climate talks offer the greatest opportunity in years for new international government action to address climate change. New Obama Administration climate policies, China's willingness to begin new climate programs, the incredible moral force of Pope Francis, as well as increasing occurrences of climate disruption set the stage for real action in Paris. However, governments will not go nearly as far as necessary in signing serious binding commitments to curb global warming without massive citizen action.

That's why Redwood Chapter has teamed up with 350.org and Sonoma County Conservation Action to provide bus transportation from Sonoma County to a major Northern California Climate Mobilization march and rally to be held in Oakland on Saturday November 21.

At press time, leaders from the Chapter and from Sonoma Group were finalizing arrangements to charter three buses from Santa Rosa to the rally in Oakland, returning at

4pm— including a special Sierra Club bus for Santa Rosa Junior College and Sonoma State University students at a reduced rate of \$5. Stories and photos from this important event will be posted to our website and Facebook page. Expect a full account in the next edition of the Redwood Needles.

In addition 350.org is also sponsoring the Redwood Revolution Community Art Project, in which hundreds of local residents are creating redwood trees made out of triangles of recycled cardboard. A moving forest of these trees will be carried at the NorCal Climate Mobilization on November 21, and on the December 12 international day of climate action at the close of the Paris Climate Summit, the triangles will be assembled locally into one giant redwood tree to be photographed aerially in a Sonoma County location to bring our message of climate hope to the world. It's not too late to participate— please visit [350sonomacounty.org](http://350sonomacounty.org) for more information.



Discounted prices for purchase of calendars at the Environmental Center at 55 Ridgway, Santa Rosa: Wilderness: \$13, Engagement: \$14; prices include sales tax. Call for hours: 707-544-7651. If ordering by mail, shipping is \$2 per calendar. The mailing address is Sierra Club, PO Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95402. Your purchases directly benefit Sierra Club's conservation work.

**If you are a Sierra Club member, you will receive your ballot and instructions in the mail. If you do not receive your postcard ballot by December 5th, please contact 544-7651 for a replacement. Please return your ballot by December 30th.**

The Sierra Club is a grassroots organization and relies on member participation. **Please vote.**



Enjoy, explore and protect the planet

### 2016 Sierra Club Calendars



Order Form			
Item	Cost	Qty	Total
Engagement Calendar	\$14.95		
Wilderness Calendar	\$13.95		
			Subtotal:
			Sales Tax Included
			Shipping:
			GRAND TOTAL:

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