

## 90th Anniversary of the Bay Chapter

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER • [theYodeler.org](http://theYodeler.org) • FEBRUARY-MARCH 2015

### 2014: a year of successes on many fronts

As we close our 90th-anniversary year and look toward the future, the principles of conservation, sustainability, and environmental justice guide our efforts to preserve the region's iconic open spaces, stand up to big polluters, and strengthen the laws and institutions that put our values into action. In 2014 we achieved many successes in these areas. Here are some of the highlights:

#### Parks and Open Space

Last year the Bay Chapter won victories that will prevent sprawl and protect more of the region's world-class natural areas for wildlife and recreation.

**Open-space protections at the ballot box:** In November, voters defeated two developer-backed initiatives in Alameda County in what the Contra Costa Times called a "defining moment for slow growth advocates." A stunning 84% of Dublin voters rejected an initiative that would have broken their new urban-growth boundary and authorized urban sprawl in rural Doolan Canyon. In Union City, the Flatlands Development Initiative was also soundly defeated, with 65% of voters endorsing the protection of 63 acres of open space. Read more at [theyodeler.org/?p=9895](http://theyodeler.org/?p=9895).

**San Francisco waterfront protections:** In 2014, San Francisco voters made it clear that they want a say in the future of their city's waterfront. In June, Proposition B passed by a nearly two-to-one margin, requiring that any development project on the waterfront that would exceed existing height limits receive voter approval. Two projects fell away during the Prop. B campaign: the Golden State Warriors arena at Piers 30-32 and the San Francisco Giants development at Seawall Lot 337. In November, voters demonstrated that Prop. B's mandate can work, approving a mixed-use development on Pier 70.

**Standing up for coastal protection:** This fall the Club filed a lawsuit challenging a dangerous amendment to Marin's Local Coastal Plan that could weaken environmental protections for the entire California coast. Read more at [theyodeler.org/?p=9803](http://theyodeler.org/?p=9803).

Continued on page 3



Holding signs from left to right, Eduardo Martinez, Steve Nadel, not known, Liz Pallato, and Adrian Cotter at a Black Lives Matter rally in December, 2014.

### Finding our place in the Black Lives Matter movement — Why there can be no climate justice without racial justice

Looking back over the past year, I am proud to say that the San Francisco Bay Chapter has grown in its understanding of who we are as an ally and partner in our movement for change. Rather than the lone tree standing in the wilderness, called to the higher purpose of protecting the living earth, we must be a galvanizing force for bringing together a broad spectrum of Sierra Club members, partners in the environmental movement, and other allies who are impacted by environmental degradation. We need to pitch a big tent in order to make the changes that are needed to combat climate disruption and transition to a 100%-clean-energy economy.

A great injustice is preventing our society's transition to renewable energy. Naomi Klein, author of "This Changes Everything," lays the blame on an exploitative economy that plunders the earth and strips the people of their rights. Klein's arguments are a large-scale call for revolutionary thought and systemic reform. In order to achieve the systemic reforms that promote environmental justice, we in the environmental community must reflect on how our work is connected to the struggle for racial justice.

Etecia Brown is a fourth-generation Bayview-Hunters Point resident and graduate student of public policy who has brought

Continued on page 2

**GO SOLAR** GET A SPECIAL \$750 DISCOUNT THROUGH THE SIERRA CLUB

A Club partnership with Sungevity makes it easy to take advantage of the benefits of solar with little up-front cost. You pay through your monthly energy bill, and an average Sungevity customer saves 15% on electricity costs. When you go solar with the Sierra Club and Sungevity, you will receive a special \$750 discount and the Bay Chapter will receive \$750 for its work to protect the Bay Area's wild spaces, keep our air and water clean, and promote a clean-energy future.

Getting started with solar is quick and easy—it takes less than three minutes! Request a free solar iQuote from Sungevity at [sierraclub.org/solarhomes](http://sierraclub.org/solarhomes) or call (415)977-5668 to speak with the Sierra Club solar homes coordinator.

### Inside the Yodeler

Chapter news and updates ..... i-iii

Conservation news ..... i, vii, x, xiv-xv

Bay Area Communities Against Fossil Fuels campaign news ..... iii-iv, x

Events & Activities Calendar, Group announcements ..... v-x

2014 Election results ..... xi-xiii

Classifieds ..... xv

Find the fullest and most up-to-date coverage at [theYodeler.org](http://theYodeler.org).

## Follow us on social media!



/SierraClubSFBayChapter



@SFBaySierraClub



sierraclub\_sfbay

## Sierra Club online

Visit the online portal to the Sierra Club at [sfbay.sierraclub.org/onlineportal](http://sfbay.sierraclub.org/onlineportal). From this page you can access:

- all the resources on the Chapter website
- Chapter Activities and Events Calendar
- a directory of Chapter leaders

## ExComm results are in!

The Bay Chapter congratulates the following winners of the 2014 Executive Committee elections. Thanks to everyone who stepped forward to run for Chapter and Group Executive Committees, and to everyone who took the time to vote; you are the real grassroots power behind the Sierra Club!

## Chapter Executive Committee

Olga Bolotina  
Becky Evans  
Arthur Feinstein  
Nick Pilch

## Delta Group

Pamela Arauz

## Marin Group

Elena Belsky  
Laura Chariton  
Peter Lacques

## Mount Diablo

Jim Blickenstaff  
Doug Graver  
Tom Griffith

## Northern Alameda County Group

Luis Amezcua  
Olga Bolotina  
Chris Jackson  
Mario Juarez

## San Francisco Group

Joshua Arce  
Karen Babbitt  
Becky Evans  
Linda Weiner

## Southern Alameda County Group

Charlotte Allen  
Diana Brumbaugh  
William Yragui

## Tri-Valley Group

Richard Pugh  
Dick Schneider

## West Contra Costa County Group

Norman La Force  
David McCoard  
Rita Minjares

## Standing with Black Lives Matter

Continued from page 1

together a coalition of young black college students, community organizers, and local nonprofit organizations to support the Black Lives Matter movement at the local level. "The mission of this collaborative effort is to provide a safe space for the black community to gather and express their grief and begin to heal," says Brown. "Despite the trauma that reverberates after tragic deaths like those of Mike Brown, Eric Garner, and Trayvon Martin, the normalized behavior is returning to business as usual without addressing the pain and confusion that comes from both loss and injustices. The pain of these deaths is compounded by the powerlessness and voicelessness that the black community feels from the lack of accountability of police officers and government officials. It is important for young people of color to have undying love for themselves and their community and develop deep convictions for creating positive grassroots change."

The following is an abridged list of demands from the San Francisco Black Lives Matter organizing group:

**Invest** in community black and brown initiatives—both in and out of the classroom;

**Hire** police and police commissioners from local communities of color so that force is more representative of the communities they serve;

Ensure police **training** in cultural competency, de-escalation, and dealing with suspects with mental health issues;

Implement policies that promote **transparency and accountability**, including citizen review boards, special prosecutors for police-involved shootings, better record keeping and sharing of information with the public, and on-body cameras (only if record keeping is in accordance with ACLU guidelines);

Open channels of **communication** with top city officials including the mayor, the district attorney, the city attorney, the police chief, and the sheriff; and

**Prevent militarization** of our police force by prohibiting the city or police department from owning military-grade weapons.

These demands are not dissimilar to requests that we in the environmental community make of government bodies tasked with regulating oil refineries, power plants, developers, and other powerful industries that threaten the natural world. For the Black Lives Matter movement, the "industry" at stake is the justice system.

The circumstances surrounding the deaths of Brown, Garner, and Martin have brought widespread public attention to the persistent bias within the American justice system that fails to serve communities of color equally under law. The Chevron Richmond refinery fire on August 6th, 2012, was likewise a tipping point for the Bay Area; more than 15,000 people sought medical treatment for respiratory problems

brought on by the toxic smoke, in a powerful demonstration of how insufficient regulation of the fossil-fuel industry disproportionately harms low-income communities of color.

Under the heightened media scrutiny following the grand jury decisions in Missouri and New York, it has become tragically clear that violence against black Americans by those enlisted to protect and serve is part of a nation-wide epidemic. It is also true that exposure to pollution is far more common for communities of color. When the phrase "I can't breathe" became a rallying cry for the Black Lives Matter movement after the failure to indict in the Eric Garner case, the term resonated with individuals who suffer from asthma due to living in areas with poor air quality. According to the CDC, black children are twice as likely as white children to have asthma, and the difference in asthma rates between black and white children continues to grow. The same air pollution that causes asthma also leads to cancer and heart failure.

In 2014 our nation celebrated the 50th anniversaries of both the Wilderness Act and the Civil Rights Act. Fifty years on, we see our lands being torn apart for fossil-fuel and mineral extraction. We also see the persistence of excessive force in our police apparatus and astronomical rates of incarceration of African Americans. Our nation's social and environmental struggles can't be properly addressed if they aren't considered together. The injustices in our political institutions that marginalize and disenfranchise communities of color are the same forces that empower polluters. To stop the pillaging of our land and the poisoning of our air and water, we need to fight for a system that protects and empowers each individual citizen. There can be no climate justice without racial justice.

The Wilderness and Civil Rights Acts were passed only after prolonged periods of struggle and national reckoning with unpleasant truths. From our vantage point of fifty years, we can see that what made the difference in these movements was a willingness to openly acknowledge and speak out against the systems that perpetuate war and injustice. The fruit of our predecessors' struggles was the legal frameworks that defend people and the environment to this day. Unfortunately, we find today that these laws have become frayed, too-often ignored, or redefined to fit a more convenient meaning.

In recent months many have quoted Dr. King, who proclaimed that "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." In our work in this new year and beyond, we must remember that environmental degradation and racial discrimination are two consequences of the same broken system. This is our call to action.

Michelle Myers, Director,  
Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter

## SIERRA CLUB YODELER

Volume 78 • Number 1  
February - March 2015

Sierra Club Yodeler (ISSN 8750-5681) is published bi-monthly (issues are dated Feb.-March, April-May, June-July, Aug.-Sep., Oct.-Nov., and Dec.-Jan.) by the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the

## Sierra Club

2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite I  
Berkeley, CA 94702  
(510)848-0800

Monday - Thursday, 10:00 - 5:00  
Friday, 10:00 - 2:00  
yodedit@sfbaysc.org

## EDITOR

Virginia Reinhart

## ADVERTISING MANAGER

Amy Felix

## DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

## Photoshop Gurus

Gene Anderson, Monica DuClaud

## Subscription Manager

Lev Pope

## Distribution

Yvette Simpson, Christina Oldenburg, Charlotte Rieger, Lucy Henderson, Rita Stein, Janess Hanson, Jim Bonsey, Ray Gordon, Virginia Goeckner

## Chapter Chair

Becky Evans (415)775-3309

## POSTMASTER

Send change of address to Sierra Club Yodeler, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite I, Berkeley, CA 94702. Periodicals postage paid at Berkeley, CA, and additional mailing offices. Printed at Fricke-Parks Press, Inc., 33250 Transit Ave., Union City, CA 94587. Copyright San Francisco Bay Chapter Sierra Club, Sierra Club Yodeler 2014

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual Sierra Club dues are \$39 and include a subscription to the Yodeler for Bay Chapter members. Subscriptions for non-members and for members of other chapters are \$8.

Send check payable to "Sierra Club" to: Sierra Club Yodeler Subscriptions, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite I, Berkeley, CA 94702. Specify your preferred starting issue.

## ADDRESS CHANGES

Sierra Club Membership Services  
P.O. Box 421042  
Palm Coast, FL 32142-1042  
address.changes@sierraclub.org  
(415)977-5649

## ADVERTISING

For information about display advertising contact Amy Felix at [yodelerads@sierraclub.org](mailto:yodelerads@sierraclub.org). For information about Classifieds, see page 15.

## SUBMISSIONS AND VOLUNTEERING

To find out more, contact the editor at [yodedit@sierraclub.org](mailto:yodedit@sierraclub.org) or (510)848-0800.

## 2014 victories promote a greener, more sustainable Bay Area — Campaigns succeed on many fronts

Continued from page 1

**Alameda Crab Cove park expansion:** The Sierra Club made progress in an ongoing campaign to expand the park at Alameda's Crab Cove. Read more at [theyodeler.org/?p=9995](http://theyodeler.org/?p=9995).

**Alameda wetland restoration:** Thanks to the strong lobbying efforts of the Sierra Club and other allies, Alameda is moving forward with plans to convert the western side of the Seaplane Lagoon at Alameda Point to a natural wetland park. Read more at [theyodeler.org/?p=9752](http://theyodeler.org/?p=9752).

**Funds secured to care for parks:** Voters in Berkeley, Richmond, and El Cerrito passed Sierra Club-endorsed measures that will provide funds for park maintenance.

### Dirty Energy

In 2014, the threat of mile-long trains of toxic and explosive “extreme fuels” like Bakken crude and Canadian tar sands became a terrifying new reality for the region. The Bay Chapter is fighting back, organizing coalitions against oil-refinery upgrades and for emissions regulations. Meanwhile, in the face of declining U.S. markets, coal companies pushed to massively expand exports of coal, particularly from the West Coast; this year the Bay Chapter contributed to successful campaigns to prevent coal exports from the Bay Area, which would threaten local communities with pollution from coal dust and other particulate matter.

**Plans to export coal and petcoke stymied:** The Port of Oakland rejected a proposal to build a coal- and petroleum-coke-export facility, which would have handled over five million tons of fossil fuels annually. Read more at [theyodeler.org/?p=9262](http://theyodeler.org/?p=9262).

**WesPac EIR recirculated:** The Pittsburg City Council reopened parts of the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report for the WesPac oil-terminal project in order to better assess public-safety risks. The project—which would bring in 242,000 barrels per day of crude oil by rail and tanker—is now on hold.

**Air District emissions regulations:** Pressure from the Sierra Club has been instrumental in pushing forward three strong new refinery-emission rules at the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. The rules, which are still moving through the approval process, will inventory emissions and improve fence-line monitoring of pollutants; set caps on pollutants; and require a 20% reduction of refinery emissions by 2020. Read more at [theyodeler.org/?p=9900](http://theyodeler.org/?p=9900).

**Bay Area cities oppose crude by rail:** Over the spring and summer, Richmond, Berkeley, and Oakland all passed resolutions opposing the dangerous transport of crude by rail through their city limits. The Oakland resolution was also the first in the state to address railway transport of coal and petroleum coke in addition to oil. Read more at [theyodeler.org/?p=9678](http://theyodeler.org/?p=9678).

**Chevron Richmond refinery expansion:** The long fight over the expansion of Chevron's Richmond refinery (a prerequisite for processing dirty and dangerous “extreme fuels”) ended last summer when the city council approved the project—but environmental groups won key concessions, including limitations on the sulfur content of crude being processed onsite and an agreement that the expanded facility would produce no increase in greenhouse gases. Read more at [theyodeler.org/?p=9796](http://theyodeler.org/?p=9796).

**People's Climate Rally:** In September, over 5,000 people attended the solidarity rally in Oakland on the day of the People's Climate March in New York City. That event drew an estimated 400,000 people and proved to be a galvanizing moment in the global movement to demand climate action.

**Progress toward an Alameda County fracking ban:** Thanks to the Club's lobbying efforts, a county-wide fracking ban made significant progress in 2014. The ordinance is now being drafted, and the Sierra Club will push for its adoption in 2015.

**Port of San Francisco fossil-fuel ban:** The Board of Supervisors passed a resolution urging the Port of San Francisco to bar the transportation and export of hazardous fossil fuel materials, which would be the first such policy in the nation. The Sierra Club is in negotiations over options for restricting fossil fuels at the Port.

**Chevron loses big in Richmond elections:** Although Chevron spent close to \$4 million in an attempt to stack the Richmond City Council with refinery-friendly candidates, the progressive, Sierra Club-endorsed “Team Richmond” candidates swept the elections, proving that democracy is alive and well in Richmond. Read more at [theyodeler.org/?p=9943](http://theyodeler.org/?p=9943).

**Speaking out against a Phillips 66 refinery project:** Over 4,500 Sierra Club supporters submitted comments on the proposed upgrade and expansion of the Phillips 66 refinery in San Louis Obispo. The project, if approved, would threaten the region with spills and pollution from five weekly train deliveries of Canadian tar sands oil.

**Gas-pump labels to warn of global warming:** Both Berkeley and San Francisco are moving forward with plans to post warning labels at fueling stations to inform consumers of the link between driving, carbon dioxide emissions, and climate disruption. Read more on page 14.

### Clean Energy

A key Chapter priority is the pursuit of clean-energy solutions right here at home. 2014 saw the expansion and development of Community Choice energy programs across the Bay Area, empowering local communities take back control of their energy future. Visit [www.BayAreaEnergyChoice.org](http://www.BayAreaEnergyChoice.org) to learn more about Community Choice and find a program near you.



Young activists at the September People's Climate Rally in Oakland.

**Community Choice-killer dies in the Senate:** Assembly Bill 2145, the “Energy Monopoly Protection Act,” died in the State Senate in September, preventing a catastrophic loss to California's clean-energy future.

**Community Choice spreads throughout the Bay Area:** Alameda County is moving forward with the study and formation of a countywide Community Choice energy program. The cities of Benicia, El Cerrito, and San Pablo, as well as Napa County, have all expressed interest in joining Marin Clean Energy, while neighboring Sonoma County officially launched its Community Choice program in May. Officials from Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, along with the cities within those counties, are exploring options for creating their own Community Choice programs.

**Glimmers of hope for CleanPowerSF:** While San Francisco's Community Choice program, CleanPowerSF, is still bogged down in city politics, recent developments have put the program in an even stronger position to succeed when it is finally implemented. In November, a report found that the program could create 8,100 new jobs, and the Board of Supervisors voted to give CleanPowerSF first right to surplus Hetch Hetchy power.

### Transportation

The Bay Chapter achieved transportation victories that will improve air quality, increase use of mass transit, and reduce dependence on the single-occupant automobile.

**Settlement strengthens Plan Bay Area:** The Sierra Club and Earthjustice reached

a settlement with the Association of Bay Area Governments and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission in a lawsuit over the regional land-use and transportation plan known as Plan Bay Area. The agreement ensures that the plan will meaningfully address the goals of reducing climate change; securing the health and safety of vulnerable communities; and promoting sustainable growth.

**Transportation victories in the November election:** San Francisco voters passed two Sierra Club-endorsed transportation-funding measures: Proposition A, the mayor's \$500-million bond for crucial infrastructure projects, and Proposition B, which dictates increases in the Muni budget as the population increases. San Francisco's Proposition L—which would have reverses the city's decades-old “Transit First” policy and establish a “Cars First” policy—lost. Nick Josefowitz was elected to BART District 8, dislodging longtime director James Fang and putting BART back on track. In Alameda County, Measure BB—which will restore

much-needed bus service and invest unprecedented sums of money into bicycle and pedestrian improvements—passed with over 70% of the vote.

### Sustainable Communities

In 2014 we worked to make Bay Area communities more sustainable by reducing waste and sprawl.

**“Raise the wage” campaigns take hold:** In November, minimum-wage measures passed handily in both San Francisco and Oakland. The Sierra Club supports measures to increase affordable housing and raise the minimum wage, because when people can afford to live near where they work—particularly in transit-rich, walkable, urban areas—there is an aggregate reduction of sprawl and greenhouse-gas emissions.

**Big steps toward a Zero Waste Oakland:** Oakland moved forward on a Zero Waste program that incorporates a number of green and forward-looking elements. After long and tough negotiations, two companies—California Waste Solutions and Waste Management—were awarded the Zero Waste contract. Oakland's recycling and composting program now includes source separation of trash, recycling, and compostable materials for all Oaklanders; training and job placement for underprivileged youth; augmented bulky waste pick up to prevent illegal dumping; decent wages for recycling workers; a state-of-the-art recycling facility on Oakland's Army Base; and use of a local EBMUD facility for conversion of commercial food waste to clean energy.

## Facing up to the grim reality of sea-level rise — How can we save our shoreline communities?

The City of Oakland is considering an 800-acre development along its San Leandro Bay shoreline (just opposite the Oakland airport) called the Coliseum Area Specific Plan, or Coliseum City.

The City of Newark is considering a 500-acre development on wetlands and low-lying land immediately adjacent to the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

What do these proposals have in common with the San Francisco and Oakland airports, as well as the campuses of Google, Apple, and Hewlett-Packard? At least one startling fact: they are all likely to be under water by the year 2100 — if not sooner.

While it really still defies one's imagination, the reality of climate disruption and sea-level rise is that many, if not most, of our bayshore communities face potential inundation from a three- to six-foot rise in the Bay's water level. And by inundation we are not talking about occasional flooding, but rather being underwater all the time as the Bay rises above present shoreline elevations.

Add an increased number of extreme weather events (remember last December's four to 11 inches of rain in one day) and even those shoreline communities not actually inundated by a higher sea level will face increased risk of significant flooding during storms and high tides.

It is a grim picture but an all-too-likely reality. The question now is: what do we do

about it? The best solution, of course, is to stop global climate disruption altogether, and the Club is doing all it can in that area. Unfortunately, it is probably already too late to avoid some of the worst impacts.

So what can we do to mitigate these impacts? It is a question all the regional agencies are considering. The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission — the state agency charged with protecting San Francisco Bay—recently adopted a Climate Change Amendment to its Bay Plan that calls for halting new developments along the shoreline until we figure out how we can protect them, or perhaps consider not building them at all.

The fact is, shoreline protection such as levees is expensive, and, as we've seen in New Orleans, not a sure thing. There are estimates that building levees around the Bay could cost many tens or hundreds of billions of dollars. Where would that money come from? And who will pay for their maintenance? Moreover, the environmental impacts of traditional-style levees are immense, including wetland destruction and loss of habitat for fish and other species.

The Coliseum Area Specific Plan would create three new professional athletic stadiums, many units of housing, and lots of commercial property. Oakland can probably use all of this. But its location is highly questionable. Most of the site was once the tidal marshes of San Leandro Bay, filled in with soil from the early 1930s into the 1960s.

The Coliseum project extends to the shoreline of San Leandro Bay, one of the Central Bay's richest aquatic wildlife habitats, sustaining tens of thousands of waterfowl and shorebirds. The Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline Park located on San Leandro Bay would be adjacent to the proposed development. This park's waters and wetlands support one of the largest populations of the endangered California clapper rail (now called Ridgway's rail). Massive development is not usually a good neighbor to a flourishing wildlife habitat and it is likely that Coliseum City would have devastating impacts on this rich aquatic habitat.

Similarly, the Newark development is located on a site that was once known as the Whistling Wings and Pintail duck clubs. Its wetlands support the endangered salt marsh harvest mouse—the only mammal to survive on salt water and found only in San Francisco Bay. The Newark site once hosted thousands of waterfowl, but its wetlands are now drained yearly. Nevertheless, the site is included in the expansion boundary of the National Wildlife Refuge and it offers a rare opportunity to restore an entire tidal marsh slough system — if we can succeed in stopping the development.

It will take our best efforts, and huge amounts of money, to save our existing shoreline communities. Does it make sense to build new communities in these threatened areas? We don't think so.

Recently, the Newark project lost a battle in

court for failing to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act's requirement for full analysis of the project's impacts. While this doesn't kill the project, it does give Newark residents and others a chance to reexamine it and discuss how appropriate it is to build in lands that will be submerged someday soon.

Meanwhile, the comment period for the Oakland project's environmental impact report just ended, and the Bay Chapter submitted a letter expressing the concerns just discussed. There are many steps yet to go in this project and lots of opportunities for citizens to take part in the decision-making process.

If you are interested in engaging in how the Bay Area should address sea-level rise, contact Arthur Feinstein at (415)680-0643. You are also invited to attend the Conservation Committee's regular meetings, held on the first Thursday of each month at the Chapter office.

Arthur Feinstein

**Buying or Selling a Home?  
Support the Chapter  
at Zero Cost!**

**My Broker Donates  
connects you with the  
best-in-market agents  
who donate to the  
Sierra Club Bay Chapter.**



MyBrokerDonates.com  
415.300.0432  
888.488.7188

## Flammable eucalyptus may stay under FEMA plans for East Bay Hills

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has finally completed its long-awaited environmental review of grant applications for over \$5.5 million from the City of Oakland, UC Berkeley, and the East Bay Regional Park District to fund vegetation management in the East Bay Hills. While the Sierra Club supports the vegetation-management approach proposed by Oakland and UC Berkeley, in the case of the Park District, FEMA seems ready to fund the thinning of eucalyptus groves rather than removing the flammable trees altogether. The Sierra Club believes that that approach could lead to another 1991 firestorm.

The Sierra Club, Claremont Conservancy, the Golden Gate Audubon Society, SPRAWL-

DEF, and the California Native Plant Society have all advocated for a land-management approach that over time removes all of the flammable eucalyptus and pine trees so that less-flammable native habitat can reclaim those areas. The approach has other benefits as well: management of native habitat is more cost effective, and restoration of native habitat would provide an opportunity for the return of endangered species like the Alameda whipsnake.

Both the University of California and the City of Oakland proposed fire-management plans that received the support of the environmental community because they met the goals noted above. The East Bay Regional Park District plan, on the other hand, would

prevent the restoration of native vegetation like oaks, bay, and laurel, and would be so high-maintenance as to be financially unsustainable. The end result of the Park District's plan would be thousands of acres of flammable eucalyptus that would pose a significant fire risk.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biological opinion calls for the restoration of whipsnake habitat through the removal of the eucalyptus and restoration of native habitat. FEMA, however, appears to be endorsing work that would not be consistent with that opinion. Opponents of the vegetation-management approach endorsed by UC Berkeley, the City of Oakland, the Sierra Club, and many other local environmental groups try to scare people with false claims that it is "clear cutting" and that there would large-scale "spraying" of herbicides, which is just not true.

The Sierra Club with the other groups will be monitoring FEMA's final decision on the grant requests and will make recommendations as to what further actions we should take on this issue. We believe we can have vegetation that is fire safe, promotes restoration of native habitat, and encourages the return of endangered species.

Norman La Force



Eucalyptus in the Berkeley Hills by jariceii on Flickr Creative Commons.



### Gifts to the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club

- In memory of Michael Hayman.
- Gift of Ronald Moore.
- Upon the occasion of their marriage, Skye Guthrie and Eric Brown made a donation in loving memory of Jeffrey Aron Brumm, her brother and an outdoor enthusiast.

*The San Francisco Bay Chapter welcomes donations in general, as well as gifts in memory or honor of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor, or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the Executive Committee.*



# Events & Activities

FEBRUARY - MARCH  
2015

of the SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER  
OF THE SIERRA CLUB

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Our outings are open to all. They are designed to educate participants about the great outdoors through direct experience and contact with nature, and to cultivate an appreciation of nature and the local environment.

## About this calendar

This calendar includes many Sierra Club Bay Chapter events and outings, but the most extensive calendar is found on the Chapter website at:

<http://sfbay.sierraclub.org/activities>.

The Calendar website may include changes, cancellations, or outings that were submitted after the print deadline. Many of our activity sections place additional information and more outings in section newsletters, or on section websites, which are found at the above URL.

## Hike and backpack ratings

Hike ratings are based on distance and elevation gain (the sum of all gains in elevation per day):

- |                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. up to 6 miles | A. under 1,000 feet   |
| 2. 6 - 10 miles  | B. 1,000 - 2,000 feet |
| 3. 10 - 15 miles | C. 2,000 - 3,000 feet |
| 4. 15 - 20 miles | D. over 3,000 feet    |
| 5. over 20 miles | E. over 3,500 feet    |

Backpack ratings include a third digit for travel:

- |                                      |
|--------------------------------------|
| T. trail                             |
| 1. limited/easy crosscountry         |
| 2. moderate crosscountry             |
| 3. strenuous/difficult crosscountry. |

## What to bring

For day hikes always bring lunch and enough water. Consider layered clothing, sunscreen, good hiking boots with treads, and hiking poles. Non-service dogs are allowed only if specified in the listing; canine hikers should bring leashes, litter bags, and water for their dogs.

## Liabilities

To participate on a Sierra Club outing, you will need to sign a liability waiver. To read a copy of the waiver form, visit <http://tinyurl.com/outingswaiver> or call (415)977-5630.

## Problem resolution

If you have an outing-related concern that you are not able to address via the outing's leader, please contact the chair of the sponsoring section or group. If that is not sufficient, you can call the Activities Committee ombudsman, Rob Postar, at (510)551-4979 or [rpostar@gmail.com](mailto:rpostar@gmail.com), or the Chapter office at (510)848-0800.

## Carpooling

Carpooling helps the environment and allows folks without cars to participate. If you are driving to a hike, please stop by the carpool point to pick up others. If you're a rider, pay a share of expenses.

Many activities are listed on the Chapter's Meetup site a couple weeks in advance of the event. Join the Meetup group and post a comment requesting or offering a ride. at:

[www.meetup.com/sanfranciscobay](http://www.meetup.com/sanfranciscobay).

## Tuesdays

**Lake Chabot Reservoir 1A Hike.** Optional dinner afterward. **Meet:** 4pm at boathouse. **Leader:** Dolores Gruenewald, (510)351-6247 or [doloresgru@aol.com](mailto:doloresgru@aol.com). (Solo. Sierrans)

## Wednesdays

**Lafayette Reservoir 1A Hike.** Optional dinner afterward. **Meet:** 4pm in parking lot (takes five quarters or annual pass). **Leader:** Lee Cowden, (925)934-6357. (Solo Sierrans)

## First and Third Saturdays

**San Bruno Mountain 1B hike.** Feb. 7, Feb. 21, Mar. 7, Mar. 21. Co-sponsored by San Bruno Mountain Watch. Explore two of San Bruno Mountain's less-traveled canyons and learn about the history and ecology of this "Island of Biodiversity." The hike is on narrow footpaths surrounded by coastal scrub, riparian woodland and coastal grassland. Includes an Ohlone shellmound visit. Heavy rain cancels. **Bring:** Shoes with good tread, long pants, layered clothing, water, and lunch. **Meet:** 10 am at 44 Visitation Avenue #206, Brisbane. **Ends:** 1:30 pm. **Directions:** SamTrans bus #292. **Leader:** Paul Bouscal, (415)467-6631 or [sanbruno@mountainwatch.org](mailto:sanbruno@mountainwatch.org). (Hiking)

## Feb 1 • Sun

**Hike leader retreat: OLT training.** Calling all hike leaders and prospective hike leaders. Join us for a day of learning, connection, and fun with lunch provided. We will be offering the Outdoors Leadership Training (OLT) course, which satisfies the Sierra Club's requirement for aspiring leaders and serves as a recertification for Leaders who took their last OLT Course over four years ago or haven't led anything in the past year. We will get to know each other and do some calendaring for the upcoming year. Activity is held rain or shine, but may be altered due to inclement weather. **Cost:** FREE to GLS members. \$25 to all others. **Bring:** a laptop, smart phone, or other mobile device. **Meet:** 10 am at 99 Wharf Road, Bolinas. **Ends:** 2 pm. **Leader:** Paget Valentzas, (415)271-2945 or [pagetvalentzas@gmail.com](mailto:pagetvalentzas@gmail.com). (Gay & Lesbian)

**Sunol Regional Wilderness (GLS) hike.** Did you know that there is a Yosemite in Sunol? Little Yosemite is a gorge with big boulders and, when there is enough rainfall, a thundering flow of water. Even when the flow is low, it is a nice scramble down to explore the area and maybe even see the foothill yellow-legged frog! 4.5-mile hike will take us there and beyond as we loop back to the valley floor via the Cerro del Este and McCorkle trails with their spectacular views. **Bring:** \$5 park entry fee. No dogs. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 10 am at the gate at the southern end of the parking lot, Sunol Regional Wilderness, 1895 Geary Road, Sunol. **Leader:** Kelly Sandlin (925)918-0326 or [ms.kellywalker@gmail.com](mailto:ms.kellywalker@gmail.com). (Gay & Lesbian)

**Pine Canyon 3B hike.** If you are not interested in watching the Super Bowl game, join us on this moderately-paced hike to explore the foothills of Mount Diablo and enjoy its interesting rock formations and maybe some early spring wildflowers. This hike involves several creek crossings and if the water level is too high it will alter the route. Optional post-hike dinner in nearby Walnut Creek. Any rain cancels. There is no water on the trails. **Meet:** 10:45 am at Borges Ranch, access to Shell Ridge, Diablo Foothills, and Castle Rock Parks. **Leader:** Albert Chiu, (510)339-3320 or [albertscottchiu@gmail.com](mailto:albertscottchiu@gmail.com). (Sierra Singles)

## Feb 7 • Sat

**Mount Diablo Curry Canyon and Trail Through Time 2C hike.** We'll descend into riparian Curry Canyon, climb through meadows and pines to Frog Pond, then make a steep ascent to the Green Ranch site and Oak Knoll before returning downhill to Curry Point. Much of this loop includes sections that burned in the 2013 Morgan Fire. Any rain cancels. **Cost:** \$10 vehicle park entry fee. **Meet:** 10 am at Curry Point trailhead, Mount Diablo State Park. **Leader:** Steve Bakaley, (925)945-8205 or [slbakaley@lbl.gov](mailto:slbakaley@lbl.gov) (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group, co-sponsored by SMD)

**Carson Falls 2C canine hike.** Strenuous hike through the canyon of Little Carson Creek for views and waterfalls. Lunch at the falls. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 10 am at Azalea Hill Trail parking area, Fairfax. **Carpool:** Parking is limited. Try Meetup to arrange a carpool. **Leader:** Marian Stainbrook, (510)673-7408 or [andnature@hotmail.com](mailto:andnature@hotmail.com). (Gay & Lesbian)

**March for Real Climate Leadership.** Thousands of Californians from across the state are gathering Oakland to call for an end to fracking. Come out and show our state's leaders that the health and safety of California communities is more important than oil company profits. More information and RSVP at <http://tinyurl.com/dontfrackca>. **Meet:** 11:30 am at Frank Ogawa / Oscar Grant Plaza, 14th & Broadway, Oakland. **Bring:** Wear blue! **Leader:** Ratha Lai, [ratha.lai@sierraclub.org](mailto:ratha.lai@sierraclub.org).

## Feb 8 • Sun

**Alameda Bay Farm Island & Harbor Bay 1A shoreline hike.** Explore the Bay shoreline and lagoons of Harbor Bay Isle, with great views of the open water and the San Francisco skyline. 5+ flat and very scenic miles. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 1:30 am at Towata Park, Alameda. **Ends:** 5 pm. **Leader:** Caprice Solotar, (510)525-2110. (Mount Diablo Group)

**Benicia State Recreation Area hike.** Trail, mostly paved and level meanders beside marsh and shoreline with scenic views of coastal hills and bay. After hike, optional visit to Old Town Benicia for refreshments and exploration. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 11 am at trailhead parking lot on right, just off freeway (parking fee). **Ends:** 1 pm. **Leader:** Lidia Campos, (925)240-5795 or [lidiacampos@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lidiacampos@sbcglobal.net). (Delta Regional Group)

**Rancho Corral de Tierra 1B hike.** Rancho Corral de Tierra is a 4,000-acre parcel that was recently added to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Covering the western slopes of Montara and San Pedro Mountains on the San Mateo County coast, this land is home to valuable wildlife habitat and several rare plants. Trails have not been improved and are steep, deeply rutted, and possibly muddy in some spots. No dogs allowed. Any rain cancels. **Bring:** Lunch, water, and snacks, wind and sun protection. **Meet:** 11 am at 296 Coral Reef Avenue, Half Moon Bay. **Ends:** 2:30 pm. **Leader:** Russell Hartman, (650)242-2679 or [rhartman@calacademy.org](mailto:rhartman@calacademy.org). (Gay & Lesbian)

**Diablo Black Point 1B hike.** After first heading up the lower reaches of Mitchell Canyon (including the lovely Globe Lily Trail), we'll turn up White Canyon. Leaving the fire road we'll snake our way up steep trail through thick chaparral to the summit of Black Point before returning to our trailhead. Expansive views abound. Steady relaxed pace. Be prepared for poison oak and mud. Steady rain cancels. **Cost:** \$6 per vehicle. **Meet:** 1 pm at trailhead, 108-124 Mitchell Canyon Road, Clayton. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or [jvanakkeren@comcast.net](mailto:jvanakkeren@comcast.net) (preferred). (Co-sponsored by MDIA and SMD)

continued on following page

Fuller versions of many of these listings can be found at <http://sfbay.sierraclub.org/activities>.



## Mar 15 • Sun

**Briones to Inspiration Point / Wildcat Canyon 2B hike.** Approach from the east. Lunch near Inspiration point. Stunning vistas of the Eastern watershed range and Briones Reservoir. Additional information posted on Meetup two weeks prior to hike. Heavy rain cancels. **Meet:** 10 am at Briones Overlook Staging Area, Bear Creek Road, Lafayette. **Leader:** Ernest Castiaux, (510)909-3301 or ecastiaux@hotmail.com (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group)

**Mount Diablo Back Canyon & Falls 2C hike.** See wildflowers and water on the wild north side of Mount Diablo. Our route will take us up Back Canyon to Murchio Gap. Descend the lovely Middle Trail to Falls Trail for close-up viewing of falls and cataracts of upper Donner Canyon. Steady rain cancels. **Cost:** Park entrance fee \$6 per vehicle. **Meet:** 10 am at Park Mitchell Canyon trailhead, 96 Mitchell Canyon Road, Clayton. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group, co-sponsored by MDIA and SMD)

**San Francisco waterfront to Mission Bay 1A hike.** Walk along the Embarcadero from the Ferry Building to AT&T Park and Mission Bay. See how this area has changed from old railyards and hear about future plans for the area. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 1:30 pm at Ferry Building entrance. **Ends:** 5 pm. **Leader:** Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or bob\_solotar@hotmail.com, Caprice Solotar, (510)525-2110. (Mount Diablo Group)

**Point Pinole Regional Park 1A hike.** Hourlong walk on paved trail, wheelchair accessible, through eucalyptus groves, breathing the fresh breezes from San Pablo Bay. Optional dinner after the hike in old Pinole. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 2:30 pm at Point Pinole Regional Park parking lot. **Leader:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

## Mar 18 • Wed

**Yoga on Tam 2B hike.** Morning hike with periodic stretches and movements especially for hikers. Confirm with leader Monday before hike. Heavy rain or hazardous driving conditions cancels. **Meet:** 8:30 am at Mountain Home Inn parking lot. **Ends:** 12:30 pm. **Leader:** Jayah Faye Paley, (415)699-3333 or seminar@polesformobility.com. (Hiking)

**Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve 2B hike.** Ramble up and over a verdant ridge with stunning views of distant Mount Diablo and then down into a valley of grassland and oaks. Return includes Oil Canyon, the steep Corcoran Mine Trail, and a maze of paths through chaparral and sandstone outcroppings. Steady rain cancels. **Cost:** \$5 per vehicle. **Meet:** 10 am at 5175 Somersville Road, Antioch. Park at trailhead at end of road. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group, co-sponsored by SMD)

## Mar 21 • Sat

**Steep Ravine Cabins and Rocky Point Beach 3C hike.** Magnificent views of rock chimneys, coastal cliffs, and the Pacific. Route follows the Dipsea to Redwood Creek, Heather Cutoff, Coast View, Dipsea and down Steep Ravine to picnic area overlooking the coastal bluffs for lunch. Back by Steep Ravine to Pantoll, Ben Johnson and Hillside to Muir Woods. **Meet:** 9 am SHARP at Muir Woods lower parking lot (at Dipsea trailhead). **Ends:** 4 pm. **Leader:** Katy Christie, (510)277-5386 or kathyhike@gmail.com. (Hiking)

**Point Reyes National Seashore 3C+ hike.** Hike through the woods to the ocean. Experienced hikers only. **Meet:** 9 am parked and ready to hike at Bear Valley trailhead. **Leader:** Terry Balestriere, (415)454-8527 or terrybalestriere@yahoo.com, Francois Saint Gassies. (Hiking)

## Mar 21 • Sat

**San Jose 2A history walk.** All-day walk in downtown San Jose, featuring local history and architecture. Any rain cancels. **Cost:** \$4 car parking in Diridon Caltrain parking lots. **Bring:** Money for post-walk dinner at restaurant in San Jose. **Meet:** 10 am in front of Diridon Caltrain station on Cahill Street, downtown San Jose. **Ends:** 5:30 pm. **Leader:** Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

**Black Diamond Regional Preserve wildflower walk.** Discover spring wildflowers and panoramic views in canyons and ridges of this historic coal-and sand-mining region. Optional stop nearby for refreshments and sociability. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 2 pm in parking area at end of Somersville Road, Antioch. **Ends:** 4 pm. **Leader:** Lucy Henderson, (925)254-2898 or hndsrnlucy@yahoo.com. (Delta Regional Group)

## Mar 22 • Sun

**Mount Diablo Oyster Point 3C hike.** Head over to Rock City, descend into riparian Sycamore Canyon and eventually climbing Oyster Point. Return via the Knobcone Point area with stunning vistas. Steady rain cancels. **Cost:** Park entry fee \$10 per vehicle. **Meet:** 9:30 am at Curry Point trailhead, Mount Diablo State Park. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group, co-sponsored by MDIA and SMD)

## Mar 28 • Sat

**Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve 3C hike.** Explore green hills and canyons, see white shooting stars, check out an old mining tunnel, and visit a 19th-century graveyard. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 10 am at 5175 Somersville Road, Antioch. **Leader:** Steve Bakaley, (925)945-8205 or slbakaley@lbl.gov. (Mount Diablo Group and Sierra Singles)

## Mar 28 • Sat

**Corona Heights Natural Area workparty.** See Feb. 28 event for details.

**Glen Park 1B hike.** Leisurely-paced walk through Glen Park's side streets, hidden lanes, and canyon. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 10:30 at Glen Park BART station. **Ends:** 3:15 pm. **Leader:** Gloria Navarra, (415)731-6144. (Hiking)

## Mar 29 • Sun

**Beginners Backpack course 1AT/2BT.** Details on page xx.

**White Hill 3C hike.** Walk among redwoods on our way to White Hill. Then drop down and head back up to San Geronimo Ridge. Beautiful views all around. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am at large dirt parking lot up the hill on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, ~half-mile past blue sign for Bothin Youth Center. **Leader:** Thomas L Post, (415)690-6572 or tpost123@hotmail.com. (Hiking)

**Mount Diablo round the mountain 2C hike.** This classic loop provides views in all directions. Circle the park's namesake peak via Deer Flat, Murchio Gap, Prospector's Gap, and Oak Knoll. Steady rain cancels. **Cost:** \$10 car entry fee. **Meet:** 10 am at large parking lot at Diablo Valley Overlook on Summit Road. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group, co-sponsored by MDIA and SMD)

**Tilden Regional Park in Berkeley 1A hike.** Hourlong walk through eucalyptus groves followed by optional early dinner at Cactus Taqueria on Solano Ave. May be muddy. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 2:30 pm at Lone Oak parking lot, Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley. **Leader:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

# Drapes, Privacy Sheers, & More

🌲 700 Redwood Trees planted through Arbor Day Foundation by Our Company!!!

🌲 American Made Products

🌲 Lifetime Warranty on Sewing & Seams

🌲 Eco-Drapes—organic cotton, hemp, recycled, etc.

🌲 "Factory Direct Savings"



CALL TODAY: 1 (866) 713-7273  
www.factorydirectdrapes.com



## Learn Wilderness First Aid with the Sierra Club!

**Saturday, May 2-Sunday, May 3, 8:30 am-5 pm**, Chapter office, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley.

Come to an all-day class in Wilderness First Aid sponsored by the Bay Chapter Activities Committee. The class satisfies first-aid requirements for most outing leaders (confirm requirements with your section/group officers). Students have two options:

- Take the one-day class on Saturday and receive the Basic Wilderness First Aid certification of the American Safety & Health Institute—\$50 for members/\$60 for non-members; or
- Sign up for two days (Saturday and Sunday) for an additional \$30/\$40, and receive ASHI's higher-level Wilderness First Aid (WFA) certification.

If you already have the current WEC textbook (200 pages) and show it at the registration table, deduct \$15. The old edition (196 pages) won't do.

Basic Wilderness First Aid (one-day class) is a practical, 8-hour course that prepares you to recognize and avoid wilderness hazards, and do first aid outdoors with whatever equipment you have or can improvise. Wilderness First Aid (in 8 more hours) adds more advanced skills and role-playing scenarios.

### Registration

If you are a current Bay Chapter outing leader, register by the Tuesday before the class by calling (510)848-0800 or emailing [wfa@sfbaysc.org](mailto:wfa@sfbaysc.org).

Then mail a \$30 deposit check (payable to "Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter") to:

Sierra Club  
Attn: Wilderness First Aid  
2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite I  
Berkeley, CA 94702.

This check will be returned in class, but will be cashed if you don't show up. Include your mailing address, email, phone number, and which section you lead for. Indicate if you are also attending the Sunday class; you will pay the \$30 fee for the second day in class. If you are a leader candidate or trainee, you must follow the non-leader procedure and cost for registering, as spelled out below.

If you are not a current Chapter outing

leader (and all are welcome!), register with the instructor at:

Steve Donelan  
[donelan@speakeasy.net](mailto:donelan@speakeasy.net)  
P.O. Box 1227  
Berkeley, CA 94701.

Indicate if you are attending the Sunday class. Include your membership number. Be prepared to pay the fee in class.

People who have taken Steve Donelan's one-day class in the last three years can sign up for the second day only, for \$30/\$40. Those who have taken Steve's two-day class can repeat the second day for free. Pre-register with Steve at the email address listed above.



Wilderness First Aid students practicing skills. Photo by Lydia Gans.

## Visit the Arctic, Kashmir, and Nepal with East Bay Dinners

East Bay Dinners take place at the Berkeley Yacht Club on the Berkeley Marina, one block north of the west end of University Avenue (ample free parking is available in the Marina parking lots). No-host cocktails/social hour begins at 6 pm, dinner at 7 pm, and program at 8 pm.

Cost of dinner and program is \$27, including tax and tip. For a reservation, please send your check, payable to "Sierra Club," with your name, telephone number, and the names of your guests, to:

Evelyn Randolph  
938 Galvin Drive  
El Cerrito, CA 94530  
(510)526-2494

Attendance is limited to the first 115 reservations received. Reserve early, as these programs do fill up. Reservation deadline for the February program is February 20, and March 20 for that month's program. There is no admittance for program only.

### Thu, Feb 26—"Arctic National Wildlife Refuge" and "Trekking in Srinigar, Kashmir"

The February program will include two adventures. The first is a walk by Jack Robbins and Cynthia Brown through the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, along the Shinjik River up to the Continental Divide and then down along the Kongakut River to the Beaufort Sea of the Arctic Ocean. It is late June, 1990. Ice is melting. Flowers are bursting into bloom. Caribou are herding north. Grizzlies are roaming.

The night's second adventure is a solo hike along a wild river valley formed by two steep mountain ridges, away from the group trek that Jack was on from Srinigar to Leh in the

northern tip of India/Pakistan. Freezing ice, breaking off pieces of the mountain ridges, has bombarded the canyon floor with huge pieces of rock, creating a unique landscape Jack calls "the river of time."

Jack Robbins practiced architecture and urban design in the Bay Area for thirty years. He served on public agencies responsible for protecting and improving access to the Bay shore, and was an active member and chair of the Bay Chapter's Wilderness subcommittee. Jack has hiked the High Sierra, Mount Shasta, Rainier, Lassen, Denali, Kilimanjaro, and the Cordilera Blanca in Peru. Cynthia Brown is an historian and author. She joined her husband Jack on trips to the mountains of Nepal and Kazakhstan, where he climbed almost to the tops of Peak Lenina and Khan Tengri.

### Thu, Mar 26—"Trekking to Makalu Base Camp, Nepal"

In 1990, intrepid trekker and superb photographer Sigrid Selle attempted to trek to the Makalu Base Camp, at an elevation of 15,975 feet, in Nepal. A heavy snowstorm forced her group to turn back. In 1992, she returned even though she was warned by the State Department that it was dangerous to do so because of a Maoist insurgency. On the way, her group had an encounter with Maoist rebels, but they did not turn back. The steep and challenging trek took her through many small Nepalese villages and corn, barley, and rice fields. What did she see along the way? Did she get to the Makalu Base Camp? If so, what was it like? Join us and find out, as Selle shows wonderful pictures accompanied by charming, rich commentary.

## Green Friday programs tackle amphibian conservation and fossil fuels by rail

Green Friday meets on the second Friday of the month in the Bay Chapter office, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. Doors open at 7pm; program runs from 7:30 to 9:30 pm including

questions and discussion. Refreshments are served. A \$3 donation is requested.

Green Friday programs feature informative speakers and discussions about the important environmental issues of our time. All are welcome—Sierra Club members as well as nonmembers.

### Fri, Feb 13—Fossil fuels by rail

Bay Chapter conservation manager Jess Dervin-Ackerman will present about the dangerous and unnecessary proposals to bring crude oil and coal into the Bay Area by train.

As the Sierra Club works across the United States to successfully retire coal-fired power plants and reduce our use of coal to create electricity, coal companies are making moves to attempt to export coal to foreign markets that are still ramping up their use of coal for electricity. Additionally, the world is running out of conventional crude oil that we use to produce things like jet fuel and gasoline. So, Big Oil has turned to more extreme kinds of crudes that have higher risks throughout the extraction, transport, and refining processes.

Dervin-Ackerman will talk about the extreme fossil-fuel projects are proposed for the Bay Area, how we are fighting to keep these fuels out of our communities, and the Sierra Club's plan to leave these extreme fuels in the ground and transition to a clean-energy economy.

### Fri, Mar 13—SAVE THE FROGS!

Dr. Kerry Kriger of SAVE THE FROGS! will present a program on amphibian conservation in the 21st century. The presentation will consider why frogs are disappearing worldwide and what can be done to save them. Dr. Kriger will detail his organization's global efforts on behalf of amphibians and discuss how you can help save the frogs. The presentation will feature many of Dr. Kriger's photos from around the world.

Dr. Kriger is founder and executive director of SAVE THE FROGS!, the world's leading amphibian conservation organization. He has presented over 275 lectures on amphibian conservation in Australia, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ghana, Mexico, New Zealand, Panama, South Korea, and the U.S.

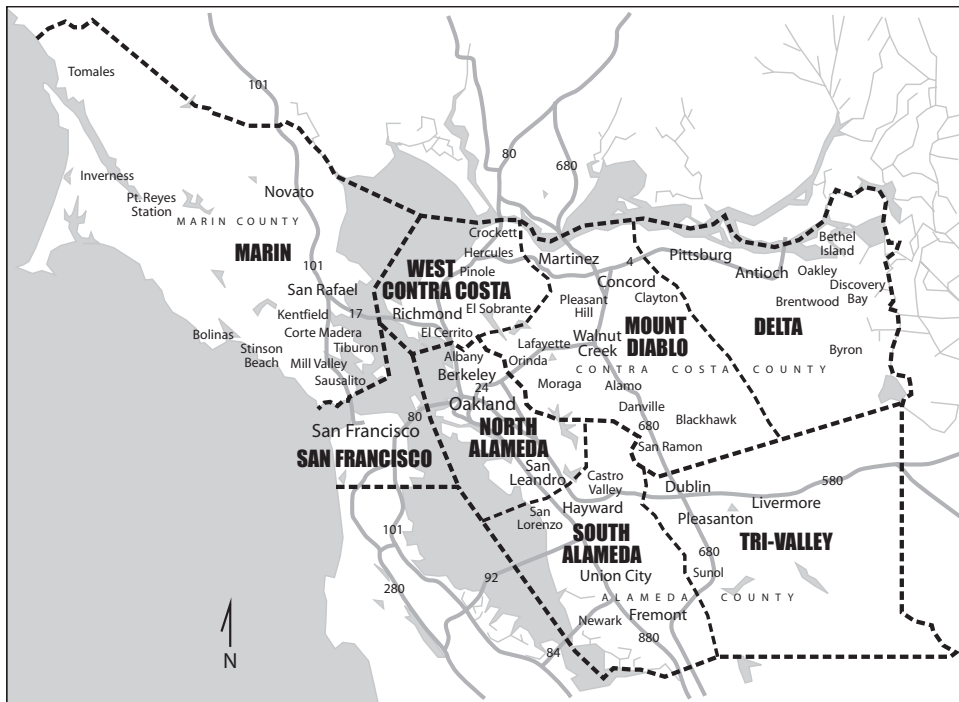




# Groups

## What is a group?

Because Sierra Club chapters cover so much territory, they form local sub-units called “groups” (or sometimes “regional groups”). The San Francisco Bay Chapter is divided into eight groups. Groups address environmental issues that fall within their boundaries. They may also sponsor outings and other activities. These events are open to everyone; you don’t need to be a group member to participate.



## Delta Group—Updates on BART and crude by rail

Wednesday, February 25, 7:15 pm, Antioch Library, 501 West 18th St, Antioch.

Our February meeting features a double program. First, current BART President and longtime East Contra Costa resident Joel Keller will present “Build a Better BART: Better BART, Better East Contra Costa.” Keller will discuss general BART system topics, including ridership, current projects, and plans to meet future challenges. Local residents will want to hear about BART updates planned for East Contra Costa, especially concerning the new e-BART system under construction.

Afterwards, the Bay Chapter’s conservation coordinator Ratha Lai will present an overview of California oil companies’ plans to increase shipments of crude oil to the region—including Bakken crude from North Dakota and Canadian tar sands—increasing the risk of explosions, derailments, spills, and fires. Ratha will also provide an update on WesPac’s proposal for a massive oil-storage and transfer facility in the City of Pittsburg.

Before the program, we’ll socialize, munch

goodies, and briefly discuss current environmental issues and upcoming activities and events. Delta Group program meetings are usually held in February, May, September, and November unless otherwise noted. A newsletter listing Delta Group programs, outings, and activities is available by \$5 subscription. To receive the newsletter, send a \$5 check made out to “Sierra Club, Delta Group” to

Janess Hanson  
431 Levee Road  
Bay Point, CA 94565.

For information about Delta Group activities, call Janess Hanson at (925)458-0860. For information about Delta area environmental concerns, call Tim Donahue at (925)754-8801.



Rendering of e-BART train.

## S.F. Dinners explore remote Svalbard and Mongolia

Social hour begins at 6 pm, dinner at 7 pm, and program at 8 pm. Note new location: Covenant Presbyterian Church, 321 Taraval, between Funston and 14th Avenues, San Francisco. Take Muni L or 28. Limited parking is available at the church lot, one-half block east on Taraval at the white parking guards, for \$1.50 per car, payable at the church check-in.

For each dinner, send a check for \$20, made out to “Sierra Club, S.F. Bay Chapter,” to:

Gerry Souzis  
1801 California St., #405  
San Francisco, CA 94109

Please send a separate check for each program and indicate the program date, number of guests, and your phone number. Non-members are welcome. Checks must be received by February 13 for the February program and March 13 for that month’s program.

Bring your own wine or soft drinks. Glasses and ice are available. Let us know if you are a vegetarian. For questions, contact Gerry between 4 and 9 pm (no morning calls please) at (415)474-4440 or [gsouzis@hotmail.com](mailto:gsouzis@hotmail.com).

### Thu, Feb 19 – “Svalbard” with Buff and Gerald Corsi

Svalbard, also known as Spitzbergen, is an archipelago located just 600 miles from the North Pole, and is the northernmost place in the world with a permafrost population.

Formerly a center for whaling and coal mining—and more recently arctic research and tourism—it is a hotbed of arctic wildlife and seabirds. In a landscape of glaciers, mountains, and fjords, the tallest tree is no more than a few inches, and in its brief spring the tundra is covered in wildflowers.

Wildlife photographers Buff and Gerald Corsi will return to bring us their excellent wildlife photography, featuring Buff’s videos and Gerald’s stills, from this Norwegian archipelago in the Arctic Ocean.

### Thu, Mar 19 – “Bumping Through Mongolia” with Sigrid Selle

In September 2010, Sigrid returned from four weeks in Mongolia, where she “bumped through steppe, desert areas, over rolling green hills to the western provinces, with camels as pack animals.” In the Kharkhiraa Mountains her group met no travelers. Along the way, nomads invited them into their gers to take part in the traditional way of life. They explored the Altai Tavan Bogd National Park, at the highest elevation in Mongolia, to experience the magnificent scenery of rugged glaciated peaks.

S.F. Dinners is delighted to have Sigrid Selle, the intrepid traveler and magnificent photographer of exotic places, return with her wonderful adventure in Mongolia.



Photo by Gerald Corsi, who will present his photography and stories at the February 19 San Francisco Dinner.

## Mount Diablo Group—Caribbean quest

Wednesday, March 11, 7 pm, Ygnacio Valley Library, 2661 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek.

Join us at our next meeting for a tropical adventure as botanist, geographer, and world traveler Larissa Ivanova guides us through the Caribbean Islands. Larissa will discuss both the natural and cultural history of the region, from the days of pirates and the slave trade to present-day political and social challenges. Larissa will also show us beautiful seas and beaches,

exotic animals, and varied plant life.

A native of Russia, Larissa Ivanova taught biology and geography at the Urals Teacher University. She also served as head of the Nature Department at the Kamensk-Uralskiy Museum. Larissa and her husband Andrei currently reside in San Francisco.

Everyone is welcome and no reservations are necessary. If you have questions, contact Ken Lavin at [ken\\_lavin@hotmail.com](mailto:ken_lavin@hotmail.com) or (925)852-8778.



## Travel & Resorts

**Gold Lake Lodge**  
At the crest of the Sierra Nevadas

**Hiking - Fishing  
Horseback Riding  
Swimming - Boating  
Photography**

Meals and Lodging Since 1912

**530-836-2350**  
goldlakelodge.com

**Baja's Frontier Tours**  
Handcrafted Learning Vacations Since 1966

**Hopi Arts & Culture!**  
JOIN THE HOPI PEOPLE FOR THIS IN-DEPTH EXPERIENCE. DELIGHT IN THE SOUTHWESTERN BEAUTY! 19 GUESTS. **Mar. 22-28, 2015**

**CHACO CANYON, NEW MEXICO!**  
SHARE AN ARCHAEOLOGIST'S DEEP KNOWLEDGE OF CHACO CULTURE, AND EXPERIENCE SCENIC SELDOM SEEN OUTLIERS! GREAT HOTELS! SMALL GROUP COMFORT! PHOTOGRAPHY! **Apr. 9-13, 2015**

**MESA VERDE ARCHAEOLOGY!**  
A PERSONAL LOOK AT THIS EXPERIENCED FIELD ARCHAEOLOGIST'S FAVORITE SITES IN THE MESA VERDE REGION! **Apr. 21-28, '15**

**RIO GRANDE PUEBLOS!**  
The Hidden Heart of New Mexico! **Nov. 7-13, '15**

Piet & Mary: **1-520-887-2340**  
www.bajasfrontiertours.com  
piet@bajasfrontiertours.com

★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★

★ where the stars  
put on a grand performance ★  
every night ☆

★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★

**Sorensen's Resort** ★  
in beautiful Hope Valley, California  
1-800-423-9949 www.sorensensresort.com

### Book your no-cost Green House Call today

Local non-profit Rising Sun Energy Center wants to give your home a no-cost energy audit and water assessment. The program is entering its 15th year and has provided this zero-cost service to over 27,000 residents of the Bay Area. All residents (renters and home owners) are eligible to receive the service, which includes free energy- and water-saving measures such as energy-efficient light bulbs, high-efficiency shower heads, kitchen and bathroom sink aerators, pipe wrap insulation for the water heater, e-waste pick up, and more.



Find more information and book your Green House Call at [tinyurl.com/greenhousecall](http://tinyurl.com/greenhousecall), or call (510)665-1501 and press 5.

### Film Screening—"Valley Uprising: Yosemite's Rock Climbing Revolution"

Wednesday, February 4, 7 pm. David Brower Center, 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley. \$10 advance, \$12 door, \$5 students and teachers. Purchase tickets at <http://tinyurl.com/ClimbYosemite>.

In the shady campgrounds of Yosemite Valley, climbers carved out a counterculture lifestyle of dumpster-diving and wild parties that clashed with the conservative values of the National Park Service. And up on the walls, generation after generation has pushed the limits of climbing, vying amongst each other for supremacy on Yosemite's cliffs.

"Valley Uprising" is the riveting, unforgettable tale of this bold rock climbing tradition in Yosemite National Park: half a century of struggle against the laws of gravity—and the laws of the land.

## Island-hop in the Channel Islands

March 28-30, April 5-7, May 4-6, June 14-16 (bird-lover's special!), July 19-21, August 24-26, September 27-29, and October 25-27.

Join us for a three-day, three-island, live-aboard tour of the enchanting Channel Islands! Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines. Marvel at pristine waters teeming with frolicking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on unusual sea and land birds—and an occasional whale. Watch for the highly-endangered island fox. Look for reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or, just relax

at sea.

All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. The cost of \$615 includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, and beverages plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to help lead hikes, point out items of interest, and give evening programs.

To reserve space, send a \$100 check, made out to the Sierra Club, to:

Joan Jones Holtz  
11826 The Wye St.  
El Monte, CA 91732

For more information contact Joan at (626)443-0706 or [jholtzhl@aol.com](mailto:jholtzhl@aol.com).

## Learn the basics of backcountry travel

### Beginners Backpack Course Spring 2015

Application deadline: March 15.

Indoor seminar: March 29.

Field trips: April 11-12, April 18-19, or May 9-10 (participants choose one).

Learn how to travel safely and comfortably with only a pack on your back during the annual Beginner's Backpack course run by the Backpack Section. We are offering this opportunity for folks who have little or no experience in backpacking but who want to explore backcountry trails and get away from the crowds.

The course consists of:

1. A full-day indoor session on Sunday, March 29, including a series of short lectures, discussions, slide and equipment show. The event will be hosted from 9 am – 5 pm at the Naturebridge Conference Center (Golden Gate National Recreation Area).
2. One overnight backpack trip on a weekend in April or May in small groups led by experienced instructors. There are three dates to choose from (see above).

The location of the backpack trips is in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. During the backpack trip you will have the opportunity to try out your gear, learn how to set up a tent and operate a backpack stove, practice basic navigation skills, and, most importantly, experience how it feels to hike with a heavy pack on your back. Participation in the backpack trip requires attendance at the indoor session.

Participants should be in good physical shape and have no serious health conditions. A good background in day hiking is necessary.

Families with children age 12 and older are welcome. The course is not suited for younger children.

Cost is \$70 per adult; \$35 ages 12 – 22. Early registration is recommended, as space is limited. Applications received after March 15 will be considered only if space is still available.

For more information and to sign up, contact: Thomas Meissner by email at [meissner.thomas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:meissner.thomas@sbcglobal.net) (strongly preferred), or by phone at (707)795-7980 (only if you do not have email access).



Photograph by Thomas Meissner, leader of the Beginners Backpack course.



Albany Bulb. Photo by W. W. Watson via Flickr Creative Commons.

## More climate-pollution progress ahead

### Action in Sacramento shows State is serious about fighting climate change

The two-year session of the legislature began on a high note on January 5 with Governor Jerry Brown's combined state-of-the-state/inaugural address strongly defining the need to set and meet strong goals to reduce greenhouse-gas pollution.

"California has the most far-reaching environmental laws of any state and the most integrated policy to deal with climate change of any political jurisdiction in the Western Hemisphere," Governor Brown said before enumerating a strong list of actions already underway, including existing renewable-energy goals, energy-efficiency actions, and clean-cars requirements. "These efforts, impressive though they are, are not enough."

As Governor Brown noted in his speech, climate scientists have determined that humans need to aggressively cut greenhouse-gas emissions to limit average global warming to no more than 2 degrees Celsius by 2050. He then listed three goals for California to achieve by 2030 to do its part: 1) Increase from one-third to 50 percent the amount of electricity derived from renewable resources; 2) Reduce petroleum use in cars and trucks by up to 50 percent; and, 3) Double the efficiency of existing buildings and make heating fuels cleaner.

The governor's remarks were music to the ears of so many people around the state—including Club members and staff—who have worked for decades to help California assertively curb climate-disrupting pollution, from carbon gases associated with combustion engines fueled by petroleum and natural gas, to methane emitted during oil and gas drilling.

In December, Senator Fran Pavley introduced legislation to codify greenhouse-gas reduction targets for 2050 and beyond, and to encourage interim targets. That same month, Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de Leon announced that he would introduce legislation to require state pension funds to disinvest from coal.

In the coming weeks, we anticipate that additional legislation will surface to help drive the interim goals. Altogether, the bills could

create an impressive package of environmental legislation that will send a clear signal to investors and clean-technology companies that California continues to be serious about playing its important leadership role to reduce climate-change-causing pollution. More importantly, though, new legislation will be another strong step toward getting us to the goals we need to achieve to protect the planet.

You'll be hearing more about this, and how you can help, from Club staff and activists as the legislative package unfolds.

Kathryn Phillips

*Reprinted with permission from the Sierra Club California "Capitol Voice" Bulletin.*

## Albany Bulb transition must adhere to State General Plan

The City of Albany will soon begin the process of incorporating the Albany Bulb into the McLaughlin Eastshore Park and transferring responsibility of the park to the state. The McLaughlin Eastshore State Park General Plan—which outlines intended uses for the park—outlines both conservation and passive-recreation areas for the Bulb. As a State Park, the area is supposed to be for on-leash dogs only.

### WhatYouCanDo

There will be attempts by special-interest groups to gut the General Plan for this area for their special interest uses. Please write to the Albany City Council and remind them that the General Plan for this area must be adhered to. Send your comments to [cityhall@albanyca.org](mailto:cityhall@albanyca.org), or:

1000 San Pablo Avenue  
Albany, CA 94706.

Norman La Force

## Berryessa Snow Mountain takes step toward Monument designation

Despite wind-driven heavy rains on December 19, over 350 people came out to a public meeting held on the Napa Valley College campus to let Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell know that they want President Barak Obama to use his authority under the Antiquities Act and designate the Berryessa Snow Mountain region as a National Monument.

Victoria Brandon, Chair of the Sierra Club Redwood Chapter, was among the more than 100 people who spoke at the meeting. She told Jewell and the other dignitaries present, "We're pleased that the Obama administration has recognized what we've long known: this stretch of the Inner Coast Range is a truly remarkable natural wonder. And as the crowd here today attests, there is a strong desire to see it permanently protected as a national monument."

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, who, along with Congressmen Mike Thompson and John Garamendi, toured the area before the public meeting, said, "This is a beautiful area with cultural history and great opportunities for outdoor recreation and wildlife viewing, so it's no surprise that the community wants to make sure that it is protected and passed on to the next generation."

Stretching nearly 100 miles from the shores of Lake Berryessa to the flanks of Snow Mountain in the Mendocino National Forest, the national monument proposal has widespread support from local officials, community leaders, businesses, outdoor recreation and conservation groups, and thousands of area residents. It would include federal lands already managed by various federal agencies.

Berryessa Snow Mountain area provides significant recreation opportunities for people in the nearby San Francisco and Sacramento metropolitan areas, as well as visitors from around the world. It offers opportunities for

hiking, camping, boating, fishing, mountain biking, off-highway vehicle use, and other types of recreation.

For more information on Berreyesa Snow Mountain and the campaign to name this unique area a National Monument, visit: <http://berryessasnoumountain.org>.

Michael Thornton

*Reprinted with permission from the Sierra Club California "Capitol Voice" Bulletin.*

**GEOGRAPHIC EXPEDITIONS**



**SMALL GROUP  
&  
PRIVATE JOURNEYS**

To The World's  
Most Beguiling  
Destinations

.....

Call for our  
award-winning  
catalog ~

1.800.777.8183  
GeoEx.com

**Gear up for the BACKCOUNTRY!**



**SALES - RENTALS - GUIDING**

- Telemark
- Alpine Touring
- Backcountry
- Cross Country
- Downhill









**Larkspur Fremont**  
415.461.2222 510.440.8888

[www.outbackadventures.com](http://www.outbackadventures.com)

## PDA performance: tracking the viability of a key smart-growth program

This article is the first in a series about the Bay Area's Priority Development Areas, or PDAs, and the Sierra Club's efforts to ensure that this critical smart-growth program is implemented successfully and sustainably.

In 2015, the Bay Chapter's Transportation and Compact Growth Committee will focus special attention on two related subjects: 1) working to make Priority Development Areas (PDAs) a success, and 2) attempting to shift the focus of county Congestion Management Agencies from congestion management to greenhouse-gas reductions.

PDAs, or Priority Development Areas, are areas targeted for infill development alongside public transit. Successful PDAs should be developed as "complete communities"—that is, they should provide amenities and services to meet the day-to-day needs of residents in a pedestrian-friendly environment. The goal of PDAs is to ensure sustainable housing growth even as the region's population booms (by one estimate, the Bay Area will be home

to an additional two million new residents by 2040). Successful implementation of the region's PDAs should prevent sprawl, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, provide affordable housing, and preserve open spaces.

PDAs are the core smart-growth program of Plan Bay Area, the region's integrated land-use and transportation plan. The integrated approach to regional development was a result of the California Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 (SB 375), which set regional emissions-reduction targets and required each region to develop a strategy to reach that goal. Plan Bay Area was the region's roadmap to reaching required cuts to per-capita greenhouse-gas emissions of 7% by 2020 and 15% by 2035; and to sustainably house the influx of new residents.

Thus, the 2013 Regional Transportation Plan (Plan Bay Area) was, for the first time, the joint responsibility of the transportation agency, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), and the land-use and housing

agency, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). As noted in Plan Bay Area, to meet the requirements of SB 375, "Plan Bay Area directs more future development to areas that are or will be walkable and bikeable and close to public transit, jobs, schools, shopping, parks, recreation and other amenities."

This summer, the Sierra Club and Communities for a Better Environment settled a lawsuit brought against the agencies in charge of Plan Bay Area, MTC, and ABAG. The lawsuit alleged several areas of concern with regard to the Plan's ability to meaningfully address its stated goals of reducing climate change; securing the health and safety of vulnerable communities; and promoting sustainable growth. A key concern was the viability of PDAs in the first iteration of Plan Bay Area. The Sierra Club and others were troubled by the fact that some PDAs have little or no access to public transit, and there was no guarantee as to what to expect in the future in terms of the provision of adequate service. Further, several PDAs are vulnerable

to earthquake hazards or flooding from sea-level rise, while others potentially pose a risk to nearby natural resources.

One of the agreements reached in the settlement is that there will be an analysis of PDA performance before the next update of Plan Bay Area in 2017. The Sierra Club will support those PDAs that ABAG and MTC demonstrate are likely to be successful. But if a particular area has flaws that suggest it will not be viable as a PDA, then it is not unreasonable for the responsible agencies to consider taking the area off of the PDA list and to stop providing funds to support its development.

MTC and ABAG have now begun work on developing the successor to Plan Bay Area. It will be interesting to see the PDA analysis as the new plan is assembled.

Stay tuned for the next article in this series, which will appear in the April-May 2015 issue of the Yodeler. The next article will review two East Bay PDAs: one that looks like it will be a success, and another that has several troublesome factors.

Matt Williams

### Hey, San Francisco voters: we want to hear from you!

#### What do you want in a mayor?

Are there certain qualities you think San Francisco's mayor should have?

How about programs or projects you want to see implemented?



#### Share your thoughts with us!

- > TWEET your answer to @SFBaySierraClub with the hashtag #sfwishlist, or
- > EMAIL your answer to yodedit@sfbaysc.org.

We may print your response in the next issue of the Yodeler.

## New support for S.F. clean-power program

In a move that will help San Francisco reach its carbon-reduction goals, late last year the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously passed an ordinance that will increase the amount of clean and renewable energy flowing to the city. The legislation, sponsored by Supervisors Scott Wiener and London Breed, authorizes the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (the SFPUC) to sell much more excess hydroelectric power from the Hetch Hetchy dam system to local development projects. This policy will enable the SFPUC to reduce the City's greenhouse-gas emissions, sell the hydro power at rates that reflect its real value, and support the City's developing Community Choice energy program, CleanPowerSF.

Currently, the SFPUC sells most of its excess hydro power at under-market wholesale rates to municipalities outside of San Francisco. The Supervisors' action authorizes the SFPUC to sell the greenhouse-gas-free power at higher retail rates to large new developments here in the City (such as the new Transbay Transit Terminal project—read more about that project on page 13) and also to the CleanPowerSF program. PG&E is currently the default power provider in the city.

By authorizing the sale of surplus power at higher rates, the new policy will boost the SFPUC's budget by tens of millions of dollars per year, which it can use to cover current budget shortfalls and pay for clean energy and street-light projects that are badly in need of funds.

The legislation will also help spur the creation of new renewable-energy projects in California. Cities that formerly purchased greenhouse-gas-free power from Hetch Hetchy at bargain-basement prices will now have to buy and build new clean-energy sources of

their own to meet climate action goals.

When it was originally introduced in July 2014, the legislation did not contain any support for CleanPowerSF. The Sierra Club and other clean-energy advocates successfully pushed for an amendment that makes CleanPowerSF—once launched—a priority customer for the surplus hydro power. This amendment will help ensure that CleanPowerSF will be more cost-competitive and reliable.

CleanPowerSF is San Francisco's groundbreaking community-based renewable-energy program approved for launch by the Board of Supervisors in September 2012. The program was made possible by California's Community Choice energy law, passed in 2002, which enables cities and counties to group their local electricity customers together in cooperatives in order to buy and build local clean electricity and energy efficiency, rather than continue to buy expensive and dirty fossil-fuel based electricity from for-profit monopoly utilities like PG&E.

The program is planned to provide the City with at least 50% of its electricity from clean, local sources within a decade of its launch, and would create over 8,000 jobs—at least half of which would go to local workers. By contrast, PG&E's power mix is only 20% renewable and generates very few local jobs.

The San Francisco Department of the Environment has stated that the City cannot meet its aggressive climate action goals without implementing a strong CleanPowerSF program. By strengthening CleanPowerSF and giving the city first right to excess hydro power, this new ordinance will help San Francisco achieve its objective of transitioning to 100% local clean electricity by 2030.

Eric Brooks

## Preserve the Future

Make a commitment to the next generation by remembering Sierra Club in your will. Your support will help others and preserve the intricate balance of nature.

#### Sierra Club Gift Planning Program

85 Second St, Second Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105  
(800) 932-4270 • gift.planning@sierraclub.org



## The downtown Caltrain extension: vital to the future of the Bay Area

In keeping with the Sierra Club's principles, the San Francisco Bay Chapter's Transportation and Compact Growth Committee wants to make the Bay Area a less automobile-dependent, less greenhouse gas-emitting, less congested, and more equitable place to live and work. One important project that would go far toward helping the Bay Area achieve these goals is not getting the attention—or funding—it deserves. That project is the planned 1.3-mile extension of Caltrain from its existing terminal at 4th and King to the future Transbay Transit Center in downtown San Francisco.

Adding Caltrain service to the spacious regional-transit center at First and Mission Streets will bring the new terminal to life and greatly improve connections among over 50 bus and rail lines. With Caltrain, the Transbay Transit Center will become the largest and most important nexus of transit lines in western North America—truly fulfilling its promise of becoming

subways under Market Street to the 78-mile north-south Caltrain, running to Silicon Valley and San Jose and later, via high-speed rail, to the Central Valley and Southern California. With Caltrain extended and underground pedestrian links in place between the Transbay Transit Center and the Embarcadero BART Station, San Francisco's new downtown transit hub will directly serve eight rail lines (Caltrain, BART, and Muni lines J, K, L, M, N, and F), as well as Muni, AC Transit, SamTrans, Golden Gate Transit, and other bus lines. The new terminal will be within easy walking distance of a 400,000-person employment center and over 10,000 new housing units.

The Caltrain connection will make every line serving the transit center more useful to more people. This, in turn, will encourage more transit-oriented development, both near the terminal and near other stations along the affected lines. The transit center's value is already widely recognized, as evidenced by the astonishing amount of new high-rise construction that has sprung up in its immediate vicinity.

As with any large public project, Caltrain's downtown extension needs significant funding commitments—in this case from high-speed rail and other state entities, as well as federal, regional, local, and private investment. Here's a roundup of funding sources that have, or should, come through for the Caltrain extension:

**State:** High-speed rail will share Caltrain tracks and station facilities, substantially raising the costs of both the transit center and the Caltrain extension. Despite this, the California High-Speed Rail Authority

has so far contributed nothing to the project.

**Federal:** The MTC has belatedly placed the Caltrain Downtown Extension in line for Federal New Starts funds, but this funding will come sooner if it's backed by strong expressions of local support.

**Regional:** Caltrain's extension will require toll-bridge revenues from the Bay Area Toll Authority and other regional funds. The MTC now has a new opportunity to help accelerate the construction of this vital transit-integrating facility.

**Local:** San Francisco's contribution to the project has so far amounted to a minuscule 2.8% of the total budget, compared to its 34.8% contribution to the low-ridership Third Street/Central Subway project. A greater

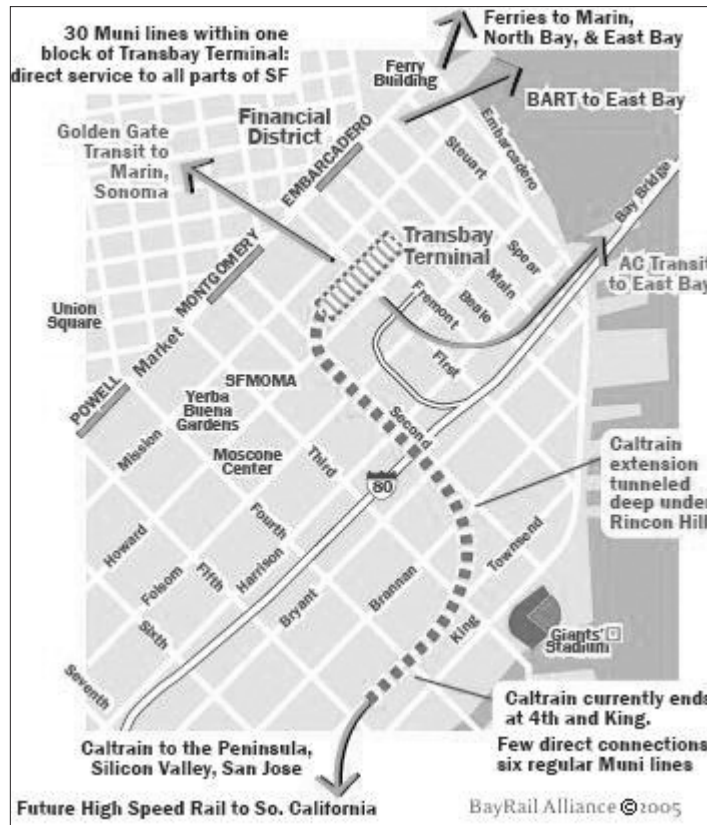
commitment from the City is warranted.

**Private:** Nearby landowners who benefit from the transit center have agreed to take part in a special Mello-Roos Improvement District Tax to fund the Caltrain extension and other related infrastructure needs. While some developers are now objecting to the new taxes, the city has not backed down.

### WhatYouCanDo

The completed Transbay Transit Center with a Caltrain connection will provide tens of thousands of daily transit riders with highly efficient bus and rail connections. To make sure the extension is built without further delay it is essential that the public voice strong support for the project. Make your views known! Share this story with your friends. Write or call the MTC, Mayor Edwin Lee, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Peninsula Joint Powers Board (Caltrain), and your favorite newspaper or media outlet. Tell them to get behind the Caltrain extension project.

Jerry Cauthen and Peter Lydon, members of the Bay Chapter Transportation and Compact Growth Committee



ing the Grand Central Station of the west.

The Bay Area has waited a long time for Caltrain's downtown extension. In 1999, 69% of the San Francisco electorate voted for the extension of Caltrain to a downtown regional transit center. Construction on the Transbay Transit Center itself is proceeding rapidly and completion is expected in 2018. Platform space for Caltrain (and eventually high-speed rail) is being provided on a lower level of the Center. Unfortunately, San Francisco's politicians have been slow to pick up on the importance of the Caltrain connection, and funding has languished to the point where construction on the extension has been delayed.

When completed, the extension will connect the east-west BART and Muni Metro

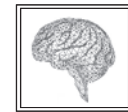
**High Sierra Camp & Natural History Workshops at the 10,000 ft Golden Trout Camp; So. of Mt. Whitney, 3-mile hike-in, wilderness camp, full-week, meals included: \$525 6/21 & 6/28; 805-688-8344 www.GoldenTroutWorkshops.org**

**HIMALAYAN HIGH TREKS**  
Scheduled & Custom *Treks & Tours* to:  
*The Himalaya* (Bhutan, Nepal, India) and  
*Southeast Asia* (Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam)  
1-415-551-1005 info@hightreks.com  
**WWW.HIGHTREKS.COM**  
241 Dolores Street, San Francisco, CA 94103-2211 U. S. A.

### City Arts & Lectures



CALIFORNIA  
ACADEMY OF  
SCIENCES



## CONVERSATIONS ON SCIENCE 2015

ALL PROGRAMS, 7:30PM

NOURSE THEATER • 275 HAYES STREET, SAN FRANCISCO

- WED 4 SURPRISING BENEFITS OF BACTERIA:  
MAR THE HUMAN MICROBIOME  
*Katie Pollard*  
Senior Investigator, Gladstone Institutes • Professor, Division of Biostatistics, UCSF  
IN CONVERSATION WITH SHANNON BENNETT
- WED 18 MINDS OF THEIR OWN: ANIMAL INTELLIGENCE  
MAR VIRGINIA MORELL  
*Science • Psychology Today • National Geographic • New Book: Animal Wise*  
IN CONVERSATION WITH ROY EISENHARDT
- WED 8 THE NEUROSCIENCE OF ZEN:  
APR HAPPINESS, LOVE, AND WISDOM  
*Rick Hanson*  
Neuropsychologist • Founder, Wellspring Institute for Neuroscience and Contemplative Wisdom • *Hardwiring Happiness*  
IN CONVERSATION WITH PAMELA WEISS
- WED 29 *The Annual Claire Matzger Lilienthal Distinguished Lecturer*  
APR THE INTERNET OF THINGS  
*Vinton Cerf*  
American Internet Pioneer • Chief Internet Evangelist for Google  
IN CONVERSATION WITH JACOB WARD
- WED 20 THE SCIENCE OF SLEEP  
MAY *Matt Walker*  
Sleep and Neuroimaging Lab • Professor of Psychology, UC Berkeley  
IN CONVERSATION WITH INDRE VISCONTAS
- TUES 30 DRUGS, DOPAMINE, AND LESSONS  
JUN FROM THE BRAIN  
*Nora Volkow*  
Neuroscientist • Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse  
IN CONVERSATION WITH MICHAEL KRASNY

This series is made possible, in part, by a grant from the Myers Family Fund and the Lilienthal Family Fund.

TICKETS + INFO: CITYARTS.NET/SCIENCE • CALACADEMY.ORG/LECTURES • 415.392.4400

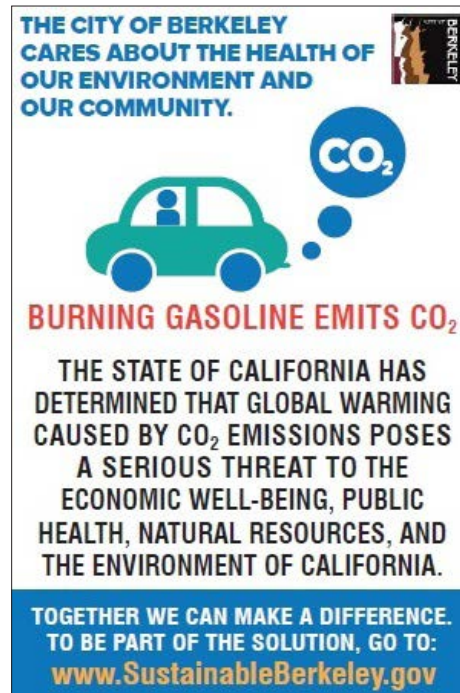
## Raising climate awareness at the pump

The Sierra Club supports two local proposals currently working through the Berkeley City Council and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to mandate labels at gas stations informing consumers of the link between driving, carbon dioxide emissions, and climate disruption.

In San Francisco, Supervisor John Avalos introduced the ordinance “Greenhouse Gas Information Labels for Gas Pumps,” which will be debated at the Land Use Committee in early 2015—likely as soon as mid-February. As for Berkeley, in November the City Council voted to direct the City Manager to draft an ordinance requiring the posting of the gas station warning labels. Once a draft is finalized, it will go back to the Environmental and Energy Commissions for approval before returning to the Council for adoption later in the spring.

It is important that consumers be given the tools they need to make informed decisions. Educating consumers at the point of purchase raises awareness of the connection between their action and its effects; in this case, that burning fossil fuels contributes to global warming. The strategy of warning drivers of the global consequences of filling up the tank is comparable to printing graphic images of diseased lungs on cigarette cartons; in both cases, the goal is to encourage consumers to think twice about their purchase, and ultimately cut down on their purchases.

Although the final gas pump label language has not been determined for either city, proposed designs inform the consumer about how much tailpipe carbon dioxide is produced by burning one gallon of fuel, and explain that carbon dioxide emissions are a significant fac-



A working concept of Berkeley's gas pump warning label. Credit: 350 Bay Area.

tor in recent climate change. One proposed design for San Francisco's label provides a resource for people wishing to make changes; directing people to the website [sfclimate.org](http://sfclimate.org) gives the city the opportunity to highlight numerous ways to reduce gasoline use—from improving mileage to avoiding solo driving altogether, by car-pooling, taking public transit, biking, or walking.

Gas pump warning labels have the potential to be part of the larger strategy for the cities of Berkeley and San Francisco to seriously address climate change.

## Berkeley moves to stop balloons from polluting the Bay

While balloons may seem like harmless fun, when they are released into the air they can cause serious problems for our environment. Recognizing the threats balloons pose to the Bay Area's wildlife and marine habitats, the City of Berkeley has studied and debated balloon regulation for years—and 2015 could be the year that the city finally reins in the environmental impacts of helium-filled balloon release.

After being released into the air, balloons often end up in waterways, where they can be consumed by fish and other marine wildlife, causing harm and death. For bayside communities like Berkeley, this possibility is of particular concern. Balloons made of aluminized Mylar also have conductive properties and have been known to cause power shortages upon contact with power lines, posing a hazard for utility workers. Birds, meanwhile, can become entangled in the strings attached to balloons.

The State of California has partially addressed the issue by passing a law requiring that helium-filled foil balloons carry a warning label and be anchored with a weight when sold. California law also prohibits the release of helium-filled balloons made of electrically-conductive material like Mylar at specified events. However, no state law regulates latex balloons, which are the biggest threat to marine wildlife.

In 2008, recognizing the threat that releasing helium-filled balloons poses to the environment, the Berkeley City Council referred the issue to the City's Community Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC). The Council requested that the Commission explore a public education campaign and restrictions on sales of helium-filled balloons. In November 2009, the CEAC returned to the City Council with

recommendations to: 1) declare the release of balloons to be an environmental and physical hazard, 2) prohibit the release of balloons at special events permitted by the City, and 3) initiate a public education campaign regarding the hazards of balloon release.

An industry group of latex and Mylar balloon producers called The Balloon Council vigorously opposed the City's modest proposal and engaged in an intense lobbying campaign to thwart it. Unfortunately, their efforts were successful in creating enough confusion and concern that the Council voted to table the issue for future consideration. The Balloon Council has also successfully blocked attempts at the state level to legislatively address release of helium-filled latex balloons.

This past October, Berkeley City Councilmember Jesse Arreguin re-introduced the issue of regulating the release of helium-filled balloons in Berkeley. In December, the City Council once again referred the issue of regulating balloon releases to the CEAC. The CEAC is expected to present the Council with proposals on how to address the environmental impact of balloon releases early this year.

The Sierra Club—whose Northern Alameda County Group voted to support the concept of balloon regulation—will be following this issue as it works its way through the commission process and will continue to advocate for measures to mitigate the harmful effects of balloon litter in our Bay. For more information or to get involved, email Northern Alameda County Group Executive Committee member Luis Amezcua at [lamezcua27@gmail.com](mailto:lamezcua27@gmail.com).

Luis Amezcua

## Letter to the editor — NPS: “Golden Gate National Recreation Area works to help coho salmon survive in Redwood Creek”

Coho salmon have been in the news lately, including the last issue of Yodeler. The number of salmon in Redwood Creek and elsewhere on the California Coast has dropped to alarmingly low levels.

The National Park Service (NPS) appreciates the public's interest in the status of Redwood Creek salmon and what can be done to reverse their decline. As part of our stewardship mission we have been actively involved for several decades in working to protect and improve coho populations in the Redwood Creek.

Why have the salmon numbers dropped so low? The absence of progeny of the class of 2007-08 was the subject of the article in the December-January issue of the Yodeler, titled “On the brink: Is it too late to save the salmon of Redwood Creek in Muir Woods?” (You can read that article at [theyodeler.org/?p=9936](http://theyodeler.org/?p=9936).) The reasons are complex, and require an understanding of the salmon life cycle.

Coho salmon are anadromous and generally spend one year in streams before migrating to the Pacific Ocean, to rear for another 1.5 years. Adults return to their streams of origin generally as three-year-olds, with little mix-

ing among different year classes. During their lives, salmon are vulnerable to condition changes in the ocean and stream habitats. A study by National Marine Fisheries Service found that there was a 73% decline in coho salmon adults returning in winter 2007-08 to California streams due to unfavorable ocean conditions, particularly warm, low nutrient water that leads to lower food production. Almost no coho returned to Redwood Creek that year. When populations drop to extremely low

levels, they are at a much higher risk due to inbreeding and unfavorable environmental conditions such as the droughts and extreme flood events that have characterized the past several years.

Since the early 1990s, the NPS has worked to improve habitat conditions for salmonids in the Redwood Creek watershed. While much of the watershed is in public ownership and managed by agencies and organizations with strong resource stewardship interests, there is a

legacy of past land management activities including stream channelization and instream wood removal that reduced the natural capacity of the creek to support salmon.

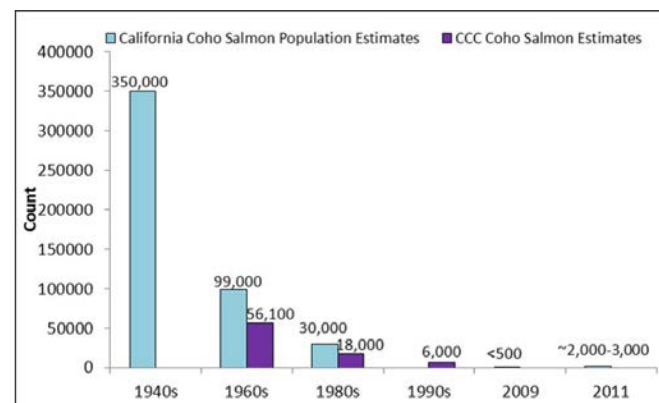
In the early 2000s, the NPS participated with various stakeholders to develop a framework for habitat protection and restoration, including salmonids, at watershed and site-specific scales. We moved facilities

away from drainages, added fencing to protect riparian habitat, and reduced adult salmon passage barriers. Several restoration projects are completed including instream and floodplain restoration at Muir Beach. We are working with other resource agencies and the water provider for the town of Muir Beach to improve summer instream flows for fish. Current projects include a captive rearing and release program to “jumpstart” the coho population, stream water quality assessment, and continued long-term monitoring of salmon and habitat conditions.

We have partnered with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) during the past two decades on this project. Gail Seymour, CDFW Supervisor, put it this way: “The NPS commitment to watershed restoration is a critical part of species recovery efforts in Redwood Creek as well as the overall Central California Coast coho salmon region.”

Helping the coho survive in Redwood Creek will take a concerted effort by resource agencies and the public. For those interested in helping, there are several winter volunteer opportunities. Visit <http://go.usa.gov/zRVx> to learn more.

Darren Fong, Aquatic Ecologist,



Historical estimates of Central California Coast coho spawners. Source: National Marine Fisheries Service 2012 Coho Recovery Plan Executive Summary.

## Generations of Bay Chapter activists honored at 90th anniversary celebration

2014 was a year of many anniversaries: the 90th anniversary of the Bay Chapter, the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, the centennial of John Muir's death, and the 20th anniversary of the California Desert Protection Act. All these momentous occasions gave the Bay Chapter the opportunity to reflect on past achievements and honor the activists whose vision and passion have guided us for close to a century. At the Chapter's birthday party in November, we honored a small number of our dedicated activists with the following awards:

### **Edward Bennett, Edward Bennett Lifetime Achievement Award**

A true Golden Sierran, Ed Bennett was elected to the Chapter Executive Committee in 1969, and served as Chapter chair, treasurer, or assistant treasurer for a period of 30 years. He takes special pride in his work on the successful campaign 1972 campaign for Proposition 20, the Coastal Initiative, which provides protection for much of the California coastline, and Proposition 70, the Wildlife, Coastal, and Park Land Conservation Act of 1988, which provided \$25 million to help establish the East Bay Shoreline Park. In 1976 Ed founded the slide-lecture series "EVENTS," which continued for 16 years and provided the Chapter with a major source of funding.

### **Zeke Gerwein, Future Leader Award**

This summer, 13-year-old Zeke Gerwein embarked on a second summer biking adventure, pedaling 3,400 miles from Mexico to Canada and back down the coast to Arcata. Zeke's trip raised money for the Bay Chapter and raised awareness of climate disruption. Zeke's was an educational enterprise on multiple levels; an extraordinarily articulate young man, he shared his story and learned from the people he met along his route. Since his return to his home in Berkeley, Zeke has shared his experiences with others. Show your support for Zeke's work by making a donation to the Bay Chapter at [tinyurl.com/thankzeke](http://tinyurl.com/thankzeke).

### **Arthur Boone and Tree-planting Team, Excellence in Community Service**

When Oakland reduced its tree crew in mid-2009, Sierra Club leader Arthur Boone stepped up to fill the void. Boone worked with the Northern Alameda County Group to garner the support of Oakland's city officials, including former Councilwoman Jane Brunner. The tree team recruits and trains volunteers who plant trees between November and July. Over the last four-and-a-half years the Sierra Club's all-volunteer tree-planting team planted 1,072 street trees in Oakland, with many more going in this season.

### **Jane Barrett, Paul Foster, Anna Robinson, Evelyn Randolph, and Jack Sudall (in memorial) of East Bay Dinners, Excellence in Social Events**

In 1948, several volunteer leaders organized

dinners to introduce new members to the Sierra Club and all it had to offer. Over time, these dinners became the East Bay Dinners: an evening of socializing with friends and a slide show presentation of members' interesting trips. The current committee (our awardees) shares 128 years of Sierra Club membership and has given us 35 years of service. We also honor two past program coordinators, Bill Loughman and John Shively, as well as Jack Sudall, who led the group for 52 years and passed away in 2014.

### **Katherine Howard, Activist of the Year**

"The public needs to be informed of what's happening with our parks so that they can hold their elected officials responsible for protecting our precious park heritage," said Kathy Howard. That statement pretty much sums up her approach to conservation. Over the years Kathy has helped to form various grassroots groups to be a voice for Golden Gate Park. Her efforts in Golden Gate Park include saving 100-year-old trees in the Music Concourse; successfully opposing the construction of a 40,000-square-foot water-treatment facility inside the park; and a six-year campaign to stop the Beach Chalet project (read more on page 16).

### **Dick Schneider, Acre by Acre Award**

Dick Schneider's 40-year "career" in the Sierra Club has ranged from environmental research on high-altitude Sierra Nevada lakes to work on energy, toxics, and population issues as a Club leader. Dick's leadership has been instrumental to campaigns to protect unincorporated eastern Alameda County land from sprawl and other harmful development. He has been involved in numerous growth-control initiatives in Fremont, Livermore, Hercules, Moraga, and Dublin, where in 2014 he helped lead the successful campaign to defeat a developer-backed initiative that would have broken the city's new urban-growth boundary and authorized urban sprawl in rural Doolan Canyon.

### **Past Recipients, Michener Outings Leadership Award**

In 2001, the Bay Chapter established the Dave and Pat Michener Outings Leadership Award, named after the volunteers who co-edited the Chapter Activities Calendar for more than 30 years. The award recognizes individual Chapter outings leaders for superior leadership. Michener Award recipients are: **Don de Fremery** (2001), **Patrick Colgan** (2002), **Guy Mayes** (2003), **Jayne and Erwin Keller** (2004), **Jack Sudall** (2005), **Katy and Brad Christie** (2006), **Richard Watson** (2007), **Diane Smith** (2008), **Lloyd Sawchuck** (2009), **Chuck Collingwood** (2010), **Russ Hartman** (2011), **Mike Hayman** (2012), **Janess Hanson** (2013), and **Vera Lis** (2014). These individuals have enriched outings participants and served the environmental movement in countless ways.



Arthur Boone (center, at microphone) and tree-planting team volunteers accept the Excellence in Community Service award at the Bay Chapter's 90th anniversary celebration.

## Classifieds

For rates, procedures, and deadlines for Yodeler *classifieds*, visit <http://sfbay.sierraclub.org/classifieds>.

For information about **display ads** (boxed ads for your business or service) or a rate card, contact advertising manager Amy Felix at [yodelerads@sierraclub.org](mailto:yodelerads@sierraclub.org).

### Homes for Sale

**VACATION HOME** in mtns abv Calistoga.  
Rustic 1000sqft house + 300sqft cottage on 14 acres.  
XInt water. \$485,000. Call  
(510)849-8511  
(We lost msgs in Dec, please call again.)

### For Sale

Red Bellwether Double **BIKE PANNIERS**  
**WINTER CAMPING** Parka Hats Gloves Sox.  
gently used. **CITY JACKETS** Goretex Tweed Nylon  
[reediterod@att.net](mailto:reediterod@att.net)

### Personals

**When drafting your will**, please consider a bequest to the San Francisco Bay Chapter. Contact Melanie Jolly at (510)848-0800, ext. 302, or: [melanie@sfbaysc.org](mailto:melanie@sfbaysc.org)

"You're our best source. We always get the most through you."

"It really worked!"

"GREAT RESPONSE from past ads!"

Why don't you try a Yodeler ad?

## Health, environmental concerns about tire-crumb turf call S.F. policy into question

One of the most visible and vexing byproducts of our love affair with the car—besides climate change—is the used tire. Taking a cue from the mantra “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle,” cities including San Francisco are repurposing the leftover tires to pave sports fields and playgrounds. However, growing concerns about the health risks posed by toxins present in tires have the Sierra Club and many other environmental and consumer safety groups calling for their removal. San Francisco has in place a Precautionary Principle that should preclude the use of materials that could pose a risk to the health and safety of its citizens and the environment. So why is the city continuing with plans to install this potentially hazardous material at the Beach Chalet soccer fields?

In part, the city’s installation of tire-crumb—or styrene butadiene rubber—turf sports fields is a part of a nationwide undertaking, once encouraged by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). By 2003, Americans were generating about 290 million used tires annually. To keep waste tires out of landfills and from polluting the countryside, the EPA began to encourage their reuse. Several states, including California, followed suit and created grant programs that local governments could tap into to repurpose used tires.

Encouraged by such incentives, tire-crumb playgrounds and sports fields have begun to proliferate in San Francisco parks in recent years. In November, following the failure of a ballot measure that would have prevented the project, the city’s Recreation and Parks

Department commenced construction on its largest-yet tire-crumb facility: the Beach Chalet soccer complex, located at the western end of Golden Gate Park. This project involves demolishing seven acres of natural grass fields and covering those seven acres with an estimated 3.5 million pounds of ground-up tires covered with plastic grass.

Because of projects like the Beach Chalet fields, there may be fewer heaps of used tires throughout the nation, but growing concerns about the safety of tire-crumb turf have raised questions about the wisdom of this tradeoff.

For several years, the Sierra Club has been litigating the Beach Chalet soccer fields project based on inadequacies in the project Environment Impact Report (EIR), including these safety concerns. For one thing, the EIR acknowledges that ingested toxins in the tire crumb exceed hazard levels for children by 220 percent, based on a report by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (you can find the full report at <http://tinyurl.com/oehhastudy>). What are those substances that exceed the trigger levels? Among others, they are arsenic, cadmium, hexavalent chromium,

cobalt, copper, lead, molybdenum, nickel, and zinc. Physiological impacts of overexposure to these toxins range from irritated eyes, rashes, and joint pain to developmental delays, cardiomyopathy, and cancer.

Other government agencies have likewise acknowledged safety issues with tire crumb. In 2013, in response to advocacy by the organization Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, the EPA retracted a 2009 statement that read, “The limited study, conducted in August through October 2008, found that the concentrations of materials that made up tire crumb were below levels considered harmful.” The EPA now admits that the information from its 2008 study is outdated.

In 2014, NBC News reporters aired a series of stories on the potential link between tire-crumb turf and cancer in soccer players, mostly goalies, a number of whom have developed lymphoma and leukemia, among other cancers. Soccer goalies spend a lot of time on the ground, diving into the crumb rubber. The NBC stories revealed that the EPA now admits that more studies need to be done before tire-crumb turf can be declared safe.

Additionally, in December 2014, State Senator Jerry Hill, representing Peninsula district 13 and Chair of the Standing Committee on Environmental Quality, introduced legislation calling for a temporary moratorium on the installation of tire-crumb soccer fields pending the results of a state study on their safety. Senate Bill 47, The Children’s Safe Playground and Turf Field Act of 2015, would require the study to be completed by July 2017. Unfortunately, because the moratorium would not apply to any projects already underway before July 2016, the legislation would not stop installation of the Beach Chalet fields or remove the many acres



Construction on the Beach Chalet soccer fields as of January, 2015. Photo by Kathy Howard.

of tire crumb-filled artificial turf already in use throughout San Francisco.

At a Park, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Committee meeting on January 6 of this year, Dawn Kamalanathan, the SFRPD director of Planning and Capital Management, said that as part of the department’s capital plans for 2015-16 and 2016-17 it is considering a proposal to replace tire-crumb turf fields at the Franklin, Youngblood Coleman, Garfield, and Silver Terrace playfields with “natural infill material.” Despite this positive development, Kamalanathan said that the department still plans to install tire crumb turf at the Beach Chalet fields.

San Francisco’s Precautionary Principle, adopted in 2003, requires policymakers to thoroughly vet projects and choose the option least harmful to human health and the city’s natural systems. Given all that we know—and still don’t know—about the toxins present in tire crumb, the Precautionary Principle would seem to preclude the Beach Chalet project right from the get go.

The Sierra Club’s fight to appeal the Beach Chalet project EIR is ongoing, with a ruling expected in early 2015. If the Club wins its appeal, the city will be forced to redo the project’s Environmental Impact Report. At that point, environmentalists and those concerned about the health of soccer players will have an opportunity to lobby for safer turf for the city’s children.

Read more about the environmental and health impacts of the Beach Chalet soccer fields project in the Yodeler online at <http://theyodeler.org/?p=9707> and <http://theyodeler.org/?p=9013>.

Sue Vaughan, chair of the San Francisco Group Executive Committee, and Kathleen McCowin, an attorney, geneticist, and soccer mom.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH, 11:30 AM**  
**14TH STREET & BROADWAY, OAKLAND**



Be a part of the largest rally against fracking in California history.

**[TinyURL.com/MarchForClimateLeadership](http://TinyURL.com/MarchForClimateLeadership)**