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enjoy,
and protect
the planet

Sierra Club Lake Group January-February 2023 Newsletter

Community Forum January 18

At 6PM on Wednesday January 18, 2023 recently-appointed Lake County Community Development Director Mireya Turner will join us to discuss future directions for her department: this is a wonderful opportunity to explore ways to collaborate to ensure that healthy ecosystems and outdoor recreation are included as essential parts of community planning and development. Please bring your questions and concerns to share with Mireya.

Although the meeting is free and open to the public as always, registration is required: everyone who signs up will receive confirmation and Zoom connection details, and a followup email a day or so before the event. To RSVP, go to the Lake Group website at sierraclub.org/redwood/lake and click the link in the embedded calendar.

Pleistocene Park Screening January 29

At 2:30PM on Sunday January 29 Lake Group is partnering with the Soper Reese Theater and Middletown Art Center to sponsor a special screening of the film *Pleistocene Park*, which tells the story of “a Russian scientist – part genius, part madman – a vanished ice age ecosystem, a climatic timebomb, and a crazy plan to save the world” by restoring the Ice Age “mammoth steppe” ecosystem and avoiding a catastrophic feedback loop leading to runaway global warming.

Award-winning locally-rooted filmmaker Lucas Griswold-Tergis will join us to discuss the film and its implications: a Lower Lake High School graduate, Griswold studied cultural anthropology and ethnographic film at University of California, Santa Cruz, and currently resides part time in San Francisco and part time in Haines, Alaska. His first film, *Smokin' Fish*, played at film festivals around the world and

was broadcast nationally on PBS. *Pleistocene Park*, recently released, has already won prestigious awards at numerous film festivals. For more information and to see a trailer, visit <https://javafilms.fr/film/pleistocene-park/>

Audiences will leave this film not only with a feeling of immersion in another world and an emotional connection with the characters, but also with a stronger understanding of arctic system science and a deeper visceral sense of the urgency of climate change.

Advance tickets are available by voluntary donation at soperreeseheater.com or at the door: no one will be turned away for lack of funds. We hope this will be the first in a series highlighting many Lake County grown artists, scientists, engineers, educators, and innovators of many kinds who will share their work and accomplishments with the community to inspire others.

KONOCTI POST

www.konoctipost.blogspot.com

a lake county naturalist's blog

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Federal Funding for Middle Creek

Just in time for Christmas, on Friday December 23 Congressman Mike Thompson announced that nearly \$4 million in funding Lake County projects had been included in the final 2023 appropriations government funding bill.

This includes \$750,000 to enable the Army Corps of Engineers to move forward with the design stage of the Middle Creek Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Project, which will restore 1400 acres of wetlands at the north end of Clear Lake, simultaneously to reducing flood risk, improving water quality, and restoring vital wetlands habitat with cultural significance for the surrounding tribal communities. The project is generally considered to be the most important single action we can take for the long-term health of the lake and its watershed, and this financial commitment is key to future progress—so good news indeed!

Let's Go Digital

Lake Group members are invited to help fight deforestation by receiving this bimonthly newsletter electronically rather than on paper. To get it as an email attachment in pdf format instead, send a request to join the "Lake Group Paper Free" list to vbrandon95457@gmail.com—not only does this save some trees, it also benefits the Group financially.

Lake Group Executive Committee

Deb Sally (Chair): 707 235 9011,
Ed Robey (Vice Chair) 707 994 8304,
JoAnn Saccato, (Secretary) 707 350-1719
Victoria Brandon (Treasurer, Conservation Chair: 707 994-1931
Tricia Evans (Membership Chair)
Eliot Hurwitz
Sally Peterson (Climate Chair), 707 533-3132

ExCom meetings are usually held at 5:00 PM on the third Tuesday of the month, on the Zoom platform. All members are cordially invited to attend, but requested to contact the Chair first to confirm the time and get connection details



*Highland Springs
Equestrian Center
707-279-1903*

*Horse Boarding in a Sublime Setting in the Wine Country
8900 Wight Way, Kelseyville, CA 95451
Paul Marchand and Juliana Vidich
www.highlandspringsequestrian.weebly.com*

Watershed Books
Lakeport, California

*305 North Main Street
707.263.5787*

Help Wanted: Social Media Coordinator

As part of our efforts to appeal to a broader and more diverse community, Lake Group would like to increase our presence on social media. Currently we have a Facebook page that is occasionally updated by some executive committee members, but aside from our website that page represents our only online presence.

Besides more frequent Facebook posts, it would be great to be able to reach out on Twitter and Instagram, and maybe even TikTok, but none of the Group's current leadership has the capacity to make that happen, so we are looking for a media-savvy supporter who can help out.

If that sounds like YOU please send a text to Deb at 707 235 9011—she would love to hear from you!

New leadership for Lake Group

The advent of 2023 marked a turning point for Lake Group leadership, with the retirement of long-time executive committee member Cheri Kessner, who had been a cherished colleague for more than 15 years, and whose contributions to the organization and the environment have been monumental. At various times she has served as Chair, Vice Chair, Conservation Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, managed the calendar sales program, hosted the majority of our in-person meetings, tabled at events, acted as point person on water issues, kept a weather eye on everything happening in Lakeport, announced Sierra Club events at Supervisor meetings, organized an acclaimed Wild and Scenic Film Festival, all while consistently enriching our community with her good judgment, high principles and good humor.

Although we're going to miss her a lot, we're also delighted to have persuaded Cobb activist Eliot Hurwitz to have run for the seat left vacant by Cheri's departure. Welcome, Eliot!

Rent This Space

Lake Group now accepting (in other words, selling) advertisements in this newsletter: a two-inch (business card size) ad like this costs \$25 per issue, or—Great Bargain—\$100 for a year (six issues) To submit an ad send an email to vbrandon95457@gmail.com or call Victoria at 994-1931.

Molok Luyuk Update

As was reported throughout 2022, the goal of achieving permanent protection for the sensitive habitat and cultural significance of Molok Luyuk advanced considerably. As the year drew to a close the Berryessa Snow Mountain Expansion Act had passed out of the House in the National Defense Authorization Act, and out of the Senate Energy Committee by unanimous, bi-partisan vote. The coalition working on the campaign was hopeful that the bill would be included in a public lands package or other must-pass legislation during the lame-duck session, but this did not take place.

The bill will be reintroduced in the new session of Congress, with an improved chance of Senate passage paired with probably gridlock in the House. In the meantime, the campaign plans to work with President Biden and Interior Secretary Haaland to achieve long term protection and tribal co-management for Molok Luyuk through the Antiquities Act if Congress does not take action. We can make this happen – with your help – in 2023!

By the way, if you haven't done so already, please take a minute to visit <https://www.expandberryessa.org> and sign the petition requesting permanent protection for this special place!



Sierra Club Lake Group
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Lower Lake, CA 95457