

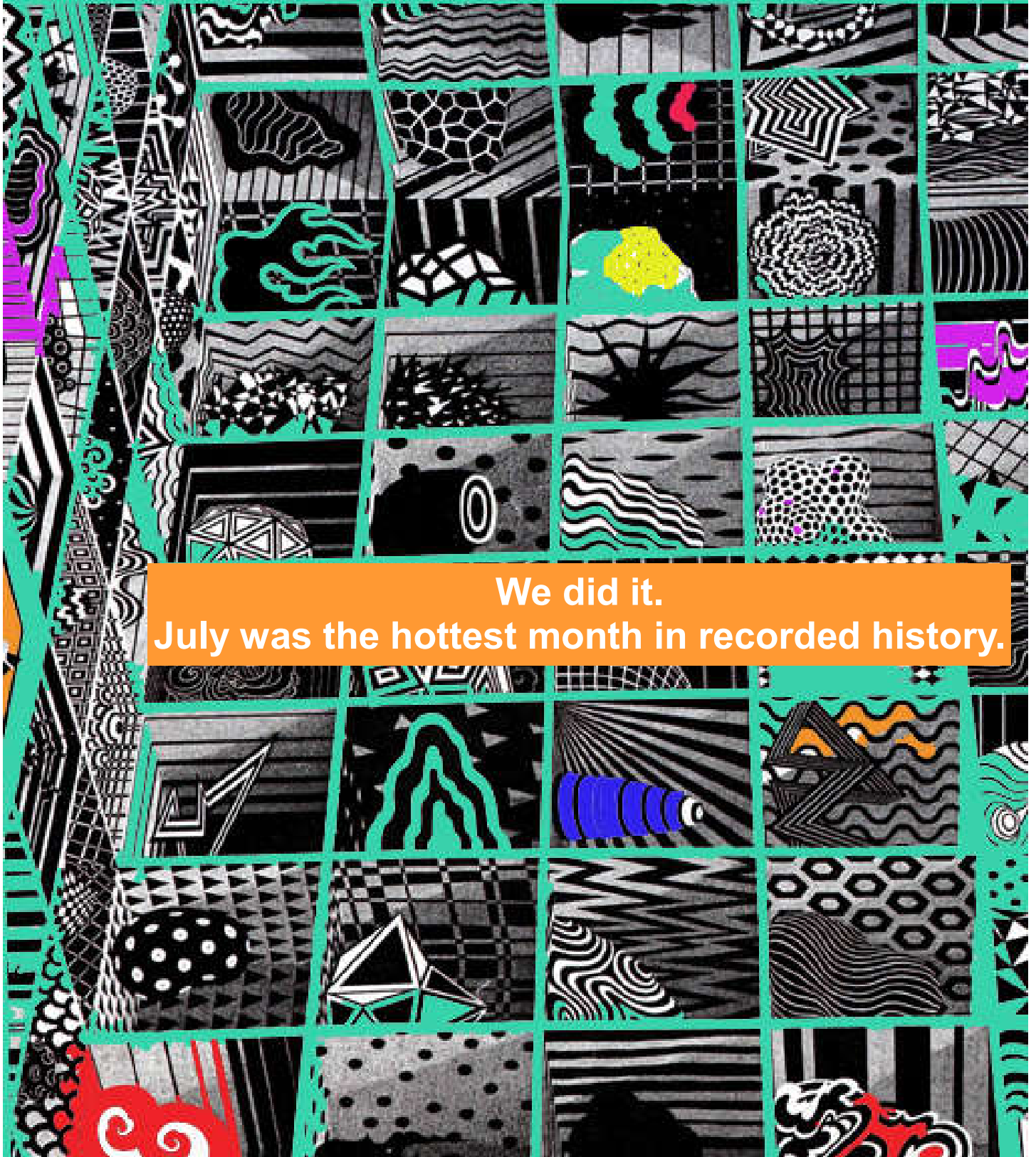
# PEATDUSTER

Volume 54-3 Page 1

Delta-Sierra Group Newsletter

July - October 2023

Visit us at [www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/delta-sierra](http://www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/delta-sierra)



We did it.  
July was the hottest month in recorded history.

## COASTAL CLEANUP DAY

Delta-Sierra Group & First Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton serve as site captains for the 24th Annual San Joaquin County International Coastal Cleanup Day and we look forward to you joining us.

We will meet Saturday, September 23, 2023 at the Northwest corner of Pacific Avenue and the Calaveras River. Parking is available at the Triangular Parking Lot on Pacific Avenue and Brookside Drive.

Cleanup is from 9am-12 noon. Attendees should meet at 8:30 am for sign-in and registration. Our site will once again be the Calaveras River at Pacific Avenue and Brookside Drive.

Please wear closed-toe shoes, a hat or visor, and sunscreen. If you can, please bring your own garden gloves, refillable water bottle and reusable bucket. Disposable gloves, water, and trash bags will be available at the site. We work in teams of two or three.

We will have waiver forms the morning of this event, but if you download and bring the completed form found here it will help save time. The Minor and Adult Waiver Forms in English and Spanish can be found on this URL website address. <http://www.sjwater.org/Stormwater-Management/California-Coastal-Cleanup>

Over the years several participants have told us that this is a great educational outing for their kids and grandchildren. It is always exciting because you don't know what you will find!



## Sustainability at University of the Pacific Presented by Jessica Bilecki

Monday, September 25, 2023 @ 7:00 pm  
Fireside Room, Central United Methodist Church  
3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, California

If you look on a website showing a list of 12,000 job titles like this one:

<https://www.careerplanner.com/DOTindex.cfm>

you will not find director of sustainability. Perhaps another site will have it listed. So if you ask Google. What does a sustainability director do? You get, “A sustainability manager, also known as a director of sustainability or a chief sustainability officer, is responsible for analyzing and predicting the present and future of the firm they represent. They evaluate its effect on the health of the environment, particularly the immediate environment surrounding the firm.”

Jessica Bilecki will provide an overview of sustainability initiatives at the University of the Pacific. This presentation will cover infrastructure, engagement and academics. She is responsible for coordinating and implementing initiatives in operations, academics, and co-curricular learning that advance sustainable practices. Prior to working at UOP, she worked in sustainability offices at Elon University, Ohio and Yale University, New Haven Connecticut. She founded and operated a small Community Supported Agriculture operation in Ohio and her master’s work examined food deserts, food security and overall sustainable food systems.



The University of the Pacific ranks in the top 10 for sustainable food and dining initiatives. Also it ranks first in the nation among private universities in on-campus, renewable energy generation and second for the percentage of campus-owned vehicles that are 100% electric. It uses 100% non-potable water for irrigation on the Stockton campus.





## A Bit About Bats With Corky Quirk



Monday, October 23, 2023 @ 7:00 pm  
Joint Meeting of San Joaquin Audubon  
& Host Delta-Sierra Group  
Fireside Room, Central United Methodist Church  
3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, California  
Free and open to the public

When our Chair, Margo Praus, found this speaker and topic, she thought it would be perfect for a meeting with Audubon members who like flying critters. Bats play an essential role in the environment and are often misunderstood. Join Corky Quirk with NorCal Bats to learn more about these winged wonders: how they fly, how they catch winged insects, and how they use sonar. You will learn about species native to California and their importance to agriculture throughout the State and the issues they face. **A highlight of the presentation includes meeting live, native species.**

Corky Quirk is the founder of NorCal Bats, an organization that provides care for injured bats and educational programs for libraries, school, nature programs, fairs and other events throughout the region. She works with injured and orphaned bats, returning them to the wild and she is permitted through the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the US Department of Agriculture to keep a captive colony of non-releasable bats for use in Education. Corky also is responsible for maintaining the website at: <https://norcalbats.org> (Photos below provided by Corky Quick.)



Four myths bats must face: #1 Bats are blind. Nope. They have limited eyesight because their eyes are so small. #2 All bats enjoy blood cocktails, shaken, not stirred. Nope. Of 1300 species, only one, the Common Vampire Bat, which can be found in the tropics of Mexico and Central and South America, drinks blood. #3 Bats intentionally fly into your hair. Nope. When you invade their space like in a cave, your hair is in their flyway and by mistake they might touch it. Next time try standing on your head! #4 All bats have rabies. Nope. Scientists suspect that less than 1 percent of bats are rabid. However, if a bat is found on the ground, there is a strong chance there is something wrong with it and it should never be handled with bare hands.



If you Google “Corky Quick NorCal Bats” you get some wonderful photos.



### *Tribute To Rick Mielbrecht*

You may have received Delta-Sierra Group's August News which mentioned Rick Mielbrecht passed on in July. A poignant obituary was published in the *Recordnet.com* can still be found at:

<https://www.recordnet.com/obituaries/pyrk0537428>

We knew him as the Professor at San Joaquin Delta Community College and the person who joined the Executive Committee in charge of Global Warming. It was appropriate to add this new position to our committee because in 2006 former United States Vice President Al Gore shocked the world with his documentary film *An Inconvenient Truth*. It was about his campaign to educate people about global warming. Rick must have paid attention unlike the majority of the rest of the planet at that time.

In Peatduster 38-4 issued December 2007 he wrote for our ballot "I've been involved in environmental activities since 9th grade. Presently I co-chair the Green Sanctuary Committee at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton. I'm retired from more than 30 years of teaching astronomy and physics in the California Community College and State University systems, make my own biodiesel fuel for my car, and am looking for ways to reduce my carbon footprint any way I can.

If I were on the board of our local Sierra Club group I would emphasize reducing our carbon footprint." He join the board! (The granny photo is from Founders Day May 19, 2008.)



I recall that I wrote up the meeting where he would speak on BioFuels. I remember the meeting because it was quite interesting. Rick had an old Mercedes 300D series, the D standing for diesel. He and a friend had to sneak around the back of Stockton restaurants to find discarded oil from deep fat fryers in order to make biodiesel. This was a problem because most of the restaurants had a service that collected the oil. Imagine the Professor stealing old oil at night! R.I.P Rick - You saw the future.



## BITS AND PIECES

Bits and Pieces is like the junk drawer in your kitchen or elsewhere in your home. It's where you put stuff when you don't know where to put that stuff.

*B&P Copernicus confirms July 2023 was the hottest month ever recorded on the planet.*

The Copernicus Climate Change Service, implemented by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts on behalf of the European Commission publishes monthly climate bulletins reporting on the changes observed in global surface air temperature, sea ice cover and hydrological variables. This month, highlights about sea surface temperature are also included in their press release. All the reported findings are based on computer-generated analyses using billions of measurements from satellites, ships, aircraft and weather stations around the world.

Samantha Burgess, Deputy Director of the Copernicus, said, "2023 is currently the third warmest year to date at 0.43°C above the recent average, with the average global temperature in July at 1.5°C above pre industrial levels. Even if this is only temporary, it shows the urgency for ambitious efforts to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions, which are the main driver behind these records."

*B&P Human-caused climate change influenced July temperatures for the vast majority of humanity.*

In August Dr. Andrew Pershing, vice president for science at Climate Central said. "Across the entire planet, the average person was exposed to 11 days in which carbon pollution made the local temperature at least three times more likely to be hotter. Virtually no place on Earth escaped the influence of climate change last month."

*B&P SB 596 Status*

SB596 from September 2021 required the California Air Resources Board to develop a comprehensive strategy by July 1, 2023 to reduce the carbon intensity from cement use by 40 percent from 2019 levels by 2030 and to achieve carbon neutrality in this sector no later than 2045. On May 31, 2023 CARB held a remote only Second Workshop for SB 596 Cement Sector Net-Zero Emissions Strategy. (Your tax dollars at work while CO2 fills the air.)

### *B&P Anthropocene Epoch.*

Are you a member of the Greatest Generation, the Silent Generation, a Baby Boomer, Gen X, Millennial, Gen Z or Gen Alpha? Of course these are just US-centrism stereotype concepts. The gauchos and caballeros of Patagonia don't care what generation you identify with, as most of the world. However, I like to think some of our scientists might be *Baby Bloomers* and they are about to give official recognition to the Anthropocene Epoch. Presently this is the unofficial unit of geologic time, used to describe the most recent period in Earth's history when human activity started to have a significant impact on the planet's climate and ecosystems.

Earth's current epoch, the Holocene, began when the last glacial period



ended around 11,700 years ago. Human civilization thrived during this time, but since the middle of the 20th century, our impact on the planet has grown dramatically. The International Union of Geological Sciences believes that this event foretells the beginning of a new epoch dominated by humans.

For the past few years, a team of researchers called the Anthropocene Working Group has been trying to pinpoint the place on Earth that offers the best geological evidence for the Anthropocene and the year. "We looked at a very diverse array of natural environmental archives, from a coral reef in Australia to a peat bog in Poland," says Simon Turner at University College London, who is secretary of the AWG.

The group announced that Crawford Lake in Ontario, Canada, is its chosen site. Sediment cores from the lake show a spike in plutonium-239, the radioactive fallout from nuclear weapons testing, dating back to the early 1950s that coincides with the surge in human activity at the time. The end date for the Holocene Epoch and the beginning of the Anthropocene Epoch isn't set, but will be between 1950 and 1953 and the AWG hopes to have consensus by the end of this year.



## *B&P The Answer Is Blowing In The Wind*

On 22 August 2023, the Pyxis Ocean set sail from Singapore, China on her maiden voyage to Paranagua, Brazil. This is a distance of 10828 nautical miles or 12460 mile by Amphicar. The trip will take about 3 weeks for the Pyxis.



The bulk carrier vessel is chartered by Cargill, but owned by Mitsubishi Corporation. You might know that Cargill is an American multinational company and has a plant in south Stockton at 4344 South El Dorado Street. (That facility may have the shortest private railroad in the United States. It is less than a mile and has one switch engine named Cargill.)

Pyxis Ocean, built in 2017, was retrofitted with two 123 feet tall 'WindWing' sails, a technology developed by the UK company BAR Technologies, produced by Yara Marine Technologies in Norway and added at a COSCO shipyard in Shanghai, China. The foldable steel and fiberglass were fitted to the deck and have been designed to help improve fuel consumption using wind-propulsion technology. Since they are installed in a vertical position, they propel the vessel forward rather than lift it from the ground as with an airplane.

The shipping industry accounts for 2 to 3 percent of the world's global emissions. After you've refined the cleaner fuels from crude oil, you get heavy fuel oil, which fuels these big ships; it's the worst for polluting our planet. For every ton of HFO you burn at sea, you're emitting 3.15 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

John Cooper of BAR Technologies, spoke with Scott Simon on National Public Radio and explained that the sails act like the wing of a commercial jet. Thus, the Pyxis Ocean will do 16 knots when it was designed with combustion engines to do 12.5 knots. The wings definitely do not cause a speed reduction.

The wings are expensive to install and maintain, but are saving 1 1/2 tons of fuel per wing per day. Cooper claims BAR can produce a zero-CO2 ship right now. “There is nothing in terms of technology that is stopping us. If the industry can't do it by 2050, then, you know, we should be penalized. We owe it to our children.”



Pyxis Ocean

### *B&P Tribute To Phil Pister (Source: Mono Lake Committee)*

Renowned conservationist Edwin Philip Pister, known for his work in protecting golden trout and desert fish, passed away in Bishop on January 17, 2023, at the age of 94.

Phil dedicated his career to protecting the biodiversity of fish populations in the Eastern Sierra and beyond in his work with the California Department of Fish & Wildlife as a fishery biologist. He is perhaps best known for saving the Owens pupfish from near extinction by personally scooping the last-surviving, inch-long fish from their shrinking pond and carrying them to safety in two buckets. In *Natural History* magazine, he wrote, “I literally held within my hands the existence of an entire vertebrate species. If I had tripped over a piece of barbed wire or stepped into a rodent burrow, the Owens pupfish would now be extinct! But good fortune smiled upon us, and the recovery continues today.” R.I.P. Phil - You are a hero for many of us.

## Executive Committee

Please use the following email address to contact any members of your Executive Committee or volunteers. In the subject line please include the name of the person or persons you wish to contact.

[deltasierragroup1@gmail.com](mailto:deltasierragroup1@gmail.com)

**Chair & Program Chair: Margo Praus**

**Vice Chair: Paul Plathe**

**Secretary: Open**

**Treasurer & Chapter Delegate: Richard Abood**

**Conservation & Chapter Delegate Alternate: Mary Elizabeth**

**Committee Member: Knute Momberg**

**Non-Voting Volunteer Positions:**

**Membership Chair: Jeri Bigbee**

**Outings Chair: Open**

**Website: Open**

**Newsletter Editor: Robert Evans**

**Friends of the Calaveras: Jim Marsh**

**SJVAPCD-CAC: Ned Lebia**

The expiration of Executive Committee member terms are as follows: Knute and Dick terms expire December 2023. Paul and Mary terms expire December 2024. Margo and the open position (if filled) terms expire December 2025. The Chair, Vice Chair and Chapter Delegates must be Sierra Club and Executive Committee members.





**SIERRA  
CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

DELTA-SIERRA GROUP  
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STOCKTON, CA 95208

## THE LAST PAGE

**Pzzzt**  
**Please mail or**  
**forward a copy**  
**of the Peatuster**  
**to your friends.**



**“Ice storm rolls from Texas to Tennessee - I'm in Los Angeles and it's freezing. Global warming is a total, and very expensive, hoax!”  
December 6, 2013**

**“This very expensive GLOBAL WARMING bullshit has got to stop. Our planet is freezing, record low temps, and our GW scientists are stuck in ice.” January 1, 2014**

**Vivek Ramaswamy**

**“I'm the only candidate on stage who isn't bought and paid for, so I can say this — the climate change agenda is a hoax. More people are dying of bad climate change policies than they are of actual climate change.” August 23, 2023**

**SPOT THE DIFFERENCE**

