

Redwood Needles



Fall 2023

Sierra Club Redwood Chapter

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Shell Beach, Sonoma Coast. Photo by Jim Horn

Meet Our New Director!

Kelly Ramsey is on the job!

The Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club is pleased to announce we have hired a new Chapter Director, **Kelly Ramsey**, who joined our team effective September 4.

Kelly was born in Frankfort, Kentucky and raised amid the woodlands of Kentucky and the farmlands of Pennsylvania. After earning a bachelor's in English Literature and a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing, Kelly spent several years teaching and writing before co-founding the nonprofit artist-in-residence program, *The Lighthouse Works*, where she served as Executive Director.



In her early 30's, Kelly traveled to Peru and hiked a backpacking route to Machu Picchu called "Salkantay." The trip and the incredible beauty of the Andes spurred a love of hiking and the outdoors, and she spent the next few years using all her free time to travel and solo backpack throughout the American West and Latin America, including several through-hikes of the Grand Canyon. Eventually, she realized that her love of the outdoors could go full-time, and she took a volunteer position on a trail crew in Happy Camp, California, on the Klamath National Forest.

Moving to the Klamath in 2018 changed her life. Since then, Kelly has worked as a trail laborer, a "rec tech" (glorified vault toilet cleaner), a wilderness ranger, and finally as a wildland firefighter on the Smith River hotshot crew with the U.S. Forest Service, on the Six Rivers National Forest in Del Norte County. She spent five years in Redwood Chapter territory, living in Happy Camp, Gasquet, Crescent City, and Redding, and fighting wildfires throughout Northern California. Working in the North State and coming to understand wildfire and forest management, she developed a passion for conservation, land use, fire prevention, and climate justice—experience that will significantly contribute to the work of our Chapter.

A writer by profession, Kelly's work has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *The San Francisco Chronicle* and *Sierra Magazine*. Her first book, a memoir of fighting wildfires, is forthcoming from Scribner (Simon & Schuster) in 2025. Her understanding and love for Northern California make working for the Redwood Chapter an absolute dream job. She is thrilled to be able to fight to protect the places she likes best in the world.

Kelly's goals for the future are in perfect alignment with the shared vision and priorities of our Chapter and Groups. Simply put, to preserve and protect the incomparable biodiversity of the Redwood Chapter. To nurture and grow our capacity and ability to meet the challenges presented by global climate change. To provide our volunteers and members with opportunities to engage and participate in our work: PG&E infrastructure improvements and forest management, Eel River dam removal, Sierra Club California's 30x30 Task Force campaign, water preservation, political activism, clean energy, and social and environmental justice for all who live in our region.

As much as Chapter Director of the Redwood Chapter is a dream job for Kelly, we believe that works both ways. We're excited she chose our Chapter as her new home and look forward to the future with our new Director, Kelly Ramsey.



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REDWOOD CHAPTER

Redwood Needles

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Support Your Passion for a Just and Sustainable World

Create a legacy that protects and restores the natural world for future generations by naming Sierra Club's Redwood Chapter in your will or trust. Or, name Sierra Club Foundation as the beneficiary of your retirement plan for the benefit of your local chapter and leave less highly taxed assets to your loved ones.



To learn more about the advantages of making a planned gift and to become a member of the Rachel Carson Society, please contact us.



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Redwood Chapter Executive Committee

The executive committee is the governing body of the chapter, with one (1) member delegated by each of six (6) regional groups and six (6) members elected at large. Each group elects its own executive committee. The chapter ExCom meets every-other month over Zoom.

Chapter Chair • At Large • Political Chair • CCC Delegate • Wilderness Chair:
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At Large, CCL Delegate, Conservation Chair: • Chris Rogers*

Political Compliance Officer:
Michael Melton

Transportation Chair:
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Jeanne Wetzel Chinn*

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Mendocino Group Delegate to Chapter:
Mary Walsh* • (707) 937-0572

Mendocino Group Delegate Alternate:
Robin Leler

Napa Group Delegate to Chapter:
David Campbell *

North Group Delegate to Chapter:
Ned Forsyth* • (707) 826-2417

Solano Group Delegate to Chapter:
Joe Feller* • (415) 902-3395

Sonoma Group Delegate to Chapter:
Shirley Johnson-Foell* • (707) 206-1138

Chapter Webmaster: Melanie Matway

* Signifies voting member of the ExCom

State Highway 37—The Road Ahead

by Steve Birdleough, Redwood Chapter Transportation Chair

California State Highway 37 (SR 37) has a 21-mile-long segment connecting Marin and Solano Counties at the north end of San Francisco Bay. The highway bisects the San Pablo Bay Wildlife Refuge and other habitats that together make up one of the largest wetland areas on the West Coast. Parts of the highway are barely above sea level and flood with increasing frequency.

It is generally agreed that a causeway will need to be built along the existing highway right-of-way to keep the road above rising sea levels. The total cost is estimated to be at least \$8 billion dollars, so construction is likely to be done in stages, beginning with a bridge over Novato Creek on the 2-mile segment near Highway 101 that has experienced flooding three times since 2017. On Aug. 23, Congressman Thompson announced that \$155 million in Federal funds would be available to raise the bridge over Novato Creek by 30 feet, well above the projected year 2130 sea-level rise.

The project that is likely to follow the new Novato Creek bridge proposes to

widen and lengthen the bridge over Tolay Creek to improve tidal flows into the wetlands north of the highway. The Sierra Club recommends that this new bridge over Tolay Creek should also be raised to prepare for sea-level rise.

Both of the initial construction projects present environmental issues, because the road serves as a commuting artery for people to drive from their homes in Solano and Napa counties to work in Marin or Sonoma County. Due to exclusionary zoning, commuters spend hours in traffic in order to live in affordable housing that is distant from their jobs along the Highway 101 corridor. The route is not currently served by transit and the proper use of available funding will be important, to cope with the congestion, as well as the health of the wetlands.

Public hearings regarding the project are scheduled for the evening of September 21, and the morning of October 5. For more information see:

<https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-4/d4-projects/d4-37-corridor-projects/37-meetings-events>

SAVE THE DATE
**Great Redwood Trail
Community Event**

Family-Friendly Activities • Trail Planning Info • Speaker Presentations

Saturday, October 14th, 2023
11:00 am - 3:00 pm
at the Dyerville Overlook

*Is your organization interested in tabling at the event?
Contact foer@eelriver.org*

   

Developer Pushes Big Plan at Sonoma Developmental Center

by Teri Shore, Sonoma Group, Conservation Committee

In a shocking move that blindsided just about everyone, The State of California and its chosen developer are proposing a massive development in the heart of the now-vacant Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) in Sonoma Valley. The plan was unexpectedly submitted under the housing streamlining law known as the “Builder’s Remedy.” The action is intended to shortcut county planning and public review under the guise of the housing crisis.

The large multi-use project calls for 930 new residences—87 percent market rate, a luxury hotel, convention center and vast commercialization of the historic campus in the heart of the 945-acre property.

The Sonoma Developmental Center was closed and designated as surplus land in 2018 after serving people with developmental disabilities for more than a century. The site consists of a 180-acre historic campus and 765 acres of open space, containing a major wildlife corridor for mountain lions, bears and other species. The open space is slated for transfer to state and regional parks, but the campus in the center remains at risk of over-development.

The outsized SDC Builder’s Remedy plan was submitted literally hours before the county adopted its new state-mandated housing element, which was many months late—leaving the door open for the last-minute maneuver. The developer team Grupe+Rogal partnership, aka Eldridge Renewal is the applicant, with sign-off by the state as the property owner.

This action disregard years of public input by the public including Sierra Club Sonoma Group calling for a scaled back development and stronger environmental protections.

If the plan as proposed meets the criteria under the “Builder’s Remedy” also referred to as Senate Bill 330, then the county must approve the development

as proposed with an expedited timeline for approval and a maximum of five public hearings.

Supervisor Susan Gorin stated in a public meeting that the plan may not meet the Builder’s Remedy or the county’s minimum criteria for affordable housing at 20 percent at SDC. As proposed, it provides only 13 percent affordable.

The California Environmental Quality Act would apply if the project moves forward, though it is not clear to what extent as the development is similar in scale to the unpopular SDC Specific Plan approved by the County of Sonoma last year.



(Conner Jay/The Press Democrat)

The county’s SDC Specific Plan approved 620 residential units as a base number that will increase due to housing density bonuses to as much as 1,000 units, as analyzed in the EIR. The county never set a cap on housing units even though elected officials have cited numbers such as 750. Nope.

Compared to the SDC Specific Plan, the developer’s SDC proposal allows for bigger houses (3,200 sq. ft. vs 1,800 sq. ft. max), moves the hotel out of the old main building west toward the wildlife corridor, and makes other changes still being studied.

As previously reported in Needles, several community groups filed a CEQA lawsuit against the county due to the inadequacy of the EIR for the county Specific Plan, which remains active and pending.

What’s next?

First, the county must determine whether the application fits the criteria for streamlining.

If so, then the developer has six months to file a FINAL application. That is when the time starts ticking for public review and approval.

Action

Right now, we need to let the county, state and developer know that we will not stand for urbanization of a rural greenbelt and wildlife corridor in a high wildfire area where there are few public services—certainly no functional public transit. Housing must be prioritized to be mostly affordable and deed restricted for low-income residents.

Sierra Club members can help by writing Letters to the Editor and/or write/calling your state and county representatives expressing concerns about this latest development and the need to scale back plans for SDC and work with the community as promised all along.

See list of contacts. Contact **Teri Shore** for sample letters, terishore@gmail.com

You can also find more information at <https://eldridgeforall.org/home>

Letters to the Editor (You can send to one or all) – 200 words or less

Santa Rosa Press Democrat
letters@pressdemocrat.com

Sonoma County Gazette
amie@sonomacountygazette.com

Sonoma Valley Sun
letters@sonomasun.com

Bohemian letters@bohemian.com

Sonoma Index Tribune
emily.charrier@sonomanews.com



Whetting Interest in Wetlands Restoration

By Chris Benz, Napa Group

This year the Napa Group was awarded \$5000 from the Rohloff Bequest to partner with the American Canyon Community and Parks Foundation (ACCPF) and provide educational materials on sea level rise. It will also demonstrate how the Sierra Club is working for the protection and preservation of San Francisco Bay.



(Photo by Nick Cheranich)

This article describes what we've learned about the importance of local efforts to restore tidal wetlands in Napa County. The first opportunity to share these stories with our community took place at a trailside "pop-up" event on July 25 at Wetlands Edge trail in American Canyon. The event featured ACCPF's trailside learning center, [the "Outdoor Connection"](#).

Napa Group's student intern, Paulina Zambrano, along with ExCom members Scott Thompson and Nick Cheranich, were at the event on a beautiful afternoon, helping happy hikers understand the importance of restoring the wetlands in order to help combat climate change.

Wetlands Edge trail is an ideal location to provide information about the importance of restoring wetlands. It serves as a multi-use trail that winds its way along approximately 180 acres of restored tidal marsh wetlands and connects to the Napa River Bay Trail, part of the San Francisco Bay Trail, and is heavily used by residents of all ages (and their dogs!).

Joy Hilton, Education Program Director for ACCPF, wanted to showcase infor-

mation from the Sierra Club's Bay Alive campaign at Wetlands Edge because "so many people use the wetlands trails recreationally but don't have a good understanding of why this is such a special place."

When we started gathering information to present, we spoke with Dani Zacky, the Chapter Organizer for the San Francisco Bay Chapter. Dani works on shoreline campaigns, and she provided information about the Club's Bay Alive campaign. This program started in 2020 with a bequest from the Rohloff estate for the protection and preservation of San Francisco Bay. The Rohloff Bequest provides funds to the Loma Prieta, SF Bay, and Redwood Chapters, as well as Sierra Club California, for Bay protection.

Bay Alive is the region-wide Sierra Club



(Photo by Nick Cheranich)

campaign to protect and enhance Bay ecosystems and build community and regional resilience to sea level rise. Representatives of each of the three chapters that surround the Bay have formed the Three-Chapter Sea Level Rise Committee, headed by Arthur Feinstein, to work on regional advocacy. The Three-Chapter Committee hosted a webinar in May 2021 on [Nature-Based Adaptation Strategies](#) to address Sea Level Rise (SLR), which provided the historical background and the most promising ways to prepare our estuary and its surrounding communities.

How Tidal Marshes Protect against Climate Change

Tidal marshes are needed now more than ever with the quickening rate of sea level rise caused by global warming. Warming atmospheric temperatures not only melt glaciers and ice sheets adding more water to our oceans, but they also cause ocean water to warm and expand, increasing the volume.

San Francisco Bay has risen 8 inches since the mid-1800s, increasing flood risk during big winter storms. Recent studies by the U.S. Geological Survey and other scientific organizations estimate that the Bay will rise up to another 2 feet by 2050, and up to 5 feet or more by 2100.

Tidal marshes serve as a nature-based adaptation to sea level rise by:

- Protecting against flooding by dampening wave action during storms—and to keep this protection we must allow space for marsh migration inland as sea level rises;
- Removing CO₂ from the atmosphere--50% of CO₂ stays sequestered in the soil (mud); and
- Filtering out pollutants from groundwater--complex biogeochemistry removes excess nitrogen, metals, and complex pollutants (PCBs, pharmaceuticals, microplastics).

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(Photo by Scott Thomason)

Jackson Forest Still Threatened

by Robin Leler, Mendocino Group

A Brief History. Jackson Demonstration State Forest today is a vast 48,652 acres of "working forest," mostly giant Redwoods and old-growth Douglas Fir on unceded Pomo land. It was "discovered" during the Gold Rush and liquidated for 60 years beginning around 1862 to build the iconic Victorian houses San Francisco is famous for. Less than 5% of redwood trees were left,

and the cut-over remains were acquired from Caspar Timber Company by the State of California in 1947 to demonstrate sustainable timber practices as well as recreational use.

The *Save Jackson* campaign dates back to the 1990's when it became apparent that the word "sustainable" referred to economic profit only and healthy forest was now whittled down to less than 2% of cherished Redwoods and old Douglas Fir. A series of court cases resulted in a moratorium on logging from 2001 until 2009, while a coalition of foresters and environmentalists, including the Sierra Club, worked on new sustainable guidelines for the protection of the forest. Sustainable recommendations developed over three years were summarily rejected by the Board of Forestry. Parts that were picked out for implementation were subsequently whittled away for the next ten years. Seed trees left 160 - 240 years ago now preside over new "old-growth" forest and many areas of the forest ecosystem are recovering.

Today

Jackson is "managed" by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protec-

tion. CalFire both writes and approves multiple THP's (timber harvest plans) annually without adequate environmental and cumulative impact reviews. This jewel of the California demonstration



(Kent Porter / The Press Democrat)

forest system continues to be ravished, based on the perceived need for big timber profitability over all other interests.

Jackson is an entire region of archeological trails and village sites protected by law, yet tribal archeologists say 200 and 300-year-old Redwoods and Douglas Fir are marked for harvest, under the rubric of fire prevention. This ignores the fact that Redwoods are notably fire resistant, and taking out old-growth trees creates more fire danger from the resulting wind tunnels, reduces the ability of redwood

forests to moderate weather cycles, and destroys the complex interactions of plant and animal species that make a forest healthy. Even "selective" logging, which is not actually selective in many cases, destroys the forest with networks

of logging roads and skid trails. Iconic old trees such as Gemini are scheduled as "incidental" takes for heavy equipment access.

Forest defenders have maintained a "moratorium" (which CalFire calls a "pause") in logging for over two years. Environmental and Tribal interests are preparing for extended litigation when the time comes. As of Sept. 10, 2023, CalFire is ramping up a public relations campaign for their "new" vision, which they claim is so perfect, it needs no environmental review. CalFire also claims to be consulting with the tribes as required by Governor Newsom's executive order, while they continue to notify the tribes after major decisions have been made. Sierra Club is following these events closely, working to get Jackson protected



(Photo by CalFire)

under the 30x30 plan and change the outdated mandate for sustainable forestry that has been in effect since 1947.



Sierra Club Group & Chapter Elections

It's that time of year again. Sierra Club's elections for members of the Chapter and local Group Executive Committees are here.

In the following pages you will find candidate statements for many of those seeking open seats. In addition to our paper ballot located on the back page of this newsletter, we are offering an online voting system through the Sierra Club website.

Voting begins Oct. 1, and all votes must be in by Dec. 31.

To vote online, please visit <https://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/redwood-chapter-and-group-elections>

Chapter ExCom

Chris Rogers: California - and specifically Northern California - is the tip of the spear on advancing meaningful climate policy and fighting to preserve and protect our incredible environment. For the last 15+ years, I have worked on energy, environment, and natural resources issues, first as a staff member to numerous North Coast legislators, and more recently as a Mayor and Councilmember for the City of Santa Rosa. I have spent the last two years as the Chair of the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority, and the Sonoma County Transportation Authority. I also serve on the National League of Cities policy board related to climate, and I'm a Director for the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART train). Finally, I'm the Executive Director for a local non-profit that fights to elect environmentally friendly candidates and to push forward innovative policies.

The Sierra Club has the ability to mobilize well-intentioned people in a way that very few non-profits can. The environmental battles we wage matter - and while we have to win them again and again, we only have to lose them once to lose them forever. I have been very proud to serve in the Redwood Chapter, and would be honored

to continue to do so.

Steve Scalmanini: I've been involved in various environmental issues since moving to Mendocino County in 1999 after 26 years as an engineer in the South Bay Area, retiring in 2001. I was active in the successful initiative campaign in early 2004 by which Mendocino County became the first county in the U.S. to ban the propagation of GMOs. I was on the Ukiah City Council from 2013-2020 (Mayor in 2016), during which I was the noteworthy lone councilmember to successfully insist that Costco install a photovoltaic roof as a mitigation for additional greenhouse gases when it built a store in Ukiah in 2018. I've advocated for infill housing development to avoid sprawling onto prime agricultural land in the County. Since 2017, I've been actively working with Climate Action Mendocino, which advises the community and local governments on how to counter the climate crisis, particularly regarding renewable energy and home energy efficiencies. For over 20 years, I've been a member of the Mendocino Environmental Center in Ukiah, including a few periods on its Board of Directors. For the last 15 years I have cohosted a monthly radio program on KZYX (Mendocino County Public Broadcasting) titled "Corporations and Democracy" that exposes the many means by which corporations dominate economics and politics, and what the public can do about such excesses.

I appreciate the opportunity to grow the Sierra Club's involvement in maintaining and restoring the environment and the great outdoors in our region of California for future generations.

Elayna Trucker: As a lifelong resident of the North Bay (growing up in Marin in the 90s and currently living in Napa), I have witnessed firsthand how our climate is shifting and the devastating effects it is having on our communities. Wildfires, floods, sea level rise, and soil erosion are already impacting our homes, roadways, and businesses, not to mention our precious undeveloped natural areas. The Sier-

ra Club is the loudest voice in the fight to save ourselves from climate change, and I am excited to be a part of it. I began my SC journey as the volunteer social media coordinator for the Redwood Chapter and have been so impressed with the work being done by the volunteers of this organization, much of which goes largely unknown and unacknowledged within their communities. I look forward to deepening my involvement in the environmental activism that has defined the Sierra Club for so many years and help usher in a new generation of climate warriors who can learn from the decades of experience already represented on the various committees, while bringing renewed energy to a fight that only becomes more urgent as time goes on. Thank you for your consideration.

Lake ExCom

Deb Sally: I am proud to have been a part of the volunteers that lead the Sierra Club at both the group and chapter levels for several years, first as a member, then as chair of the Lake Group ExCom, as well as serving as a member of the Redwood Chapter ExCom, Forest Committee, and Water Committee. I have been involved with helping Lake Group continue to have a vital presence in Lake County and to find ways to positively affect our community by providing informative presentations and input on important issues to governmental and non-governmental agencies and businesses, and promoting the health of Clear Lake and our watersheds and ecosystems. I believe it is imperative that we partner with other conservation and environmental groups, in an effort to improve the well-being of all species that live in our county. Encouraging vineyard and other agricultural landowners and managers to provide safe wildlife corridors is a priority for me.

It is getting more obvious that promoting clean energy solutions, that are affordable for all residents, is imperative if we are to be able to slow the impacts of climate

Cont'd on page 8

Candidate Statements *(cont'd from page 7)*

change on our livelihood and that of all of Earth's inhabitants. I believe we also need to promote reduction of demand wherever possible. Even clean energy solutions exact a toll. I will continue to educate myself on the impacts of alternative energy options and advocate for best practices.

I enjoy hiking and canoeing and plan to get local outings started again later this year. I encourage input from our members about their priorities and will work to assist when problems arise that effect their safety in and enjoyment of Lake County's beautiful natural environment. I will continue to work to promote equity and inclusivity in our organization and our activities. Together we can enjoy, protect, and restore the lands and waters of our county, chapter, and beyond.

Mendocino ExCom

Steve Scalmanini: I've been involved in various environmental issues since moving to Mendocino County in 1999 after 26 years as an engineer in the South Bay Area, retiring in 2001. I was active in the successful initiative campaign in early 2004 by which Mendocino County became the first county in the U.S. to ban the propagation of GMOs. I was on the Ukiah City Council from 2013-2020 (Mayor in 2016), during which I was the noteworthy lone councilmember to successfully insist that Costco install a photovoltaic roof as a mitigation for additional greenhouse gases when it built a store in Ukiah in 2018. I've advocated for infill housing development to avoid sprawling onto prime agricultural land in the County. Since 2017 I've been actively working with Climate Action Mendocino, which advises the community and local governments on how to counter the climate crisis, particularly regarding renewable energy and home energy efficiencies. For over 20 years I've been a member of the Mendocino Environmental Center in Ukiah, including a few periods on its Board of Directors. For the last 15 years I have cohosted a monthly radio program on KZYX (Mendocino County Public Broadcasting) titled "Corporations and Democracy" that exposes the many means by which

corporations dominate economics and politics, and what the public can do about such excesses. For the last two years I have been working with the Grassroots Institute of Mendocino County to require cleanup of the toxics on the closed Georgia-Pacific mill site on the Noyo Headlands in Fort Bragg.

I appreciate the opportunity to grow the Mendocino Group's involvement in maintaining and restoring the environment and the great outdoors in the County for future generations.

Napa ExCom

Nick Cheranich: I am a retired educator, having taught math, science, and drama at a local, highly diverse middle school in the City of Napa.

As a teenager, I joined the Sierra Club, joyfully attending dozens of SC outdoor family and trail maintenance trips. I have been with the Sierra Club Napa Group's Executive Committee (Excom) for almost four years. I am currently the Chair of the Excom. In such a capacity, I have both spoken and written for the Napa Group on many environmental issues at dozens of local community committee meetings.

I am the Group's Communications Director as well, creating our newsletter and maintaining our website. I am also Chair of the Political Committee.

What I most enjoy is being a mentor for several local high school students in our Student Internship Program. I first outreach to the high schools science teachers and ask if any of their hard-working dedicated students might be interested in doing something for their environment. My colleagues and I then work with the volunteers by first helping them set their own plans and objectives as to what interests them. They then solidify what they can do at the local level, which usually entails doing 5-6 environmental activities and/or projects throughout the entire year, as well as attending our Conservation Committee meetings.

Please vote for me so that I may continue to work within the Excom to fight for the important environmental issues within our Napa County. Thank you.

North ExCom

Ned Forsyth: This is my tenth North Group Executive Committee election. In my current role of North Group vice chair, I serve as group representative to Redwood Chapter, which makes me also a member of Redwood Chapter ExCom. For North Group, I am Political Chair, managing the Sierra Club process of general and local election candidate endorsements as needed. I also serve on the multi-agency Caltrans North District One advisory committee, which meets quarterly, with my particular interest in roadside native and invasive plant management, and anadromous-fish passage improvements. A seat on Redwood Chapter's Northern California Forestry Committee has been a fruitful endeavor for me. With regard to outings, I recently recertified at a Wilderness First Aid class, held annually at Cal Poly HSU. North Group, and/or the Chapter, (still needs) an Outings Leader/Outings Chair.

Please consider taking part in some of North Group's activities. We need some help with all this stuff! Your vote and participation are important.

Gregg Gold: I am running for the ExCom of the North Group Sierra Club. This is a volunteer position I have held for the last 17 years. I am running because I believe that our local North Group has, in the past, and will continue in the future to make a positive difference on both local and national issues. I believe that my involvement will help to advance those issues. In terms of priority, my personal views are that reducing our carbon footprint to a sustainable level are issues number one, two, and three. Without that happening, there will soon be nothing left to conserve or protect. This needs to happen on a personal level and a local level. We also need to do whatever we can here to make that happen nationally. As regards any personal or local sacrifices required, Mother Nature is keeping track. We can pay a little now or a lot more later; either way, we will pay. I would welcome your vote.

Candidate Statements *(cont'd from page 8)*

Robin Gray-Stewart: I have served as the Marine Chair for the North Group since 2019. I follow issues that affect the coast of Northern California and Humboldt Bay. I'm researching the proposed North Coast offshore windfarm and I am serving on the Core Hub Port Development Committee. I have also been involved in researching and commenting on the cleanup of the old pulp mill site, the development of aquafarms, and the storage of atomic waste near Humboldt Bay. I communicate regularly with Humboldt Baykeepers and 350 Humboldt and attend Harbor Commission meetings. In addition to my position as the Marine Chair of the North Group of the Redwood Chapter, I have done some research on the historic movement to save the redwoods.

I graduated from the University of California at San Diego with a BA in communications, a minor in wilderness studies, and a minor in art. In college, I was a leader in the University of California's wilderness course where I taught rock climbing and survival skills. I'm a retired elementary school teacher and instructional coach. I also lived aboard a sailboat for 10 years and sailed to Mexico, the South Pacific, Hawaii, and multiple California ports. My husband and I now live in Eureka, California where we own a small second growth redwood forest in a gully behind our home. I also enjoy Mt. Etna, where we own land near the Russian Wilderness. I am an avid hiker, gardener, reader, and fine arts painter.

Solano ExCom

Riitta DeAnda: I was voted in to replace Jane Bogner on the Sierra Club Solano Group ExCom this year; the term ends 2023. I would love to continue to serve on ExCom of the Sierra Club Solano Group. I have been a member of the Sierra Club for so many years I can't remember when I first joined. I support all climate issues and want to be part of a group that is concerned with development in our community and retaining green space. We are facing many challenges to provide housing for people who are being priced out of the market in the Bay Area. This growth needs to address

all our residents for housing while still protecting our farmlands.

I want to expand our membership by reaching out to young people, many who have not heard of the Sierra Club.

I am active in my community and served for 9 years as a board member of Travis Unified School District. While I was on the board I pushed to replace the diesel vehicles with electric ones. TUSD recently purchased 4 electric vans with the help of grants. I am a member of the Napa/Solano Area Council on Aging and also on the committee for the Walk to End Alzheimer's in Solano County. I have working relationships with elected officials in Vallejo, Vacaville and Solano county. I am solutions focused and believe in being of service to my community.

Jason Roberts: My name is Jason Roberts. I was recently appointed to serve as the outings chair for the Solano group of Sierra Club and am now seeking election for an Executive Committee seat. I was first introduced to Sierra Club through Cub/Boy Scouts with docent led hikes and outdoor education, these activities helped reinforce my love and appreciation for nature. Now decades later I still carry that passion and am a life member of the organization.

Through my work in and with local governments, I have been an advocate and supporter of renewable energy and orderly growth in order to not only maintain but improve our environment and green space for future generations. I know my love of the outdoors, my background, and my community relationships suit me well to serve on the Executive Committee and reinforce the position of outings chair to improve community outreach and education through outdoor and nature driven events.

I currently serve on Vacaville City Council, am an Officer in the California National Guard, and work fulltime as a public health emergency preparedness program coordinator.

Princess Washington: Ms. Princess Washington is a community leader, artist, and inspirational force throughout Solano County. Her heavy involvement in multi-

ple leadership positions within several nonprofit organizations has resulted in positive impact throughout her community. As the new Chair of the Solano Group since early 2023, she led an active campaign to save the Aves population along the Pacific Coast Flyway by urging that all wind turbines paint one blade black to increase their visibility. Through the Sierra Club, she is actively engaging the community to appreciate and enjoy the nature around them. As a fierce protector of the Suisun Marsh, she is a member of the Community Conservation Committee with the Solano Land Trust.

Ms. Washington is Mayor Pro Tem and City Council Member in the City of Suisun City, the youngest Mayor Pro Tem in the City's history. She seeks to create and maintain collegial connections with other elected officials throughout the region through organizations like ABAG, Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District, and Suisun Solano Water Authority. Prior to her election to the City Council in November 2022, she was the Vice Chair for The Suisun City Recreation, Parks, Marina, and Arts Commission. During her time as a commissioner, she was instrumental in creating several new policies in Suisun seeking to protect the arts and culture in Suisun City. Ms. Washington is a thought leader who has been a vocal advocate for the local community. She is truly humbled to serve and run as the Chair for the Sierra Club of Solano County.

Sonoma ExCom

Dan Mayhew: I am pleased for this opportunity to serve as a candidate for a second term as a member of the Sonoma Group ExCom. Working with the knowledgeable and passionate members of the Sonoma Group has been rewarding and always challenging. With issues that include our Local Coastal Plan renewal, SMART expansion and groundwater preservation plans, the work of the Group is constantly evolving and adapting. The Group's political committee strives to endorse and elect lead-

Cont'd on page 11

Are You Social?

Building Our Community, One "Like" at a Time

Social media is ubiquitous these days, and while the never-ending scroll of photoshopped people and places can seem overwhelming, social media has the power to make real change happen. Listed in this newsletter are the social media handles of the Redwood Chapter and the county groups. If you use Instagram, Facebook, or Twitter, we'd love you to follow both the Redwood Chapter and the account of the county you live in; we'll be sharing upcoming events, gorgeous photos of our stunning Northern California landscape, the faces working hard behind the scenes at the Sierra Club to protect our endangered environment, and calls to action where you can make a real difference in your community.

Thanks for all your support—we'll see you online!

*(by Elayna Trucker, Social Media Coordinator, Redwood Chapter)
Reprinted from June newsletter*

Chapter

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SierraClubRC>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/sierraclubredwood/>

Facebook: <facebook.com/sierraclubredwoodchapter>

Napa Group

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/sierraclubnapa/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064711957110>

Sonoma Group

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SierraClubSG>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/sierraclubsonoma/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Sierra-Club-Sonoma-Group/303392180710>

Solano Group

Website: <https://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/solano>

Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/sierraclub/>

North Group

Website: <https://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/north>

Mendocino Group

Website: <https://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/mendocino>

Lake Group

Website: <https://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/lake>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sierraclublake/>

Take a Hike!

The Redwood Chapter Needs Volunteers to...

Become Outings Leaders, as we reinstate our outings program post-pandemic. Lead hikes, mountain biking or backpacking trips, kayaking excursions - whatever you love in the outdoors. This can be an awesome way to meet friends and find a like-minded community in your local area.

Help us organize campaigns in conservation, forest protection, water sustainability, environmental and social justice, and more. You can join a current campaign, such as our effort to hold PG&E accountable to update their infrastructure to prevent igniting catastrophic wildfires -- or you can be instrumental in driving a new initiative for the Chapter.

Assist in the regional and statewide 30x30 initiative to conserve 30% of California's land and waters by 2030.

We have many more ways we could put you to work, from helping generate social media and newsletter content to vetting candidates for office seeking Sierra Club's endorsement. Whatever your interests or niche skills, we have a job for you!

The Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club welcomes volunteers from all backgrounds. We strive, however, to constantly deepen the diversity and representation in our membership, so we especially welcome volunteers from historically marginalized communities. We also welcome people of all ages, from college students to mid-career adults and retirees.

We're looking for people who want to take an active role in enjoying and protecting our home planet. So if you have an hour or two (or more!) per week to fight for your fellow species and the resources upon which human life depends, please drop us a line. Email

redwoodmembership@gmail.com

and include the words "NEW VOLUNTEER" in your subject line.

We can't wait to meet you!

Kelly Ramsey, Chapter Director



Candidate Statements

(cont'd from page 9)

ers who share our environmental and social justice values.

The Group has been actively involved with numerous land use and smart growth issues in support of infill and transit-oriented development that reduce vehicle miles traveled, encourage affordable housing and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Central among these is the disastrous Sonoma Development Center project and Highway 37 expansion that threaten wildlife corridors and precious remaining wetlands so critical in our work to preserve our natural resources and offset the effects of climate change.

In addition to serving as a member of the Sonoma Group Ex Com, I was elected as an At Large member of the Chapter Ex Com and currently serve as Redwood Chapter Vice-Chair. Looking to the future, I am committed to supporting the Sonoma Group and Redwood Chapter as we work to create a conservation movement that is just, equitable, and inclusive while recognizing the value of individual species and the rights of nature.

Chapter ExCom

Vote for three

- Chris Rogers
- Steve Scalmanini
- Elayna Trucker

Lake ExCom

Vote for three

- Tricia Evans
- Sally Peterson
- Deb Sally

Mendocino ExCom

Vote for one

- Steve Scalmanini

Sonoma ExCom

Vote for one

- Dan Mayhew

Napa ExCom

Vote for two

- Nick Cheranich
- Scott Thomason

North ExCom

Vote for three

- Ned Forsyth
- Gregg Gold
- Robin Gray-Stewart

Solano ExCom

Vote for three

- Riitta DeAnda
- Jason Roberts
- Princess Washington



Please mark your choices for Redwood Chapter and your local group executive committee on the ballot above and mail to:

Redwood Chapter Sierra Club, PO Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Or save paper and postage by casting your ballot electronically at:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/redwood-chapter-and-group-elections>

Wetlands Restoration

(cont'd from page 5)

Tidal wetlands also provide other beneficial services that keep our estuary healthy

- Serve as a vital habitat for over 1,000 species of animals and plants. More than a million shorebirds and waterfowl use San Francisco Bay habitat at the height of migration, and the area includes twelve spots designated as Important Bird Areas due to the high number of rare and endangered bird species as well as the sheer number of birds

supported by the Bay and surrounding wetlands;



(Photo by Nick Cheranich)

American Canyon's wetlands are part of the San Pablo Bay Wetlands, a Global Important Bird Area; and

- Provide natural open space to recreate for physical and emotional health—especially important during the pandemic.

So, please get out and explore the beautiful American Canyon wetlands and appreciate their role in helping us adapt to the threats of a warmer world.

Redwood Needles

Sierra Club

Redwood Chapter

PO Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

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Sonoma • Napa • Solano • Lake • Mendocino • Humboldt • Del Norte • Trinity • Western Siskiyou

Volunteer with Us!

MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT CHAIR

Be the friendly face that introduces new members and volunteers to Redwood Chapter. This is a key position within the chapter to help it grow and maintain an engaged and active member and volunteer base. Responsibilities include: creating a calendar for member engagement activities, carrying out social events for members and volunteers, recruiting and leading a member engagement team to help plan activities, welcoming new members, recruiting and tracking new members. *Estimated Time Commitment: 10 hours a month.*

OUTINGS LEADERS

Outings leaders are a key part of Sierra Club, as they help create a constituency for nature by encouraging people from all backgrounds to enjoy and explore Redwood Chapter's incredible landscape. Sierra Club provides the training, you provide the inspiration and leadership. Here's where you can learn more about becoming an outings leader [[https:// www.sierraclub.org/redwood/outings-leaderappandresources](https://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/outings-leaderappandresources)] *Estimated Time Commitment: 5 hours a month.*

OUTINGS CHAIR

We're looking for a committed, well-organized person to provide direction and oversight to the chapter outings program -- it is NOT necessary to be an Outings Leader to fill this crucial role. Work to make outdoor activities an integrated and vital element of chapter efforts. Responsibilities include ensuring all chapter and group outings follow Club policies and procedures, officially approving all outings, taking responsibility for publicizing outings in the Redwood Needles and elsewhere, and ensuring that active leaders meet training and first-aid certification requirements. *Estimated Time Commitment: 5 hours a month and up.*

Interested? Contact chapter chair Victoria Brandon at 707 994 1931 or vbrandon95457@gmail.com to find out more.