



Sierra Conservationist Newsletter

Spring 2024

Feral Cats Update

Please spread the word that feral cats are a big risk to native wildlife, and there are humane solutions!

Feral cats (or former domestic cats now living outside of homes) are an invasive species in wildlands, and cause devastating consequences for the population of birds and small mammals.

A study by the Smithsonian Institution and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimated that domestic cats kill about 2.4 billion birds and 12.3 billion small mammals each year in the lower forty-eight states. Predation by domestic cats is the number one direct, human caused threat to birds in the US and Canada.

In November the Placer Group and Audubon Society co-authored a letter to the city of Roseville, asking them to humanely reduce the population of feral cats on city-owned properties. In March we received a response from the city saying they are aware of the problem and are taking action.

The city is working with the SPCA's Trap, Neuter/spay, and Release program (TNR). The City's Animal Control division works with the SPCA, and refers community members to it. Cat traps can be loaned for free to community members to assist with capturing nuisance or other feral outdoor cats, which are then taken to the shelter.

The city also said that they posted relevant signage in parks and other open space areas, and the Animal Con-



trol division maintains frequent communication with the local organizations that feed outdoor cats.

We are looking for volunteers to do counts of feral cats, talk with the SPCA, and assess whether the city is indeed supporting a humane feral cat reduction program as they claim. **Trust, but Verify.**

Please contact Paul Comiskey if you are interested in participating. paulcomiskey@hotmail.com

NextGen Outreach by Placer Group



On April 6 Harry White and Barry Grimm supported a field seminar for seven Sierra College ECOS students at Effie Yeaw Nature Center.

While the seminar focused on enhancing observational skills, the readily viewable wildlife and wild flowers were a bonus.

Plus it was a beautiful sunny spring day in the riparian forest along the American River—with an armada of fluffy white clouds sailing by!

As a gesture of friendship all 7 Sierra College students were offered and accepted complimentary memberships in the Sierra Club.

Visit: sierraclub.org/mother-lode/placer

Email: mailto:placersierraclub@gmail.com



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Our First Pizza Palooza Program Meeting (P³)

On March 21 to celebrate Placer Group’s rejuvenated Executive Committee and local Outings Program, all 1500 members plus local supporters were invited to enjoy free pizza and beer at Old Town Pizza in Roseville’s historic district.

ExCom Chair Harry White opened the meeting. Harry then introduced Kathy Verrue-Slater and Trish Kness – Outings Co-Chairs, Paul Comiskey – Conservation Chair, Marcus Ledergerber – Technology Chair and Barry Grimm – Membership Chair. Marcus was also the program speaker, updating participants on the **Save Reason Farms** campaign in West Roseville.

In a follow-up Google-Meeting leadership agreed that Placer Group should have a few such **P³ Meetings** throughout the year.

Watch your email inbox for an invitation to our next **P³ Meeting**, tentatively slated to be finger food plus dessert and a nature photography program.



Earth Day Outreach at Sierra College



To enhance our relationship with Sierra College, their environmental club ECOS invited Sierra Club-Placer Group to participate in their April 25 Earth Day Festival on the Rocklin campus.

The Sierra Club booth was staffed by Harry White and Barry Grimm who experienced a high level of public response. Many new contacts were made including potential speakers for Placer Group meetings.

There was also considerable interest in our rejuvenated Outings Program led by Co-Chairs Kathy Verrue-Slater and Trish Kness.



“Go to the mountains and get their glad tidings. Nature’s peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.”

John Muir