

Redwood Needles



Fall 2019

Sierra Club Redwood Chapter

Volume 61, No. 4



South Fork Trinity River/Jeff Morris

INSIDE: Sierra Club's new Infill Development Policy • Mendocino's Pygmy forest
• Redwood Chapter elections • Ready For 100 Climate campaign • Coastal
Commission gets greener • Mare Island still up for grabs • City of Sonoma UGB
under threat • Farewell Keith Kaulum • Become an Outings leader • **AND MORE!**

On the Path

a note from
Chapter Director Jeff Morris

Thank you for your continued support and interest in our Redwood Chapter. October marks the beginning of my 11th month as chapter director, and I'm proud to be working on behalf of our talented and motivated members and volunteers.

These past months, in addition to being a fire hose of information, assimilation and adjustments for me, have illuminated the incredible talents of our local volunteers. The amount of knowledge and expertise possessed by our members and leadership is staggering and is a resource that has made significant positive impacts on the health of the environment in our region and beyond.

My charge is to further support and leverage these talents to have an even greater impact. Myself and the other part-time chapter staff are analyzing "how we do business" as an organization and working toward a more streamlined and efficient way of supporting and strengthening the overall policy impact and mission of our chapter. One way you'll notice these changes is with this redesigned *Redwood Needles* issue. We are now publishing four times a year while maintaining a monthly e-mail newsletter to keep you informed.

The vast geographic and demographic differences within our region, which includes nine counties from the North Bay to the Oregon border, presents issues ranging from public mass transit and sea level rise to forest policy on vast federal public lands, to affordable housing and fire prevention. These pressing issues demand new methods for us to function effectively.

While we will be making some initial adjustments in the coming months, we also want to hear from you. In addition to the membership survey that we conducted this spring (which provided us with a great deal of information, thank you!), your additional feedback about where you think we are, what we do and where we should be headed are always welcome. I urge you to reach out to me or your local chapter or group leaders with your input.

Our responsibility as Sierra Club members is to support its mission by working toward continuous self improvement. With your help, Redwood Chapter can set the tone for our region on behalf of the precious ecological diversity and resources whose legacy is our charge to protect.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeff Morris" with a stylized arrow pointing to the right.



Redwood Needles
A Quarterly Publication of
Sierra Club Redwood Chapter

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Office Address
Sonoma County Environmental Center
55A Ridgway Ave. Santa Rosa, CA
(707) 544-7651 / (707) 544-9861 (fax)

redwood.chapter@sierraclub.org
www.sierraclub.org/redwood

Editorial Board
Mary Walsh, Becky Frank, Sue Leskiw,
Victoria Brandon

Editor
Shoshana Hebshi
shoshana.hebshi@sierraclub.org

Proofreader
Judi Danner

Outings Chair
Louis Vas
lvas@sonic.net

Meetings Coordinator
Carl Inglin
cinglin@sonic.net

Advertising information and questions can be directed to shoshana.hebshi@sierraclub.org

Address corrections should be sent to address.changes@sierraclub.org or Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or (415) 977-5653.

Non-member subscriptions are \$6 per year. Send requests to P.O. Box 466 Santa Rosa, CA 95402.

The Redwood Needles is published four times a year on recycled paper using soy-based ink. Printed circulation is 5400.

Sierra Club's infill development policy aims to curb sprawl, build resilient communities

By **Steve Birdlebough**
Chapter Transportation Chair

Sierra Club recently updated its Infill Development Policy to help cities and towns address the housing and climate change crises by preventing sprawl, reducing automobile dependence and preserving wildlife habitat.

The policy calls on policymakers to steer their focus toward developing compact, walkable communities with a jobs-housing balance that reduces our day-to-day carbon footprint.

As residential and commercial densities gradually increase, neighborhoods become more pedestrian friendly and visually appealing. It is important for these neighborhoods to be close to safe paths for bicycles and quality public transportation.

In order to realize these goals, the policy calls for transformative strategies that build communities with:

- Affordable housing that is accessible to all;
- Transit, bike and pedestrian-first approaches to transportation;
- Expanded opportunities for all residents to participate in the local economy and civic decisions;
- Living-wage jobs;
- A balance between employment opportunities and housing;
- Access to education, services, amenities and recreation that improves overall quality of life; and
- Measures and policies that increase climate resilience.

The policy statement acknowl-

edges that traditional zoning practices in the United States have led to social inequities, economic insecurity and increased greenhouse gas emissions. By

It is important for people of different social classes and backgrounds to be fully involved in planning infill projects. Their engagement can assure there is



Sierra Club's updated Infill Development Policy was informed by concerns about climate change, social inequality and preservation of natural places.

calling for living-wage jobs located close to affordable housing, plus advocating for mixed-use developments, which support diverse food markets, cafes, and other businesses, the policy aims to

Read the full policy statement on our website at:
<http://bit.ly/2mdrzdVicy>

bring more balance to communities while strengthening local economies.

In many communities, the policy will lead to more frequent transit service, with fares that are less costly than driving and parking a car, thereby reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

The policy also emphasizes the importance of equitable access to affordable housing. Developments must not reinforce existing racial, ethnic, and class segregation. There is a need to actively address the history of social inequities, which many low-income people have experienced.

good access to schools, recreation, job training, employment centers and social services. Such engagement can prevent unsustainable actions and policies, whether they involve transportation, finances, urban planning, climate or the natural environment.

Now is the time for each local group in Redwood Chapter to examine their area planning and zoning practices, compare them with this updated infill policy and do what we can to further infill and prevent urban sprawl.

Concerns about climate change, social inequality, thriving walkable neighborhoods and preservation of our natural places must be paramount for us, and well-designed infill projects can address each of these concerns.

Implementation of the infill policy was discussed at a national workshop and at the September meeting of the California Conservation Committee (formerly the CNRCC). A national committee is currently working on implementation guidelines, and our suggestions, based on an examination of existing local practices, are

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 in either Santa Rosa or Willits.

Chapter Director:

Jeff Morris • (530) 355-9880 • jeff.morris@sierraclub.org

Chapter Communications Coordinator:

Shoshana Hebshi • shoshana.hebshi@sierraclub.org

Administrative Staff/Production Rep.:

Tom Devlin • (707) 544-7651 • tdevlin@sonic.net

Chapter Chair • At Large • Political Chair • RCC Delegate • Wilderness Chair:

Victoria Brandon* • (707) 994-1931 • vbrandon@lifelive.info

Vice Chair • Solano Group Delegate to Chapter:

Joe Feller* • (415) 902-3395 • joe56feller@gmail.com

Secretary: Joan Dambros • joandambros@earthlink.net

Treasurer: Jana Selph • (707) 829-5356 • jselph@sonic.net

At Large • Legal Chair:

Keith Kaulum* • (707) 538-5569 • kkaulum@sonic.net

At Large • Council of Club Leaders Alternate • RCC Delegate:

Rue Furch* • (707) 823-3555 • pqrst@monitor.net

At Large • Conservation Chair • Council of Club Leaders

Delegate: Tom Roth* • (707) 632-5873 • troth@monitor.net

At Large • Energy and Climate Chair: Randy MacDonald*

(707) 391-0833 • randal@whatcanbedone.com

Transportation Chair:

Steve Birdlebough • (707) 576-6632 • affirm@friendshouse.org

Grazing Chair: Felice Pace • (707) 954-6588 • unofelice@gmail.com

Forestry Chair:

Jason Grant • (707) 536-5983 • jason@jasongrantconsulting.com

Lake Group Delegate to Chapter:

Debi Sally • enviracat1@gmail.com • (707) 235-9011

Lake Group Delegate Alternate:

Denise Rushing • (707) 560-1166

Mendocino Group Delegate to Chapter:

Mary Walsh* • (707) 937-0572 • bella@mcn.org

Mendocino Group Delegate Alternate: Robin Leler

Napa Group Delegate to Chapter:

Annette Krammer* • napavalleyssierraclub@gmail.com

Napa Group Delegate Alternate:

Nancy Tamarisk • napavalleyssierraclub@gmail.com

North Group Delegate to Chapter:

Ned Forsyth* • (707) 826-2417 • nedforsyth48@gmail.com

North Group Delegate Alternate:

Joyce Yowell • (559) 916-8575 • jayowell@hotmail.com

Sonoma Group Delegate to Chapter:

Shirley Johnson-Foell* • (707) 206-1138 • johnsons@sonoma.edu

Finance Committee: Jana Selph • (707) 829-5356 • jselph@sonic.net

Outings Chair • Outings Leadership Training:

Louis Vas • (707) 563-7100 • lvas@sonic.net

Chapter Webmaster: Melanie Matway • adastra7@hotmail.com

* Signifies voting member of the ExCom

Mendocino's Pygmy forest, a unique and threatened habitat

By Mary Walsh

Chair, Mendocino Group

Along the coast of Mendocino County, from the Ten Mile River to the Navarro River, there is a series of five uplifted terraces rising from the sea an elevation of about 650 feet. These are unusual because, unlike terraces elsewhere, each is quite flat and distinct from the next.

Until recently it was thought that on the third, fourth and fifth of these terraces exclusively occurred the curious Pygmy Forest, more appropriately named the Mendocino Pygmy Cypress Woodland. A recent study by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has found a wider distribution. (*Classification and Mapping of Mendocino Cypress Woodland, January 2019.*)

The Pygmy often presents as a stunted and misshapen, sometimes boggy, often impenetrable, lichen-clad, seemingly dead or dying, otherworldly landscape. This is due to the soils being extremely acidic, deficient in nutrients, with a degree of aluminum toxicity. They are often underlain with a cement-like hard pan 18 inches down, making drainage very poor. Soils are often saturated for much of the year.

The Pygmy is flat, and rain water does not run off, except where landscapes have been disturbed with development or even trails. Once disturbed, the Pygmy is unrecoverable. Study indicates that the oligotrophic (nutrient poor) soils are very old, up to 500,000 years old on the 650-foot elevation found on the 5th terrace in Mendocino County. (*Mendocino Pygmy Cypress Forest, Teresa Sholars and Clair Golec, 2006.*)

The Pygmy forest has been the object of much scientific study for more than a century. Dr. Hans Jenny spent many years studying it, eventually theorizing a science of pedology, or soil development, upon which today's agriculture, forestry and other environmental sciences are based. (*Lottie's Pygmy Forest Blog p.4.*) Dr. Jenny and John Olmstead were so enamored of the Pygmy forest that they spent years raising funds to purchase parts of it (*ibid. p6*).

Because of these efforts, we have Jughandle State Natural Reserve, with its famed Ecologic Staircase. Other groups, including the University of California, College of the Redwoods Foundation, national conservation organizations as well as local garden clubs have purchased acreage in the Pygmy Woodland and donated this to

California State Parks, notably Van Damme Park and Jughandle.

In 1960, the Pygmy Woodland was estimated as covering 4,000 acres. There are perhaps 2,000 acres remaining today. It has been considered by municipal entities as land of no value, there being few merchantable trees, and the often saturated soils cannot support septic systems. Much of it has been destroyed for use as land fills or garbage dumps or transfer stations or bulldozed for access roads or residences with highly engineered septic systems.

More recently, it has been considered by environmentalists on a par with old-growth redwoods. The area that lies within the Coastal Zone is protected, but much of it lies outside.

The California Fish and Wildlife Agency has designated Mendocino Pygmy Cypress Woodlands as a sensitive vegetative type with a ranking that varies from extremely rare and threatened to a less threatened ranking.

Many rare and endangered plants grow within or are associated with it, as well as rare bogs and swamps. Rankings both locally and globally change with new investigation and study. Trees vary in height from one to 50 meters. Shrubs, Huckleberry, Rhododendron and Labrador Tea may be present, along with signature species Bollander's Pine in association with Pygmy Cypress. There are many, many varieties of lichen.

It is difficult to take a simple look at the Mendocino Pygmy Cypress Woodland. Once looked into, a



The proposed site within the Mendocino Pygmy Cypress Woodlands for a garbage transfer station. *Photo by Sue Boecker.*

vast complexity arises. To quote from the recent Fish and Wildlife study, "Native plants have adapted to the suite of relatively harsh environmental conditions on the tops of the old terraces.

The plants forming the vegetation on these oligotrophic soils overlap to some degree based on their ability to tolerate a combination of soil moisture, fertility and depth. Through vegetation classification, we have identified six plant associations that are different floristically and structurally from the surrounding vegetation growing under the more 'forgiving' conditions.... These six types occur only on the marine terrace 'islands' ranging from near Salt Point in Sonoma County to just north of Fort Bragg in Mendocino County." (*Classification and Mapping of Mendocino Cypress Woodland, January 2019, p 11.*)

It is all about those soils, which occur on the outer coast of Mendocino County and sometimes in Sonoma County. The Pygmy has been an object of fascination and scientific study for a long time.

Please see various sources cited for more information.



At the Charlette Houk Pygmy Forest in Little River, the trees average only 6 feet tall, accompanied by rhododendron, huckleberry and Fort Bragg Pygmy huckleberry.

Photo by Rixanne Wehren

CLIMATE CORNER

Ready For 100 makes clean energy a priority across U.S.

By Randal MacDonald

Chapter Climate Committee Chair

Are you concerned about the threat of climate change? Frustrated with gridlock in the U.S. Senate preventing national action to address our climate crisis? Alarmed that President Trump is a climate denier whose administration is actively rolling back environmental protections?

A bit of good news is that you're not alone: Most Americans agree with us!

The even better news is that people across the country are refusing to sit idly by while our planet undergoes dramatic climate-driven changes caused by fossil fuel pollution.

Thanks to the Sierra Club's "Ready For 100" campaign, 133 U.S. cities, 11 counties and 9 states have already committed to create an equitable, just and timely transition to 100 percent clean, renewable energy (visit <https://www.sierraclub.org/ready-for-100> to learn more).

How did this happen, and how can we help our own communities make the Ready For 100 commitment? For an excellent discussion of what can be done, you really must listen to "A Quiet Energy Revolution," a very encouraging 28-minute podcast from the "Cool Solutions" radio project (<https://soundcloud.com/user-636168610/a-quiet-energy-revolution>).

The Cool Solutions series is produced by Dr. Wendy Ring from Humboldt County, and in this episode Dr. Ring and co-host Brian Curtis learn how communities as diverse as Norman, Okla., and Hanover, N.H., got their local governments to commit to 100 percent clean energy.

Political views in Oklahoma tend to be more conservative than here in Northern California, so to avoid unnecessary controversy, the Ready For 100 campaign in Norman did not focus on the impacts of climate change. Instead, activists emphasized the economic benefits of moving to 100 percent clean, renewable energy. They also highlighted the loss of water supply and water quality caused

town meeting. When the meeting was held, they were thrilled that four times the number of people they expected showed up to enthusiastically support the measure!

Here in our region, Dr. Ring helped organize the successful effort to get the communities of Arcata, Eureka and McKinleyville to pass resolutions committing to 100 percent clean, renewable energy. These successes led



Activists in Hanover, N.H., used grassroots organizing tactics to get the city council to commit to the Sierra Club's Ready For 100 campaign.

by local fracking to produce natural gas (a fossil fuel).

The results of their grassroots efforts were remarkable. The Norman City Council unanimously approved a resolution committing the city to achieve 100 percent clean electricity by 2035 and 100 percent clean energy in all sectors by 2050.

Political traditions in New Hampshire are different, too. In Hanover, "town meetings" are held to decide public policy, so volunteers with the Ready For 100 campaign there had to convince local residents that the town should commit to a just transition to using only clean, renewable energy.

With the RF100 Toolkit in hand, local activists tabled at farmers' markets, held potlucks, study groups and other outreach efforts to get enough people to support their clean energy resolution in a

Humboldt County and the county's Community Choice Energy power company to make similar commitments.

But, the best news of all is that we don't have to wait for federal action to move the whole country to 100 percent clean, renewable energy delivered in a just and equitable manner. Community by community, we Americans can and must take matters into our own hands to meet the Paris climate commitment and bring climate change under control.

We need more hands on deck to work in every city, town and county in our Redwood Chapter's region commit to the Ready For 100 transition. We're ready to help you do so as part of our Climate Protectors program!

Sign up at <https://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/climate-committee-contact-form>

VIEW FROM THE COAST

CA Coastal Commission beefs up its green credentials

By Tom Roth

Redwood Chapter Conservation Chair

The California Coastal Commission, the state's powerful coastal management body, which suffered self-inflicted wounds during the Brown Administration, appears to have made a full recovery with four new "green" appointees since May. Two of those new members reside within our Redwood Chapter region.

Four years ago the commission was rocked by the improprieties of five commissioners, many involving ex parte communication. Ex parte communication is a meeting, call, letter or email that discusses a regulated project with a commissioner. It's legal, but it must be reported, and it must be reported accurately.

A lawsuit filed by the watchdog group Spotlight alleged that five commissioners participated in more than 500 such communications that they failed to report, reported late or provided incomplete or inaccurate summaries.

Then in February 2016, the commission unexpectedly fired its well-regarded director, Charles Lester, to the great consternation of environmentalists.

Since then, the commission has undergone self-examination; the five embattled commissioners have

Four New Coastal Commissioners with a green bent: Caryl Hart, Mike Wilson, Katie Rice and Linda Escalante.

left and been fined, and ex parte rules have been tightened.

The four new commissioners are friendly to the environment, and their experience gives us hope they will stand up for our coasts.

Caryl Hart, Ph.D., a west Sonoma County resident, served on the State Parks Commission for 13 years, seven as chair. She is the former director of Sonoma County Regional Parks, who expanded public access to Sea Ranch beaches.

Mike Wilson, from Arcata, is a Humboldt County Supervisor and has been the principal of HWR Engineering and Science

and has worked for several environmental engineering firms. As a harbor commissioner, his service won plaudits from Humboldt Baykeeper.

Katie Rice lives in San Anselmo and serves on the Marin County Board of Supervisors. A graduate of Sonoma State University and Marin's Environmental Forum, Rice was instrumental in the establishment of the Ross Valley Watershed and Flood Protection Program.

Linda Escalante is the Southern California Legislative Director for National Resource Defense Fund. She has a special interest in making California beaches accessible for under-served populations. A graduate of UCLA, she's been recognized in several publications as one of the nation's most promising Latina leaders.

These commissioners face the challenges brought about by climate disruption, the complexities of wind and ocean energy, and the recognition of the need for environmental justice.

We'll be watching.

Mare Island preserve's direction still up in the air

Last month, the City of Vallejo held an update meeting about the Request for Qualifications for suitable vendors to operate the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve.

The Preserve, an urban park, refuge and historical site of approximately 150 acres (eventually more than 200 additional acres will be added), has been operated by a trust run by volunteers since



2003. The city suddenly revoked the Mare Island Heritage Trust's oversight in late May with no public hearing or communication with the trust.

The city voted on May 28 to issue an RFQ.

Finally, on Sept. 5 the city held a meeting, but did not follow the proposed structure of the meeting that had been disseminated to

the community. Led by the Sierra Club, the community rose up and took control of the meeting to address the concerns they have with the process and lack of transparency.

The community expressed their desires for the preserve and supported the trust's efforts to operate the park, while showing disdain to city leaders regarding how they have handled the situation.

City officials have promised additional public meetings on the issue. — Joe Feller, *Solano Group Chair*

Action alert: City of Sonoma's Urban Growth Boundary under threat

By Teri Shore

Sonoma Group ExCom

The City Council of Sonoma has not yet decided how or when it will renew the city's Urban Growth Boundary. Sierra Club is joining with other environmental groups and the community to urge the City Council to renew the existing UGB with a vote of the people before it expires in December 2020.

We need your help in convincing the City Council that renewing the existing UGB boundary is the best way to protect surrounding natural lands and build a climate-smart, diverse community for the next generation.

The UGB is simply a line around the city beyond which urban development is not allowed without approval of the voters. The UGBs protect open space and farm lands from sprawl and directs development into the city centers near jobs, schools, shops and public transit. The UGBs are the main reason that Sonoma County has kept its rural landscape and is now the gem of the Bay Area.

All nine cities in Sonoma County adopted UGBs approved by an overwhelming majority of voters more than 20 years ago. Most cities have renewed the same boundaries by wide margins and without controversy for another 20 to 30 years.

Unfortunately, a few housing advocates and developers are saying that we should expand into the greenbelt. They use the same stale arguments from two decades ago that sprawling out is the answer to housing needs. The rest of the Bay Area demonstrates that sprawl does not provide affordability.



Urban Growth Boundaries are lines around a city beyond which urban development is not allowed. The UGBs help preserve our native habitat, such as the oak woodlands that surround Sonoma Valley.

The Sierra Club's recent housing report documents all the reasons to focus on creating diverse, climate-smart neighborhoods where people of all incomes can live together while reducing single-auto travel.

If the City Council decides not to act, or proposes expansion or weakening of the policies, a group of Sonomans has formed the Citizens to Renew the City of Sonoma's Urban Growth Boundary campaign committee to gather signatures if needed.

TAKE ACTION

Please email or call the City Council of Sonoma to urge them to renew the existing UGB with a vote of the people for at least 20 years before it expires at the end of 2020.

Sierra Club endorsed three city council members who said they supported the UGB renewal as candidates: Rachel Hundley, Logan Harvey and Amy Harrington. Send an email to the entire City Council citycouncil@sonomacity.org or call

(707) 933-2216 and ask for each council member by name. You can use the following script as a guide.

Dear City Council of Sonoma,

As a Sierra Club member and resident of Sonoma County, I urge you to renew the existing City of Sonoma Urban Growth Boundary with a vote of the people for at least another 20 years. Doing so will ensure that the city focuses on building a climate-smart future with homes near shops, schools and services. Expanding the UGB and sprawling into the greenbelt will generate more greenhouse gas emissions and pollution. I hope the City of Sonoma will follow the lead of the other cities in Sonoma County by renewing the existing UGB for the next generation.

Your name
address, email, phone

For more information, contact Teri Shore: tshore@greenbelt.org or contact the UGB Committee at renewsonomaugb@gmail.com

Longtime chapter activist Keith Kaulum stepping down after 18 years of service

By Victoria Brandon
Redwood Chapter Chair

Redwood Chapter Executive Committee member Keith Kaulum has decided to retire as an at-large member, a position he has held since 2001.

During this period, Keith has served in many capacities, including as Legal Chair throughout his tenure and as a Council of Club Leaders delegate from 2003 to 2014. He also served in multiple roles, including Sonoma Group Chair in the years between first joining that entity in 1999 until 2010.

Keith's record as a conservationist began long before he joined the Sierra Club in 1997. In 1969, he and fellow scientists Paul Zigman and Richard Cole founded Environmental Science Associates, a groundbreaking consultant firm, which pioneered the use of science-based analyses to inform community planning and decision making under the newly established Environmental Impact Report process.

The Sonoma County Conservation Council named Keith as its Ernestine I. Smith "Environmentalist of the Year" awardee in 2006, in part because of his efforts to keep unfettered development from wiping out endangered tiger salamander populations in the Santa Rosa area.

"We're losing endangered species at a great rate because of carelessly destroying habitat," Keith told the *San Francisco Chronicle*. "On the Santa Rosa Plain, 80 percent of the vernal pools have been destroyed. Why insist on developing where there are endangered species?"

In subsequent years, Keith repeatedly advocated for responsible regulation of both ground and surface water and was particularly outspoken in the chapter's campaign to prevent coastal forests from being lost to rampant vineyard development.

A keystone triumph came in 2013 when 20,000 acres of the "Preservation Ranch" project in the Gualala River watershed were bought by The Conservation Fund and preserved for posterity.

As Legal Chair, Keith spoke for the chapter: "I think that our persistence over the years, along with other groups, is the only reason that the developer of Preservation Ranch, continued to delay their final proposal to the county for years. They know we were waiting for them with legal and political guns at the ready."

The chapter has benefited from Keith's wisdom and experience for so long it's hard to imagine how we're going to function without him—though also very reassuring to know that he's still going to be available for a quick consultation, as needed.

We thank Keith for all his service to the chapter, the Sierra Club and the environment.



Keith Kaulum in January 2019.

Not sure how to support your local Sierra Club chapter and groups?

Join the conversation on social media



<https://www.facebook.com/SierraClubRedwoodChapter/>



www.instagram.com/sierraclubredwood



<https://twitter.com/SierraClubRC>

Donate to help us be more effective. Every penny stays local:

sierraclub.org/redwood/donate

Volunteer for a specific issue or committee.
Contact us so we can put your skills to work:
redwood.chapter@sierraclub.org

Love being outdoors? Meeting new people? Sierra Club Outings needs you!

I'm Louis Vas, and I've been the Sierra Club Redwood Chapter Outings Chair since January 2018. My time in the wilderness started as a young person, specifically as a teen in the Boy Scouts of America, through which I began to go regularly go on backpacking trips with some great guys and leader, Bill Doty.

I grew up in Santa Rosa, graduated from Santa Rosa High School in 1993, and graduated with a B.A. in Spanish Literature and Culture from Sonoma State University in 1997.

I have been a Sierra Club member for many years and served for some time in the early 2000s on a Club watershed committee in the Santa Clara Valley. Now, as outings chair for the chapter, I am on the hunt for some great Outings leaders throughout the region.

Outings leaders can plan outdoor gatherings, such as hikes, paddles, birdwatching and backpacking. The most important quality of a leader is his or her love for the outdoors.

The following are Sierra Club's qualifications for outings leaders:

- Be over 18 years of age and a current Sierra Club member in good standing.
- Have successfully completed a First Aid/CPR class. Also, if You will be leading overnight trips into the wilds we require you complete a Wilderness First Aid Course.
- Complete the Outings Leader Training 101 Course on the Sierra Club website.



A hiking group at Annadel State Park enjoys the scenery and the good company. Outings Chair Louis Vas is pictured in the center rear.

- Attend and co-lead a hike with Outings leaders and/or chairs.
- Fill out the online application and questionnaires we have streamlined for you all.

All of these requirements are listed on the Redwood Chapter website: www.sierraclub.org/redwood/outings-leaderappandresources

Please reach out with any questions you may have about becoming an Outings Leader.

On behalf of Sierra Club, I look forward to hearing from you.

Louis Vas can be reached at lvas@sonic.net



North Group sends 3 kids to Lost Coast Camp

This summer, North Group sponsored three campers, an 11-year-old girl from Eureka, an 11-year-old boy from Fortuna, and a 12-year-old boy from Loleta, to attend a week-long session at Lost Coast Camp near Petrolia.

This is the third year that campers, sponsored through donations to the Lucille Vinyard/Susie van Kirk Environmental Education Fund, have gone to overnight camp at this venue in the Mattole Valley. The facility's mission is to "provide youth with a dynamic summer camp experience, which promotes building self-esteem and positive friendships, individual expression, and fostering an appreciation for the natural world."

The three campers submitted essays to North Group. They can be read in full on our blog: sierraclub.org/redwood/chapter-updates.

Berryessa Snow Mountain signage is up, welcoming visitors and stability

Ever since the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument was designated by presidential proclamation on July 10, 2015, local activists and recreational users have been wondering when signage would be posted to delineate boundaries and access points.

Attempts by the subsequent administration to weaken public lands protections delayed stewardship projects on the land, including signage, but now it appears clear that the special status of the 330,000-acre monument will not be reversed.

As a sign of welcome stability, BSMNM Manager Rebecca Wong recently announced that a contractor has completed installation of 12 informational signs (six on BLM land and six on the Mendocino National Forest) at key access points.

Some of these signs are at readily accessible loca-



tions and others deep in the backcountry.

If you happen to see one while out on an exploratory hike please take a picture and send it to shoshana.hebshi@sierraclub.org for posting to the chapter's website and social media accounts.

— Victoria Brandon, Redwood Chapter chair



Meetings

Mon. Oct. 7 - Solano Group ExCom. Come join us for our monthly meetings, which rotate between Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville. We are making a positive impact on our county and need a few more people to help carry the load. Call Jane for information. (707)319-6398.

Mon. Oct. 7 - Sonoma Group. Conservation Committee 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm.
Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

Tues. Oct. 8 - North Group is holding its monthly Executive Committee meeting. All are welcome to discuss local conservation issues between 7:45 and 8:45 p.m. or come for the business meeting starting at 6:45 p.m. Meet at the Adorni Center Conference Room on the Eureka Waterfront. For more information, contact Gregg at (707) 826-3740.

Mon. Nov. 4 - Sonoma Group. Conservation Committee at 5:30 pm - 6:30 p.m.
Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

Mon. Nov. 4 - Solano Group ExCom. Come join us for our monthly meetings which rotate between Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville. We are making a positive impact on our county and need a few more people to help carry the load. Call Jane for information. (707)319-6398.

Sat., Nov. 9 - Redwood Chapter ExCom. And ConsCom. Location: TBD. Conservation Committee meets at 10 a.m., ExCom meets 1-3 p.m. at the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa, 55A Ridgway. Info: Victoria vbrandon@lakelive.info

Tues. Nov. 12 - North Group is holding its monthly Executive Committee meeting. All are welcome to discuss local conservation issues between 7:45 and 8:45 p.m. or come for the business meeting starting at 6:45 p.m. Meet at the Adorni Center Conference Room on the Eureka Waterfront. For more information, contact Gregg at (707) 826-3740.

Tues. Nov. 19 - Napa Group ExCom. 6:30 p.m. Our location varies; it is generally at a member's home. Anyone wishing to attend please contact the chair, Xulio Soriano at mishteko@gmail.com

Thurs. Nov. 21 - Solano Group ExCom. Come join us for our monthly meetings which rotate between Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville. We are making a positive impact on our county and need a few more people to help carry the load. Call Jane for information. (707)319-6398.

Mon. Dec. 2 - Solano Group ExCom. Come join us for our monthly meetings which rotate between Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville. We are making a positive impact on our county and need a few more people to help carry the load. Call Jane for information. (707)319-6398.

Mon. Dec. 2 - Sonoma Group. Conservation Committee 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm.
Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

Tues. Dec. 10 - North Group is holding its monthly Executive Committee meeting. All are welcome to discuss local conservation issues between 7:45 and 8:45 p.m. or come for the business meeting starting at 6:45 p.m. Meet at the Adorni Center Conference Room on the Eureka Waterfront. For more information, contact Gregg at (707) 826-3740.

Sierra Club 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 who are seeking open seats.

This year, in addition to our paper ballot located on the back page of this newsletter, we are also instituting an online voting system through the Sierra Club website.

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

Please visit:
www.sierraclub.org/redwood/redwood-chapter-and-group-elections

SONOMA GROUP

Suzanne Doyle: I've volunteered for the Sierra Club Sonoma Group for many years, serving first as a committee member, then as Conservation Chair and on the Executive Committee. It's been interesting and fulfilling work and a constant education — from learning about the ecology of our local landscapes to urban planning and political lobbying.

During most of this time, we have not had enough activists to do the work that needs to be done. The Sierra Club relies on grassroots volunteer activists at the Group and Chapter levels to work on local and regional issues.

With the support of a national organization behind us, we have the heft to be effective at the local level, but we need volunteers!

I am honored to serve on the Sonoma Group Executive Committee and ask, not only for your vote to keep doing the work that I do, but for you to join us and become active Sierra Club members. Come to our meetings on the first Monday of every month.

Help advocate to reduce our county's greenhouse gas emissions, build affordable and sustainable housing and public transit, and protect our water, wildlife, and forests.

Tom Conlon: We the People are holding our leaders accountable to the promises they've made to fight climate change.

For the past two years I have supported cutting edge GHG emissions-reduction policies throughout our county (better GHG inventories, all-electric reach codes, safer bike/ped infrastructure, affordable infill housing, \$15 minimum wage, climate emergency declarations, etc.) and helped stop bad projects we simply don't need (e.g., new gas stations, hotels in the WUI, supersizing the airport, etc.).

An applied anthropologist and energy management consultant, I have worked on energy efficiency and climate issues for over 25 years. I sit on the Sierra Club California Energy & Climate Committee, our local Political Committee, and the Transportation & Regional Climate Protection Authority's Citizens Advisory Group. I was just reappointed to the RCPA Climate Action Advisory Committee, and formerly served on the Economic Development Board's Business Environmental Alliance and Rotary Club of Sonoma Valley.

I would be honored to continue to serve alongside the other dedicated volunteers on our Executive Committee, and humbly ask for your vote.

MENDOCINO GROUP

Mary Walsh: I'm running for a seat on the Mendocino Group Executive Committee. I continue to believe in the Sierra Club.

I believe in the necessity of getting Sierra Club identified most

important issues out to the public but more importantly getting the issues identified most significant by the grass roots up before the hierarchy of this influential organization.

I want to serve as a facilitator for keeping information flowing

in both directions. There are many important issues facing us. Internally recruitment is paramount.

I ask Mendocino members to get involved. The crisis of climate catastrophe is upon us. I would appreciate your vote.

Thank you.

Vote by Dec. 31

NAPA GROUP

Christina Benz: I began serving on the Napa Group Executive Committee in 2014. I want to continue to serve and help our county and cities address climate change and environmental justice issues.

During the past year, in conjunction with Napa Climate NOW!, we asked our cities and county to

pass a joint Climate Emergency Resolution. This effort resulted in the Countywide Commitment to Address Climate Change and the creation of a Countywide Working Group on Regional Climate Change that will begin meeting this September.

Napa Group has committed to providing outreach to our Spanish-speaking community and Spanish translation for all events we sponsor or host.

This year we have co-sponsored "Living with Fire," a presentation by Chad Hansen on how to survive wildland fires without destroying forests, and the Napa Drive Electric event with information on electric vehicle subsidies for low income households.

I hope to continue to serve on the Executive Committee and get more Napa County residents actively involved.

NORTH GROUP

Ned Forsyth: Today, air and water quality, wildlands, and wildlife around the world are under serious threat, commanding our attention. I have been serving on the North Group Executive Committee since 2001, because I believe strongly in Sierra Club's ability to fight these threats, on its stated mission to "Explore, Enjoy, and Protect" our planet.

As North Group vice chair and as delegate to Redwood Chapter ExCom, and as an outings leader since 2014, I have been able to help both experienced activists and newcomers take advantage of Sierra Club's institutional strength to tackle these threats.

North Group continues to advocate for wild things

and smart growth and to support our political allies. Sierra Club's democratic ideals and national reach give members political strength to take action that will benefit not only the natural environment, but humanity, too.

North Group and Redwood Chapter are dedicated to openness, and to working with allied groups and individuals. Sierra Club maintains a worthy tradition of grassroots citizen science. We care about the future of Humboldt Bay, climate science, and local land use, water, energy and construction projects.

Do come and add your voice to national and local conservation debates. And be sure to vote!

Felice Pace: No statement submitted.

SOLANO GROUP

Eli Macmakin: It is a motivating, inspiring and creative choice to engage my intellect and emotional intelligence with the Sierra Club.

I accepted the environmental representative role for the Redwood Chapter at the request of our leader, Joe Feller. I met Joe when I was running for local office in 2018 to replace the 18 year incumbent John Vasquez of district 4 in Solano County. Joe coached me on all matter of important protocol, history, procedure and general strategy for my endeavor.

One lasting effect was becoming a regular to the Sierra Club monthly meetings and getting

informed on local action finding ways to channel my ambitions to solve complex problems I see daily for myself and others.

I am working with soil on my property and am keen to bring ancient wisdom to current times and utilize the human deposit as fertilizer to save water, return the carbon to where it came from, grow plants and instigate a disruptive industry that will cause the sewer districts to find adaptive methods to stay in business.

Composting toilets are an important addition to the sanitation industry. Tag lines like #dontgiveyourshitaway #theyaresellingyourshit are waiting for the right release date. Bill Gates is

designing a waterless toilet and held a press conference holding a jar of his poop.

The current state of western culture is adverse to discussing this topic but that is changing with advances in science and water shortages.

Sierra Club and the work done by so many is rewarding in today's uncertain climate.

Jane Bogner: For 31 years with Solano Group, I have been promoting composting and sustainability at VALCORE Recycling; thinking globally and acting locally.

I spent 20 years writing "A

Continues Next Page

Sierra Club Elections: Ballots Due Dec. 31

Continued from Page 9

Sorted Affair" for the *Vallejo Times Herald*. Then music and science came together in the song below:

Compost song

*Some people think that yard waste is
dirty old stuff,
That you put in your truck and haul
to the dump,
Well I changed my mind since I've
been told
That one man's treasure is another*

woman's gold.

CHORUS

*I have 3 big bags of leaves and grass
Leftover pasta and pineapple stash
Tomatoes, potatoes, green beans too
All mixed together to make compost do
do best*

CHORUS

*One simple cubic yard is not a lot
If the mix is right, it gets really hot
The bet is 30 to 1 carbon/nitrogen.
Air and water and the cooking begins*

CHORUS

Well, the earthworms started rising

*[they are surface feeders you see]
We need a new home, We don't want
to die.*

*Shredded paper, wooden box, table
scraps your see,*

Would make a nice home

And they work for free

CHORUS

[with apologies to 16 tons]

Quinton Crawford: No statement submitted.

LAKE GROUP

Denise Rushing: My philosophy is best expressed by permaculture farmer Masonobu Fukuoka: "We must find our way back to true nature. We must set ourselves to the task of revitalizing the earth." I humbly ask for your vote for a term on the Sierra Club Lake Group Executive Committee.

Addressing human-earth relationship and climate issues has been central to my work for the whole of my adult life. Education: BS degree in environmental engineering from Stanford University, Masters in Culture and Spirituality (studying the work of Thomas Berry) from Holy Names. My 30 year career in the energy industry included the launch of disruptive renewable and energy efficiency technologies.

Called to a deeper response, I left corporate work to co-found an eco-spiritual/earth literacy center, and later served two terms on the Lake County Board of Supervisors where I advocated for environmental stewardship, responsible land use planning, and spearheaded the adoption of two of the largest public solar energy installations in the Western US.

Today I am co-founder and Executive Director of New Paradigm College in Lake County - where from the grassroots, we are passionately creating higher education needed for these times.

My work is focused on ecosystem and community regeneration. More here: www.newparadigmcollege.org

Victoria Brandon: These are crucial times for the environment in Lake County: our public lands everywhere remain in the crosshairs of the administration in Washington, dubious development proposals proliferate, and the task of recovering from wildfire and strengthening the resilience of our communities is ongoing.

At the same time, we have a unique opportunity to work for the long term health of Clear Lake and its watershed by bringing the Middle Creek Wetlands Restoration Project to fruition. Decisions made in the next few years will determine our future for a long time to come.

Please give me the opportunity to continue working for conservation in our community by electing me to another two-year term on

the Lake Group executive committee.

Victoria Brandon
707 994 1931
vbrandon@lakelive.info

Deb Sally: I am running for re-election because I believe that the Sierra Club, Lake Group is an important part of educating our county on the issues that are facing us locally and beyond, in regards to land use and sustainable economies and the importance of maintaining healthy ecosystems.

It is also important to provide outings to increase people's opportunities to enjoy the beauty of the outdoors and their desire to protect wilderness.

As an executive committee member I will strive to stay informed and provide input when needed.

I am also working to become an outings leader to do my part to expose others to the beauty of nature.

Tricia Evans: No statement submitted.

Please check off your choices for Redwood Chapter and your local Group executive committee on the ballot below 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>

LOCAL GROUPS

SONOMA

- Tom Conlon
- Suzanne Doyle

SOLANO

- Jane Bogner
- Quinton Crawford
- Eli Macmakin

NAPA

- Christina Benz

MENDOCINO

- Mary Walsh

LAKE

- Denise Rushing
- Deb Sally
- Victoria Brandon
- Tricia Evans

NORTH

- Ned Forsyth
- Felice Pace

**REDWOOD
CHAPTER**

- Randal MacDonald
- Victoria Brandon



**SIERRA
CLUB**
REDWOOD CHAPTER

Vote Online today at
www.sierraclub.org/redwood/redwood-chapter-and-group-elections

REDWOOD CHAPTER

Victoria Brandon: These are extraordinarily challenging times, with a hostile administration in Washington that rejects both science and common sense in favor of crony capitalism even while the effects of climate disruption become more obvious all the time.

And of course we are still trying to come to terms with the wildfires that have caused varying levels of devastation in every one of the chapter's nine counties. Recovery will be an ongoing task for years to come, and Redwood Chapter has every intention of playing a positive role.

We're also looking ahead to making the exciting new Mountains and Rivers wilderness proposal a reality, participating in the ongoing stakeholder

discussion that will set the management framework for the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument, and bringing our transportation infrastructure into the 21st century. At the same time we're trying to modernize and expand our communications strategies and seizing every opportunity to connect with you, our members.

I'm currently attempting to guide Redwood Chapter through these tricky times as chapter chair -- and asking for your vote for another two-year term on the executive committee.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions, suggestions, concerns: (707) 994-1931 or vbrandon@lakelive.info

Randal MacDonald: No statement submitted.

Redwood Needles

Sierra Club

Redwood Chapter

P.O. Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Nonprofit
PRST STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 363
Petaluma, CA



Sierra Club Redwood Chapter is a volunteer-run organization that works to conserve and protect our outdoor spaces as well as foster a meaningful connection to the environment for the community to value and enjoy.

We are always looking for active volunteers to boost our effectiveness throughout the region. Please get in touch with us if you're interested in lending a hand in your community.

www.sierraclub.org/redwood

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