



SIERRA
CLUB

FOUNDED 1892

explore,
enjoy,
and protect
the planet

Sierra Club Lake Group

May-June 2021 Newsletter

Community Forum: “The Geological Tourist in Lake County”

Lake Group’s next community forum will be held virtually at 6PM on Thursday May 27, when we will welcome the incomparable Dr. Harry Lyons to talk about Lake County geology. Here’s his third-person sneak peek at the presentation: “A few folks travel to Lake County to take in the Geology, to marvel at the variety of young igneous rocks, to crumble soil derived from Jurassic muddy sandstones, and to scramble up slopes of serpentine. What’s the big draw for this small group? The terrain around Clear Lake reflects the history of California and the world: Dr. Harry Lyons, a singing oceanographer, condenses lessons from local experts and informed visitors in tying the region’s history to actions below his beloved Pacific.”

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

Walker Ridge Update

As previously mentioned, the Sierra Club has been partnering with other environmental organizations led by the California Native Plant Society to campaign for the permanent preservation of this ecological treasure. The campaign rolled out late in 2020 with a virtual webinar featuring artist and author Obi Kauffman, now available on YouTube. In the meantime, the Walker Ridge Coalition’s petition to the BLM asking that the Ridge be designated an Area of Critical Environmental Concern has

garnered more than 5000 signatures in a few months and been presented to the agency along with supporting scientific and stakeholder letters, and a copy sent to Congressman John Garamendi.

In April—at the height of the spring wildflower display—the coalition arranged with EcoFlights to offer local news media and civic leaders an opportunity to tour the area by air, with participation from Lake County Board of Supervisors chair Bruno Sabatier among others. There’s nothing like a close look at the (con’t)

(Walker Ridge, con't) wonders of nature to create ardent advocates. In this case advocacy can take many forms. Although the petition is asking for administrative action on the part of the agency, there are many routes to the ultimate destination of permanent protection, for example federal legislation adding all or part of Walker Ridge to the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.

Please stay tuned for further developments, and in the meantime check out some of the information and wonderful artwork posted at cnps.org/conservation/protect-walker-ridge



*Highland Springs
Equestrian Center*
707-279-1903

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

KONOCTI POST

www.konoctipost.blogspot.com

a lake county naturalist's blog

TAKE A RAMBLE. IT'S FREE.

Let's Go Digital

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

Lake Group Executive Committee

Denise Rushing (Chair, Climate Chair): 560-1166

Ed Robey (Vice Chair) 994 8304

JoAnn Saccato, (Secretary) 350-1719

Deb Sally, (Outings Chair) 995-2125

Victoria Brandon (Treasurer, Conservation Chair, Political Chair, newsletter editor, webmaster): 994-1931,
vbrandon95457@gmail.com

Tricia Evans (Membership Chair)

Cheri Kessner, 263 5787

ExCom meetings are held at 5:30PM on the third Wednesday of the month, on the Zoom platform. All members are cordially invited to attend, but requested to contact the Chair first to confirm time and connection details

Redwood Chapter Supports Eel River Fish Passage

After extended investigation of the pros and cons of various options, the Sierra Club Redwood Chapter (Lake Group's parent organization) took a formal position in support of the "Two Basin Partnership" proposal for relicensing of the Valley hydroelectric facility currently operated by PG&E. As structured, the proposal would restore fish passage to the upper main stem of the Eel River by removing Scott Dam and improving conditions at Cape Horn Dam, while maintaining water deliveries to Mendocino and Sonoma County consumers—a very important consideration given drought conditions.

Imperiled populations of salmon, steelhead and lamprey would plainly benefit from the removal of Scott Dam. If the proposal is not accepted, FERC's mandatory "decommissioning" process could, and very probably would, result in the removal of both Scott and Cape Horn dams, a result that would also benefit the fish, but with less certainty and (a very important point) much more slowly. With extinction looming, prompt action is essential to save these iconic fish.

Delays also increase the risk of catastrophic failure, with threats to downstream communities and habitat.

Clear Lake Cleanup June 19

On Saturday June 19 Americorps CivicSpark Fellows are sponsoring a shoreline cleanup day in Lakeport, Clearlake and Lucerne. Gloves, masks and bags will be provided, and social distancing maintained to keep everyone involved safe in this continuing age of Covid. It's been a long time since we've had a chance to gather outdoors in to work together for the benefit of the community, and we all miss the exercise, the fresh air, and above all the camaraderie. For more information and to register, contact Connie Warthen at cwarthen@civicspark.lgc.org

Fire Season: time to start preparing

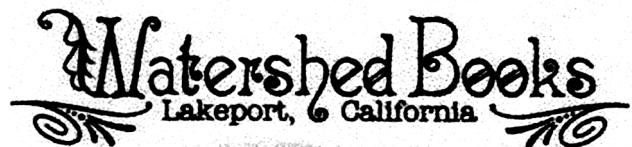
With fire season just around the corner and the first red flag alerts already sounded, it's time to start making preparations. That means "hardening" our own homes by clearing defensible space, making sure gutters are cleared and attic vents screened, and replacing flammable roof and siding materials if possible. It also means making evacuation check lists, assembling "go-bags," and scoping out escape routes under various conditions. For a wealth of information about living with fire, including ways to stay safe and reduce risks, check out the Fire Safe Council site, firesafelake..

Outings

Help Wanted: Outing Leaders. No experience needed, just a love for brisk exercise in the out-of-doors. There are many good reasons to become an Outing leader, including an opportunity for autocracy: as leader *you* get to choose where to go, and when. Interested? Get in touch with Outings Chair Deb Sally at 235-9011 or enviracat1@gmail.com

Rent This Space

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



305 North Main Street
707.263.5787



Sierra Club Lake Group
PO Box 1645
Lakeport, CA 95453