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the planet

Sierra Club Lake Group

May-June 2022 Newsletter

Community Forum May 26: All About Native Oaks

At 6PM on Thursday May 26 Lake Group's community meeting will feature a presentation by Master Gardener April Lynch on the diverse species of oak trees native to this region. Her work is based on 12 years of research and includes more than 150 scenic photographs of oak trees and other natural wonders from Colusa, Lake and Sonoma Counties. Lynch, a native Californian, joined the UCCE Master Gardeners in 2009. Her interests include native oaks, wildflowers, vegetable gardening, and home orchards. She is a photographer and an award-winning artist; and has co-authored and published *Wildflowers! A Guide to Identifying the Wildflowers of Northern California's Wine Country*.

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 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.

Great News for the Eel River

After several years of anticipation, PG&E's license to operate the "Potter Valley Project" expired on April 14: with no party willing to take over the antiquated, seismically vulnerable Scott and Cape Horn dams, PG&E's only possible action is to surrender the project's operating license.

Dam removal would provide access to more than 280 miles of prime spawning and nursery habitat for imperiled fish, make the Eel (a state and federally-designated wild and scenic river) the longest free flowing river in the state and reconnect its headwaters in the Snow Mountain Wilderness to the coastal

redwoods in Humboldt County.

"For over 100 years, Eel River salmon and steelhead have been excluded from the river's headwaters, which is some of the highest quality, most climate resilient habitat in the watershed," said Alicia Hamann, Executive Director for Friends of the Eel River. "If PG&E and FERC move swiftly, we will have time to secure a future for the Eel River's still-wild salmon and steelhead."

In the coming months, FERC will ask PG&E for a license surrender schedule. A plan for project decommissioning could be ready within a few years if PG&E is properly motivated to act swiftly—the best possible news for the fish.

Molok Luyuk Update

On April 13 the diverse group of conservationists working to protect the special landscape long known as Walker Ridge had another cause for celebration when Senator Alex Padilla introduced the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Expansion Act with Senator Dianne Feinstein as co-sponsor. The bill accompanies House Resolution 6366, introduced by Congressman John Garamendi in January; taken together, this legislation would add 3,925 acres of BLM land to the Monument (all in Lake County), establish tribal co-management, mandate the preparation of a coordinated management plan for the Monument as a whole, and change the name of the area to “Molok Luyuk,” a Patwin phrase meaning Condor Ridge. Molok Luyuk is culturally significant to local Native American tribes and notable for fascinating geology, outstanding biodiversity, and dramatic views of much of Northern California—let’s give it the special status it deserves.

Primary Election June 7

After a slow start necessitated by redistricting, Sierra Club political activists have concluded endorsements for a wide array of federal, state, and local offices. Ballots for the June 7 primary have already started arriving in voters’ mailboxes.

The election of candidates endorsed by the Sierra Club offers the best chance of protecting everything we cherish: please check out the list posted to the Redwood Chapter website at sierraclub.org/redwood/endorsements.

**Above all, please be sure to
VOTE on June 7.**

Lake Group Executive Committee

Deb Sally (Chair, Outings 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
Tricia Evans (Membership Chair)
Cheri Kessner, 263 5787
Sally Peterson, 533-3132

*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*

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.



*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*

Watershed Books
Lakeport, California

*305 North Main Street
707.263.5787*

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

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.

2022 Weed Tour May 25

After a two-year hiatus caused by the Covid 19 pandemic, the Lake County Weed Management Area is delighted to announce that its 17th annual “Invasive Weeds Tour” will be held this year on Wednesday May 25. As always the event is FREE and the public is welcome and encouraged to attend, with no reservations required.

Participants will gather in front of the Ranch House at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park (8400 State Highway 53 between Clearlake and Lower Lake) at 9AM, take a leisurely guided walk of about a mile to see the amazingly diverse array of invasive plants that flourish in the park and the effects of control mechanisms such as control burns, and return to the house for discussion of aquatic invasive weeds under the trees.

The tour is sponsored by the Lake County Department of Agriculture and the Lake County Resource Conservation District.

Redwood Chapter Spring Photo Contest 2022

Redwood Chapter’s annual photo contest is underway: please share your own original photographs demonstrating the remarkable beauty and diversity of the spectacular area where we are so lucky to live.

Contest rules:

- 1 submission per person
- Must be taken within our Chapter's region
- Caption must include location and photographer's name and contact information

Deadline for submission: June 1, 2022

E-mail photo submissions to redwood.chapter@sierraclub.org with the subject Line: Spring Photo Contest Submission

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