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the planet

Sierra Club Lake Group

July-August 2022 Newsletter

Midsummer Potluck July 15

For the past two years the Covid 19 pandemic has made it impossible for Lake Group to hold our annual midsummer party, but we are delighted to announce that this festive gathering is going to take place again this year, at **5:30PM on Friday July 15, at Dancing Tree People farm**, 1445 Pitney Lane off Elk Mountain Road in Upper Lake, which just happens to be the residence of former Lake Group Chair Denise Rushing. It will be a traditional potluck: please bring food and beverages to share. To eliminate as many throwaways as possible, we're also asking guests to *please bring your own reusable glasses, plates, napkins, and eating utensils*: let's see if we can make this a genuine zero-waste event this year! We're also asking guests to bring one or more folding chairs if possible.

The party is always free, and all Lake Group members and their guests are very cordially invited. To RSVP (very strongly recommended) contact Deb at 707 560-1166 or enviracat1@gmail.com.

Valley Oak Planting at Anderson Marsh

Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association (AMIA) is partnering with the City of Clearlake and California State Parks to plant 100 native Valley Oaks at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park (AMSHP). The project, which will begin in the fall of 2022, is funded by fees paid to the City of Clearlake under its Native Tree Protection Ordinance, which requires developers who cut down native oak trees to either replant trees of the same species or pay a fee to fund replanting by the city.

This project had its genesis in a conversation between Lake Group Chair Deb Sally and Clearlake City Manager Alan Flora, who mentioned that the city had accumulated quite a few thousand dollars in its oak

mitigation fund. Funding a replanting project on city-owned land was one possibility, and doing so at Anderson Marsh—part of which is inside the city limits, and all of which is an important recreational resource for Clearlake residents—was another.

“AMIA was approached by the City of Clearlake about partnering with the City and State Parks to plant Valley Oaks at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park,” stated board member Henry Bornstein. “We contacted State Parks, which agreed to do the initial planting, with AMIA agreeing to do the follow-up watering, weeding and maintenance necessary to help the trees survive.”

For more information about this project, contact AMIA by sending an email to info@andersonmarsh.org or calling 707 995-2658

Molok Luyuk Gets Senate Hearing

On June 8 Senator Alex Padilla testified before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining of on behalf of his Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Expansion Act, S4080; the bill is a companion to HR6366, sponsored by Congressman John Garamendi.

This hearing was an important step towards the permanent protection of nearly 4000 special Lake County acres commonly known as Walker Ridge "The sacred lands within and around the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument are central to thousands of years of tribal origin stories," said Senator Padilla. "This bill would expand the existing Monument to include nearly 4,000 acres of sacred Tribal land, require federal agencies to finally develop a management plan for the monument, and give Tribal governments a seat at the table to better manage and care for these lands. It is our duty to protect the abundant natural resources and the rich history on Molok Luyuk for today's children and for future generations, and I look forward to working to ensure we see this bill to fruition."

BLM Deputy Director of Policy and Programs Nada Culver also spoke in favor of the legislation, which is co-sponsored by Senator Dianne Feinstein.

This Senate hearing was an essential next step in the pathway to votes in both Houses and passage of the legislation—an event that the Molok Luyuk coalition is hoping will take place before the end of the year.

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 usually held at 5:00 PM on the third Tuesday of the month, on the Zoom platform. All members are cordially invited to attend, but requested to contact the Chair first to confirm the time and get connection details



*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*

Let's Stop PG&E's War on Trees

Pacific Gas and Electric's antiquated, poorly maintained power lines have caused major wildfires throughout its territory, including the 2018 Camp Fire, the most destructive in California's history.

Instead of upgrading its lines with modern equipment that will automatically shut down when broken, the utility has implemented an "Enhanced Vegetation Management" plan with the objective of cutting down 1 million trees a year within or adjacent to its right of way. These actions destroy habitat, exacerbate climate change, and conflict with 30x30 goals, all while increasing wildfire risk rather than reducing it. The EVM program has outraged residents throughout PG&E's service area, whose trees are being destroyed without their consent and sometimes over their strenuous objections.

Desperate people are looking to the Sierra Club for leadership as they attempt to confront a monopolistic corporation. Redwood Chapter is now trying to pull together all five affected Sierra Club Chapters and partner organizations throughout the region to force PG&E to abandon this program, either voluntarily or by regulatory compulsion.

We need your help.

First, if you haven't done so already, please sign our petition demanding an end to this mindless destruction: just click the link at the top right hand corner of the Chapter home page, www.sierraclub.org/redwood.

Second, if you have been personally affected by the EVM program—had trees destroyed, or managed to defend them from the contractors' chainsaws—please tell us about it. We are in the process of building a special website to record the many faces of outrage and to house a toolbox of defense strategies, but in the meantime you can share your story directly by reaching out to Victoria at vbrandon95457@gmail.com.

Chapter and Group Election Season Begins

As usual at this time of year, both the Redwood Chapter and the Lake Group Executive Committee election season has begun. Nominating Committee Chairs have been selected, and candidate recruitment is proceeding. Three Chapter At-Large seats will be up this year as well as three Lake Group seats. If you are interested in running for a position, please contact Lake Group nominating committee chair Victoria Brandon at vbrandon95457@gmail.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.

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.



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