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CLUB**  
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enjoy,  
and protect  
the planet

# Sierra Club Lake Group September-October 2019 Newsletter

## Next Community Gathering: Welcome Climate Activist David W. Orr

Instead of our regular early fall general membership meeting, Lake Group has decided to partner with New Paradigm College to host a special event instead. At **5PM on Saturday October 12 at NPC (3700 Country Club Dr in Lucerne)**, Oberlin College professor and renowned climate activist David Orr will give a compelling presentation on climate disruption and ecosystem degradation titled “Hope is an Imperative! - The Long Emergency and the Way Forward.”

For more than three decades, Orr has been one of the leading voices of the environmental movement, championing the cause of ecological literacy in higher education, helping to establish and shape the field of ecological design, and working tirelessly to raise awareness of the threats to future generations posed by humanity’s current unsustainable trajectory. You can learn more about him at <http://centerforneweconomics.org/people/david-w-orr/> Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance at [www.newparadigmcollege.org](http://www.newparadigmcollege.org).

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## New Zoning Ordinance Needed Badly

When the current Lake County General Plan was adopted back in 2008 everyone agreed that a comprehensive revision of the Zoning Ordinance should come next; the ordinance—a keystone to effective planning—has indeed been revised since then, most notably to address the legalization of medical cannabis—but not in the comprehensive way needed to allow it to become a useful tool under the conditions and needs of the 21st century.

### ***Calendars!***

*2020 Sierra Club  
calendars have arrived.  
Please check inside for  
details.*

Among other considerations, the ordinance relies almost exclusively on building size to determine the conditions under which new businesses will be allowed to operate in our county. In particular, the ordinance does not recognize the crucial distinction between locally-owned businesses and formula retail establishments with multiple outlets, and thus fails to provide the legal justification for treating these categories differently even though their effects on the community can differ dramatically. This hiatus continues to exist despite an explicit **(con’t)**

**(Zoning Ordinance, con't)** recommendation (Policy LU- 4.6) in the General Plan to establish limitations on “Big Box” stores.

We’ve learned a lot since 2008, and are now aware that a formula retail “box” doesn’t have to be “big” to need special handling to ensure that approval will benefit rather than undermining the community.

These considerations came to the forefront at the September 17, 2019 Board of Supervisors meeting, when a proposal to appoint an ad hoc citizens’ advisory committee to consider revisions to the Zoning Ordinance came under discussion.

A number of members of the public spoke in favor, starting with Upper Lake Town Hall chair Gene Palleno, who pointed out that Mendocino County had recently adopted revisions to its zoning ordinance establishing limits on locations where formula retail outlets would be allowed. Others mentioned the antiquity of the current ordinance, and the importance of maintaining local control over growth and development.

Much to the surprise of many in attendance, the Supervisors deflected the discussion from the Zoning Ordinance to call for a comprehensive review of the county’s assorted Area Plans. Although none of them has been adopted recently and several are indeed in urgent need of revisions, Area Plan revision would take years to complete, even if the understaffed Community Development Department were able to oversee all of them at once—and we need to get some teeth into local planning documents immediately, before the “infestation” of formula retail goes any farther.

The discussion is expected to resume at the October 1 board meeting, time unspecified. Please try to attend if you can.

## KONOCTI POST

*www.konoctipost.blogspot.com*

**a lake county naturalist’s blog**

**TAKE A RAMBLE. IT’S FREE.**

### Lake Group Executive Committee

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*ExCom meetings are held at 6:30PM on the fourth  
Wednesday of the month, at locations that vary.  
All members are cordially invited to attend, but  
requested to contact the Chair first to confirm time  
and location*

## Rent This Space

The Lake Group is 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 *vbrandon@lakelive.info* or call Victoria at 994-1931.

**Watershed Books**  
Lakeport, California

**305 North Main Street**

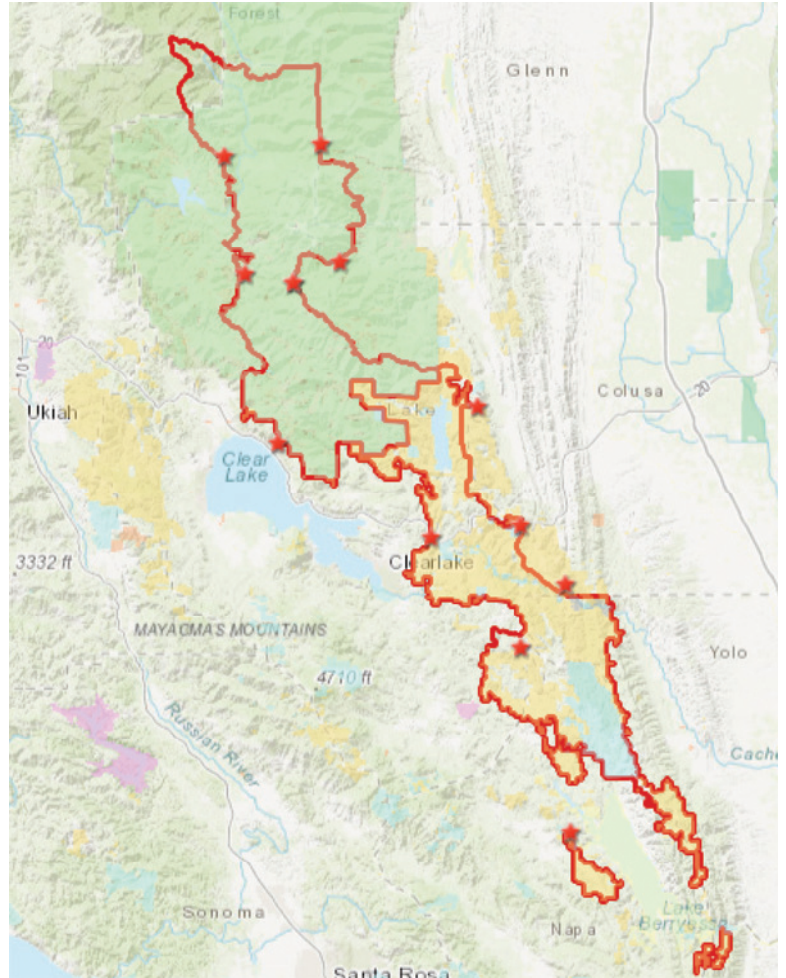
**707.263.5787**

## We've Got Signs!

Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument 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 Monument access points.

Some of these signs are at readily accessible locations, including at least three on highway 20 (westbound at the Colusa county line, eastbound near the Redbud Trailhead, and at Bartlett Mountain Rd) 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 [vbrandon@lakelive.info](mailto:vbrandon@lakelive.info) for posting.

In more Monument news, on Thursday Sept 19 the Lucerne Town Hall formally recognized Lucerne as a gateway to BSMNM, making it the first northern California community to declare gateway status. There's plenty of room for others to do the same.



## Outings

At press time, no listing of Lake Group hikes was available. Any that are scheduled later will be posted to the Group website at [sierraclub.org/redwood/lake/outings](http://sierraclub.org/redwood/lake/outings). Hikes throughout Redwood Chapter are listed at [sierraclub.org/redwood/outings](http://sierraclub.org/redwood/outings)

### 2020 Sierra Club Calendars

Lake Group has both wall and appointment versions available at the discounted price of \$14. To be sure of getting as many as you want (they make great gifts) reserve in advance by contacting Cheri at [cherisierraclub@gmail.com](mailto:cherisierraclub@gmail.com) or 263-5787. Calendars will also be available at the Oct 12 David Orr event, our November (date TBA) community meeting in Lakeport, our holiday party (date also TBA), and at Watershed Books, 305 N. Main in Lakeport.

### 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 [vbrandon@lakelive.info](mailto:vbrandon@lakelive.info)—not only does this save some trees, it also benefits the Group financially.



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