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explore,
enjoy,
and protect
the planet

Sierra Club Lake Group

September-October 2021 Newsletter

Next Community Forum: Botanical Wonders of Walker Ridge

Lake Group's next community meeting will be held virtually at **6:00 PM on Thursday September 30**. We are looking forward to welcoming California Native Plant Society Conservation Program Director Dr. Nicholas Jensen, who will give us an in-depth look at one of Lake County's very special places. Walker Ridge, located just north of Highway 20 on the Colusa county line, is a marvel of biological diversity, intriguing geology, and recreational opportunities, but despite its outstanding characteristics it was left just outside the boundaries when the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument was created in 2015. Congressman John Garamendi is now proposing legislation to rectify that omission, and to require the BLM and Forest Service to prepare a comprehensive management plan for the Monument. More information elsewhere in this newsletter.

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.

Coastal Cleanup Day September 18

After a Covid hiatus in 2020, volunteers throughout California are again invited to clean shorelines and surrounding areas as part of the annual Coastal Cleanup Day. Although Lake County isn't exactly coastal, a partnership between the county Department of Water Resources and several non-profit organizations and businesses has provided plenty of opportunities to participate here.

Participants will gather in in the communities of Lucerne (Davis Beach), Upper Lake (Middle Creek), Lakeport (Highland Springs), Blue Lakes Village, Kelseyville (Kelsey Creek), Lower Lake (Seigler Creek), and Clearlake (Clear Lake Campground).

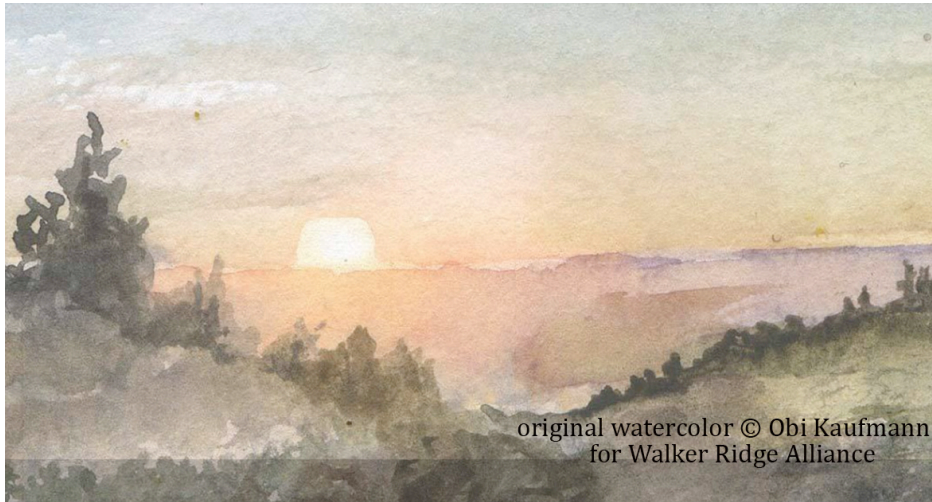
Citizens Caring for Clearlake supporters are invited to meet on the lakeshore across (con't)

(Coastal Cleanup, con't) Lakeshore Drive from the City of Clearlake police department/City Hall. There may or may not be a dumpster present, but accumulated refuse brought to that location will be disposed of, and bags, grippers, gloves, and vests will be available. Call Barbara at either 707 995 0940 (landline) or on the day at 707 367 3333 (cell phone) for more information.

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.

A Closer Look at Walker Ridge



Lake County has so many special places we sometimes tend almost to take them for granted.

One of those special places is Walker Ridge. This remarkable landscape, administered by the BLM, is located on the border between Lake and Colusa Counties just north of Highway 20. Its complex geology supports so many rare serpentine-dependent plants that the entire region has been

proposed for designation as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Many other habitats, ranging from ancient oak woodlands to flower-strewn meadows, support outstanding biological diversity. Breathtakingly beautiful and still wild, this is the kind of country where rugged outcrops jut from grassy swales carpeted by spring wildflowers, where black bears and mountain lions roam, where both bald and golden eagles soar overhead. It also supports a greater variety of dragonflies and damselflies than anywhere else in California, and the views are to die for. Numerous natural springs, carbonated, salty, and freshwater, pour from the hillsides, even during times of drought, providing refuge for the animals that live here and cool water for visitors.

The area has been important to several local tribes for thousands of years as a spiritual and cultural center—and is still important. It also provides a wealth of recreational opportunities for hikers, mountain bikers, OHV users, equestrians, hang gliders, rockhounds, and others.

So it is a bit surprising that such an outstanding place was left out when the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument was designated in 2015.

Now Congressman John Garamendi proposes to rectify this omission by sponsoring legislation to expand the Monument to include nearly 4000 acres in the Lake County portion of Walker Ridge. The Sierra Club applauds the Congressman's leadership, and hopes that his vision will become legislative reality before this session of Congress comes to an end. If you think so too, please let him know by sending an email to Tigran.Agdaian@mail.house.gov.

On Tuesday September 21 the county Board of Supervisors plans to discuss a proposal to send a letter of support to Congressman Garamendi: please consider reaching out to your supervisor, or to call 263-2368 to leave a message for any or all of them.



*Highland Springs
Equestrian Center
707-279-1903*

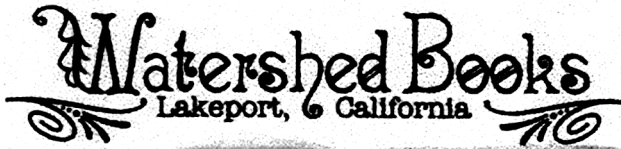
*Horse Boarding in a Sublime Setting in the Wine Country
8900 Wight Way, Kelseyville, CA 95451
Paul Marchand and Juliana Vidich
www.highlandspringsequestrian.weebly.com*

KONOCTI POST

www.konoctipost.blogspot.com

a lake county naturalist's blog

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*305 North Main Street
707.263.5787*

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,
enviracat1@gmail.com
Victoria Brandon (Treasurer, Conservation Chair,
Political Chair, newsletter editor, webmaster):
994-193
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*

Climate Action Here and Now

As previously mentioned, a group of local activists is working to get a Climate Action Network (CAN) Group started similar to those in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties. Fending off climate catastrophe will require the efforts of the whole community, starting right here in the grassroots, and there's no time better than right now to get started. To find out what you can do to help, please contact Sally Peterson, *sunface110@gmail.com*

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*



Sierra Club Lake Group
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