



SIERRA CLUB

FOUNDED 1892

explore,
enjoy,
and protect
the planet

Sierra Club Lake Group January-February 2016 Newsletter

Next Meeting: Let's Get the Facts about Clear Lake Water Quality

The next Lake Group general meeting will take place at 7PM on Thursday January 21 at the Round Room at Mendocino College, 2565 Parallel Dr in Lakeport, and will focus on cyanobacteria ("blue green algae") in Clear Lake. Since the fall of 2014 Big Valley Rancheria and Elem Indian Colony have been conducting regular testing for cyanotoxins produced by the "algae" blooms that have plagued the lake annually since 2009. Environmental Directors Sarah Ryan and Karola Kennedy will present the results of the Tribes' Cyanotoxin Monitoring Program and the ways it affects both recreational use of the lake and our drinking water. The meeting is free and open to the public as always. More info: contact Ed Robey at 995 8304 or edrobey@wildblue.net.

BOS Rescinds "Jefferson" Vote

On December 15 the Lake County Board of Supervisors voted *unanimously* to rescind a prior resolution, adopted March 3, 2015, that would have placed an advisory measure on the November 2016 ballot asking if the county should adopt a declaration of support for seceding from California in order to participate in the formation of a new state.

The proposal to rescind was brought forward by Board Chair Anthony Farrington at the request of community residents. Farrington questioned the "Jefferson" movement's financial analysis, which fails to take into account many sources of state funding received by the county as well as direct support from state agencies, access to California's higher education system,

and branding for agricultural products. The importance of this support was particularly evident during the wildland fires that devastated the county during the past summer.

After discussion and public comment (almost entirely opposed to the secession proposal, and to moving ahead with the ballot measure) the board agreed that Lake County's state legislative representatives have been doing a splendid job, that state support is essential to the future of the county, and that the community needs to pull together to concentrate on recovery rather than squabbling over a divisive political ploy.

Local "State of Jefferson" proponents still retain the option of gathering signatures to place the matter on the ballot by petition, but it (con't)

("Jefferson," con't) seems most unlikely that they will attempt to do so, or that the requisite number of verified signatures could be obtained.

It should be noted that this is not the first time Lake County has delivered a sharp rebuke to this divisive far-right scheme. When proponents made their first local presentation about a year ago, there was almost no vocal opposition and three Supervisors declared their intention to approve a "Declaration of Separation" from California. By the time the proposal came to a vote on March 3 they all recognized the inappropriateness of taking such a step without authorization from the people, and decided to place an advisory vote on the November 2016 ballot instead.

Since then not a single county Board has expressed support for secession. Several have avoided the issue entirely, Lassen and Plumas followed Lake's lead in putting it on the ballot, and Trinity made a pro-active declaration in favor of remaining in California. At press time, the Sierra County Supervisors seemed poised to do the same.

To learn more about these issues visit KeepItCalifornia.org; opportunities to participate in the dialog are abundant at facebook.com/KeepItCalifornia.



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—not only does this save some trees, it also benefits the Group financially.

Healing the Land

As Lake County digs out of the ashes and begins to rebuild, many people are asking what they can do to hasten the recovery of the landscape and wildlife habitat. In many cases the best answer is to wait, keep a careful eye on areas where mudslides might threaten, and give nature a chance to heal itself. This excellent summary by UC Cooperative Extension forest advisor Greg Giusti (republished courtesy of the Redbud Audubon Society) contains much wisdom.

The recent fires in Lake County have resulted in an unprecedented need to address forest resource recovery and protection. There are a number of important topics currently being discussed among a wide array of resource professionals addressing hazard tree removal, water quality, reseeding and reforestation, salvage logging, and soil protection. Many of these topics will take months, if not years, to address as the scale and scope of the burned acreage is taxing local, state and Federal resources.

The immediate need for land and homeowners to consider is soil protection as the loosened soil and ash can move quickly under proper storm conditions. Though seeding has often been used in the past it is generally considered ineffective as the seed simply moves and erodes with the soil and ash following an initial rain event. An effective soil erosion prevention method is to leave any tree limbs, logs, trunks, rocks or other solid structures on the soil surface to trap any moving soil.

Though many people may want to "clean" their property allowing woody debris to sit through the winter will serve as an effective way to arrest soil movement. If people are having to harvest hazard trees, positioning them strategically on slopes or near streams and gullies, for the first winter, will provide similar soil protection.

Lastly, there are commercially available materials designed specifically to minimize soil erosion and may need to be considered. However, people addressing soil erosion potential on their properties should take a few minutes to assess what resources they have on hand to protect soils and keep costs low.

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 vbrandon@lakelive.info or call Victoria at 994-1931.

KONOCTI POST

www.konoctipost.blogspot.com

a lake county naturalist's blog

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Lake Group Executive Committee

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Other contacts:

Steve Devoto (Outings): 279-8308,
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ExCom meetings are held at 7PM on the first Wednesday of every other month, at locations that vary. All members are cordially invited to attend, but requested to contact the Chair first to confirm time and location

Watershed Books
Lakeport, California

305 North Main Street
707.263.5787



**Fashionable Eyewear
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Robert Bonner, O.D.

994-1488

14595 Olympic Drive Clearlake, CA 95422

Outings

At press time, Lake Group had no hikes scheduled. If any are planned later they will be posted to the Group website, sierraclub.org/redwood/lake. For outings elsewhere in Redwood Chapter, check the Outings tab at sierraclub.org/redwood.

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 Outing Chair Steve Devoto at 279-8308 or sdevoto@mchsi.com.



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