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the planet

Sierra Club Lake Group

November-December 2014 Newsletter

Next Meeting: Movie Night in Time of Drought

At the next Lake Group meeting we're going to show a very timely California Water Board film "Slow the Flow, make your landscape act like a sponge," followed by short subject "Permeable Pavers - Breaking Up is Easy to Do." This is a great opportunity to learn about the impacts of storm water runoff, the benefits of getting rid of your lawn (or alternatively, ways to make it "greener"), and how you can to transform your soil to soak up maximum water and improve carbon sequestration. The showing will be held at 7PM on Wednesday December 3 in the Round Room at Mendocino College, 2565 Parallel Dr, Lakeport. As always, the meeting is free and the public is invited: for more info contact Chair Ed Robey, edrobey@wildblue.net

Supervisors Support Berryessa-Snow Mountain National Monument

On October 21 the Lake County Board of Supervisors reaffirmed its support for the permanent protection of the Berryessa-Snow Mountain region, adding explicit endorsement for National Monument designation to previous advocacy for National Conservation Area status. Extending more than 100 miles from Solano County to the Snow Mountain Wilderness, this "undiscovered landscape" includes portions of five counties, with by far the largest portion here in Lake County.

As has been previously discussed, securing the permanent protection of these remarkable 350,000 acres of federal public lands has been a major Sierra Club priority for several years. The region contains lush forests, wildflower meadows, three designated Wilderness areas, and a Wild and Scenic River. It is home to tule elk, river otters, the California's second largest population of wintering bald eagles, and the rare Pacific fisher, while its amazingly diverse assortment of plants make it a biodiversity hotspot of global importance. Berryessa-Snow Mountain also offers a wealth of

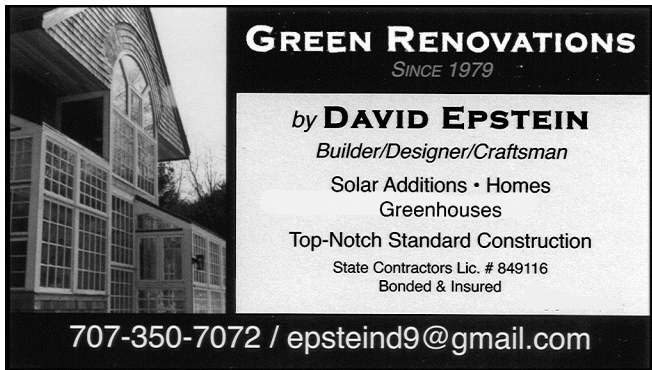
**Holiday Party
Friday Dec 12:
details inside!**

recreational opportunities to hikers, campers, birders, anglers, and equestrians: in the words of Lake Group Chair Ed Robey, "this landscape is truly an outdoor wonderland." With sensitive management, this recreational potential can be enhanced while preserving the conservation values that make the area so special.

Efforts to provide permanent protection by creation of a Berryessa-Snow Mountain National Conservation (con't)

(Berryessa-Snow Mt, con't) Area have bogged down in Congressional infighting. So we are seeking an alternative path to the same destination by asking President Obama to use his powers under the Antiquities Act to declare the region a National Monument. National Monument designation would offer the same advantages as a National Conservation Area, create no additional restrictions on land use or the rights of nearby landowners, and could provide additional benefits because the designation is better known and has a higher profile.

In the past few weeks the Solano, Yolo, and Napa Boards of Supervisors have all joined the Lake County Board in affirming support for the permanent protection of the Berryessa-Snow Mountain region as a National Monument. Will designation become the next major building block of the President's conservation legacy? We may soon find out!



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Rent This Space


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.

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Calendars!

Lake Group's supply of 2015 Sierra Club calendars has arrived, and they are gorgeous as always, full of spectacular nature photographs reminding us of the wonders we have to explore, enjoy, and protect. Both the wall and appointment versions are available at the discounted price of \$12—calendar sales provide a very substantial part of the Group's extremely limited discretionary funding, and your purchases support most of our conservation activities throughout the year.

To be sure of getting as many as you want, we recommend that you reserve in advance by sending an email to vbrandon@lakelive.info or calling Victoria at 994 1931. Calendars will also be available at the Lake Group party on Friday December 12 (details below), at the general membership meeting in Lakeport on December 3, 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—not only does this save some trees, it also benefits the Group financially.

Measure S: Not Quite

Lake Group is profoundly discouraged at the inability of Measure S—a third attempt to pass a special half-cent sales tax to protect and restore Clear Lake—to reach the necessary two-thirds majority. Without this essential funding, continuing cycles of noxious cyanobacteria, likely infestation of quagga mussels, and weed-choked waterways threaten to destroy Clear Lake's ancient ecosystem and ruin our quality of life.

There is no doubt that most Lake County citizens—far more than half—recognize the vital importance of protecting the lake, and were not misled by irresponsible, untruthful assertions that the money would be diverted to other purposes or that alternative sources of funding for these essential programs were available.

On the other hand, we see yet again how extremely difficult it is for the will of the people to prevail given the crippling supermajority rules that California has adopted. What is needed is a change in state law to prevent the wishes of the majority from being repeatedly thwarted. The Sierra Club plans to do all we can to work with our incoming state legislators to bring this change about.

Lake Group Executive Committee

Ed Robey (Chair, Political Chair): 994 8304,
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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

We're having a party!

Thanks to the diligence of several members of the executive committee, Lake Group has finally been able to schedule our annual holiday party. This event will take place at 6PM on Friday December 12, at the **Lower Lake Methodist Church Community Room**, 16255 Second St in Lower Lake.

Please note new location: after generously opening his home to our holiday bash for the past ten years, Outings Chair Steve Devoto regrettably informed us that he wouldn't be able to act as host this year. Everything else about the party will stay the same: as always it's completely FREE to Club members and their guests, and will be organized as a semi-potluck, with the Club providing the main dish. Guests should bring beverages and a side dish, salad or dessert to share as well as their own re-useable plates, glasses, and eating utensils.

RSVPs (please!) may be made by calling Ed at 994-8304 or sending an email to edrobey@wildblue.net.

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M-F 7:00AM TO 7:00PM SAT 8:00AM TO 4:00PM EMERGENCY SERVICE AVAILABLE

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Sierra Club Lake Group
PO Box 27
Lakeport, CA 95453

Outings

NOVEMBER 30 -- hike to and through the **town site of Silverado within Robert Louis Stevenson State Park** on Mt. St. Helena. No buildings remain from the mining town that was home to over 1,000 but layout of the old mining town is still intact, and fruit trees and other ornamentals date back to the early 1900's. Bring water and snacks. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the RLS parking area on the east side of Highway 29. By reservation only. Leader Pete McGee at 942 1373 or montesol@hughes.net

DECEMBER 13 -- **Cowboy Camp Loop in Cache Creek Wilderness Area**. Enjoy rolling oak woodlands, chaparral and beautiful vistas. Bring water & lunch. Carpools: Meet 8:30 am Lower Lake Coffee Co. on Main Street Cowboy Camp Trail head 9:30; from Clearlake Oaks, go east on State Hwy 20, about 28 miles to Hwy 16 intersection, take a right on 16 and Travel south on Highway 16 for 1 mile. Cowboy Camp parking lot is on the right. By reservation only. Leader Julie Kreis 707-987-9040 or 707-671-5947. Rain cancels.

*JANUARY 1, 2015, 12PM -- start the New Year right, with a **First Day hike on the McVicar Trail at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park**. About 8 miles round trip on easy terrain: bring water and snacks and binoculars, and wear sturdy shoes and a hat. Rain cancels. (not a Sierra Club hike)

JANUARY 3 -- **Lynch Canyon Trail to Turtle Pond in Cache Creek Wilderness Area**. Lynch Canyon, marked with oak hills & grasslands, descends into a broad interior valley, where hawks can be seen feeding, then reaches the Road-kill Café, an old hunting shack with an entertaining history. Class: M-6.8-A. Carpools: Meet 8:30 am Lower Lake on Main St., in front of the Lower Lake Coffee Company. Trailhead 9:30 am- travel east on Hwy 20 approx. 17 miles from the Hwy 53 intersection, you see a turn off to the right, after a 180 degree curve to the left in the road, then immediately to your right is a road to the Lynch trailhead. By reservation only-Leader Julie Kreis 707-987-9040 or 707-671-5947. Rain cancels