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# Sierra Club Lake Group

## March-April 2014 Newsletter

### **Next Meeting: Wilderness and Our National Character**

The next Lake Group general meeting will take place at **7PM on Wednesday March 19**, at the Lower Lake Methodist Church Community Room, 16255 Second St. in Lower Lake. Sonoma State professor emeritus Jonah Raskin will take a long look at the “wilderness,” a distinctly American landscape that has shaped our national character and our national literature. Focusing on three writers - Roger Williams, Meriwether Lewis and Mary Austin - from three different centuries - the 17th, 19th and the 20th - he discusses the ways that Americans have viewed the wilderness and written about it in fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Raskin's talk illustrates the multiplicity of wilderness perspectives and suggests that if it has defined us we have also defined it - and can redefine it, too.

Jonah Raskin is the author of 14 books, some about farming and food, some about writers and their work, some about families and friends. A long time resident of Sonoma County, he taught literature and law at Sonoma State University for thirty years. These days he writes and travels and walks and swims.

The meeting is free and open to the public as always: for more information contact Lake Group Chair Ed Robey at 994-8304 or [edrobey@wildblue.net](mailto:edrobey@wildblue.net)

### ***Sierra Club Endorses Measure L***

As recommended by Lake Group, the Club has endorsed Lake County Measure L, a ballot initiative to fund invasive species/weed and algae control/water quality programs in Clear Lake. This proposal, placed on the ballot by unanimous vote of the Lake County Board of Supervisors, would impose an additional half cent sales tax on transactions in the county, and use the money to strengthen efforts to prevent quagga and zebra mussels from infesting Lake County waterways; provide the county's share of

the critical Middle Creek wetland restoration project funding; conduct a number of specific projects designed to improve water quality; and maintain existing nuisance weed and algae programs. Revenues cannot be diverted to any other purposes, and transparency is assured by the establishment of a citizens oversight committee that will review the expenditure plan in advance every year. The measure sunsets in ten years.

In most respects Measure L is strikingly (con't)

**(Measure L, con't)** similar to Measure E, which was also endorsed by the Club and which narrowly failed to reach the necessary two thirds majority vote in November 2012, but it differs in three significant ways:


- a detailed expenditure plan for the first two years is included in the ballot measure;
- projects must be approved in advance by the oversight committee and Board of Supervisors;
- the oversight committee is now structured to include stakeholders from a wide variety of community organizations, with the Sierra Club being among those named.

A reliable source of funding is essential for success in our efforts to protect Clear Lake from invasive species and reverse the conditions that have allowed noxious cyanobacteria (AKA “algae”) to proliferate. Restoring the health of the lake is imperative for its own sake, and also vital for the economic future of our community. The Sierra Club is therefore proud to endorse Measure L, and urges our members and all Lake County voters who care about the environment to vote for it on June 3.

In the meantime, you can learn more about the measure, give your personal and business endorsement, and make a donation by visiting [savethelake.info](http://savethelake.info)

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




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### Spring Hikes on Mt Konocti

The county department of public services recently announced a series of docent-led hike to Wright Peak on Mt Konocti: described as “moderately strenuous,” the hikes are all six miles round trip and will last about four hours including a stop at the historic Downen Cabin, and for participants over the age of 18 who sign a liability waiver, an opportunity to enjoy the spectacular views from the fire tower. All hikes will begin at 8AM at the parking lot on Konocti Rd just outside the park gates, and are planned for

- Saturday, March 29;
- Saturday, April 12;
- Saturday, April 26;
- Saturday, May 10;
- Sunday, May 18;
- Sunday, June 8.

The guides are knowledgeable about the mountain and its geology, history, flora, fauna and even folklore. Hikers are encouraged to wear sturdy shoes, bring a lunch, water, daypack and binoculars/camera.

To RSVP (*required!*) call the county parks office at 262 1618.

## Ask Mike to stand with us on the TPP

The last issue of the *Redwood Needles* discussed some of the Club's concerns about the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a massive international trade deal that some people have called "NAFTA on steroids." The Redwood Chapter cosponsored a Town Hall on this subject in Santa Rosa on February 11, where we learned that as a ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee Congressman Mike Thompson is under tremendous pressure from the White House to support a special "fast track" process that would eliminate the usual opportunities for debate and amendment when this secretive deal finally reaches Congress.

On February 19 Chapter chair Victoria Brandon had the privilege of joining a delegation of union leaders in a private meeting with Congressman Thompson, where he made it plain that he shares the Club's concerns about both the fast track process and the potential environmental consequences of the TPP—but he still needs the support of his constituents to help him withstand administration arm twisting.

Please take a moment to call his district office at 707 226-9898 to let him know that you oppose fast-tracking the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement.

### KONOCTI POST

*www.konoctipost.blogspot.com*

**a lake county naturalist's blog**

TAKE A RAMBLE. IT'S FREE.

### 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](mailto:vbrandon@lakelive.info) or call Victoria at 994-1931.

#### 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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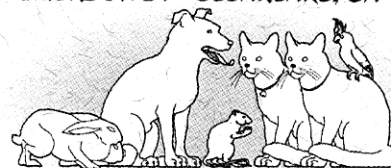
*ExCom meetings are held at 7PM on the first Wednesday of every other month, at locations that vary. All members are cordially invited to attend, but requested to contact the Chair first to confirm time and location*

**Watershed Books**  
Lakeport, California

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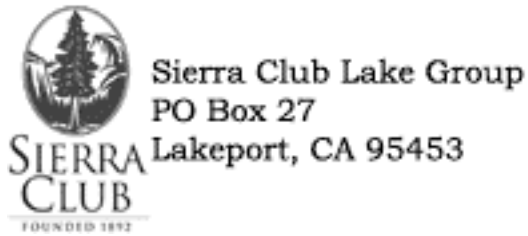
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M-F 7:00AM TO 7:00PM SAT 8:00AM TO 4:00PM EMERGENCY SERVICE AVAILABLE



# Outings

\* March 8, 8:30AM: special nature walk at Anderson Marsh focusing on native and non-native plants, the effects of the recent controlled burn, and the native plant restoration plan being created by the Department of State Parks. Parks Environmental Scientist Jim Dempsey will join docents Henry Bornstein and Gae Henry on the walk. A tour of the historic ranch house will follow the walk. For more info email [info@andersonmarsh.org](mailto:info@andersonmarsh.org) or call 995-2658.

March 15 **Knoxville Wildlife Area**: This 20 thousand acre CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife preserve is little used by hikers. We'll hike up a secluded valley, discover an old gravesite above Knoxville, pass an old windmill along a beautiful meadow and creek, cross a 600 ft. high ridge and get excellent views of Mt. St. Helena to the west and look right up at Blue Ridge to the east. Then down into Long Canyon and back to the cars. Bring lunch, water and hiking boots. Class; M-8-A. Carpool 8:30 AM Lower Lake Coffee Company, Main Street Lower Lake. Leader Tom McFarling (707) 994-5490. Rain cancels.

\*March 15, 9AM: 1.3 mile casual-paced **Friends of Boggs Mountain** hike with Darlene on Interpretive Trail. Bring water, a snack and wear sturdy shoes. We meet in Boggs parking lot. Questions? [dheco@me.com](mailto:dheco@me.com) or 928 5591.

March 23 **Redbud Trail to Baton Flat**: a moderate hike in the Cache Creek Wilderness with possible sightings of bald eagles or other raptors. Bring water, binoculars and snacks. Class: M-5-A. Meet: 9:30 am parking lot off Highway 20 just before the Hwy 20 bridge over the North Fork of Cache Creek eight miles east of Clearlake Oaks. Reserve with Leader Steve Devoto [sdevoto@mchsi.com](mailto:sdevoto@mchsi.com). Rain cancels

\*not a Sierra Club hike. See also the series of docent-led hikes on Konocti listed elsewhere in this newsletter