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explore,
enjoy,
and protect
the planet

Sierra Club Lake Group

July-August 2016 Newsletter

Annual Barbeque July 8

This year's midsummer BBQ will be held at 5:30PM on Friday July 8, at the home of Kathy and Peter Windrem, 7460 Kelsey Creek Drive. As usual, it's planned as a semi-potluck: the Club will provide a main dish (chicken most expertly marinated and grilled by our hosts) but guests are asked to bring beverages, and a side dish or dessert to share. To eliminate as many throwaways as possible, we're also asking guests to *please bring your own plates, napkins, and eating utensils*. This event provides an extremely enjoyable way to get together with old friends, meet new ones, and chat about the environmental issues of our community in a congenial informal atmosphere. It's always free, and all Lake Group members and their guests are very cordially invited.

Directions: turn south onto Kelsey Creek Drive off Highway 29 and go two miles to the Wight Way intersection. Take the left-hand fork and turn left into the parking area beyond the first driveway. Call Ed at 994-8404 or send an email to edrobey@wildblue.net for more information, and to RSVP (strongly encouraged!)

Dollar General Goes to BOS

As expected, Texas-based Cross Development has appealed the Planning Commission's unanimous rejection of its application to construct a Dollar General outlet on Highway 29 just north of central Middletown. The Board of Supervisors was originally scheduled to hear the appeal on June 14, but the hearing has now been postponed until July 19.

As indicated by its numerous deviations from the county General Plan and Middletown Area Plan, there are big problems with this project, which is fundamentally incompatible with the small-town character and heritage of the community. Siting a bleakly unattractive building

containing a retail outlet best known for substandard bargain basement merchandise at a highly visible location at one of the primary gateways to Lake County is also highly likely to undermine efforts to broaden our appeal to visitors and thus to have damaging consequences far beyond the South County.

Other considerations include impairments to St Helena Creek water quality, additional traffic burdens in an area that already approaches gridlock during commute hours, and safety hazards caused by its location directly across the highway from several schools.

Many similar arguments (without the (con't)

(Dollar General, con't) "gateway" consideration) were made regarding the Dollar General outlet proposed in downtown Kelseyville, a project which the Planning Commission also rejected unanimously. In that case the Supervisors upheld the Commission's decision, which may presage similar action in this case—please stay tuned.

In the meantime, having been shown the door in Kelseyville, Cross Development has applied to put a Dollar General in yet another location, this time on Highway 281 in the Riviera. Project neighbors appear to have many similar objections.

Lake Group Awards Scholarships

For the fifth year in a row Lake Group has awarded a pair of \$1000 scholarships to graduating seniors from Lake County high schools who are planning careers that will support the Club's mission to "enjoy, explore, and protect" the planet.

Clear Lake High School graduate Mina Werner is planning to "work in the field of Zoological and Wildlife as a veterinarian." She will attend California State University Sacramento to obtain a Bachelor of Science, and then intends to move on to study veterinary medicine at the University of California Davis or Oregon State University. Additionally, Mina's home has become something of a wildlife refuge, helping animals from turkeys to tortoises heal and survive.

Wyatt Jones, a senior at Middletown High School, has been awarded the second scholarship. An active member of the Middletown 4-H, Lions Club, and several athletic teams; Wyatt has also worked as a mechanic's assistant at Guenoc Vineyards. He plans to continue his education by attending Reedley College, a community college near Fresno, with the goal of becoming an Agricultural Engineer. Wyatt reports, "I enjoy the outdoors, interacting with others and am fascinated with the building and creating of new things . . . I want to support my heritage in agriculture, helping to invent and streamline processes in the field."

Congratulations Mina and Wyatt!



Watershed Books
Lakeport, California

305 North Main Street
707.263.5787

Lassen County Says No to "Jefferson"

On June 7 an attempt to split Lassen County from the rest of California was soundly defeated by a 58 to 42 percent margin. Lassen was the only remaining county to include a state secession proposal on their ballot: last December the Lake County Board of Supervisors reversed an earlier resolution placing a similar measure before the voters in November, and the Plumas and Amador BOS took similar action; in Nevada County an SOJ-sponsored initiative failed to get enough signatures to qualify.

Cindy Ellsmore, chair of Keep It California said: "We applaud the tremendous local grassroots effort to counter Measure G, as well as Lassen County voters for recognizing Measure G was misguided. The plan would leave the county financially devastated and severely at-risk, and Lassen families more vulnerable."

It would be wonderful to think that we've heard the last of this destructive and divisive idea: visit KeepItCalifornia.org to learn more.

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.

KONOCTI POST

www.konoctipost.blogspot.com

a lake county naturalist's blog

TAKE A RAMBLE. IT'S FREE.

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.

Lake Group Executive Committee

Ed Robey (Chair, Treasurer, Political Chair): 994 8304, *edrobey@wildblue.net*
Cheri Holden (Vice Chair), 263 5787
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Carolyn Ruttan (Water Chair), 295-0333,
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Other contacts:

Steve Devoto (Outings): 279-8308,
sdevoto@mchsi.com

ExCom meetings are held at 7PM on the third 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

Outings

At press time, Lake Group had no hikes scheduled during the upcoming hot months. For outings elsewhere in Redwood Chapter, check the Outings tab at *sierraclub.org/redwood*

Both the Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association and the Lake County Land Trust also conduct regular free guided walks. Nature walks at Anderson Marsh provide an opportunity to observe wildlife at the Park and learn about their natural habitat, as well as to learn about natural and cultural history and geology of the area. They are held on the second Saturday of each month (except January, September and December) beginning at 8:30AM, and are frequently followed by tours of the historic ranch house. Parking is free to participants. For more information call 995 2658 or send an email to *info@andersonmarsh.org*.

The Lake County Land Trust leads walks at Rodman Preserve every Saturday, starting at 8AM June through August and 9AM September through May. Participants meet at the Nature Center at the Rodman Preserve, 6350 Westlake Road near Upper Lake for a pleasant hour and a half stroll through oak woodlands and grasslands with scenic vistas, and flora and fauna to be enjoyed along the way. Visit *www.lakecountylandtrust.org* to learn more.

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*.



Sierra Club Lake Group
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Sierra Club Endorses Hillary Clinton

On June 9 the Club endorsed Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton for President of the United States, citing her detailed plans to fight climate change and ability to build on President Obama's legacy. Executive Director Michael Brune said in part, "We firmly believe Secretary Clinton will be the strong environmental champion that we need to lead our country . . . Together, Senator Sanders and Secretary Clinton made this an election about the issues and finding real solutions. Solutions like protecting our oceans and public lands from fossil fuel development; rejecting dangerous trade deals such as the Trans Pacific Partnership; and transitioning onto 100% clean, renewable energy. Contrasted with that, we have a reckless and misinformed candidate in Donald Trump, who has called climate change a 'hoax,' a 'con job,' and a 'concept created by the Chinese.' . . . The gap on environmental and climate issues between Secretary Clinton and Donald Trump is the largest in U.S. political history. . . . "The Sierra Club, like so many Americans, not only wants to protect President Obama's legacy--we want to expand it. That is something we can accomplish with a Clinton White House, and it's why the Sierra Club's members and supporters will work tirelessly to make sure she's elected this November."

Other Club endorsed candidates whose names will appear on Lake County ballots in November include Kamala Harris for US Senate and John Garamendi and Mike Thompson for Congress.