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# Sierra Club Lake Group

## September-November 2014 Newsletter

### Next Meeting: September 17

At 7PM on Wednesday September 17, Department of Water Resources Invasive Species Coordinator (and Lake Group executive committee member) Carolyn Ruttan will give the Club an advance look at an exciting proposal that could have dramatic consequences for our community and for Clear Lake. She and a few other committed stakeholders have started the machinery rolling to create a Clear Lake Environmental Research Center (CLERC). The idea is to use the lake as a laboratory and educational facility where scientists can scope out questions that will have important local consequences but also may go far beyond local boundaries to have regional, national, and international significance. Here's the CLERC mission statement: "bringing science and education together to identify Clear Lake's environmental issues, and creating global impact with the solutions identified." Visit [www.clerc.co](http://www.clerc.co) to find out lots more. The meeting, which is free and open to the public as always, will be held at the Lower Lake Methodist Church Community Room, 16255 Second St. For details about the meeting, contact Chair Ed Robey at 994 8304 or [edrobey@wildblue.net](mailto:edrobey@wildblue.net)

### Sierra Club Supports Measure S

On the recommendation of Lake Group, the Club has endorsed Lake County Measure S, another attempt to pass a special half cent sales tax to fund invasive species/weed and algae control/water quality programs. Like Measure L, which received 65.2 percent of the vote and was defeated by barely more than 200 votes in June, all revenues would be devoted to projects benefiting our lakes and their watersheds, with great majority of the money directed towards Clear Lake.

Measure S ballot language has been changed slightly to include a provision making it clear that the proceeds could fund a variety of projects to strengthen our defenses against invasive mussels (not mechanical ramp controls alone),

and basing oversight committee membership on geographic balance rather than organizational affiliation.

Specifically, Measure S revenues will be used to improve the quagga and zebra mussel prevention program; provide the county's share of the Middle Creek wetland restoration project funding; conduct a number of specific projects designed to improve water quality as mandated by the state; 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 meet quarterly to review the expenditure plan in (con't)

advance. The measure sunsets in ten years.

A reliable source of funding is essential for success in our efforts to protect Clear Lake from invasive species and to reverse the conditions that have allowed toxic, foul-smelling 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. Please vote “Yes on S” on November 4. In the meantime, please visit [savethelake.info](http://savethelake.info) to learn more about the issues, see the supporter list, donate safely and securely through PayPal, and give your own endorsement or that of your business.

This time we’re going to get this done!

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**CLEARLAKE VETERINARY CLINIC**  
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## 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.

**KONOCTI POST**

[www.konoctipost.blogspot.com](http://www.konoctipost.blogspot.com)

**a lake county naturalist’s blog**

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**Lake Group Executive Committee**  
 Ed Robey (Chair, Political Chair): 994 8304, [edrobey@wildblue.net](mailto:edrobey@wildblue.net)  
 Cheri Holden (Vice Chair), 263 5787 [cherisierraclub@gmail.com](mailto:cherisierraclub@gmail.com)  
 Win Stiles (Secretary): 367-1593, [win@w-s.com](mailto:win@w-s.com)  
 Julie Kreis (Treasurer): 987-9040, [tikaljak@yahoo.com](mailto:tikaljak@yahoo.com)  
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**Other contacts:**  
 Steve Devoto (Outings): 279-8308, [sdevoto@mchsi.com](mailto:sdevoto@mchsi.com)

*ExCom meetings are held at 6PM 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*

## Hitch Declared “Threatened”

At their meeting in San Diego on August 6 the California Fish and Game Commission voted unanimously to list the Clear Lake hitch as “threatened” under the California Endangered Species Act. Probable causes for their drastic population decline include reduction in spawning and juvenile-rearing habitat, competition from and predation by non-native fish, and other contributing factors.

For regular hitch news as it develops, including a variety of volunteer opportunities and meeting announcements, send an email to [chicouncil@lakelive.info](mailto:chicouncil@lakelive.info) to sign up for the Chi Council’s mailing list.

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# Boggs Lake: a Unique Example of Vernal Pool Ecology

by Jon Ambrose, President, Lake County Land Trust

Boggs Lake is an unusual example of an upland vernal pool that occurs on volcanic substrate and may be the largest vernal pool in California. It provides an environment for many unique plant species. Vernal pools are temporary pools of water that provide habitat for distinctive plants and animals, and most are typically much smaller in size than Boggs Lake. As is typical of vernal pools, Boggs Lake is not fed by streams or springs, but rather acts as a catch basin for rainfall during the wet season, then gradually dries through the summer. The natural community supports unique plant species adapted to this environment and provides habitat for a variety of waterfowl and marsh birds as well as a population of Western pond turtles. Access to the Preserve is from Harrington Flat Road off Bottle Rock Road near Mount Hannah.

In 2011, the Lake County Land Trust entered into a two year agreement to co-manage the Boggs Lake Preserve with The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The Preserve is about 200 acres in size and the first 101 acres was acquired by TNC in 1973 from the Fibreboard Corporation. Acquisition of the Preserve was one of TNC's earliest projects in California and resulted from concerns raised by the California Native Plant Society and botanists from the University of California over proposed development adjacent to the Lake.

The Lake County Land Trust (LCLT) got involved in 2008, by inquiring if TNC would consider having the LCLT take over as managers of the Preserve. We believed, due to our proximity to the Preserve and connections to the local community, that the Land Trust could detect and respond to issues of concern in a more timely fashion than TNC. After a few years of conversation, TNC agreed to a two year trial period where TNC would provide some operational funding and the LCLT would commit to accomplishing a number of management tasks including fund raising, community outreach, infrastructure upgrades, updating brochures, fence repairs, trail maintenance, etc. During the two year trial period we formed a Boggs Lake Committee comprised of local neighbors and Boards who met to determine goals over the two year trial period. In August 2013, the trial period ended. The Land Trust now continues to manage the Preserve, most recently with funding support from the local Cobb Geothermal Mitigation program, and is discussing with TNC details behind a transfer of ownership to the LCLT.

(This article first appeared in the special 20th Anniversary edition of the Lake County Land Trust newsletter, and is reprinted with permission.)



## Fall hikes on Mt Konocti

The county department of public services recently announced a series of docent-led hikes 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

- Sunday, Sept. 21
- Sunday, Sept. 28
- Saturday, Oct. 18
- Sunday, Oct. 26
- Saturday, Nov. 1
- Saturday, Nov. 8

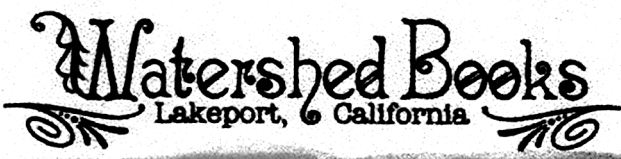
Trained docents will share their knowledge about the mountain and its geology, history, flora, fauna and even folklore. Hikers are encouraged to wear sturdy shoes, bring a lunch, water, daypack and binoculars/camera. Minors are welcomed when accompanied by a responsible adult. Rain cancels. To RSVP (required) call the county parks office at 262 1618.



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## Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument: please ask the President to act.

Permanent protection of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region has been a top Lake Group priority for years. Under the leadership of Congressman Mike Thompson and with strong support from Congressman John Garamendi, whose district now includes most of the 350,000 acres of federal lands proposed for protection, we've been trying to persuade Congress to designate the region as a National Conservation Area. Since that legislation seems to be stalled in Washington gridlock, it's time to look for another quicker, surer route to the same destination, by asking the President to use his powers under the Antiquities Act to create a BSM National Monument.

Stating that "permanent protection of Berryessa-Snow Mountain will ensure the preservation of this special place and will grow the local economy by bringing visitors and jobs to the region year-round," the national Sierra Club has created an online petition urging President Obama and Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to designate Berryessa-Snow Mountain as a National Monument. By far the largest portion of the Monument would be right here in Lake County: please take a moment to go to [redwood.sierraclub.org](http://redwood.sierraclub.org) and follow the link to add your name to the petition and help protect this wonderful "hidden landscape" for the enjoyment of future generations!

## ***Some Upcoming Events . . .***

\*Sept 6, 6-8PM: fundraiser for the Children's Museum of Art and Science at Aromas Cafe on the Yuba College campus, 15880 Dam Rd in Clearlake. Buffet dinner prepared by students in the Yuba Culinary Arts program, music, raffle. Tickets \$20; may be purchased at Marie's Feed in Clearlake and the Travel Center in Lakeport, by calling 707-994-2878 or emailing [marthabakerjian@yahoo.com](mailto:marthabakerjian@yahoo.com).

\*Sept 12-13: Old Time Bluegrass Jamboree, a benefit for Anderson Marsh State Historic Park at the Soper Reese Theater, 275 S. Main in Lakeport. Friday: concert and old-fashioned country dance; Saturday: performances, workshop, jamming, concert. Tickets (\$15 for Friday, \$20 all day Saturday, \$30 both days) available online at [soperreese theatre.com](http://soperreese theatre.com)

\*Sept 17, 7PM: Sierra Club meeting in Lower Lake!

**\*Sept 19: Save the Lake, Yes on Measure S fundraiser at the Riviera Hills Country Club, 10200 Fairway Dr. Italian buffet dinner with wine, music by David Neft & the Jim Williams Band, dancing under the stars, great raffle prizes. Tickets \$50: call Tommy Harty at 277 7862 to reserve.**

\*Sept 20, 9AM-12PM: local watershed cleanup day. Dumpsters will be situated at strategic areas and trash bags provided. To volunteer, to recommend specific areas for cleanup, or to sponsor a portion of the event by providing lunch or water for volunteers, contact Invasive Species coordinator Carolyn Ruttan at 707-263-2256 or [carolyn.ruttan@lakecountyca.gov](mailto:carolyn.ruttan@lakecountyca.gov).

\*Sept 21, 7AM -- fourth annual Hands Around Clear Lake community gathering and ceremonial. Library Park in Lakeport, all day, with ceremonies at sunrise (7AM), 10AM, and 1PM.

\*Sept 27, 8AM- 5PM -- 35th Annual Clear Lake Splash-in at Natural High in Lakeport: seaplanes will start flying in starting Thursday Sept 25 and departure will be on Sunday Sept 28.

\*Sept 27, 9AM-4PM: 22nd Annual Kelseyville Pear Festival, with food, wine, parade, quilt show, music, antique tractors, craft booths, informational tabling, and pears pears pears. For more info call 279-9022 or visit [kelseyvillepearfestival.com](http://kelseyvillepearfestival.com).

\*OCTOBER 11, 3PM -- Lake County Land Trust annual dinner, at the Lodge at Blue Lakes with Congressman Mike Thompson as special guest speaker. Ticket price \$70 per person and includes wine. For dinner reservations call 707-262-0707.

# Outings

SEPTEMBER 20, 9AM -- Lake Group hike to Table Rock in Robert Louis Stevenson State Park on Mt St Helena. Enjoy gorgeous rolling hills, wooded forests, interesting volcanic rock formations and stunning views of Napa Valley! Bring lunch, snack, water, hat and sturdy shoes. Meet in the RLS parking lot on Hwy 29, 7 miles south of Middletown. By reservation only. Leader Julie Kreis 707-987-9040 or [tikaljak@yahoo.com](mailto:tikaljak@yahoo.com).

Although no additional hike listings were available at press time, fall and cooler weather will soon be with us and additional Lake Group outings will probably be scheduled. For an up to date list visit [redwood.sierraclub.org/lake/outings.html](http://redwood.sierraclub.org/lake/outings.html). Also check out the series of docent-led hikes on Mt Konocti listed elsewhere in this newsletter



Sierra Club Lake Group  
PO Box 27  
Lakeport, CA 95453

## Sierra Club Endorsements, November 4, 2014

The Sierra Club recommends:

**\*Vote YES on Measure S.** This half-cent sales tax will provide the funding we desperately need to preserve and restore Clear Lake, our community's greatest asset.

### Endorsed candidates:

Attorney General:

***Kamala Harris***

Secretary of State:

***Alex Padilla***

State Treasurer:

***John Chiang***

State Controller:

***Betty Yee***

Superintendent of Public Instruction:

***Tom Torlakson***

Insurance Commissioner:

***Dave Jones***

Congressional District 3:

***John Garamendi***

Congressional District 5:

***Mike Thompson***

State Senate, District 2:

***Mike McGuire***