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# Sierra Club Lake Group

## September-November 2015 Newsletter

### **“Life in the Lake” September 23**

At Lake Group’s first general member meeting of the fall, Lake County Vector Control District Vector Biologist Bonnie Ryan will guide us through a “living tour” of the complex microscopic life at the base of the food chain in Clear Lake. The program will include live samples of both phyto and zooplankton as well as algae blooms, and promises to provide an unusually fascinating look at a little-known and uncommonly important subject. When a similar presentation by LCVCD was offered in 2010 every seat was taken and an overflow crowd had to listen from the lobby, so please mark your calendars and plan to arrive early for a good seat. The meeting will be held starting at 7PM Wednesday September 23, in the Board of Supervisors chamber on the first floor of the courthouse, 255 N. Forbes in Lakeport, and as always is free and open to the public. For more information contact chair Ed Robey at [edrobey@wildblue.net](mailto:edrobey@wildblue.net) or 994 8304.

### **Community Choice Update**

As was reported in the previous newsletter, the county has passed an ordinance authorizing the creation of a “Community Choice Energy” alternative to PG&E. This approach can provide a stable, long-term source of clean, locally-sourced power along with savings to ratepayers, but the power market is extremely complex and by no means devoid of risk. So it is essential to evaluate all alternatives and act in a prudent and deliberate manner.

It was therefore dismaying to learn that on August 18 meeting Supervisors had agendized a proposal to waive the competitive bidding process and authorize staff to negotiate a contract with a company called California Clean Power as a sole provider.

Evading the competitive procurement procedures normally required of government

entities is both imprudent and of dubious legality. The assertion in the staff memo that “CCP is a sole-source provider of commercially managed turnkey CCA services” simply isn’t true, since numerous other providers offer the same basic services. Instead of issuing a Request for Proposals and then comparing the alternatives to achieve the best deal for the community and local ratepayers, the county appeared ready to plunge ahead without the due diligence, transparency and open public process that had been promised, and that common sense and legal strictures require.

Representing the Sierra Club, Lake Group chair Ed Robey made these arguments at the August 18 meeting, and we are delighted to be able to report that this sensible counsel convinced the board, which abandoned (con’t)

**(Community Choice, con't)** the proposal to enter into a "sole source provider" contract with California Clean Power. Instead, the county is hiring specialized legal counsel to help craft a Request for Proposals and seek competitive bids -- the normal way to do business, with good potential to result in a stable, long-term, locally-sourced green energy system in our community.

In the meantime, we urge the county to sponsor one or more public forums to help the community educate itself about Community Choice and what it can bring to Lake County, and also to confer with the cities of Lakeport and Clearlake about the possibility of setting up a Joint Powers Agency that could create a genuine community-wide power market.

**CLEARLAKE VETERINARY CLINIC**  
 3424 EMERSON ST CLEARLAKE, CA 95422



**707-994-9100**  
 M-F 7:00AM TO 7:00PM SAT 8:00AM TO 4:00PM EMERGENCY SERVICE AVAILABLE

## 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**

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**14595 Olympic Drive    Clearlake, CA 95422**

## Dollar General: Down for the Count?

On August 25, the Board of Supervisors voted three to one (with Supervisor Rob Brown recusing himself) to support the Planning Commission's unanimous rejection of an application to locate a Dollar General outlet on Main Street in Kelseyville across from the high school. Reasons for rejection included traffic, public safety, and incompatibility with the characteristics of the community.

A complete application for a Dollar General in Middletown has still not been received by the Community Development Department, where similar considerations apply, only more so. Lake Group has submitted detailed comments on the preliminary application and expects to take an active part in the discussion once a full proposal is available. It appears that the particularly flawed idea of locating yet another DG in Loch Lomond has been abandoned. Since the site contains both a vernal pool and hazardous waste, and the community appeared to be firmly united in opposition, this decision seems only prudent.

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

# Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER 12, 6-8PM -- fundraiser for the Children's Museum of Art and Science at Yuba College Aromas Cafe. Buffet dinner featuring local foods, musical entertainment, raffle. Tickets \$25; space limited. Purchase tickets at The Travel Center in Lakeport, Marie's Feed in Clearlake, by calling 994 2878 or emailing [marthabakerkian@yahoo.com](mailto:marthabakerkian@yahoo.com).

SEPTEMBER 12, 6:30PM -- an evening with Rita Hosking at the Soper Reese Theatre (275 S. Main, Lakeport) to benefit for Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. Reserved seating \$25. Tickets may be reserved by calling 263 0577, and purchased at The Travel Center or Watershed Books in Lakeport and Catfish Coffee in Clearlake.

SEPTEMBER 20, 10AM-2PM -- annual FREE Power to the Youth festival at Austin Park in Clearlake, featuring live music, sports, food, informational tabling and (of course!) bouncy houses! If you can help staff the Sierra Club booth for a couple of hours please contact Victoria at [vbrandon@lakelive.info](mailto:vbrandon@lakelive.info) or 994 1931.

SEPTEMBER 19 2PM -- Archeologist Dr. John Parker will discuss Lake County prehistory as part of the library's FREE "Know Lake County" series. The presentation will also feature a demonstration of obsidian flaking. At the Lakeport Library, 1425 N High St in Lakeport.

SEPTEMBER 26, 6AM -- fifth annual Hands Around Clear Lake community gathering and ceremonial. Library Park in Lakeport, all day, with sunrise ceremony, live music all day, potluck, arts & activities in the park.

SEPTEMBER 26, 9AM-4PM -- 23RD 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).

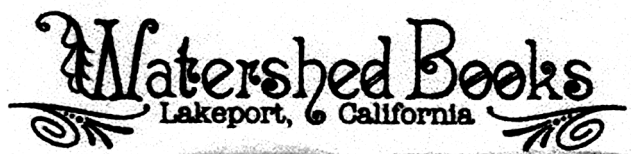
## Lake Group Executive Committee

Ed Robey (Chair, Treasurer, 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)  
Victoria Brandon (newsletter editor, webmaster): 994-1931, [vbrandon@lakelive.info](mailto:vbrandon@lakelive.info)  
Carolyn Ruttan, 295-0333,  
[caninoridge@digitalpath.net](mailto:caninoridge@digitalpath.net)

## Other contacts:

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

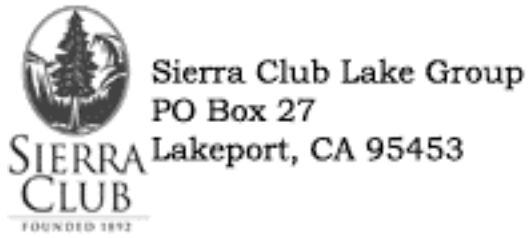
*ExCom meetings are held at 7PM on the first Wednesday of every other month, at locations that vary. All members are cordially invited to attend, but requested to contact the Chair first to confirm time and location*



305 North Main Street  
707.263.5787

SEPTEMBER 29, 5-6:30PM -- grand opening celebration of the Lake County offices of Senator Mike McGuire and Assemblymember Bill Dodd. 885 Lakeport Blvd, Lakeport: an evening of good times, great food and spectacular Lake County wines. For more info contact Karlene Rebich at [Karlene.Rebich@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Karlene.Rebich@sen.ca.gov) or 707 576 2771

OCTOBER 3, 4PM -- annual Lake County Land Trust dinner, to be held this year at Marymount University ("The Castle") in Lucerne. Tickets \$75 per person for full dinner and Lake County wines: Land Trust members and the public invited. More info: call (707) 262-0707 and leave a message.



# Outings

At press time, Lake Group had no hikes scheduled. For outings elsewhere in Redwood Chapter, check the Outings tab at [sierraclub.org/redwood](http://sierraclub.org/redwood)