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# Sierra Club Lake Group

## March-April 2019 Newsletter

### Next Meeting: Dr. John Parker

The next Lake Group general meeting will take place at **6:30PM on March 21**, at Mendocino College Lake Center, 2565 Parallel Dr in Lakeport, Room 7150. We're delighted to welcome Lake County archeologist extraordinaire Dr. John Parker, who will show us a 1878 painting believed to be the earliest depiction of a Pomo ceremony in Lake County, and talk how it came to be made and why it showed up in the Baron de Rothschild collection, of all unlikely places. As always the meeting is free and the public invited.

### Dollar General on yet another front

As previously reported, a group of Middletown residents have organized to oppose the Dollar General outlet that has been proposed on the edge of downtown. They are busy spreading awareness, collecting petition signatures, and holding regular monthly public meetings. Since the developer's application is still incomplete at this point the timeline for future action seems very uncertain.

To learn more and to pick up some posters and flyers, come to the next Middletown Neighbors meeting, which will be held at 7:30PM on Monday March 4 in the Community Room between the library and the Senior Center (new location).

In the meantime a separate application is being prepared for yet another Dollar General, this one in a prominent Highway 20 location in central Upper Lake. To provide an opportunity for public involvement and also to base the discussion on facts rather than wild rumors, the Upper Lake Town Hall held a community

discussion on January 16 which was attended by more than 100 people including Lake Group Chair Denise Rushing and executive committee member Ed Robey.

A straw vote taken then indicated overwhelming opposition to the project. Unfortunately the ancient Upper Lake Area plan lacks the specific design guidelines that are such a strong point in Middletown, but one argument applies across the board: since the developers intended from the beginning to seek multiple locations in Lake County (part of Dollar General's basic business plan), why are all these applications being considered singly, with no attention either to cumulative impacts or to CEQA piecemealing?

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# Blue Ribbon Committee Update

Lake Group continues to engage with the “Blue Ribbon Committee for the Rehabilitation of Clear Lake.” The Committee held its second meeting in Upper Lake on December 20, with the morning devoted to a tour of the Middle Creek Wetland Restoration Project site and presentations by local tribes about their ongoing water quality monitoring work. The afternoon business meeting began with fire recovery presentations from the Mendocino National Forest and Ukiah BLM, with a special focus on erosion control. Nearly 200,000 acres of the Clear Lake basin burned in the Ranch and River Fires and the threat of dramatically increased sedimentation to both Clear Lake and Lake Pillsbury is a major concern.

The remaining discussion focused on the creation of a Technical Advisory Subcommittee charged with bringing recommendations back to the whole body at its quarterly meetings. Legal restrictions mean that only two actual committee members can serve on any given subcommittee, with the remaining members drawn from experts in the community. Subcommittee appointments were made at a February 12, 2019 phone conference.

The next in-person meeting will be held on March 13, and consist of an 11AM field tour to examine measures designed to limit runoff and restore native plants at the Konocti Vista Marina, followed by a business meeting at Lakeport City Hall from 1:30-5PM. All meetings are open to the public.

## 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.

### Lake Group Executive Committee

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### Other contacts:

Steve Devoto (Outings): 279-8308,

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*ExCom meetings are held at 6:30PM on the fourth Wednesday of the month, at locations that vary.*

*All members are cordially invited to attend, but requested to contact the Chair first to confirm time and location*

## 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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## Seeking Climate Activists

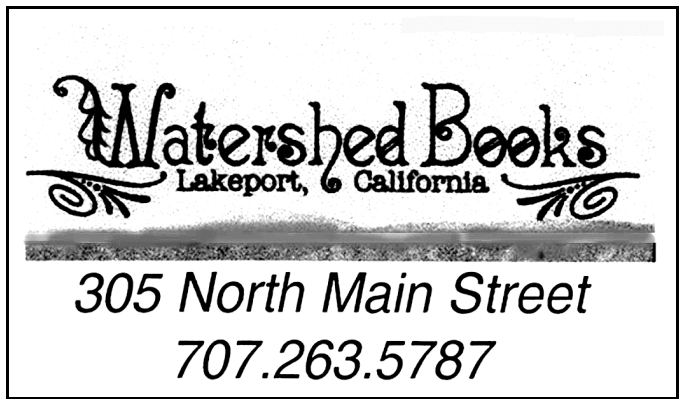
At its February 9th meeting, the Sierra Club California Conservation Committee overwhelmingly approved a resolution declaring a climate emergency. Here is the resolution's language:

### Declaration of Climate Emergency

Resolution: Sierra Club California declares that humanity faces an existential Climate Emergency that threatens all human populations and economies, biodiversity, and natural habitats; and therefore urges Chapters, Groups, other Club entities and activists to partner and work with other organizations to utilize the sample city resolutions and implementation actions spreadsheet posted on the [ECC website](#) to:

- \* Mobilize, expand, and accelerate local and regional support for comprehensive, immediate, and sustained action to achieve net zero emissions in all California jurisdictions by the earliest possible date to help limit global warming to no more than 1.5 °C, and ensure a safe and stable climate while working in partnership with disadvantaged communities o achieve essential environmental justice goals;
- \* Call on all California governments and agencies to update their guiding plans and commitments to achieve net zero emissions in their jurisdictions by the earliest possible date by immediately and urgently implementing enforceable measures to achieve the updated goals.

Want to take local action in this vital endeavor? Contact Lake Group Climate and Energy Chair Denise Rushing at [productfrogger@gmail.com](mailto:productfrogger@gmail.com)



## Reforestation Trailside Park: Round Two

As part of Lake County's comprehensive efforts to recover from the series of wildfires that have burned 60 percent of our land area since 2015, the Middletown Rotary Club is again partnering with the Lake County Resource Conservation District and County Parks Department to sponsor a volunteer tree-planting day at Trailside Park outside Middletown.

They are hoping to plant another 3000 ponderosa pine seedlings (contributed by the RCD) on Saturday March 23, beginning at 10AM and ending when the job is done. The work day will begin with a welcome ceremony and instruction by professional foresters, and lunch and water will be available.

Volunteers are asked to bring gloves and a shovel, and to contact [kathey59@gmail.com](mailto:kathey59@gmail.com) or 707 355 0393 with the approximate number of participants they will be bringing .

## Outings

At press time, no listing of Lake Group hikes was available. Any that are scheduled later will be posted to the Group website at [sierraclub.org/redwood/lake/outings](http://sierraclub.org/redwood/lake/outings). Hikes throughout Redwood Chapter are listed at [sierraclub.org/redwood/outings](http://sierraclub.org/redwood/outings).



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