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Sierra Club Lake Group

July-August Newsletter

Midsummer BBQ July 27

This year's party will be held at **5:30PM on Friday July 27**, at Dancing Tree People farm, 1445 Pitney Lane off Elk Mountain Road in Upper Lake, which just happens to be the residence of Lake Group Chair Denise Rushing. As usual, it's planned as a semi-potluck: the Club will provide a main dish, and 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 reusable plates, napkins, and eating utensils*: let's see if we can make this a genuine zero-waste event this year! The party is always free, and all Lake Group members and their guests are very cordially invited. To RSVP for the BBQ (very strongly recommended) contact Victoria at 994 1931 or vbrandon@lakelive.info

Clear Lake Nutrient TMDL: Round Two

Last August the Central Valley Water Board held a public meeting in Lakeport to discuss progress towards meeting the goals of the Clear Lake Nutrient Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), and (particularly) to request an extension of the deadline, a deadline which has come and gone quite some time ago with no measurable progress in sight. Concerned local residents packed Lakeport city hall to share their views with Water Board staff, who took lots of notes before departing.

Originally the TMDL was about "algae" (actually cyanobacteria) but shortly thereafter it morphed into "nutrients." It might now be about to turn into a cyanobacteria TMDL again, perhaps with monitoring standards based on measurements of chlorophyll or phycocyanin.

On July 18 Water Board staff are coming back

for a second round: from 11AM to noon there will be an "on site discussion" at Library Park, then a break for lunch (not provided) and a reassembly at Lakeport City Hall at 2:30PM.

Whatever benchmarks are selected, for sure completion of the Middle Creek Wetland Restoration Project is crucial to improving Clear Lake water quality, as acknowledged by the Water Board along with just about everyone else. It is therefore reassuring to report that Dr. Harry Lyons, a core member of the Middle Creek Restoration Coalition, has been invited to give a presentation on the Project at the workshop.

The comprehensive agenda just released indicates that there will be plenty of opportunities to weigh in, and we encourage everyone who cares about the health of Clear Lake to attend.

SGMA: Not So Fast”

As part of California’s efforts to finally bring groundwater under the regulatory umbrella, an attempt to establish priorities has been under way for several years. Big Valley and Scotts Valley were tentatively identified as medium-priority basins some time ago—and now, in a sudden last-minute change up, much of the Clover/Alley creek watershed (called “Upper Lake Basin”) has been labeled high priority. This assessment appears to be based on unjustifiably high population growth projections, which assume 30 percent population growth in an area where the population has actually fallen nearly 25 percent since the 2010 census. We are worried about serious consequences for local farmers and the possibility of the county’s taking another financial hit, and also concerned that rankings based on faulty criteria rather than objective science could undermine the integrity of the whole effort to manage California’s groundwater sustainably, efforts which the Sierra Club strongly supports.

Congratulations to Alya and Delaney

For the eighth consecutive year Lake Group has awarded two \$1000 scholarships to local high school graduates. Alya Owaidat, who attends Konocti Educational Center and is a first-generation American who has experienced many difficult personal situations growing up while achieving honors every semester of her high school years, has been accepted at SF State University, where she plans to study biology/genetics. Delaney Love among other activities is board member representative for the Upper Lake Union School District who has developed an interest and passion for local and community politics, and is excited to realize that “the community skills I have learned in high school can be applied to situations such as advocating for agriculture and the environment at our state capitol.”

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 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.

Weed Tour Coming Up

On Thursday July 19 the Lake County Ag Department and RCD are hosting their 15th annual "Invasive Weeds Tour."

Participants will gather in front of the Ranch House at Anderson Marsh at 9AM, take a leisurely guided walk of about 2 miles to see the amazingly diverse array of invasive plants that flourish in the park and the effects of management tactics such as control burns, and return to the house for lunch and discussion of aquatic invasive weeds under the trees.

Although the event is completely FREE and all members of the public are invited, reservations are required. Please RSVP with the county Ag Department at (707) 263-0217 by July 16, 2018

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. Hikes throughout Redwood Chapter are listed at sierraclub.org/redwood/outings.

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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June 5 Election Results for Sierra Club Endorsees

Governor : Gavin Newsom WON*
Lt. Governor: Jeff Bleich lost
Attorney General: Xavier Becerra WON
Sec. of State: Alex Padilla WON
State Controller: Betty Yee WON
Ins. Commissioner: Ricardo Lara WON
Sup. of Pub. Inst.: Tony Thurmond WON

CD03: John Garamendi WON
CD05: Mike Thompson WON

Senate Dist. 02: Mike McGuire WON

**Lake County Supervisor, District 2:
Bruno Sabatier WON outright**

*In case of statewide, federal and state legislative candidates “won” means “finished in the top two and advanced to the general election” even if getting an absolute majority in June.