

Redwood Needles

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 53 Number 2

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

April/May 2012

Sierra Club Endorsements

Our local Sierra Club continues the process of endorsing candidates. The current list of endorsements, as the *Redwood Needles* goes to press, appears below. Visit redwood.sierraclub.org and follow the links for "2012 endorsements" to view updates. The June issue of the *Redwood Needles* will contain the complete list.

Congressional District Five: Mike Thompson

Congressional District Three: John Garamendi

Assembly District 2: Wes Chesbro

Assembly District 4: Mariko Yamada

Senate District 3: Lois Wolk

Sonoma County Supervisor, 1st District: joint endorsement for Susan Gorin and Mark Bramfitt

Sonoma County Supervisor, 3rd District: Shirlee Zane

Lake County Supervisor, 1st District: Victoria Brandon

Sonoma Group Environmental Forums

A Panel on the State Park Closures: Part 2

7 p.m. on April 11th

Water Issues and the Environment

7 p.m. on May 9th

Location: TBD, please check the Redwood Chapter website:

<http://www.redwood.sierraclub.org/> for updates

For more information contact

Annabel Ascher,
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707-508-9645

Join 300 Local Sierra Clubbers and Go Green!

To receive future copies of the *Redwood Needles* via email send an email to RedwoodNeedles@gmail.com with your name and address, and

"newsletter by email" in the subject line; or to receive notification that the current newsletter is available online and a link to it, please specify:

"Notification newsletter is online".

Potrero Hills Landfill Update:

Trashing Solano County?

By DUANE KROMM

Some basic background for those who are perhaps new to this issue or have lost track. In 1984 Solano County voters passed Measure E, an initiative to place an annual limit of 95,000 tons of trash that could be brought in to landfills in Solano County from out of county. Measure E was declared unenforceable by the County Board of Supervisors in the 1990's based on an opinion of County Counsel that it violated the Interstate Commerce Clause. There is no provision in State law for any local jurisdiction for any reason to not enforce a voter passed initiative. Initiatives are frequently successfully challenged in court but no legal challenge has ever been brought against Measure E.

In the early 2000's Potrero Hills Landfill (PHLF) applied to the County for an expansion of their landfill which sits on the northern edge of Suisun Marsh. The Sierra Club and other environmental organizations opposed the expansion based on environmental concerns. During the debate over this expansion the lack of enforcement of Measure E came to light.

Sierra Club along with two East Bay environmental organizations filed suit against the County to enforce Measure E which would, if enforced, negate the need for an expansion of PHLF. In 2010 we won a major victory when Solano County Superior Court judge Paul Beeman found that Measure E was constitutional. Since then the County has appealed the decision and PHLF has sued in Federal Court to try to move the case out of State Court.

So far we continue to win the court battles. The State Appellate Court briefs have been filed but no date has been set for a hearing. Federal Court is holding the case after a

hearing late last year with no likelihood of anything being overturned.

The other major battle has been in the State Legislature. Assemblywoman Fiona Ma of San Francisco carried AB1178 in 2011 that would have effectively removed from local jurisdictions the ability to limit waste imports into their communities. We fought this bill hard, suffered an early loss in the Assembly and were then able to move it to a two year bill in the Senate. Our friends in Sacramento think the bill will not resurface in 2012 but we cannot be sure and we are diligently watching.

This is a pitched battle because of the enormous financial implications for PHLF and Solano County. PHLF's parent company, Waste Connections, Inc., has published in their annual reports to the SEC that they will lose \$6 million a year if Measure E is enforced. At the peak of importations PHLF was importing over 600,000 tons a year. Solano County gets a \$5 tipping fee from each ton of trash dumped in Solano County. They could lose about \$3 million a year.

Assuming we continue to successfully prosecute our legal efforts to enforce Measure E, we expect that at some point PHLF and its allies will attempt to pass a new initiative seeking to overturn or significantly modify Measure E. Our local activists have made it clear to County leadership and to PHLF management that we are willing to discuss settlement terms with them. To date they have shown no interest in negotiating, as their revenue from importations greatly exceeds our estimate of their legal fees. When and if it is obvious that they cannot stall any further we need to be prepared to fight a political battle or negotiate, or perhaps some of both.

Sonoma County Environmental Awards 2012

Four locals receive awards, five others also honored

The Sonoma County Conservation Council, the Sierra Club, Sonoma Group and more than 160 activists gathered March 3rd at the Sebastopol Veteran's Auditorium to honor 7 individuals and 2 local environmental programs:

Environmentalist Of The Year: Steve Birdlebough

Steve has chaired the Sonoma Group Sierra Club's Executive Committee since 2008 and has been a key member of Friends of SMART for many years. Steve's attention to detail, strategic thinking and persistence have helped bring about victories such as the SMART funding measure, and wrung concessions out of 'hopeless' battles such as opposing the location of the new Sutter Hospital (in a greenbelt and miles from its workforce and patients). One of Steve's strong interests is transportation, in creating an energy-saving network of non-car transportation in Sonoma County, and in transit-oriented development based around SMART stations.

Outstanding Grassroots Environmentalist:

Duane Dewitt, Environmental Planning Student at UC Cal And Advocate For Roseland, Santa Rosa

Outstanding Environmental Educator:

Nichole Warwick, Brookhaven Middle School Ecology Program Coordinator and Pine Crest Elementary School Environmental Educator, Sebastopol

Ernestine I. Smith Lifetime Environmental Commitment:

Roger Raiche, California Native Plant Society State Fellow 2011, Professional Botanist and Designer For Planet Horticulture And Co-Founder Of The Cedars Friends, Forestville

Honorable Mentions:

Silke Fleischer, ATIV Software, Santa Rosa

Sean Lovett, Revive Drinks, Windsor

Lisa Preschel, Occidental Arts and Ecology



Left to right: Roger Raiche, Duane Dewitt, Nichole Warwick, Assembly Member Michael Allen and Sonoma Group's Steve Birdlebough

Center School Garden Teacher Training Program
Around the Fire, Petaluma
Analy High School Eco-Action Class, Sebastopol

The evening's theme was Building Healthy, Just and Sustainable Communities - In The Face Of Climate Change. Paloma Pavel, PhD, President of Earth House Center and Executive Director of Breakthrough Communities, was the featured speaker and Leticia Romero of the North Bay Organizing Project and Committee for Immigrant Rights Sonoma County served as the Master of Ceremonies. The awards were presented by Dennis Rosetti and Assembly Member Michael Allen.

A zero waste event, the awards dinner was produced by Green Synergy, a local green event team led by Portia Sinnott and Wendy Krupnick, assisted by Diana Nasser, Suzanne Doyle, Susan Kirks and Annie Dobbs-Kramer.

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Redwood Needles

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Issue	Deadline
April/May	March 8
June/July	May 1
August/Sept.	July 8

Redwood Chapter & Sonoma Group Office

Location: Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Ave., Santa Rosa

The Office is staffed most weekday afternoons. Call ahead to confirm, 544-7651. The Office is also open during evening meetings (see listings on last page) and at other times when volunteers are present.

Redwood Chapter Online

Redwood Chapter Website: <http://www.redwood.sierraclub.org>

for Group Websites, add: /napa, /north, /sonoma, /lake, /mendocino, or /solano

Sequoia Paddlers: www.sequoiapc.org

Redwood-Sonoma-Alerts Listserv: Instructions at Sonoma Group Website

Oh, Shale No

The Bureau of Land Management just released a long-awaited Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) on the leasing of millions of acres for the purpose of developing oil shale. Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar ordered the study back in 2009.

“After a thorough scientific review, the agency recommends a dramatic scaling back of federal lands available for leasing, and only for research and development...until the industry can demonstrate that oil shale is a viable energy source that won’t have unintended consequences on a region that is defined by a lack of water,” says Resilient Habitats Campaign Organizer Tim Wagner in a Compass blog post at <http://sierraclub.typepad.com/compass/2012/02/interior-department-shale-oil-western-states.html>

Wagner continues, “BLM’s new approach reduces the Bush-era plan to lease nearly 2 million

acres down to 461,000 acres, split unevenly among the three states. Utah will be allowed to lease 252,000 acres, Wyoming gets 174,000, and Colorado gets 35,000.

“Some would say that it’s politics. I’d say that it’s common sense. Why allow oil companies to lease and tie up large chunks of federal lands for speculation (some would say their real goal is to pad their portfolio in order to attract investors) when, after a century of trying, no one has demonstrated a viable process to extract usable oil from a rock?

“Common sense tells us that caution is the best approach when it comes to the nexus between historical snake oil, like oil shale, and the very real potential impacts to air and water, specifically the Colorado River watershed, which provides water for roughly 30 million people, some spectacular lands and wildlife, and outdoor opportunities enjoyed by millions every year.”

'Tis the season for political endorsements.

Our SC Groups and the Chapter are busily assessing candidate questionnaires and conducting interviews. Please see the accompanying article in this and the next issue of the Needles for our recommendations. Sierra Club has endorsed Victoria Brandon for Lake Group Supervisor in District 1. Victoria has done an excellent job as Redwood Chapter Vice Chair, and we wish her the best in her political campaign.

Annual March fundraising.

The Chapter has sent out our appeal letter, asking folks to help protect wild California. Please think of us if you can.

Environmentalist of the Year, Sonoma County 2012 Environmental Awards.

Steve Birdlebough chaired the Sonoma Group Executive Committee from 2008 until February, 2012, and has been a

Chapter Chair Report

key member of Friends of Sonoma Marin Area Rapid Transit for many years. Two of Steve's interests are in transportation - to create an energy-saving network of non-car transportation in Sonoma County, and to foster transit-oriented development. Steve has been very effective in lobbying elected officials with well-founded positions on a wide range of important issues. It's been said about Steve that "he never saw a meeting he didn't like."

National Conservation Area.

Two United States Congressmen (Thompson and Garamendi), six panelists, and representatives of organizations including the Sierra Club, along with other community members attended a February meeting in Clearlake discussing the proposed Berryessa

Snow Mountain National Conservation Area. The proposal being discussed is to move existing federal land into a single unit with a "National Conservation Area" (NCA) designation, with an 11-member advisory committee, consisting of representatives of counties, wilderness organizations and the public, to be formed to create the management plan for the land. The NCA designation is used to conserve public lands for present and future use; it is given to areas of special significance. The proposed area extends 100 miles from Lake Berryessa at its southern end to north of Snow Mountain and consists of several separate pieces, the largest being in Mendocino National Forest east and north of Clear Lake. The designation would make the area eligible for federal funds available only to units of the National Landscape Conservation System. The Redwood Chapter is supporting this effort.

—JAY HALCOMB, REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

Sierra Club Endorses the California Right to Know Genetically Engineered Food Act

"The California Right to Know Genetically Engineered Food Act" was endorsed by the Sierra Club California on January 8, 2012. This endorsement gives full support for all Sierra Club chapters to petition and campaign throughout California.

This initiative complies with the 1993 Sierra Club policy calling for – among other things – the labeling of genetically engineered foods. The Sierra Club National Genetic Engineering Committee supports the initiative. The Sierra Club Policy is posted at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/policy/conservation/biotech.aspx>

Genetic engineering "allows the transfer of genetic material from one organism into a host organism of an unrelated species. . . the altered characteristics will be passed on to future generations and continue to be reproduced in the environment."

At the very least, people have a right to know what is in their food, this is basis to our democratic principles!

The Right to Know Initiative:

"The California Right to Know Genetically Engineered Food Act" can be viewed at the Attorney Generals website at: http://ag.ca.gov/cms_attachments/initiatives/pdfs/i1044_11-0099_final_t&s.pdf

Participate:

To join the Sierra Club's effort for the California Right to Know campaign, or find out how your chapter can help lead this process, email your name, address, telephone, and email address and the best time to reach you to:

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Non-Sierra Club Outings

The following activities and events are not sponsored nor administered by the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has no information about the planning of these activities and makes no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of such activities. They are published because they may be of interest to the readers of this publication.

Saturday Saunters for Santa Rosa Area.

Every Saturday. Meets 9 am and usually ends around 11:30. These walks are moderate. Fun way to exercise with friends. For info call Bob Martin 707-539-6300.

Sonoma County Regional Parks trail work days.

On the day of the project you can call 707-548-4424 for an update or if you get lost coming to the park. Your support and dedication to our County's trails really makes a big difference. To RSVP for any of these projects please call John at 707-565-3356. ParksVolunteer@sonoma-county.org

Fri. April 6 - Docent-Led Nature Hike at Sugarloaf.

We'll hike the Goodspeed trail to just beyond the park boundary. Route presents spectacular views, a profusion of wildflowers and a gradual climb through woodlands and across a creek. Distance about 2.1 miles each way (total of 4.2 miles, elevation gain 800 feet, 2-- 2 1/2 hours). Bring a bag lunch and plenty of water. Meet 9:45 am and leave by 10 am. Park in the lower dirt lot (on the left) on Adobe Canyon Road about 2.3 miles before the main entrance. Sponsored by Calif. State Parks & Valley of the Moon Natural History Assoc. Info Laura.laurahikes@yahoo.com or Bob.goyoung55@yahoo.com.

Sat., Apr. 7, Wildflower Hike, King-Swett Ranches.

Come explore the hills between Fairfield, Benicia, and Vallejo with Solano Land Trust naturalists. This rigorous hike requires the ability to trek several miles off the trail, through high grasses and thistle, on uneven ground and up and down steep hills Long pants, water, snacks, and good boots are recommended. Meet park-and-ride lot I-80 and Hiddenbrooke Parkway/American Canyon Rd. Vallejo 9:00 a.m. Leaders Jim Walsh and Sue Wickham. Info: 707/432-0150 x200 or

www.solanolandtrust.org. Heavy rain cancels.

Sat., April 14 - Lynch Canyon Hike.

Join a Solano Trust docent for a 3-5 mile hike. Look for wildflowers, enjoy the vistas and learn about the property's natural and human history. Meet 9:00 a.m. 3100 Lynch Rd., Vallejo. Leader Linda Sonner. Info: 707/432-0150 x200 or www.solanolandtrust.org.

Sat., April 21 and Sat., May 19 - Get the Rush at Rush Ranch.

Get the Rush is a series of fun and free activities designed for families—all ages are welcome! Activities may include a guided tour of the tidal marsh and upland grasses, a traditional blacksmith shop in action, and an opportunity to visit Little Bear at his table full of Native American tools and decorations. If weather and resources permit, all ages and mobility levels are invited to go for a horse-drawn wagon ride. Wheelchair users are encouraged and can board via a solar-powered wheelchair lift. 10am – 1pm, Rush Ranch, 3521 Grizzly Island Road, Suisun City. Info: 707/432-0150 x200 or www.solanolandtrust.org.

Sat., May 5 - Wildflower Hike, King-Swett Ranches.

See April 7 listing above for details. Meet 9:00 a.m. park-and-ride lot I-80 and Hiddenbrooke Parkway/American Canyon Rd. Vallejo. Leaders James Chang and Maggie Ingalls. Info: 707/432-0150 x200 or www.solanolandtrust.org.

Fri., May 18 - Evening Hike at Lynch Canyon.

Join Solano Land Trust docent Linda Sonner for this late afternoon/early evening hike when the park is otherwise closed. Enjoy spectacular views and learn about Lynch Canyon's natural and human history—including the Native Americans, pioneers and ranchers who once called it home, and how it was saved from becoming a landfill and became a park instead! RSVP required: Natalie@volunteer@solanolandtrust.org or 707-432-0150 x200.

Sierra Club Volunteer Profile

The Green Life Featuring Jane Bogner

Lead by example. The term may be simple or cliché, but the words are precise and effective. Just like Jane Bogner.

The Sierra Club Solano Group's volunteer extraordinaire has been leading the campaign for recycling through example for over 30 years. "I try to encourage people to do what I do by example. I don't tell them to do it. Eventually they get the point. We have to pick up litter today," Bogner said laughingly. "Before (joining) Sierra Club I would sweep my sidewalks and pick up litter, and that type of stuff," Bogner says. "This (volunteering) is just another form- making my impact on the planet less and encouraging others to do the same thing," she explains.

Besides being a model for volunteering and encouraging others to "Think Global-Act Local", Bogner's actions have left a volunteering legacy in the Solano County area. "I started recycling at VALCORE (non-profit recycling group) in the early 80's and noticed that Sierra Club was a member. One of the reasons (I joined) was they (Sierra Club) were running a recycling center," Bogner reflects on how she became involved in the program.

Bogner's appreciation of the environment and strong work ethic stem from her roots growing up on a wheat farm in Dodge City, Kansas. "To me it's a no-brainer. You take care of your planet. I grew up on a farm and you're sustainable. We didn't use that term when we were kids, but you take care of what you have in front of you."

Even though her academic and professional background began in Music Education while attending Wichita State University, Bogner's teaching experience definitely translates into her recycling and volunteering leadership efforts. She admits that maintaining the consistent return of volunteers is her main obstacle in keeping the environmental message alive.

"The biggest challenge is to get people to come out and work at least once a year. People will be ok with giving money, but as far as coming out and volunteering, that's the toughest part is reaching out to people. You will see someone once and that is it. People are so busy with their own lives," Bogner said.

The personal relationships Bogner has

gained during her extensive leadership roles have been rewarding experiences greater than any negatives throughout the years. "The friendships. The

people who do come out and volunteer- we become a big family," Bogner says appreciatively. "They're my hiking buddies, my VALCORE buddies, my gardening buddies. Something comes up and we're they're for each other. That kind of bond is amazing-just totally amazing!"



While being the Recycling Chair and Treasurer for the Sierra Club Solano Group and representing the Sierra Club as Vice President of the VALCORE Board, Bogner is leading the long fight against the garbage industry's constant appeals to Measure E in Solano County. Measure E is a citizen's initiative passed in 1984 that limits the amount of garbage that can be hauled into Solano County landfills. (See article on page 1 of this issue for more details.) "Measure E is enforceable. The county and everybody's appealing it. It's one of these things (legal battles) that's going to go on for years," Bogner said.

Bogner believes that society's biggest future environmental challenges and concerns will definitely be about energy sources, use and conservation. "Energy conservation. We have to stop using so much (energy). Period. Stop it. Stop buying. Stop using," says Bogner.

In Bogner's plan for her own future, let's just say her actions speak louder than her words. "I'm not going to stop what I'm doing because what I'm doing is the best thing for the planet. I'm not doing it for my kids. I have no kids. I'm doing it because it's what everybody should be doing for the planet."

Bogner has been writing a bi-weekly column on recycling issues for over 20 years, A Sorted Affair for Valcore and is published in the Vallejo-Times Herald Newspaper on Sundays. She was a recipient of the Women In The Environment Award in 2003. She is an avid hiker and also currently works part-time as an administrative assistant for Touro University and resides in Vallejo with her husband.

—KAYDON COBURN

Outings

Sequoia Paddlers - Canoe and kayak roll practice.

Ridgway Swim Center in Santa Rosa Thurs. 7:15 pm - 8:45 pm. The pool is located on Ridgway Ave off Mendocino right next to Santa Rosa High School. The water is warm but the air is often cold, so wet suits are recommended as well as PFD's and helmets. Paddlers must bring their own clean boats and gear. Instruction is not provided although advice and tips are available for the asking. Showers are available. Cost \$5. Co-sponsored by the Sequoia Paddlers and the Santa Rosa Parks & Rec. Dept. Info: Sig.poolcoord@sequoiapc.org or 292-4947

Sequoia Paddlers Section.

The canoe, kayak and rafting section of the Redwood Chapter. Outings are often dependent on river conditions and do not have long lead times. Please check the Activities Page of our website, www.sequoiapc.org, for upcoming trips.

Sat. Mar. 31 - Napa Group Mt. Tam Day Hike & Beach Walk.

Mt. Tamalpais, from Mountain Home Inn to Stinson Beach, one-way, with a West Marin Stagecoach shuttle, about 7 miles, almost entirely flat or down slope, with an optional beach walk at the end, a little over 2 miles, flat, or just relax and enjoy. The pace will be just a bit on the slow side of Moderate, and there will be lunch at a favorite hilltop with a great view. Bring lunch and liquids. Bring exact bus fare (\$2). Class: M-7-A. RSVP online, at <http://www.meetup.com/Sacramento-Sierra-Club/events/50007772/> or contact the leader. Co-led with Mother Lode Chapter. Leader: Martin Farber 707.253.9606 kowsoi@juno.com Rain cancels.

Sun. April 1 - Mendo Group-Blue Oak Trail, Lake Mendocino Hike.

Explore new trail on the south-east side of the lake. Wear sturdy shoes, bring water, snacks. Class E-3-A. Carpools: 9 am CVS Pharmacy, off Perkins St, Ukiah. RSVP Leader, Yvonne Kramer (707) 463-0342 or Kramer@saber.net

Sat.-Sun. April 7-8 - Mojave National Preserve Tour.

Saturday morning we will meet at Teutonia Peak trailhead on Cima Road for a hike to Teutonia Peak and out onto Cima Dome and then camp at Sunrise Rocks, which is primitive camping. Sunday we will hike from Midhills to Hole-in-the-Wall. This is an 8 mile, downhill hike and if the timing is right could have wonderful windflowers. For those wanting to arrive on Friday we can go out to the Rock Springs Loop Trail. For those wanting to stay over night on Sunday we can primitive camp near the Kelso Dunes and hike the dunes on Monday morning. For reservations, contact Carol Wiley at desertlily1@verizon.net or at 760-245-8734.

Sun. April 8 - Lake Group (with Friends of Boggs Mountain) Boggs Mountain State Forest Hike.

Hike various trails. Appropriate footwear required, water/snack advised. Neutered/Spayed dogs on leash welcome. Class M-6-A. Meet 9 am-kiosk-main parking area. Entrance at Forestry Road 1.3 miles north of Cobb Village on Hwy 175. Leader Boone Lodge fobm@mediacombb.net (707) 928-5819. Bad weather cancels.

Sun. April 8 - Lake Group, Fiske Peak Hike.

BLM land on lower Cache Creek. Start

at Low Water Bridge Hwy 16, hike to top of Fiske Peak. Views of Mt. Lassen, Sierra Nevada, northern Sac. Valley, Capay Valley, Mt. St. Helena, Cobb Mt., Mt. Konocti, Walker Ridge, Snow Mt. and half the world. 2300 ft. elevation gain. We will sign the peak diary, lunch on top of the world, then return to the world. Bring lunch, liquids. Class H-8-C. Carpools: 8:30 am Lower Lake Coffee Co., Main street, Lower Lake. By reservation only. Leader Tom McFarling 994-5490 tmcfarling@callatg.com

Thurs. April 12 - Hiddenbrooke Hike.

Join me on this 5 mile r/t hike along the Bay Area Ridge Trail near Vallejo. Meet at the Park and Ride on the east frontage road after exiting American Canyon Rd. on to Hiddenbrooke Parkway. Meet: 8:15 am. Class E-5-A. RSVP to leader: Jean Crossley 530-400-0741 or jcrossley1@peoplepc.com. I encourage bringing short chopping hoes for occasional removal of invasive starthistle.

Sat. April 14 - North Group. Bull Creek Loop Hike, Humboldt Redwoods State Park.

This springtime ramble winds through ancient groves skirting Bull Creek from Founders Grove to Albee Campground, returning along the opposite side. The route includes one creek fording. No dogs. Class M-10-A. By registration only. Leader will update registrants on tentative departure time of 10:15 from Founders Grove. Leader Melinda 707-668-4275 mgroomster@gmail.com

Sat. April 14 - Solano Group. Historic Southshore of Mare Island.

Hike along Historic Southshore of Mare Island to southern most point of island at Pier 35 for unique views of Carquinez Strait and opportunity to view various wildlife and historic relics along the way (this is a level 4 mile round trip walk on paved and gravel roads) 9:30 -11:00. Take U.S. 101, I-80 or Hwy 29 to Highway 37 and take Mare Island exit just west of Vallejo. Follow Walnut Ave south to 'G' St. (1st stop sign) and turn left. Take the 2nd right at Nimitz and go to 15th St. stop sign and turn right. Go to Railroad Ave. and turn left. Follow Railroad through the South Gate to the Park kiosk and park along road. Leader Brian Collett 530-220-3121.

Sat. April 14 - Sonoma Group, Coast, Fire Lane & Laguna Loop Hike.

At the Pt. Reyes National Seashore the Coast trail is an L-shaped wide road that begins at the Pt. Reyes Youth Hostel and makes a beeline for the Coast. The surrounding grasslands should provide us with a multitude of wild flowers for our enjoyment. We will walk along Drakes bay where we will come in contact with Santa Maria Beach, Sculptured Beach and Limantour Beach. This will be a perfect hike for those who are looking for an easy yet beautiful hike. Bring lunch, comfortable hiking boots and plenty of water. Class: E-5-A. Carpools: 8:00 am Santa Rosa CVS/I-Hop parking lot 4th St. & Farmers Ln. near the 4th St. entrance. Petaluma 8:40 am Lakeville Park & Ride. By reservation only. Leader Tim Bartice cell-707-342-0471 or gatogrande0013@hotmail.com. Rain cancels.

Sat. April 14 - Mendo Group Nature walk with naturalist Kate Marianchild.

Kate will discuss interrelationships and fascinating life strategies of selected oak woodland plants, birds, and animals. Slow walk, two miles or less, place to be announced. In case of rain, nature talk under cover.

Wear sturdy shoes, bring water, snacks, binoculars. Class E-3-A. Carpools: 8:30 CVS Pharmacy off Perkins, Ukiah. By reservation only. Leader Yvonne Kramer (707) 463-0342 or Kramer@saber.net.

Sat.-Sun. April 14-15 - Birds, Flowers, and Fences in the Carrizo.

This is an opportunity to visit and to

assist in the Carrizo Plain National Monument. On Saturday, we will assist monument staff in the removal and/or modification of fences to allow pronghorn antelope freer access to the range. Sunday is reserved for sightseeing or hiking as the group decides. The views from the Caliente Mountains are spectacular; spring flowers may be blooming; and the monument is known for the number and variety of raptors present. Contact leader for information and sign-up: Craig Deutsche, 310-477-6670, or craig.deutsche@gmail.com.

Sun. April 15 - Lake Group Perkins Creek Ridge Hike.

This hike starts near the Lake County land fill and then mostly follows the ridge above the main stem of Cache Creek down to Baton Flat. Neutered/spayed dog permitted. Bring lunch, water, binoculars and your favorite wildflower guide. On a previous hike we identified 27 different wild flowers along the trail. Class M-7-A. Meet: 8:00 am Red Bud trail head, 8 miles east of Clear Lake Oaks on Hwy. 20, just before the bridge over the North Fork of Cache Creek and car shuttle to the trail head. Reservation required. Leader Steve Devoto sdevoto@mchsi.com

Sun. April 15 - Sequoia Paddlers Quiet birding paddle.

Come and enjoy a quiet paddle on Anderson Marsh. Bring your favorite quiet water boat and paddling gear. Wearing a PFD is required. Need flat water paddling skill. Layered warm clothing is suggested. Also bring a change of clothing in case of unexpected swim. No politics, smoking, or dogs. \$2.00 Launch fee required. For non-Sierra Club members we ask for a \$5.00 donation. Call before April 11 for time and location of put-in. Visit Sequoia Paddlers web-site (www.sequoiapc.org) Leader Bob Clemens (707-887-2303).

Fri.-Sun. April 20-22 - Owens Peak Wilderness - Service Trip.

We will work with the Student Conservation Association crew, a group of college age interns who have been doing restoration work in this wilderness area for several months. We will meet at 8:30 in Ridgecrest and car caravan to the work area. Work project has not yet been determined, but will most likely be either building fences or camouflaging illegal roads. Work Friday and Saturday. Pot luck Saturday night with the SCA crew. On Sunday, the crew will lead us on a hike of the area. Leader: Kate Allen, kj.allen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056. Co-sponsored with the Antelope Valley Group of the Sierra Club.

Sat. April 21 - Lake Group Highland Springs Hike.

Hike various trails. Need sturdy shoes, lunch, plenty of water, prior long distance hiking experience. Neutered/spayed dogs on leash welcome. Class M 7-8-A. Meet 7 am at picnic area at the park. By reservation only. Leader Carol Magill, c.magill@mchsi.com 707-928-5423, 707-295-0862 (cell).

Sat., April 21 - Sonoma Group. Singles Potluck in Petaluma.

Join friends at Daves home at 5pm for social hour, followed by dinner at 6. Bring a dish and beverage to share and \$1 for the club fund. No place setting is needed if you wash the ones provided. From 101 and Hwy 12 in Santa Rosa, take 101 south for 15 miles. Take the E Washington St exit toward Central Petaluma. Turn right onto E. Washington. Turn left

onto Petaluma Blvd N. Go about .8 miles, 720 Petaluma Blvd S is on the right, 1 blk past "I" St. Park in guest parking or on 5th St. in back of condos. Info. call Karen before 8:30pm 664-1448.

Sat. April 21 - Mendo Group-White Deer Lake, Ridgewood Ranch Hike.

Join Ridgewood Ranch Nature Conservancy in a 5 mile round trip hike to White Deer Lake walking through wildflower meadows and oak woodlands. Wear sturdy shoes, bring water, lunch. Class M-5-A Carpools: 9:30 am, Raley's Parking lot, Ukiah, in front of Kragan's Auto. RSVP Leader, Yvonne Kramer (707) 463-0342 or Kramer@saber.net

Sun. April 22 - Lake Group Highland Springs Wildflower Stroll.

Enjoy a leisurely 2 hour hike exploring and identifying the wonderful spring Wildflowers at Highland Springs Recreation Area. Class E-2-A Meet: 9:30 picnic area at the park. By reservation only to Karen Sullivan greymare56@gmail.com Leader Steve Devoto.

Sun. April 22 - North Group. Flint Ridge Trail/Mouth of Klamath River, Redwood National Park.

This loop hike follows Klamath Beach Road to the Klamath River mouth, where osprey, seals and other wildlife are often present. Return along Flint Ridge trail, past old growth redwoods, trillium and a waterlily-covered former mill pond. Bring water and lunch. No dogs. Rain cancels. Class S-11-A. Carpools: Meet 9 am in McKinleyville Safeway parking lot or 10:30 am Flint Ridge trailhead, east end of Alder Camp Road. Leader Bill 707-839-5971.

Sun.-Sat. Apr. 29-May 5 - Escalante River Canyon - Service Trip/ Backpack.

We will work with National Park Service Ranger Bill Wolverton on this ongoing Russian olive eradication program. 40.5 miles of the Escalante River have been cleared. This project will clear more, using loppers, small handsaws, and herbicide. Meet in Escalante Sunday morning, caravan to the trailhead and hike in about 7 miles. Expect knee to thigh deep river crossings, and some bushwhacking. We work 4 days, day hike 1 day and hike out Sat. morning. Participants must follow work-clothing requirements, provide their own food and gear on the trail, and travel expenses to the trailhead. For more information contact leader, Paul Plathe at 209-476-1498. Delta-Sierra Group/Mother Lode Chapter

Sat. May 5 - Sonoma Group. Half-A-Canoe Loop hike at Lake Sonoma.

A loop hike around the central peninsula at Lake Sonoma, from Rockpile Road to Bummer peak to lake level and back up the ridge. Wear good hiking shoes, dress in layers for the weather, bring sunscreen, water,



Bradley Hut Winter Backpack Trip. Simon and Jim filtering water as there was very little snow for melting. Old snow was on the ground, and they were able to get most of their water from the meadow creeks with a few holes in the ice. The creek or snow water was in question so they filtered it for drinking. Leaders Jim Gannon and Don Anderson

Instructions to hikers

Outings will start not later than 15 minutes after scheduled meeting time. The leader is in charge of the trip and is responsible for your welfare and the good name of the Club. He/she must have your cooperation to make the trip safe, pleasant and rewarding. Never charge ahead of the leader and keep within sight or shouting distance of the person ahead of you so you do not miss an intersecting trail. Do not lag behind rear leader: if you need help, the rear leader will remain to assist you. Do not leave the group without the leader's permission.

Be adequately equipped and prepared. You should carry lunch and liquids. Wear footwear appropriate for the outing. In most cases that would be hiking boots.

Guard against fire. Do not smoke on Sierra Club outings. Build fires only with the leader's permission, and extinguish them completely. Guns, pets, or radios are not to be brought on hikes.

The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Participants assume the risks associated with travel. Reimburse the carpool driver. Carpools are not part of the outing but a means of conserving natural resources.

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver please go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or contact the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version.

Visitors are welcome

All Sierra Club trips are open to the public unless otherwise announced. You are free to bring all members of your family and guests. Children are usually welcome, but please call the leader to make sure it is an appropriate hike.

DIFFICULTY	MILEAGE	ELEVATION GAIN
E - Easy	Actual	A - Less than 1,000
M - Moderate	Mileage	B - 1,000 to 2,000
H - Hard		C - 2,000 to 3,000
S - Strenuous		D - over 3,000
V - Very Strenuous		

The actual mileage will be listed for each trip. Elevation gain will reflect the gain from the start of the hike to the highest point. If you need to know the cumulative gain, please contact the leader.

To submit outings write-ups

Send all outings write-ups to: Carol Vellutini, Outings Chair, (carolvrs@sonic.net) by the 8th of the month. All leaders must coordinate their outings with their Group Outings Chair.



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Outings Chair Report

I set a goal to meet the Sierra Club leader from Sacramento who is keeping the hikes at Mare Island going since Kenn Browne left to relocate back east. Yea Brian! Kathy Pooler and I attended the Mare Island Flyway Festival. We joined Brian Collett (see photo below) for one of his wonderful interpretive walks. Brian knows so much history of the area from war times up to now. I learned



Mare Island Fly Festival Solano Leader Brian Collett.

so much just from the one walk we did with him. I highly recommend his walks. For the rest of the day there was so much going on. New trails dedicated that day and the hundreds of shoreline birds were a highlight. The Rush Ranch volunteers had a display that included hands-on projects for children and Native Americans were displaying their handiworks. Solano is lucky to have many active volunteer programs in their county.

David Keller (see photo to right) was nice enough to volunteer his time to meet my Sierra Club walk at Shollenberger Park in Petaluma to talk about the location

of the proposed Dutra asphalt plant. David is a former Petaluma city councilman and active with Friends of Eel & Petaluma River plus many other organizations. My group was fascinated by the knowledge David has of the county. We thank David for his work.

Last winter many backpacking trips to the high Sierra Huts had to be cancelled due to the depth of the new snow or the storms. This year the leaders experienced the exact opposite weather. I think there was more snow in the Sierra in July of last year than there was in early February of this year. Our winter leaders are highly trained and always watch out for the safety of the group. So they knew to bring water filters as there wasn't the usual new snow to use for water. (See photo on page 4.) On the news recently were stories from other locations of avalanches and people being saved by the new technology of avalanche airbags. Others on the same trip perished as they couldn't be dug out in time. As our climate changes everyone needs to be mindful of the challenges of backcountry outings. Water might not be available at the usual springs, dust storms might come up due to droughts, etc.

All Redwood Chapter groups are looking for new leaders to train in the outings program. The training required is done by the group outing chair and part can be done online. Due to the large geographic area of our chapter it is a challenge to coordinate outings. Many thanks to all our volunteers.

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Petaluma River Shoreline Walk. David Keller (Friends of Shollenberger) points out health risks of proposed Dutra asphalt plant. Leader: Carol Vellutini

In Sonoma County one of the highlights this year is the 200th anniversary of the Romanov era. Ft. Ross State Park, Sonoma County museum, Bodega Bay Marine Lab, & many others are doing talks, walks, sails, & more. I am leading a Sierra Club outing to support our State Parks at Ft. Ross.

As elections are just around the corner, please stay educated on the issues that affect our environment. We love our protected places. But are they really protected forever? Elect candidates who will continue to protect our resources, not exploit them for personal power or money. Our children need to experience wild places.

—CAROL VELLUTINI, REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR

lunch. Rain cancels Class M-6-B. Carpool meets at River Road Park-N-Ride at 9:30 am or at 10:30 at No Name parking lot (on Rockpile Rd. about 2.4 miles from Stewarts Point road junction). Leader: Carl Inglin 538-8271 or chinglin@sonic.net.

Sun. May 6 – North Group. Patrick's Point State Park Hike.

Visit highlights including Sumeg Village, Ceremonial Rock, Palmers Point, Patrick's Point and Wedding Rock. Bring water and snacks. No dogs. Rain cancels. Class M-5-A. Carpools: Meet 12:30 pm in McKinleyville Safeway parking lot or 1:00 pm Patrick's Point Visitor Center. Leader Bill 707-839-5971.

Sun. May 6 - Lake Group Highland Springs Wildflower Stroll.

Enjoy a leisurely 2 hour hike exploring and identifying the wonderful spring Wildflowers at Highland Springs Recreation Area. Class E-2-A Meet: 9:30 picnic area at the park at 9:30. By reservation only to Karen Sullivan greymare56@gmail.com Leader Steve Devoto

Sat. May 12 - Solano Group. Historic Southshore of Mare Island.

Hike along Historic Southshore of Mare Island to southern most point of island

at Pier 35 for unique views of Carquinez Strait and opportunity to view various wildlife and historic relics along the way (this is a level 4 mile round trip walk on paved and gravel roads) 9:30 - 11:00. Take U.S. 101, I-80 or Hwy 29 to Highway 37 and take Mare Island exit just west of Vallejo. Follow Walnut Ave south to 'G' St. (1st stop sign) and turn left. Take the 2nd right at Nimitz and go to 15th St. stop sign and turn right. Go to Railroad Ave. and turn left. Follow Railroad through the South Gate to the Park kiosk and park along road. Leader Brian Collett 530-220-3121.

Sun. May 13 - Mendo Group-Montgomery Woods State Park Hike.

A three mile loop through magnificent old growth redwoods with the forest floor in spring bloom. Wear sturdy shoes, bring water, snacks. Class E-3-A. Carpools: 9:30 am Raley's Parking Lot, Ukiah, in front of Kragan's Auto. RSVP Leader, Yvonne Kramer (707) 463-0342 or kramer@saber.net.

Sun. May 13 – Napa Group. Mothers Day at Tuteur Ranch.

Join our esteemed guide John Tuteur for this year's annual hike through the east Napa rolling hills and ranchlands to a spectacular overlook of San Pablo

Bay. Class H-8-B. Bring clothes for changing weather, hiking boots, lunch, and water. This hike is co-sponsored by the Land Trust of Napa County. By reservation only. Leader Chip Bouril 707-944-2058 csbouril@napanet.net.

Sat. May 12 – Napa Group Jack London State Park Day Hike.

This may be our last chance to hike Jack London State Historic Park before it closes. After a drive through scenic Sonoma Valley, we'll go end-to-end through this delightful park near Santa Rosa, featuring historic sites, shady trails, spring wildflowers, peaceful lakes, and panoramic views. 8 mi., 1500 ft gain on well-maintained trails. Bring lunch and liquids. Class: M-9-B. RSVP online, at <http://www.meetup.com/Sacramento-Sierra-Club/events/50008502/> or contact the leader. Co-led with Mother Lode Chapter. Leader: Martin Farber 707.253.9606 kowsoi@juno.com Rain cancels.

Sat., May 19 - Sonoma Group Singles Potluck in Cotati.

Join us at Stephens home in Cotati for our May potluck. Social hour 5pm, dinner 6.. Bring a dish and beverage to share and \$1 for the club fund. No place setting is needed if you wash the ones provided. From 101 in Santa Rosa, head south to exit 116 in Cotati. Turn left to go under the freeway, then right (south) on Old Redwood Hwy to the Cotati hub. Turn left on E. Cotati, then right at stop sign on LaSalle. Proceed past 1st stop sign to 2nd cul-de-sac., 8500 LaSalle Ave. is on the left. Info. Karen before 8:30pm. 664-1448.

Sat. June 2 - Sonoma Group National Trails Day Hood Mountain Regional Park.

This will mark Sierra Club's 30th year of participation on the Nattkemper Trail. Co-sponsored by Sonoma County Regional Parks. It also marks my retirement after 30 years as organizer of this event. Co-leader Elisa Stancil will take over. Sierra Club volunteers built the Nattkemper Trail. We need your help to keep it in good repair. Work

sites depend on the trail conditions. Bring lunch, liquids, gloves, hiking boots, snacks, and daypack. We have tools. You will be carrying a tool about one mile to the workplace. We always have fun and the work is rewarding. This is a steep single track trail. By reservation only by May 30th as I need to order tools. Carpools: Meet 8:30 am Adobe Canyon Rd. on the right after turning off Hwy 12 toward Sugarloaf Park (close to Vineyards Restaurant) leave 8:45. We will finish around 4:30. Reservations: Carol Vellutini 546-6308 carolvsr@sonic.net Co-leader Elisa Stancil elisastancil@gmail.com Rain cancels. We have not set a rain date at this time. We have put in 2,035.70 hours on this trail.

June 12-15 - Mendo Group - Yolla Bolly Wilderness Backpack Trip.

5 mile backpack trip. Located outside of Covelo in the Mendocino National Forest, this wilderness area is one of the most isolated and least visited. We will backpack Soldier Ridge 5 miles, set up a base camp at Kingsley Lake, a shady campsite surrounded by trees, and stay for 3 nights, hiking out on the 4th day. Flowing water to purify for drinking, not much to

swim in. Bring all your own meals for 4 days and 3 nights, bear canister optional. Bring several containers for water, hot and dry country. Wear sturdy hiking boots, bring rain gear. Class M-5-B. Hike limit 10. You must be an intermediate backpacker, rough country. For directions to trail head & time call leader. Bring 10 essentials. By reservation only. Leader Val Nordeman, 707-477-4199, nordeman@willitsonline.com.

Sat. July 28 - Ft. Ross State Park Cultural Heritage Weekend.

Support your state parks. Celebrate the cultural history at Fort Ross with costumed participants and interactive activities, highlighting the area's history as well as celebrating contemporary culture through song, dance, scenarios, and special events. Tall ships from locations along the Pacific Coast and from Russia are expected to come together at Fort Ross and be joined by baidarkas (kayaks) and baidaras setting out from the cove. Bring lunch, liquids or purchase there. Celebration goes till 5 pm. Carpools: 9 am River Rd. Park & Ride. By reservation only. Leader Carol Vellutini 546-6308 carolvsr@sonic.net

Ratings for Outings Leaders

How fast or slow do you go?

Wonder if an outing leader walks fast or slow? Keep in mind that the leader's speed is but one part of hiking. How high up a mountain the hike starts, the total mileage and elevation gain (up hill) and loss (down hill) greatly affect the difficulty of a hike, regardless of how fast or slow you walk. If you have any doubts about being able to do a hike or have other questions, please call the leader to discuss your concerns. These ratings only serve as a guide and are not a substitute for you being in appropriate physical condition before participating in an outing.

Leaders are grouped according to how fast they normally hike. Please keep in mind that this info is to help you decide if a hike is right for you. The outing rating instructions to hikers is also important for participants to read. Look at the difficulty of the hike. If the rating is moderate with few or more frequent stops a fast pace hiker must hike slower to accommodate that rating.

Fast-pace with few or no stops:

Jim Gannon Paul Bozzo Carol Magill

Moderate-pace with few stops:

Carl Inglin Penny Proteau Don Anderson Steve Devoto
Isabelle Saint-Guily Lorie Lagasse Boone Lodge Val Nordeman
Chip Bouril Doug Condrotte Xandra Manns Jackie Farley

Moderate-pace with more frequent stops:

Bill Arenander Pete McGee Tim Bartice Bill Knight Susan Whiteside
Carol Vellutini Yvonne Kramer Martin Farber Brian Collett
Jean Crossley Ken Roberts Melinda Groom Tom McFarling
Nanette DeDonato

Slower-pace: Gina Hitchcock Allison Bronkall Jim Carr

Classified Ad

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Sierra Club Volunteer/ Activist Opportunities

Sonoma Group Hike Leaders: Sonoma Group outings leaders training. Always a need for more leaders for outings. If you would like a training, please email Carol carolvsr@sonic.net or call 546-6308 for info. People are requesting families with children, camping and easy hikes.

North Group Hike Leaders: North Group is desperately seeking hike leaders. Please contact Bill Knight, the Outings Chair, at bill.knight_email@gmail.com.

Help the Sonoma Group Water Committee! Come to our meetings at 7:00 PM at the Environmental Center held on the third Wednesday of most months. The Water Committee is working on issues related to measures to conserve, save, and reuse this valuable resource. Our goal is to preserve and improve the natural water environment, the responsible use of water by people, and the safe reuse or disposal of our wastewaters. Come to our meetings with your suggestions and to help in this enterprise. Help protect the quality of our water for people, wild life, fish and other aquatic life, promote water conservation and intelligent reuse. To confirm meeting dates or if you are not able to attend our meetings, you may e-mail Len Holt at lholt@sonic.net.

The Climate & Energy Committee is getting Amped up! Join our discussion on the 1st Monday/Month at 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa, get Charged about community renewable energy programs. Contact Shirley Johnson-Foell Climate & Energy Committee Forum-Chair. The next meetings are April 2nd and May 7th at 4:30. Email: shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, home 206-1138, or call the office 544-7651.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

All Creatures Great and Small



"Every good thing, great and small, needs defense"

- John Muir

Join Sierra Club and help protect all creatures, great and small.

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Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

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North Group Report

Long-time North Group secretary and publicity chairperson Sue Leskiw recently stepped back from most of her duties with the North Group. In recent years Sue has been largely responsible for the North Group's work with young people including members serving as judges for science fairs and managing the Vinyard/Van Kirk Environmental Education Fund, which sponsors young people's attendance at summer nature camps. Sue's dedication, efficiency and attention to detail will be missed; thanks Sue for all you have done and continue to do for the Earth and the community.

The North Group Executive Committee's annual planning retreat took place on September 11th. We reviewed goals for and accomplishments during 2011 and set goals for 2012. The North Group's 2012 goals include:

- Work in coalition with Healthy Humboldt and other partners to monitor and influence county planning and development issues including climate change adaptation.
- Continue to work with other stakeholders on the Richardson Grove Highway 101 project.
- Continue to advocate for dam removal, sound science, and restoration on Klamath River issues.
- Continue to support Redwood Chapter's efforts to implement AB 2121 (in-stream flow legislation).
- Advocate for restoration of the Eel River including adequate flows and healthy salmon stocks.
- Monitor and advocate for strict enforcement of restrictions on the use of motor vehicle on our beaches.
- Monitor and positively influence the Marina Center and other Humboldt Bay development projects.
- Work with other groups to develop a resilient habitats and national forest regional plan for the Klamath Mountains Bioregion; use that regional plan to guide work on individual national forest plans and local climate change adaptation plans in our region.
- Work with allies on Lower Trinity RD, Six Rivers NF trails and trail planning.
- Monitor the North Region MLPA issue; support the Unified proposal.
- Develop and present a North Group position on the wind turbine proposal for the Ferndale area.

Concerning the national forest planning goal, the U.S. Forest Service recently adopted regulations for a new round of national forest plans. National Forests dominate Northern California's landscape. While plans for the Mendocino, Six Rivers, Trinity and Klamath National Forests are at least a couple of years away, Northern California forest activists are already beginning to prepare.

Among changes from previous rounds of national forest planning, new regulations mandate planning for climate change across administrative boundaries. This fits well with Sierra Club's Resilient Habitats campaign which has established the California Coast as one of several focus areas. While we don't tend to think of the "coast" when considering Northwest California's national forests, most of our coastal watersheds extend to headwaters deep within our national forests. That is why North Group leaders have been in conversation with national campaign director Fran Hunt and others about the new round of forest plans.

Redwood Chapter members interested in learning more about organizing in preparation for the new round of national forest plans can contact Felice Pace at 707-954-6588.

-FELICE PACE, NORTH GROUP CHAIR



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB

Your financial contribution means a lot to us. By supporting our Chapter, you support Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. This makes you an essential part of our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature. **Thank you.**



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Sonoma Group Report

We had a successful result in our efforts to change the county zoning board's approval of the Carneros Ranch/Port Sonoma fill project. The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors voted to require an EIR for the project.

In January we received a donation of a car. Tom Devlin, our Sonoma Group Secretary, found a buyer among the ranks of our local members, and the sale is keeping our budget in the black.

Outgoing Group Chair Steve Birdleough received the 2012 SCCC Environmental Awards Dinner. Congratulations, Steve!

Our Political Committee has been active, interviewing candidates for 1st District and 5th District Supervisor.

We sent a letter to the Sonoma County supervisors supporting the moratorium on vineyard conversions; a letter to California Land Stewardship Institute supporting an independent science panel to review effectiveness of Russian River watershed management; and one to ABAG requesting that rural areas in the county not be designated as Priority Development Areas in the One Bay Area plan, and given their own designation of transit needs.

We will host an Environmental Forum on April 11 at 7 p.m. to discuss strategies to prevent State Park closures and keep them open. Visit the the Redwood Chapter website: <http://www.redwood.sierraclub.org/> for information about the location.

We will be holding our Sonoma Group Retreat on Saturday, March 24 at Diana Nasser's house in Sebastopol.

Suzanne Doyle has started a Sonoma Group blog site.

-DAN KERBEIN, SONOMA GROUP CHAIR

Napa Group Report

Napa Pipe Decisions Loom.

Rulings on the controversial Napa Pipe Project are due soon, first from the Planning Commission, then from the County Board of Supervisors. Napa Sierra Club opposes the project, which would plant 2000 units of high-density housing along the Napa River south of Kennedy Park. This high-rise urban-sprawl development suffers from several disadvantages. It would create an isolated neighborhood which would force residents onto already-congested Highway 29 for most basic needs, including jobs, shopping, and schools. It would depend on ground water, which according to our General Plan should be reserved for agriculture. An alternative plan, drawing water from Tehama County is likely not feasible.

Within 30 years it is predicted that sea level rise will flood access roads every day during high tide. Earthquake vulnerability is extreme, since buildings would be constructed on deep fill, which liquefies during severe shaking. Supporting the infrastructure for this ill-devised scheme would likely soak taxpayers in the rest of the county for millions of dollars. We could go on. Sierra Club believes that this land is best kept in its current designation, set aside for industrial development. New housing belongs within our current city boundaries. We are joined in our opposition by local labor unions and other environmental groups. If you can help "Clog the Pipe" by making phone calls, or allowing a sign to be placed in your yard, contact Chair Nancy Tamarisk at nancy@aya.yale.edu.

Candidate Environmental Forum.

Sierra Club, Friends of the Napa River, CanDo, and Get a Grip on Growth will question Board of Supervisors Candidates on their environmental policies on Monday, April 9th at 7 p.m. at the Napa Public Library.

Earth Day, Saturday, April 21st.

Drop by to say hi at the Napa Sierra Club Table at the Earth Day festivities.

Adopt-A-Park Volunteers.

Free outdoor exercise, protecting and cultivating the new native plants at Trancas Crossing Park in Napa. Contact Nancy at nancy@aya.yale.edu

Help us save money & go green, by sending us your e-mail address for our bulletins! We will not share the address with any other organizations. Contact us at nancy@aya.yale.edu.

-NANCY TAMARISK, NAPA GROUP CHAIR

Redwood Needles

June Deadline: Due May 3rd

Please Note: This deadline is early so that political endorsements will reach members before the June election.

Submit Articles/Reports/Ad Copy via e-mail to:

odavison@comcast.net

Send Outings to Carol Vellutini via e-mail: carolvsr@sonic.net

Send Meetings to Carl Inglin via e-mail: chinglin@sonic.net

Join Solano Group on Facebook. Log onto SierraClubSolanoGroup.

Thank You to Our December Volunteers: Nancy Mc Coy, Matt Hoffman, Jane Bogner

Thanks to our 14 Flyway volunteers:

Jane Bogner, Adam Mangosing, Margaret Simonsen, Patricia Gatz, Christine Brennan, Doris Klien, Joyce Scharf, Phil McCullough, Beverly McGain, Rollye and Doris Wiskerson, Ray Anderson, Joe Feller, Sabina Yates. You really stepped to the plate and made Sierra Club proud.

Thanks to Nancy McCoy, Adam Mangosing and Jane Bogner for staffing the 2/18 Paper shredding @ VALCORE

Your help is needed at these events:

Earth Day, April 21, Vallejo – Sierra Club will staff a table @ the Vallejo Event. We will be making handmade paper. The event is from 9 to 1 p.m. at Farmers' Market – Volunteers needed. <http://www.valcorerecycling.org/earthday/index.htm>

We will also be at VALCORE for Paper Shredding if you prefer to work there. Call Jane at 707 319-6398.

VALCORE Recycling and Confidential Paper Shredding in 2012

Solano Group will be working every 3rd Saturday at 38

Solano Breeze Corner

Covering Benicia, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun,
Vacaville and Vallejo
sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com 707-319-6398

Sheridan Street, Vallejo from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, Sept 15, Oct 20, and Dec 15). For customers, there is a charge of \$10 per twenty pounds of paper shredded. (maximum: 100 pounds). We need help tending the money and directing traffic.

We continually work at Lori's Native Plant Garden located at 225 Amador St, Vallejo Community Center. We weed, plant, prune and mulch year-round. If you have an hour, call Jane at 707 319-6398 and she'll work with you.

We need Sierra Club supervisors to help other groups tend the garden on August 25 and October 27.

There is a possibility that we will be part of the Vallejo Museum Garden Tour that is held on Sunday, May 20 from 10 to 3. Call Jane at (707) 319-6398 for more information.

Volunteering for a cause you believe in has been shown to increase your overall happiness! Here are some more Solano

Group Volunteer Opportunities:

- Membership Co-Chair: About 4 hours a month. It's mostly computer work.

- Web Page Master: We need someone who knows front page to update the Solano Page (about 2 hours every other month).

- VALCORE Recycling Board Alternate: May need to attend one meeting per year.

- EXCOM: Come join us for our monthly meetings which rotate between Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville. We are making a positive impact on our county. Please step forward and help us carry the load. Call Jane for information. (707)319-6398.

HELP PAY FOR OUR LANDFILL LAWSUIT.

(Our attorney's fees are 3000 cans per hour)

Please bring your CRV – CA Cash Refund containers down to VALCORE, 38 Sheridan St. Vallejo, Mon - Sat, 10am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 4:30pm.

OR Cash them in at your local recycle center and send us a check for the refund amount.

Potrero Hills Landfill

For an update to the Potrero Hills Landfill issue by duane Kromm, see the article on page one.

–JANE BOGNER, SOLANO GROUP

Lake Group Report

Drug Cartels vs Public Lands

As this edition of the Needles was going to press, Lake Group was planning a March 21 general membership meeting detailing the shocking ways that our public lands are being devastated at the hands of criminal foreign drug cartels. Representatives from the Bureau of Land Management Ukiah Field Office will show pictures and tell the story of land and water pollution, destruction of wildlife, and threats to the safety of legitimate recreational users, all on a massive scale. Participants will also learn how local volunteers have been helping to clean up the mess, and the ways that Club members and other concerned citizens can become involved in the future.

Lake Group Supports Trail Signage

For quite some time the Lake Group has been strongly supportive of ongoing efforts to restore and improve the multiuse trail network on county parkland surrounding Highlands Springs reservoir. A dedicated group of industrious volunteers has been working wonders in the area, but some essential improvements can't be supplied by hard work alone, and trail signs plainly fall into that category; on February 14 the Group was proud to step forward to offer a \$500 donation to this good cause. Outgoing Chair Cheri Holden formally presented the check to the county on behalf of the volunteer trails group during the regular weekly Board of Supervisors meeting—with numerous Sierra Club members and trail volunteers in attendance to join in the applause.

Third Annual Film Festival Coming Up

The Sierra Club is collaborating with the Lakeport Main Street Association and Watershed Books to sponsor the third annual "We Love Tules" Wild and Scenic film festival all about the wonders of Lake County. Submissions of short (two to four minute) films will be accepted until April 7 at Watershed Books (305 N Main) in Lakeport. Cinematographers of all ages and all levels of skill are invited to participate, with the limitation that films MUST be playable on a standard DVD player. A gala premiere showing will be held at the Lakeport Yacht Club on the evening of Wednesday April 18. For applications, information, and submissions, drop by Watershed Books or contact Cheri at 263 5787 or cheri@watershedbookco.com

Lake Group Offers Scholarships

As has been previously mentioned, the Lake County Sierra Club is offering \$1000 scholarships to two graduating seniors from local high schools who are planning careers that will support the Club's mission to "enjoy, explore, and protect" the planet, with emphasis on safe and healthy communities, strategies to combat global warming, and preserving America's wild places. Applications (available from school guidance counselors, at Watershed Books in Lakeport, or at redwood. sierraclub.org/lake) are due on April 7, 2012. Winners will be announced at the "We Love Tules" film festival gala on April 18.

–VICTORIA BRANDON, LAKE GROUP

Mendocino Group Report

Willits Bypass

The Army Corp of Engineers has given out the final permit and CalTrans is ready to present the proposal for funding of the Willits Bypass to the California Transportation Commission. "As currently proposed, the project will lead to the destruction of hundreds of acres of wetlands and require the largest fill permit for wetlands in Northern California in the last fifty years." (Private Legal Document). The matter of the adequacy of the Mitigation Plan and in fact the appropriateness of the entire project will be challenged in a court of law.

Georgia Pacific Mill Site

In Fort Bragg, public comment has closed for the EIR on the former Georgia Pacific Mill Site. The Mendocino Group has submitted comments and will continue to closely follow this matter.

Who's Watching the Owls?

As our members may know, the protection of the Northern Spotted Owl on privately-owned land where timber harvesting occurs, was, until recently, entirely under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Service has

now given over that responsibility, almost completely, to California's forestry department, recently renamed "CalFire". CalFire now determines not only which trees may legally be cut but also how those timber operations may affect the owl, as well as what restrictions might be needed to protect the owl. In order to help CalFire perform in its new role the Service handed down a lot of instructions and helpful advice, including a new set of rules (a "protocol") for surveying for the owls. The protocol is used to find out exactly where the owls are on the land, whether they're single birds or a pair, if they're nesting, and so on. They're a pretty good set of rules but Mendocino Group is monitoring CalFire's implementation of the rules to help ensure that the owls are adequately protected. If you have any questions about timber plans near you and their potential to affect the northern spotted owl, please contact us. Linda Perkins 937-0903, lperkins@mcn.org.

–MARY WALSH,
MENDOCINO GROUP CHAIR

Silver Lake & Carson Pass

Come relax and enjoy the beauty. Fish, hike, or wander along the many lakeside and mountain trails abundant with wildflowers. After a hike, refresh in the cool water, lounge on our beach, or glide on the pristine Silver Lake waters, very peaceful and quiet. Then join us for a gourmet meal at our restaurant or spend the evening in your comfortable lakeside room or cottage, ending your day star-gazing from your deck or meeting others at the crackling campfire.

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See you on Donner Summit...



For more information about these programs or to receive a full schedule and description of Clair Tappaan programs please visit our website at www.ctl.sierraclub.org or call (800) 679-6775.

2012 Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park,

3-Day, Live-Aboard, Multi-Island Cruises: May 6-8; July 8-10; September 9-11

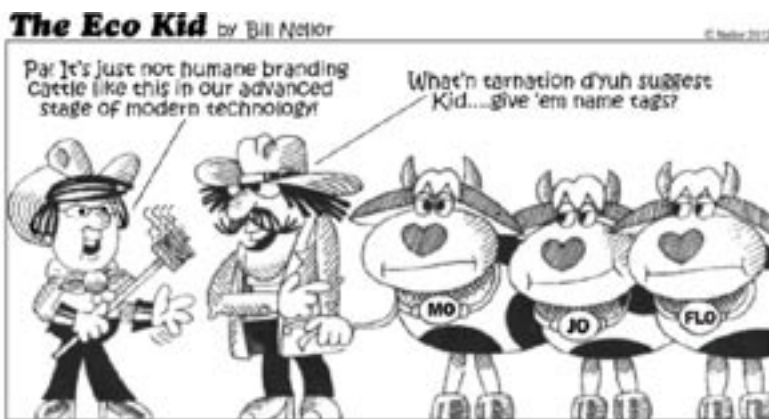
Explore the wild, windswept islands of Channel Island National Park. Enjoy the frolicking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on rare sea and land birds. Hike trails bordered by blankets of wildflowers and plants found in no other place on earth. Kayak or snorkel the pristine waters—or just relax at sea. All tours depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68' twin diesel Truth. Fee for all tours, \$590, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes, call attention to items of interest and present evening programs. Proceeds from this fundraiser benefit Angeles Chapter Political Committee. To make a reservation mail a \$100 check, payable to Sierra Club to leader: Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. Contact leader for more information (626-443-0706; jholtzhl@aol.com)

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Meetings

Send all Meeting events by the 8th of the month to Carl Inglin: chinglin@sonic.net Sierra Club meetings are open to all members. You are welcome to participate or observe as often as you wish. Meetings are located in Sonoma County unless otherwise noted. Visitors should call the committee chair to verify time and place. The Sonoma County Environmental Center is located at 55A Ridgway Avenue in Santa Rosa (West of Hwy 101, two blocks North of College and 1 1/2 blocks West off of Cleveland Ave, South of Coddington).

Mon. April 2 - Sonoma Group.

Santa Rosa Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway is the site of three related meetings:

- The Climate & Energy Committee meets at 4:30, Info: contact Shirley, shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, 206-1138.
- Sonoma Group Conservation Committee at 5:30 p.m. Info: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net
- Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Info: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net

Thurs. April 5 - Solano Group ExCom.

Come join us for our monthly meetings which rotate between Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville. We are making a positive impact on our county and need a few more people to help carry the load. Call Jane for information. (707)319-6398.

Tues. April 10 - North Group ExCom.

North Group Sierra Club is holding its monthly Executive Committee meeting. All are welcome to discuss local conservation issues between 6:45 and 8:45 p.m. Meet at Adorni Center Conference Room on Eureka

Waterfront. For more information, call Gregg at (707) 826-3740.

Tues. April 17 - Napa Group ExCom.

7 p.m. Our location varies; it is generally at a member's home. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting should contact the chair, Nancy Tamarisk at nancy@aya.yale.edu

Wed. April 18 - No Meeting. The Sonoma Group Water Committee.

The Water Committee meeting will not be held as Len Holt will be out of town. E-mail comments and discussions should be sent to Len Holt at lholt@sonic.net.

Thurs. May 3 - Solano Group ExCom.

Come join us for our monthly meetings which rotate between Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville. We are making a positive impact on our county and need a few more people to help carry the load. Call Jane for information. (707)319-6398.

Mon. May 7 - Sonoma Group.

Santa Rosa Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway is the site of three related meetings:

- The Climate & Energy Committee meets at 4:30, Info: contact Shirley,

shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, 206-1138.

• Sonoma Group Conservation Committee at 5:30 p.m. Info: Info: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net

• Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Info: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net

Tues. May 8 - North Group ExCom.

Monthly North Group Sierra Club Executive Committee meeting. See April 10 for details.

Sat., May 12 - Redwood Chapter ExCom.

Location: Santa Rosa. Conservation Committee meets at 10 a.m., ExCom meets 1-3 p.m. Info: Jay, hcomb@sonic.net

Wed. May 16 - The Sonoma Group Water Committee.

7:00 PM in the back room of the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

Wed. June 13 - The Sonoma Group Water Committee.

7:00 PM in the back room of the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

Climate Ride 2012

Eureka to San Francisco • Sept. 9-13 • 5 days • 320 miles

You can enjoy an incredible 5-day bicycle ride in Northern California while supporting Sierra Club California.

Climate Ride is a fully supported bicycle ride from Fortuna to San Francisco under towering redwoods, through the Russian River Wine Country, and along the Pacific Coast Bicycle Route.

Climate Ride is more than a bike trip. It's an inspiring journey with 150 like-minded people who are united by their passion for sustainability, renewable energy, and bicycles—the ultimate carbon-free form of transportation. Climate Ride also features an acclaimed nightly speakers series, known as the “green conference on wheels”, where we hear from bright minds in policy, advocacy and innovation.

Please Sign Up for Climate Ride 2012 and Support Sierra Club California

Registration for Climate Ride is \$75 (which includes a beautiful jersey and more), and then you raise at least \$2400 to participate in the five-day, all-inclusive event. The ride is fully-supported

by a team of talented leader-hosts, bike mechanics, medics, and massage therapists.

When you sign up, you'll be joining many other people who want to do something to help create a better future for us all. Climate Ride is a great way to get involved and experience an amazing adventure, powered by your own energy. The best bet is to sign up early not only so you have time to fundraise and train, but also because spots fill up!

Visit www.climate-ride.org to find out about the route, tips for getting in shape, and finding sponsors for your trip.

Everyone who registers for the ride gets to choose which organization they will be raising money for – and we hope you will choose Sierra Club California!

Please visit www.SierraClubCalifornia.org to learn about the work the Sacramento advocates do at the Capitol and state agencies. If you would like to learn more about the event or other ways to support Sierra Club California, please contact Vicki Lee at 510-741-1201.

No Nukes Summit: May 4-6

The Sierra Club's No Nukes Team invites Club members who want to help develop a national anti-nuclear campaign to gather in Washington, D.C., May 4-6, 2012.

The Summit will feature presentations from national nuclear experts including Kevin Kamps from Beyond Nuclear and Arjun Makhijani, author of Carbon Free Nuclear Free. Other highlights include:

- The True Cost of Nukes — Why the Economics is the Industry's Achilles Heel
- Nuclear Waste: Reprocessing, Transportation and Storage
- Living in the Nuclear Neighborhood
- Creative Strategies for Stopping Nukes
- Developing a National Strategy to Replace Nuclear with Renewables and Efficiency
- Harnessing Online Tools and Social Media to Communicate, Collaborate, and Organize

The Summit will be at the Western Theological Union in Washington D.C., where there are 30 low-cost rooms available. A grant from the Activist Network is covering some of the conference costs, but there is a modest conference fee of \$35. To register, and find out more about lodging and transportation, go here. (You can find other lodging options here.)

Please forward this invitation to other Club no-nuke activists who might be interested. There are a limited number of scholarships available for conference volunteers. Contact Leslie March to find out more.