

Redwood Needles

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 54 Number 2

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

April/May 2013

“Preservation Ranch”: Preserved!

By VICTORIA BRANDON,
REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

When eight years ago, as newly elected Lake Group Chair, I paid my first visit to the Redwood Chapter Executive Committee, much of the discussion focused on a campaign to protect a vast acreage of coastal forest and rolling oak woodlands near Annapolis from a project ironically called “Preservation Ranch.” This development proposal, the largest forest-to-agriculture conversion in modern California history, would have resulted in nearly 2,000 acres of the 20,000 acre property being cleared for vineyards, augmented by scattered luxury housing. In an added irony, vineyard development on this massive scale was also predicted to have adverse effects on Sonoma County’s small family-owned winegrowers.

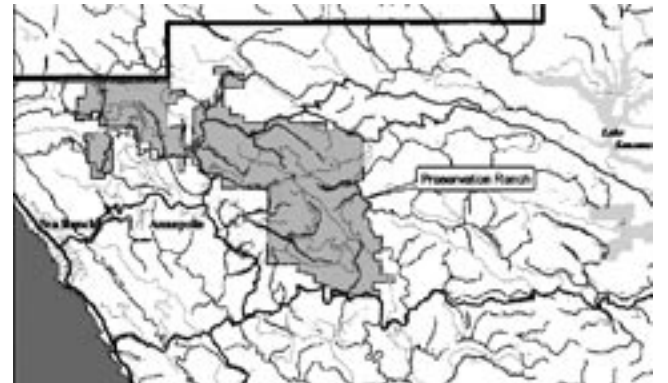
Genuine—not ironic—preservation of our forests, woodlands, and coastal rivers lies at the heart of the Chapter’s conservation

mission, and both the scale of this project and the dismal precedents it would establish have made Preservation Ranch our number one priority throughout the intervening years. While readying ourselves to participate in the dialog surrounding its environmental review, we did all we could to raise public awareness of the issues involved (including the filming of a trenchant video under the direction of former Forestry Committee chair Jay Halcomb) and also tried to persuade its primary funder—CalPERS, California’s giant state workers pension fund—that its resources would be more responsibly invested elsewhere.

The year 2013 began with the expectation that a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) would soon be released for comment, followed by a grueling series of hearings topped off by a contentious debate before the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. Depending on the decision of the Board, the possibility of extended litigation

also loomed before us.

Now I am thrilled to be able to announce that none of those events will take place. Late in February a consortium of conservation buyers led by the Virginia-based Conservation Fund in partnership with the California Coastal Conservancy, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, and Sonoma Land Trust have concluded a deal to purchase the property for \$24.5 million, with the intention of using it for sustainable timber production with a focus on forest health and wildlife habitat restoration. Some form of public recreational access is also a possibility, as is the generation of income from the sale of carbon credits. When the purchase is



finalized in May the threat of commercial vineyard development and rural estate subdivision will have been taken off the table—permanently!

In the words of former Sonoma County Supervisor and seasoned conservation advocate Bill Kortum, “What better news is there to dance to?”



Save the Date!

On Wednesday May 15 at the Glaser Center (547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa) Redwood Chapter and Sonoma Group are partnering with the Unitarian Universalist Advocates for Social Justice to host a public forum on our magnificent coastal forests. The meeting will feature a presentation by University of California Extension Forest Advisor Greg Giusti on the Ecology of the Coastal Redwood Forest, and also include discussion of the threats they face from things such as sprawling residential development and vineyard conversion. Right now we’re rejoicing about the preservation of “Preservation Ranch” (see the article on page one in this issue of the Redwood Needles for details) but our forests still need lots of help to survive into the future.

Most Sonoma and Mendocino Sierrans live along the 101 corridor, and many are not fully aware of the marvels to be found just a little way to the west. This is your chance to find out about the plants and animals of this unique ecosystem—and also find out what we can all do to make sure that these remarkable places are still here for our children and grandchildren.

For more information contact Sonoma Group Chair Dan Kerbein at 707 481 3903 or visit redwood.sierraclub.org to download an event flyer.

Our Best Environmental Protection Law Is Under Attack

Watch Out for So-Called CEQA Reforms

By GARY PATTON

Sierrans have been hearing a lot lately about reforming the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Don’t be fooled by that nice word “reform.” The bill proposed late last year would have gutted California’s most important environmental protection law. Leading legislators backed by a strong business and developer coalition continue to regard CEQA reform as a top priority. Moreover, Governor Brown is strongly sympathetic.

With widespread fracking on the horizon; with global warming and its impacts increasingly obvious; with water supplies diminishing, and huge infrastructure projects proposed, this is not the time to weaken the laws that protect our environment.

CEQA does three critically important things. First, it makes government agencies stop and think before they act. Often, officials decide that they know a good project when they see one and want to push it through. For instance, the Governor has a high-speed train plan, and big plans for Delta tunnels. Many assume that proposals such as large-scale wind or solar energy projects are automatically good for the environment. CEQA makes them submit any proposed project that might have a significant adverse impact on the environment to a full analysis, to “stop and think.” That word “might” intentionally sets a very low threshold, that applies even when

the government and project proponent can make a pretty good case that the impacts from the proposed project would basically be good. Sometimes the government changes its mind about a project, at least in part, precisely because of the new information generated through the environmental review that CEQA demands. Often, the changes are improvements, so projects (even good projects) are made better. That has been happening for more than forty years, all over the state, thanks to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Second, CEQA gives ordinary individuals real power in the approval process. Without CEQA, members of the public may get two or three minutes at the lectern, to make remarks that are then routinely ignored by the local or state officials who will make the decision, and who may not even be listening to the public comments as they are being made. If you have ever sent a thoughtful letter to an elected official, and not even gotten an answer, you get the picture. CEQA requires the responsible agency to respond substantively to all comments received on a Draft Environmental Impact Report. Time after time, the courts have found an agency’s EIR inadequate if substantive responses are not provided to well-founded and substantive comments. CEQA is the only California law that makes governmental agencies respond to public concerns in a substantive way, before the government takes action.

Third, when an EIR identifies a way to eliminate or lessen a negative impact, the responsible agency is required to implement that measure. For instance, if an EIR says that adverse impacts on wildlife habitat can feasibly be reduced by permanently protecting similar habitat, then CEQA requires that this mitigation measure be funded and implemented. This substantive mandate—unique to CEQA—costs developers money, and makes sure that the true cost of projects is borne by those who get the benefits, not the public at large. Reluctance of business and development interests to pay for required mitigations is probably the main reason they are attacking the California Environmental Quality Act.

If you want your government to stop and think before it acts and to provide substantive responses to public concerns before making a project decision, and if you want developers and other project proponents to pay for feasible mitigation measures to reduce impacts, then watch out for those so-called CEQA reforms. Obviously, almost any law could be made to operate better and more effectively; however, where CEQA is concerned, current reform efforts are not really about “reform.” They are trying to take away one of the best laws we have ever had.

“Beware CEQA ‘Reforms’ ” cont. on page 3

Day on the Green: Electric Vehicle Show and Tell

When: Saturday April 13, 11am to 4pm
**Where: Montgomery Village, 911 Village Court,
Santa Rosa near Farmers Lane**

Learn how you can spare the air every day with today’s electric vehicle options. Structured along the lines of September’s National Plug-In Day, dealers will be available for test-drives and owners will be there to share their experiences driving an electric vehicle (EV). The vehicle show and tell will be co-sponsored by the North Bay Electric Auto Association (NBEAA) and the Sierra Club’s Sonoma Group.

“A Day on the Green at the Village” is Montgomery Village’s annual Earth Day Celebration. In addition to the EV demonstration, Sarah Baker and Friends will perform live music, artists will display their work, there will be food and drink, a kid’s zone with activities, and Green businesses and environmental organizations will promote products and services for a natural lifestyle. Admission is FREE.

Any Sierra Club members who are also EV or Plug-In Hybrid owners who wish to come and share their driving experience at the event should contact Richard Sachen 707-327-8298 / richard@rsachen.net or Alan Soule (President NBEAA) at alan@asoule.net.

Redwood Chapter Sierra Club Directory

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Redwood Needles Deadlines

Issue	Deadline
June/July	May 8
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Oct./Nov.	Sept. 8

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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

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The Eco Kid by Bill Nellor



Chapter Chair Report

In February I had the pleasure of representing Redwood Chapter at the annual joint meeting of the Sierra Club California/Nevada Wilderness and Desert Committees. This gathering was held, as usual, at a unique hamlet called Shoshone, in far eastern Inyo County in the heart of the Mojave Desert. To get there from here you drive through Death Valley and out the other side—in other words, it's another world.

But not so fast. Although the great majority of the 50 or so Club activists who attended this two-day gathering were desert rats to the core, and although the ecological features of the area are entirely different from anything around here (instead of towering coastal forests and endangered salmon, they worry about Joshua trees and equally endangered pupfish), most of the subjects under discussion were completely relevant to our conservation issues here on the North Coast.

For example, public lands. It seems that everywhere dedicated land managers from the BLM and other agencies are facing challenges ranging from off road vehicles to illegal marijuana growing (which much to my amazement turns out to be rampant even in the desert), and everywhere they struggle to find the human and financial resources needed to meet their mandate. For another example, quagga mussels. In graphic detail, the Superintendent of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area described the ways that both the recreational and the ecological characteristics of this remarkable portion of the Colorado River

have been grievously impaired by an explosive infestation of these destructive pests; there's nothing like hearing first hand about the damage they have done to strengthen resolve to do everything possible to keep them from wreaking havoc around here.

Then there's the renewable energy conundrum: we all know that increasing wind and solar production is a key to a sustainable energy future, but sometimes the destruction of sensitive habitat and threatened species at a particular site is too high a price to pay for the power that can be generated there. One example was particularly heartbreaking: even though a law suit had been filed against a project that would demolish some of the largest ocotillo trees anywhere, the bulldozers rolled in anyway. Similar to events surrounding the Willits Bypass in Mendocino County, a requested injunction to delay construction while litigation was pending had been denied, with the justification that if the project lost in court the wind turbines could be removed. That might eventually happen—but the ancient ocotillos are gone for good. It's sad to see how much reluctance there is to examine

“distributed” energy generation such as urban rooftop solar as a viable and environmentally beneficial alternative to massive corporate projects in remote and fragile areas.

We also spent a lot of time talking about the California Environmental Quality Act, and the need to protect it from the assaults it's facing these days. Please read Gary Patton's article elsewhere in the Redwood Needles for more on this timely subject. And for a celebratory touch, the group reviewed plans for the upcoming 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act, and watched “Green Fire,” an inspiring film about the life of visionary conservationist Aldo Leopold.

By the way and as previously mentioned, for our primary 50th Anniversary project we are proposing to produce a guidebook to Wilderness Areas in the Redwood Chapter, of which we are fortunate enough to have no less than fifteen—and we can't do it without you. We need your photos and your personal accounts of wilderness adventures whether on Club Outings or not. If you have something to contribute—and I know for sure a lot of you have a great deal—please call me at 707 994-1931 or send an email to vbrandon@lakerlive.info. And thanks in advance!

Also do please mark your calendars for the Coastal Forest Forum the Chapter and Sonoma Group are hosting on May 15 (details on page one)—see you there.

—VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

“Beware CEQA ‘Reforms’”

continued from page 1

What can concerned citizens do to sustain the California Environmental Quality Act, as it comes under legislative attack? Get involved!

Sierra Club California is working very hard to protect CEQA, but needs help from the grassroots. We need to communicate directly with our State Senators and Assembly Members, telling them that protecting CEQA is our highest priority and they should not be fooled by supposedly plausible arguments for “reform.” Emails are good. Letters are better. Telephone calls are good. Office visits are better. Tell your representatives that we need CEQA to make governments stop and think, to make agencies respond to substantive public comments, and to require the elimination of negative impacts whenever feasible. We can also make the same arguments in letters to the editor, and speak out in public whenever possible.

Because the California Environmental Quality Act is such an excellent law, we can protect it from damaging “reforms” that will destroy its benefits. But we will have to get involved.

Gary Patton is an environmental attorney who practices law in Santa Cruz, a former Santa Cruz County Supervisor, and a current member of the Sierra Club California Executive Committee.

What You Can Do:

Contact your Assembly Member or State Senator and ask them to protect CEQA. Information for contacting your representatives in Sacramento is included below. Go online to determine your representative, to find local contact information, or to send an email.

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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 565-3356. ParksVolunteer@sonoma-county.org

Sat. April 6 - A Cemetery Meander

Meet 9 am Burbank Experimental Farm cottage Sebastopol for coffee and pastries. Guides will then lead groups for the Meander. Emphasis will be on stories of past resident's lives. Tours will repeat 1st Sat. May-Aug. Reservations 829-1757 donation \$10

Mon. April 22 Earth Day Nattkemper Trail Days.

Volunteers will work on the Nattkemper Trail 9-2:30. Bring lunch, water & gloves. Wear sturdy shoes & long pants. Carpools meet 8:45 am Adobe Canyon Rd. By reservation only. Leader

Elisa elisastancil@gmail.com Rain cancels.

Sat. April 27 - South Fork Trinity River Wildflower Hike.

This is a popular hike for wildflower viewing, and while there is little elevation gain, the trail is narrow and steep in places. Carpools: Meet 9:00 A.M. Willow Creek Post Office parking lot. Trailhead end of South Fork Road, 11 miles from Hwy. 299. By reservation only Rick Tolley 707-498-5528 rtolley@humboldt1.net for painters and photographers or Emelia Berol, ema.berol@yahoo.com

Volunteer Days Riverkeeper Stewardship Park in Guerneville.

Every Wed 8:30-11:30 am, for all or part of the time. Park is located on the north bank of Russian River directly upstream Guerneville pedestrian bridge. Access entrance from the driveway in front of Sonoma Nesting Co. (16132 Main Street, just east of Armstrong Woods Rd. At bottom of driveway look for blue & white “Russian Riverkeeper Stewardship Park” sign. Bring drinking water & wear sturdy footwear. Light refreshments provided. Info Victoria Wikle 865-2474 VictoriaWikle@usa.net.



Built by Sierra Club members in 1934, this rustic, hostel-style lodge stands atop historic Donner Pass, just an hour and a half from Sacramento.

Springtime in the Sierra is a magical time. In early spring you can take advantage of longer and warmer days with extended ski and snowshoe tours or using the Lodge's own groomed trails. Later in the spring you can experience the explosion of wildflowers as you hike miles of trails behind the Lodge or on the Pacific Crest trail just 1.5 miles from the Lodge.

Guests enjoy excellent family style meals, a friendly staff and a casual and communal atmosphere.

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.

Outings

Sat. April 6 - Lake Group. Highland Springs Hike.

Hike various trails. Bring water and snacks. Dogs not permitted on this trip. Class: E-4-A. Meeting place & time info given when reserving. By reservation only. Kim Riley kimriley58@gmail.com Leader Tom McFarling.

Sun. April 7 - Mendo Group. Leonard Lake Hike.

A scenic wildflower hike around Leonard Lake, a historic resort in Reeves Canyon located off the Willits Grade. Hike is on private property and we are fortunate to have access. Views of surrounding landscape are fantastic. Bring lunch, liquids, wear layered clothing. Class: M-3-A. Carpools: Meet 10 am, north end of Raley's Parking Lot, Ukiah. Carpools from Santa Rosa meet River Rd. Park & Ride 8:40. Leave 8:45 with Carol. Leader Jonah Freedman Co-leader Yvonne Kramer. By reservation only. 463-0342 kramer@saber.net. Rain cancels.

Sat. April 13 - Solano Group. A walk at Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve in Vallejo.

Our walk takes us along a historic road to the highest point on Mare Island with spectacular views towards the Carquinez Strait, San Pablo and San Francisco Bays. Nesting ospreys, perhaps great blue herons and other raptors/wildlife are sure to be seen along the way. There are also various historical features and we will do a

short detour along the old Lighthouse Rd. to see some of the finer wild flower areas of the Preserve. This walk is a fairly easy 3.5 mile r/t walk mostly along a gradually inclined paved road from 9:30-11:00. Class E-4-A. Take U.S. 101, I-80 or Hwy 29 to Highway 37 and take the 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 S. stop sign and turn right. Go to Railroad Ave. and turn left. Follow Railroad through the South Gate to the Park kiosk where there is ample parking space. Leader Brian Collett 530 220-3121 Participants are free to bring lunch and eat at the picnic tables and then explore other trails on Mare Island. There are also museums.

Sat-Sun. Apr. 13-14 - (Fri. Option) Juniper Flats Area Tour (San Bernardino Mts).

Come explore this beautiful area in the San Bernardino Mts. Camp at Rock Springs Ranch (private). On Friday (optional) there is a 3 mi rt. hike to the boulder gardens. Saturday, a driving and hiking tour of the area (4-WD or high clearance vehicle recommended), including springs, waterfall, Cottonwood Spring ACEC and an oak glen area. Saturday evening campfire and dinner provided by the Friends of Juniper Flats. Sunday, a 6 mi hike to Deep Creek a proposed Wild & Scenic River. Contact Carol Wiley for reservations at: desertlily1@verizon.

net or 760-245-8734. For more details of the area contact co-leader Jenny Wilder at: JensOasis@aol.com or 760-220-0730. Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

Sat-Sun. Apr. 13-14 - Serve and Explore in the Carrizo Plain.

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 (if rainfall is sufficient); 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 14 - North Group. Redwood National Park, Skunk Cabbage Trail Hike.

The trail begins in damp Sitka forest, passes by some impressive skunk cabbages, gradually rises to a coastal overlook, then descends to the beach, where we will rest and have lunch. Return by same route. No dogs. Class M-9-A. Carpools: 9 a.m. NE corner Arcata Safeway parking lot; all vehicles meet 10 a.m. at trailhead. Leader: Melinda 707-668-4275 or mgroomster@gmail.com. Rain cancels.

Sun. April 14 - Lake Group. Highland Springs Wildflower Stroll.

Enjoy a leisurely 2 hour stroll exploring and identifying the wonderful spring wild flowers at Highland Springs Recreation Area. Class: E-2-A Meet 10:00 am. Dogs not permitted on this trip. By reservation only. Meeting place, info Kim Riley, kimriley58@gmail.com Leader Steve Devoto.

Tues. April 16 - Solano Group. Day Hike in Stebbins Reserve.

This 6 mile loop takes us along a creek to a homestead site and up 1400 feet to a rocky ridge overlooking Lake Berryessa. Good tread on shoes or boots is needed. Bring lunch and water. Class M-6-B. It crosses UC Davis Reserve and B.L.M. property. Meet at the trailhead below Monticello Dam. For specifics on time and trailhead, contact Leader: Jean Crossley, 530-400-0741 or jcrossley1@peoplepc.com

Sat. April 20 - Lake Group. Thompson Canyon Hike.

Located on BLM's Bear Creek Unit along Hwy 16 we pass wildflowers, green meadows and beautiful Blue Oak woodlands. We will ford Bear Creek, hike up Thompson Canyon to the Road Kill Café and have lunch. After lunch we will hike along Brophy Canyon Trail to Three Ponds trail, then back down to Bear Creek to complete a seven-mile loop, where we will cross Bear Creek again. Be prepared to ford Bear Creek in shorts or hike in wet pants. Bring river shoes or tennis shoes - we'll cache them at the ford. Class: M-8-A. Carpools: Meet 8:30 am Lower Lake Coffee Co. Main Street Lower Lake. Leader Tom McFarling 994-5490 tmcfarling@callatg.com

Sat. April 20 - Sonoma Group. Earth Day Walk at Rodney Strong Vineyards.

Join us on a beautiful walk with wine-grower Ryan Decker as we explore

the Russian River and learn about the sustainable farming practices of Rodney Strong Vineyards, including a "Bug Bonanza" seminar on micro-critters, as well as a wine tasting from the sustainably farmed, family owned vineyards that make these wines famous throughout Sonoma County. Age 21 & over for wine tasting. Class E-2-A. Meet 10am at Winery Visitors Center, 11455 Old Redwood Hwy, Healdsburg. Leader Tiffany MacNeil (707) 696-3387 asmtif@sonic.net.

Caliente Mountains are spectacular; spring flowers may still be blooming; and the monument is known for the number and variety of raptors present. Contact leader Craig Deutsche, 310-477-6670, or craig.deutsche@gmail.com.

Sun. May 5 - Mendo Group. Hopland Research Center Tour.

Join us for Science Day at UC Hopland Research & Extension Center. Our tour guide, wildlife biologist & HREC superintendent Robert Keiffer, will



Lawndale Trail Hike Sonoma Group Leader Tiffany.

Sun. April 21 - Mendo Group. Ridgewood Ranch Hike to White Deer Lake.

Ridgewood Ranch allows public access to this beautiful area with a conservancy manager. We will hike through wildflower meadows and oak woodlands to the lake. Wear good hiking boots, bring lunch and plenty of water. Class M-6-A. Carpools: 9:30 CVS Pharmacy, Orchard Shopping Center off Perkins or trailhead 10 am conservancy shed which is opposite the entrance to the RV Park 1/2 mi. down winding ranch road from entrance off Hwy 101. The left turn off Hwy 101 North to the ranch is 16.7 mi north of the Gobbi St. onramp in Ukiah. By reservation only. Jonah Freedman (707) 4671877 jonahfreedman@sbcglobal.net Rain cancels. Carpools from Santa Rosa RSVP Carol Vellutini 546-6308 carolvsr@sonic.net meet River Rd. Park & Ride 8 am leave shortly after.

Sat. April 27 Sonoma Group. Tomales Bay State Park, Johnstone-Jepson Trails Hike.

A moderately strenuous hike from the trailhead, past several beaches, up a ridge through a lush pine forest to Hearts Desire Beach. Pebble Beach will be our lunch stop, and then we return to trailhead. Bring layered clothes for coastal weather, lunch, liquids, sunscreen and good hiking boots. Parts of the trail may be mucky. Class: M-8-A. Carpools: Meet 9:30 am Coddington parking lot in front of the library. Call/email to meet in Petaluma t Hwy 101/Hwy 116 park-n-ride. By reservation only leader Carl Inglin chinglin@sonic.net 707 538-8271.

Sat-Sun. May 4-5 - Birds, Fences, History in the Carrizo.

This is an opportunity to visit and to assist an outstanding and relatively unknown national monument. On Saturday we will assist monument staff in the removal of fence wires to allow pronghorn antelope freer access to the range. Sunday is reserved for sightseeing. The views from the

speak about past and current research projects, wildlife, native plants, trees (especially oaks), and maybe if we are lucky, even snakes. We will tour in carpools, on well-kept graded roads, from site-to-site while enjoying the fantastic ridge-line views and wildflowers. At each site we walk short distances for talks from Mr. Kieffer. Bring an inquiring spirit, lunch, plenty of water, wear long sleeve shirts, long pants and hiking boots. At the end of the day, tour the brand new Rod Shippey meeting center, an incredibly green building that is acorn woodpecker friendly. Carpools: Meet 8:30 am CVS Pharmacy in Orchard Shopping Center off Perkins or 9 am. HREC office parking lot on University Dr. Hopland. By reservation only. Leader Jonah Freedman 467-1877 jonahfreedman@sbcglobal.net. Santa Rosa carpools RSVP Carol 546-6308 carolvsr@sonic.net

Sun. May 5 - Lake Group. Oat Hill Mine Hike.

An easy hike along the east end of the Oat Hill Mine Road to visit mercury mine sites. Bring lunch and water. Class E-4-A. Meet: 9am Perry's Deli west end of Middletown to carpool to trailhead. By reservation only. Leader Steve Devoto sdevoto@mchsi.com Rain cancels.

Sat. May 11 - A walk at Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve in Vallejo.

Our walk takes us along a historic road to the highest point on Mare Island with spectacular views towards the Carquinez Strait, San Pablo and San Francisco Bays. Fledgling ospreys, perhaps great blue herons and other raptors/wildlife are very likely this time of year.

There are also various historical features to be seen and we will do a short detour along the old Lighthouse Rd. to see some of the finer wild flower areas of the Preserve. This walk is a fairly easy 3.5 mile r/t walk mostly along a gradually inclined paved road from 9:30-11:00. Class E-4-A. Take U.S. 101, I-80 or Hwy 29 to Highway 37 and take the 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 S. stop sign and turn right. Go to Railroad Ave. and turn left. Follow Railroad through the South Gate to the Park kiosk where there is ample parking space. Leader Brian Collett 530 220-3121 Participants are free to bring lunch and eat at the picnic tables and then explore other

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, (carolvsr@sonic.net) by the 8th of the month. All leaders must coordinate their outings with their Group Outings Chair.

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Interested in Becoming an Outings Leader?

Contact your Group Outings Chair (see page 2) or Carol Vellutini at 546-6308 or carolvsr@sonic.net for information.

Outings

trails on Mare Island. There are also museums.

Sat. May 19 - Lake Group. Mt St. Helena Summit Hike.

There will be views of Napa Valley and possibly Mt. Diablo from the summit. Bring lunch, water and sturdy shoes. Class: H-10-C Carpools: Meet 7:30 am. Perrys' Deli south of Middletown or 8 a.m. Robert Louis Stevenson parking lot. By reservation only. Leader Steve Devoto sdevoto@mchsi.com

Thurs. May 23 - North Group. Redwood National Park, Lyons Ranch Hike.

From the trailhead, we take an old ranch road to historic Long Ridge Sheep Shed, continuing in a loop to meet the main trail a half mile from its termination at The Home Place. Here we'll have lunch and explore the site before returning on the Lyons Ranch Trail. Bring water, food, and prepare for wind and sun. No dogs. Class M-5-A. Carpools: 9 a.m. NE corner Arcata Safeway parking lot. All Vehicles: Meet 9:45 a.m. near front of Kuchel Visitor Center. Leader: Melinda 707-668-4275 or mgroomster@gmail.com. Rain cancels..

Sat. May 25 - Lake Group. Snow Mountain Summit Hike.

We will drive to Summit Springs and then follow a trail to the east summit of Snow Mountain. Great views of Mt. Lassen, Mt. St. Helena and possible Mt. Shasta and Mt. Diablo. Bring lunch, water and sturdy shoes. Class: H-10-C Carpools: Meet 8 am. Upper Lake Ranger station on Elk Mountain Rd. By reservation only. Leader Steve Devoto sdevoto@mchsi.com

Sat-Mon. May 25-27 - Black Rock Rendezvous on Memorial Day Weekend.

This trip is a great way to experience the Black Rock for the first time. This is a well-attended event, with lots of activities to choose from, including speakers, guided tours, kid's activities, visits to hot springs, a potluck dinner, raffles, and more. Trailers and RV's OK but no hook-ups. Dry camping only. Sign up will start on 5/16. For more information call David Book at 775-843-6443.

Fri-Thurs. June 21-27 - Coyote Gulch Backpack.

This trip heads into some of the best of red rock in Utah, with shear high-walled canyons and cathedral-like camping areas. Meet around noon at the Escalante visitor center where we will obtain our permits. Hike 4-5 miles

a day, possible lay-over day. Most of hike is fairly easy, but requires wading back and forth across the creek. This is definitely the summer warm season, but I have generally found it quite pleasant in the canyon this time of year. Limit 12. David Hardy, 702 875-4826, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com. S. Nevada Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

Tues-Fri. June 25-28 - Yolla Bolly Backpacking Trip.

We will set up a base camp after backpacking 5 miles into the Yolla Bolly Wilderness in the Mendocino National Forest, located east of Covelo. We will stay at the same site for 3 nights, using the 2 middle days to take day hikes, or hang around camp. There is a good water source and shady campsites with a variety of trails to explore. Bring all your own meals for 4 days and 3 nights, including lunch for the 1st and 4th days. Bear canister is optional as is rain gear. Must have a way to purify or filter your water, a stove, and good hiking boots. Must be an intermediate backpacker and have backpacked within the last 2 years. Class: M-5-B. Meet 8 AM Hwy. 101 intersection with Covelo Road, 10 miles north of Willits on Tues. June 25. Pullout is on east side of Hwy. 101. If needed, we will leave a car at the ranger station in Covelo. Limit 10. By reservation only. Leader Val Nordeman, 707 477-4199 nordeman@willitsonline.com

Mon-Fri. July 29 - Aug. 2. Mendo Group. Backpack Yolla Bolly.

Let's hike a 30-35 mile loop into the heart of the Yolla Bolly averaging 7 miles each day and stopping each night at a different, beautiful spring. We can explore different trails, even change the route if the group chooses to. We may take a layover day on the third day to day hike or hang out in camp. Bring all your own food for 5 days and 4 nights. Must have water purification and backpacking stove. Bear canisters optional. Must carry 3 quarts of water. This is a dry area and a dry time of year. Need to be an intermediate backpacker and have backpacked within the last 2 years. Good boots are a must, walking sticks are helpful. Class: S-35-B. Meet 8 am Mon. July 29, Covelo turnoff from Highway 101, 10 miles north of Willits. We may leave a car at the Covelo ranger station and carpool to the trailhead. By reservation only. Leader Val Nordeman cell phone 707 477-4199, nordeman@willitsonline.com Leader in training Brenda.

Outings Chair Report

Spring is here and what a strange winter we've experienced: snow, ice, wind, rain or unusual heat. We had it all, in unpredictable bursts. January off our coast in the 1950's - 70's was a perfect time to hike as weather was mild. March was typically windy and wet. April and May brought wildflowers and some periods of rain. Our climate has changed. Winter and Spring weather are not predictable. What will summer bring? Last summer's weather was cool in Sonoma County. Leaders have a challenge ahead, especially for taking backpacking groups out to the wilderness. Brenda, leader in training for the Sonoma Group, will team up with experienced leader Val from the Mendo Group to lead a July backpacking trip to the Yolla Bollys. Val already knows that they will need to pack in their own water because of the dry year. Val is also leading a trip in June. Congratulations to Tiffany and Jonah for completing their leader training. Thanks to Brian (Mare Island hikes) and Tony from the Mother Lode Chapter for helping me train these leaders. I will support Jonah for his first outings and lead carpools to Hopland for his Hopland Field Station outing and to Ridgewood for his White Deer Lake hike. I also will lead a carpool to Ukiah for Yvonne & Jonah's hike to Leonard Lake (private property). Lake Group leaders Steve & Tom will offer spring hikes to Highland Springs, Thompson Canyon, Oat Hill Mine Rd, Mt. St. Helena and Snow Mt. Redwood Chapter is geographically spread out. Sonoma Group hikers have a chance to explore our mountains to the north and east thanks to our leaders. Jean (Solano Group) offers a chance to visit Stebbins Reserve during the week. Up in the North Group,



Bradley Hut Winter Hut Outing. Leader Jim Gannon and co-leader Don Anderson.

Melinda is offering a hike on the Skunk Cabbage Patch Trail (I have hiked this & it is beautiful) and to Lyon's Ranch in Redwood National Park.

The last 30 days were an emotional roller coaster for me as news was both tragically sad and fantastically happy. Preservation Ranch Lands will be protected from vineyard conversion. Sierra Club (Jay Halcomb would be proud) and Friends of the Gualala River worked diligently on this issue for many years. The Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area campaign is gaining steam. Hopefully that area will be protected also. Life Sierra Club member Connie Menzies passed on as did John Livermore. The news that shook Sonoma County was the unexpected passing of Jonathan Glass at the age of 36. Most of

us did not know that he struggled with depression. Jonathan had a beautiful 5 year old daughter and was married to his high school sweetheart. He was the Field Director of LandPaths (most of our Sierra Club hiking members also hiked or did volunteer work with Jonathan). Jonathan was instrumental in founding and leading the Santa Rosa Southeast Greenway Committee. (I represent the Sierra Club on that committee.) The Sierra Club expresses sincere condolences to the family Jonathan leaves behind. As with Jay Halcomb's passing, the profound loss from their contributions, dedication, and passion will be felt for years to come. Info on Jonathan www.landpaths.

See you on the trail.

-CAROL VELLUTINI, REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR

Constance Agnes Menzies

February 9th, 1914 - February 12th, 2013

Connie was born before there was a Golden Gate Bridge. She lived in Sausalito for 20 years, graduating from Tamalpais High School. Connie studied the piano, becoming an accomplished classical pianist. Connie moved to Glen Ellen in 1956 and worked for the Developmental Center until she retired in the 1970's.

Her Sierra Club friends went hiking during the week (original Wednesday hikers) but Connie had to work, so she went with her friends on weekends. (Edith Newsome is the last surviving member of Connie's original hiking group.) Connie's love for animals and nature filled her life. Connie was a life member of the Sierra Club. She was also a member of the Native Plant Society, Sonoma Humane Society, Defender of Fur Bearers and many more. I presented Connie a Sierra Club award for long

standing membership at her 90th birthday. Connie had been active with the outings program for many years. She wrote articles for the Needles & Redwood Chips. Connie remembered a fantastic Sierra Base Camp trip to Mt. Whitney. Mules were used to carry things up. She remembers how beautiful the stars were at night. A hike Connie was fond of was on the Sheppard Ranch before it became Jack London State Park. Three chapters and over 100 people attended the hike. It was almost dark when they came back down the mountain and one San Francisco woman said, "How can you stand to live in such a gloomy place without street lights?" Bob Stevens led another memorable hike in the lands beyond Cazadero. It was a joint hike with the Bay Chapter. Bob took the group up a

creek full of blooming Azaleas. They came to a waterfall and had to use ropes. The Bay Chapter had decided to go around a different way, which had been burned over. Connie said they didn't approve of the Redwood Chapter's adventurous ways. Connie's group came out in great spirits and the Bay Chapter came out with clothes blackened and torn and feeling very upset. (Today's guidelines for leaders have changed since then). I attended Connie's 99th birthday party on Feb. 10th along with friends and family. (Connie also has family in England & Scotland.) She was presented with a beautiful birthday cake. That was Sunday. Monday night Connie went to sleep and passed on peacefully. I will miss Connie's smile and love for all living things.

-CAROL VELLUTINI, REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR

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:

Penny Proteau Don Anderson Steve Devoto
Tiffany MacNeil Isabelle Saint-Guily Lorrie Lagasse
Boone Lodge Chip Bouril Paul Farley

Moderate-pace with more frequent stops:

Pete McGee Tim Bartice Bill Knight Melinda Groom
Val Nordeman Carol Vellutini Yvonne Kramer
Martin Farber Brian Collett Jean Crossley Carl Inglin
Tom McFarling Nanette DeDonato Jonah Freedman

Slower-pace: Allison Bronkall

Volunteers Needed: Sonoma Creek Salmonid Monitoring Program, February - June 2013

Volunteers are needed to assist in collecting field data, which will be used to evaluate the status of salmonids (primarily steelhead trout) in the Sonoma Creek Watershed, and to formulate management and future monitoring recommendations. The primary responsibility of volunteers will be to assist scientists in monitoring fish traps along Sonoma Creek and its tributaries. This is a great opportunity for community members to gain fieldwork experience with experts in

the environmental sciences. Potential volunteers are encouraged to contact Cassandra Liu at 707.996.0712 x104, or cassandra@sonomaecologycenter.org for more information. Current students are invited to discuss the option of working with the Ecology Center or SSCRC under an Internship Program for the duration of this project.

This program is not sponsored by the Sierra Club.

Lake Group Report

Endangered Species Act Update

As previously mentioned, the Center for Biological Diversity has petitioned to list the Clear Lake hitch (*Lavinia exilicauda*) under the ESA. Although no action has been taken on the federal petition, in mid-February the California Department of Fish and Wildlife released a report concluding that there is sufficient scientific information to begin a year-long formal status review by the California Fish and Game Commission, and on March 6 the Commission formally accepted the hitch as a candidate species for listing. A year long scientific evaluation will now begin. Whether the listing petition is eventually accepted or rejected, this extensive review may provide the best chance yet of producing the detailed factual data that has been lacking so far, and is desperately needed if effective methods for fostering the recovery of this iconic fish are to be devised. To learn more, and to download the DFW staff report, visit www.lakelive.info/chicouncil.

Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area Moves Forward

The enabling legislation for this exciting proposal introduced in Congress last year expired at the end of the session, but the campaign continues to move ahead. An important milestone occurred on March 7, when Representative Mike Thompson re-introduced the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area Act (H.R. 1025) with co-sponsorship from Representatives John Garamendi, Jared Huffman, Ami Bera, and Anna Eshoo. Senator Barbara Boxer also introduced a companion bill in the Senate, S. 843. As presently drafted, this legislation will permanently protect 350,000 acres of public

land stretching one hundred miles from south of Lake Berryessa to the Snow Mt Wilderness, with the largest portion being in Lake County.

Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune, who visited the area in January, confirms its special character: "You've got beautiful wintering habitat for bald eagles. Tule elk are here," he said. "And it's a place that is very close to Sacramento, close to the Bay Area, but very wild." Congressman Thompson also affirms that NCA status will provide the tools to make government function better: "By placing this designation on the area, that will allow all of the federal agencies to better work together: better coordination, a more efficient use of scarce public resources."

Lake Group General Membership Meeting Coming Up.

Later this month County Department of Water Resources invasive species coordinator Carolyn Ruttan will discuss local efforts to prevent an infestation of invasive quagga or zebra mussels. According to rules that have been in effect for several years, all boats (and many other vessels) must be screened and if necessary inspected and decontaminated before receiving a sticker allowing them to launch in Clear Lake or other Lake County waters. At this meeting, which will be held at the Lakeport Yacht Club at 7PM on Wednesday March 27 and is free and open to the public, we'll learn about the ways the program has changed, discuss current procedures, and -- most important of all -- find out how citizens can assist this vital endeavor!

—VICTORIA BRANDON, LAKE GROUP

Sonoma Group Report

"Preservation" Ranch About to be Truly Preserved

After a ten-year battle with conservation groups including the Sierra Club, CalPERS has begun negotiations to give up their plan to convert nearly 2,000 acres of forest near the Gualala River, into a high-end vineyard. The plan is for The Conservation Fund to purchase it. As this deal goes through, "Preservation" Ranch promises to be truly preserved as forestland.

We congratulate our members and everyone who has tabled, commented at meetings, and written letters about this. Kudos to our Legal Chair Keith Kaulum, for being willing to go to the mat over this issue and posthumously to Jay Halcomb, who stayed at the forefront of forest protection till his death in December.

See our notice on page one in this issue of the *Redwood Needles* inviting the public to learn about the crucial work our redwood forests do for us and what we can do to preserve them: Wednesday May 15, 7p.m at the Glaser Center in Santa Rosa.

Port Sonoma Carneros Fill Project

The EIR is scheduled to be up for public review through April 29, so the Sonoma Group will have an opportunity to critique the impacts of this massive project in a sensitive tidal area. A public hearing is scheduled for May 7.

Water Committee

Water Committee Chair Len Holt and Outreach Chair Annabel Ascher organized a Water forum on March 11 which was informative and well-attended. We signed on to the Sonoma County Water Coalition's position letter addressing fracking issues. We abstained from signing on to a position letter re fluoridation, citing instead the position

already expressed by the National Board of the Sierra Club.

Transit & Planning Issues

We held an Environmental Forum about the Smart Train in January. Transit Chair Steve Birdleough is promoting sensible bus routes to connect with the train. On Feb. 25, we co-sponsored an appearance by economist Robert Reich in Santa Rosa which addressed economic, traffic and greenhouse gas issues that are aggravated by big-box, low-wage operations like WalMart.

Conservation

We sent a letter to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors regarding the county landfill and our concerns that the proposed agreement with Republic Services does not give policy makers enough leverage to keep their solid waste reduction goals and greenhouse gas reduction goals sufficiently in focus.

We have expressed our support of SOS Trees in protest of PG&E's practice of clearcutting under power lines.

Coming Up

We are sponsoring the "Day On the Green" Electric vehicle show, on Saturday April 13, 11am to 4pm, in the Village Court in Montgomery Village. We will soon announce our participation in upcoming Earth Day events.

Our Goals

The Sonoma Group ExCom held its retreat in February. We brainstormed about how to organize ourselves to have an impact on conservation issues (such as those listed above) and keep a vibrant local interest in our outdoor events and earth activism.

—DAN KERBEIN, SONOMA GROUP CHAIR

North Group Report

North Group needs a few good volunteers. Please make plans to attend a North Group Executive Committee meeting on the second Tuesday of each month, 6:45 p.m. at the Adorni Center in Eureka. Call Ned at 826-2417 for details.

At its annual planning retreat February 3rd, North Group ExCom reviewed progress on its 2012 goals, bringing most of them forward to 2013, and adding the following new goals: evaluate the Repower Humboldt energy framework, with particular attention to biomass fuels; continue efforts to evaluate/remove billboards around Humboldt Bay; develop future North Group leadership; begin planning for the 2014

North Group 50th anniversary; sponsor a climate change/energy symposium; co-host a summer picnic with Redwood Region Audubon Society. Your comments are welcome.

Green Diamond Resource Company recently received certification from the Forest Stewardship Council for its California redwoods operations. FSC most recently revised its Principles and Criteria in March 2013. North Group Forestry Chair Andrew Orahoske is working with EPIC and national Sierra Club's Forest Certification Team to appeal FSC's action and to seek further improvement in Green Diamond's practices.

—NED FORSYTH, NORTH GROUP VICE CHAIR

Sonoma County Environmental Awards 2013

The Sonoma County Conservation Council, the Sierra Club, Sonoma Group and more than 160 activists gathered March 10th at the Santa Rosa's Veteran's Auditorium to honor five deserving individuals.

Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey received the Ernestine I. Smith Lifetime Environmental Commitment Award. Tom Roth, Chief of Staff for Senator Noreen Evans and formerly Senior Policy Advisor for Woolsey, eloquently accepted on her behalf.

Denny Rosatti, Executive Director of Sonoma County Conservation Action, received the Environmentalist of the Year Award for his leadership in 2012 working to elect Susan Gorin to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, squashing the recall of the SMART Train and Pathway project, and organizing regarding the County Vineyard Erosion/Sediment Control Ordinance (VESCO) update.

Ken Wells of Sonoma County Trails Council and the Sierra Club Sonoma Group received the GrassRoots Trailblazer Award for his work over the years on behalf of our trails and forests as well as reducing the amount of discards our County sends to the landfill.

SRJC Student Matt Lopez received the Environmental Youth

award for his stellar progress from a novice volunteer into an enthusiastic and inspiring summer counselor with Landpaths Owl Camp Summer Camp.

In a special presentation, the late Jay Halcomb received a Special Recognition Award for his passionate commitment and outstanding leadership on behalf of our magnificent North Coast forests. As Chair of the Sierra Club's Forest Protection Committee, Jay led its efforts to preserve forests from unsustainable logging and from forest to vineyard conversion. Most recently, his astute advocacy was instrumental in the Chapter's negotiation of a successful settlement with the Bohemian Club that preserved the remaining stand of Bohemian Grove old growth redwoods from logging. He also served the Club with great distinction as Redwood Chapter Chair from 2008 until his death.

These awards are presented each March. Nomination requests are sent out starting in early January. The SCCC is particularly interested in nominations of folks not in the mainstream. Perhaps you will make a nomination next year. Details and award history can be found at <http://envirocentersoco.org/awards/>. For more about Jay Halcomb visit the Sierra Club website at http://redwood.sierraclub.org/articles/February_13/article1.html.

—PORTIA SINNOTT, SCCC AWARDS CHAIR



Whales, Wildflowers and Wildlife! 2013 cruises to Channel Islands National Park

April 7-9; May 5-7; June 2-4; July 21-23; August 25-27; September 15-17

Join us for a 3-island, 3-day cruise to California's Channel Islands—Galapagos, USA! Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines. Marvel at pristine waters teeming with frolicking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on unusual sea and land birds. Watch for the highly endangered island fox. Look for reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or just relax at sea. A ranger/naturalist will travel with us to help lead hikes, point out items of interest and present evening programs. All cruises depart from Santa Barbara.

The cost, \$590, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, and beverages plus the services of the ranger/naturalist. To make a reservation, send a \$100 check, written to Sierra Club, to leader, Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. For more information call or email leader: 626-443-0706; jholtzhln@aol.com

All cruises depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68' twin diesel TRUTH. Each guest is assigned a bunk, with a reading light & privacy curtain. Delicious meals & snacks are served in the comfortable galley-lounge.



Earth Day Celebrations

Earth Day celebrations in Vallejo will be held downtown on Saturday April 20.

Fairfield will celebrate on April 27 near city Hall.

Suisun will celebrate on their water front on April 27

Volunteers are needed at each location. Call Jane at 707 319-6398.

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Thanks to Joe Feller and Amy who set up the Sierra Club exhibit at the Flyway Festival on Mare Island and for volunteers: Beverly McGain, Kitty Powell and Margaret Egansart.

Thanks to Nancy McCoy, Brian Hoffman, Adam Mangosing, Sara Harmon, Chris Mello and Jane for staffing the January and February paper shredding.

VALCORE Recycling and Confidential Paper Shredding 2013.

Solano Group will be working every 3rd Saturday of the month at 38 Sheridan Street, Vallejo from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, Aug 17, Sep. 21, Oct 19, Nov 16, Dec 21). There is a charge of \$10 per twenty

Solano Breeze Corner

Covering Benicia, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun, Vacaville and Vallejo

sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com 707-319-6398

pounds of paper shredded. (maximum: 100 pounds). Sierra Club volunteers help tend the money and direct traffic. Once a year is all we ask and you only need work an hour or so.

VALCORE has \$40 composting bins for sale to Vallejo residents (\$75 for others). It's a great green gift. Call (707) 645-8258.

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

Solano Group Volunteer Opportunities:

Membership Co-Chair: About 4 hours a month, 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: You may need to attend one meeting per year.

EXCOM: Come join us for our monthly meetings which rotate between Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville. We meet on the first Thursday of the month and are making a positive impact on our county and need a few more members to help carry the load. Call Jane (707) 319-6398 or Greg (707) 386-6411 for current meeting info.

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.

We recently received donations from Marion Conning, John Kolarik, Phil McCullough, and Ray Anderson.

CONTRIBUTOR: JANE BOGNER, SOLANO GROUP

EDITOR: GREG PETERSON, SOLANO GROUP

Mendocino Group Report

Coastal Commission Decision Protects Marine Mammals

The very good news is that the California Coastal Commission said "no" to the Navy's request for a Sonar Training program proposed for off the Southern California Coast. Commissioners said that the Navy did not have enough information to back up its claim that the threat to marine mammals would be negligible.

Willits Bypass Still Unsettled

In Willits the young woman is still in the tree. A 24 year old woman, "Warbler", has been 50 feet up in Ponderosa pine tree since the 28th of January while informational tours are being conducted for any and all who want to become educated on the route of the Willits Bypass and the giant set of impacts that will accompany it. On the ground new bird nests have been discovered which has brought Migratory Bird Treaty Act provisions into play. The work is on hold until the Cal Department of Fish and Wildlife has been satisfied that surveys have been conducted and bird-nesting activity is being protected. The several litigants and the defendants have accomplished the court ordered mediation. Next up on the legal side is the court date in June.

Help Needed to Review Crucial Habitat Plan

We continue to work on Mendocino Redwood Company's Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan - HCP, for short - though there's nothing else that's short about a plan that will be in place for 80 years, that covers more than 200,000 acres of land, that took 12 years to develop, and that consists of 4 large volumes of thousands of pages of complicated documents, plus innumerable maps. Unfortunately, also short is the amount of time the public has been given to review this monster, an original 90 days (over the winter holiday/travel/flu season), that was then extended for 60 days more to April 22.

These thousands of pages of verbiage propose, and purport to analyze, MRC's request for an "incidental take"

permit that will allow them to "take" - which means to "harm or harass" - a number of listed plant and animal species, including the imperiled northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, coho, steelhead, and chinook, to name a few. If the plan is approved, MRC will be allowed to take a certain number of these species as long as the "take" is incidental to otherwise lawful activities.

In exchange for this allowance to harm and harass the public's threatened, endangered and rare species, MRC is giving us - what?

A very small piece of that answer is easy to find. The plan states that MRC's remaining 101 acres of old growth will be preserved. An additional 500 acres that MRC calls Type II old growth and that contains at least 6 old trees per acre will be managed by "thinning from below". The plan discloses, too, that Bishop pine and pygmy forests, rocky outcrops, grasslands, oak woodlands, and coastal salt marsh, as well as some patches of young hardwoods will be "conserved" by limiting activities affecting those areas. But all of this combined covers only about 7000 acres, and this is not land available for timber production anyway.

The management of the remaining 200,000 acres is, of course, the issue - an issue that doesn't have a short or simple answer and about which we have many concerns. Among these are the continued destruction of tanoak forests, largely through the use of herbicides; the inadequacy of riparian protections needed to protect fish and aquatic species; and the destruction of older forest habitat in some watersheds - the Albion and the Navarro, for example, where older forests are currently "over-represented" - and its promised re-growth in other watersheds so that it will be, in 80 years, more evenly distributed across the ownership.

If you'd like to help, call us! The plan can be found online at www.fws.gov/arcata. Hard copies are available at the libraries in Fort Bragg and Willits. Comments can be sent to mrc.hcpitp@noaa.gov.

-LINDA PERKINS AND MARY WALSH, MENDOCINO GROUP

Napa Group Report

Retreat Looks to 2013 Projects and Programs

At its February retreat, the executive committee identified important projects continuing into 2013. Napa Pipe remains a high priority. We applaud supervisors sitting with the city council and weighing city concerns about such a project built at the city's door.

Expect to hear more on "reoking." The 2012 release of the Napa Valley Historical Ecology Atlas renewed interest in the benefits of Napa County's 19th century oak savannas. The ability to integrate oak trees in suburban and perhaps agricultural development has left many with hopes of reestablishing this ecological resource.

The committee is planning several public and member meetings. Share your e-mail with us for future notices. Help us go green! Go to <http://redwood.sierraclub.org/> and click on Napa Group.

Executive Committee Makes Appointments

Nancy Tamarisk has stepped down as chair of the Napa executive committee. She remains a valuable committee member, with her keen eye and community activism. Nancy continues to serve

as Redwood Chapter representative. Marc Pandone returns as vice chair; Linda Brown, secretary; and Tom Davis, treasurer. Committee chairs are Roger Hartwell, Conservation; Carol Kunze, Political and Legal Committee.

Environmental issues remain part of community dialogue through the efforts of individuals who serve on local committees: Genji Schmeder and Chuck Youngson, Measure A Financial Oversight Advisory Committee; Charles Slutzkin and Penny Proteau, Vine Trail; Marc P., Watershed Information Center and Conservancy; Roger, Sediment Waiver Process; Roger, Linda, and Phill Blake, Napa Green Certification. I am a member of the Napa County Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee.

Outings Needs Your Input and Leadership

We are looking for volunteers, perhaps leaders, to help us energize our Outings offerings. Got ideas? Contact me at matalley1@comcast.net.

-MARILEE TALLEY,
NAPA GROUP CHAIR

If you wish your bequest to be used locally, be sure to specify "Sierra Club Redwood Chapter" or the name of your local Group in your bequest.

Redwood Needles June Deadline: Due May 8th

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

Silver Lake & Carson Pass

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(209) 258-8500

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John Sealy Livermore

April 16, 1918 - February 7, 2013

Exploration geologist, mining executive, civic leader, philanthropist, conservationist, John Sealy Livermore passed away Thursday, February 7th. He was 94. John lived modestly. Tall, lanky and fit, he had no pretensions, dreaded giving speeches, deflected attention from himself, and avoided the public spotlight. His father, Horatio Putnam Livermore, was involved with the Knoxville Quicksilver Mine. John's mother, Caroline Sealy Livermore, was a noted Marin County conservationist whose many projects included saving Angel Island. John became a significant benefactor of Stanford University and of the University of Nevada's Mackay School of Earth Sciences. He served on the California Academy of Sciences Board. His four brothers played prominent roles in California agriculture, conservation, architecture and public service. Later in life John spent much of his time managing Montesol, the Livermore family ranch located near Calistoga. He loved going on long ranch expeditions and overseeing ranch operations. John is survived by his brother Putnam Livermore. He was preceded in death by brothers Norman, George, and Robert Livermore.

The last time I saw John was May 7th, 2011 at the centennial celebration of the dedication of the Robert Louis Stevenson plaque. John hiked with us to the plaque. Put was also there. It was an honor to have both John and


Put Livermore at the celebration. I remember my first time scouting my Oat Hill Mine road hike and driving the rocky, bumpy, dirt Montesol Road over to the Oat Hill Mine Road. I was impressed with the area, the old Corona Mine, the rock caves, the palisades, and the wildflower bloom in spring. Because of the remoteness, I felt like I was back in the early 1800s. I led one hike I called the Livermore Loop to show Sierra Club hikers my favorite deep, dark, red/purple giant trillium blooming close to Ike's corral. I would speak about the legacy of the Livermore family. Today part of their property is the Palisades trail. The Livermore's also donated the land to form Robert Louis Stevenson State Park. I led hikes to Marin County to view the areas Caroline Sealy Livermore saved. I located the Caroline Sealy Livermore bench overlooking the Richard Bay Sanctuary. The dedication inscription, in recognition of her efforts to save the area reads "With Deeds, My Life Was Filled" (Ovid). Mt. Livermore on Angel Island is also named after her. I am privileged to have known of the Livermore family. Sierra Club leaders have been leading hikes on property that was donated or saved by the Livermore family for many years. John, I will never forget you. Thank you so much for being so generous and humble.

—CAROL VELLUTINI, REDWOOD
CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR

Reduce Your Carbon Footprint in 2013!

To receive future copies of the Redwood Needles via email send a message 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".

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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 1 - Sonoma Group.

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

- The Climate & Energy Committee meets at 5:00 p.m. Info: contact Shirley, shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, 707-206-1138.

- 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: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net

Thurs. April 4 - 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 9, North Group ExCom.

The public is invited to attend the monthly meeting of the North Group Sierra Club's governing committee. Join us for a discussion of local conservation issues between 7:45 and 8:45 p.m., following the Executive Committee business

meeting from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. Meet at Adorni Center Conference Room on Eureka Waterfront. For more information, call Gregg at 707-826-3740.

Tues. April 16 - 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 17 - Any Sonoma Group Water Committee Meeting will not be attended by Len Holt as he will be out of town.

Thurs. May 2 - 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 6 - Sonoma Group.

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

- The Climate & Energy Committee meets at 5:00 p.m., Info: contact

Shirley, shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, 707-206-1138.

- 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: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net

Tues. May 14 - North Group ExCom.

Monthly North Group Sierra Club Executive Committee meeting. See Feb. 12 for details.

Wed. May 15 - The Sonoma Group Water Committee.

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

Sat., May 18 - Redwood Chapter ExCom.

Location: Santa Rosa. Conservation Committee meets at 10 a.m., ExCom meets 1-3 p.m. Info: Victoria vbrandon@lakelive.info

Wed. June 19 and July 17 - The Sonoma Group Water Committee.

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

Obama's Biggest Climate Test

The clock is ticking - April 15 is the deadline for on the most important comment period yet for stopping the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline. The State Department released its latest report on the pipeline in March, and it utterly downplays the profound impact Keystone XL would have on the climate.

Last summer, activists like you sent 75,000 comments against the tar sands. This time, it will take 100,000 to show President Obama how fast our movement is growing. Take action now. Tell President Obama and Secretary of State Kerry that they cannot fight climate change while simultaneously investing in one of the dirtiest, most carbon-intensive fossil fuels on the planet.

Contact President Obama by April 15:

http://action.sierraclub.org/site/PageServer?pagename=TakeAction&s_src=610ZSCAC01

Comment Phone: (202) 456-1111

Fax: (202) 456-2461

The White House

**1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500**

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. Help protect the quality of our water for people, wildlife, fish and other aquatic life, promote water conservation and intelligent reuse. Check for our meeting dates in the Needles. To get on our Water Committee e-mail list, ask Len Holt at lholt@sonic.net. Come to our meetings with your suggestions and to help in this enterprise. 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 us 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. Email: shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, home 206-1138, or call the office 544-7651.