

Redwood Needles

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 56 Number 2

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

April/May 2015



New Wilderness in Redwood Chapter?

BY VICTORIA BRANDON,
REDWOOD CHAPTER WILDERNESS CHAIR

At our January meeting Chapter Executive Committee members were fascinated to receive a presentation on a dramatic new proposal to create 16 new federal Wilderness areas and 15 Wild and Scenic Rivers in the northern part of the Chapter. All of the newly protected areas would be situated in Jared Huffman's Congressional District 2, with the bulk in Trinity County, others in Mendocino, Humboldt and Del Norte counties-- and far to the south, Olema Creek in Marin.

This opportunity for permanent protection rises from deep historical roots. Ten years ago Congressman Mike Thompson represented most of the area, and with the ardent support

of the Sierra Club authored legislation most of us called the "Wilderness Bill." This legislation passed in 2006, protecting 275,000 spectacular acres in five Redwood Chapter counties from Del Norte to Napa. At the time some other tracts of land with equally staunch Wilderness attributes had to be excluded for various land-management reasons, and all the potential wilderness areas in Trinity County were left out because they were not part of Congressman Thompson's district.

Fast forward to the 2010 census and subsequent Congressional redistricting. When the smoke cleared and the ink dried on the map, the handful of voters in Trinity County had been added to the new "coastal" Congressional District now held by Congressman Huffman,

who like Congressman Thompson is renowned for his passion for public lands protection. At the same time some of the areas left out of the 2006 bill had become suitable for wilderness status, for example after completion of restoration projects requiring heavy equipment.

The opportunity for action was too good to pass up. A broadly based stakeholder group under the leadership of the Wilderness Society and California Wilderness Coalition has been working quietly for more than a year to define boundaries, identify outstanding natural features, and hold quiet discussions with neighboring private landowners and local tribes. The campaign, called Mountains and

"New Wilderness?" cont. on page 3

Momentum Grows for Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument

BY VICTORIA BRANDON,
REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

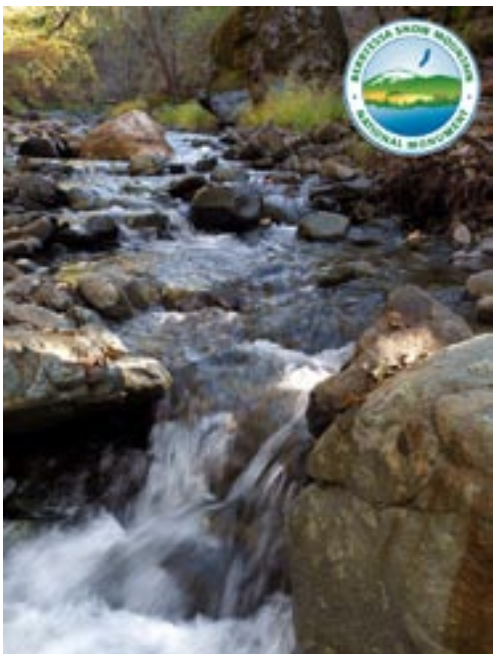
Recent highlights of the BSM campaign have included the endorsement of the city of St. Helena and press coverage in publications as diverse as the San Francisco Chronicle and High Country News, as well as a great hike on the High Bridge Trail in the Cache Creek Natural Area on February 28.

Progress is also being made on the state level. Early in January Assemblyman Bill Dodd introduced Assembly Joint Resolution 4, which expresses the formal support of the California legislature for the permanent protection of the region as a national monument. Co-authored by Assemblyman Jim Wood, AJR4 passed the Assembly on February 17 and is expected to move forward on the Senate side soon under the leadership of

Senators Lois Wolk and Mike McGuire. Redwood Chapter is grateful to all these legislators, and also wants to thank Assemblyman Marc Levine, who unlike the other four represents a district that contains no portion of the monument. Nonetheless as chair of the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee his support was crucial to AJR4's smooth passage.

Federally, legislation to designate the region as a monument was introduced in Congress on February 5 by Congressman Mike Thompson (HR 761) and Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein (S 393), Redwood Chapter representatives John Garamendi and Jared Huffman co-sponsoring. In a particularly exciting touch, the map accompanying the legislation has now been redrawn to include ALL of the Snow Mountain Wilderness, bringing the total area up above 360,000 acres.

In the meantime, President Obama continues to build his environmental legacy, most recently by the designation of Colorado's Browns Canyon as a national monument. At a mere 21,000 acres, Browns Canyon is tiny compared to Berryessa Snow Mountain, but the region is renowned for its recreational value as well as outstanding natural beauty and importance as wildlife habitat--all of which sounds very familiar. There's no way to predict when the President might choose to act--but wouldn't this be a splendid way to celebrate Earth Day? Stay tuned.



Trains Returning to the North Bay

By Steve Birdleough, Sonoma Group ExCom
Long-awaited commuter train service for Sonoma and Marin counties is expected to begin by the end of 2016. For two years, travelers along Highway 101 have seen evidence of work on the tracks, and now the self-powered railcars are beginning to arrive. While months of testing and training remain before revenue service begins, transit advocates see an opportunity to improve the image of public transportation.

Drivers facing daily congestion on Hwy. 101 can anticipate choosing a smooth, comfortable train ride to destinations between the Airport Blvd. train station and San Rafael's transit center. Buses that connect with trains may be taken more seriously by people who are not dependent on transit. When more people begin to leave their cars at home, there will be less tailpipe pollution. Bicycles will be also be welcome on the trains and additional greenhouse gases can be avoided if communities near train stations evolve into places that are affordable and attractive for walkers and cyclists.

Work has begun to coordinate bus and train services to make the SMART train successful in reducing the use of single occupant vehicles. Riders will be able to

use the Clipper fare card on buses, trains ferries, and streetcars all the way from a home in Sebastopol to an event in Berkeley or San Francisco. Bus operators are considering schedules that will be most convenient for train riders. Firms along the SMART line are surveying their employees to see whether shuttles will encourage them to use the train.

Eventually train service and a pedestrian/bike path are planned between the ten cities along the most heavily populated 70 miles of the historic Northwestern Pacific Railroad right-of-way between Cloverdale in northern Sonoma County and Larkspur on San Francisco Bay. The Larkspur Ferry and the San Rafael Transit Center offer connections to San Francisco.

A sales tax approved by voters in 2008 funds the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) District to modernize 43 miles of the railroad and buy the railcars. The tax also pays for initial segments of the pedestrian/bicycle pathway. This initial phase of operations will serve most of the projected riders between Cloverdale and Larkspur. Additional state

"Trains Returning" cont. on page 3

Sierra Club Opposes Secession Efforts

At the request of Redwood and Mother Lode Chapters, Sierra Club California recently adopted a formal resolution to "oppose the proposal to divide California in order to create a new "State of Jefferson." As discussed in the previous edition of the *Redwood Needles*, this bizarre idea would result in the formation of a sparsely populated, under-financed new governmental entity with very little infrastructure but abundant natural resources -- and without California's strict environmental regulations to prevent their wholesale exploitation. It is reassuring to know that the Club's substantial lobbying influence in Sacramento can

now be used to prevent the disastrous consequences that would follow.



Most of the twenty counties being targeted by the secession efforts are in the northeastern quadrant of California, but five -- Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity, Mendocino, and Lake, along with the western half of Siskiyou -- are here in Redwood Chapter. Del Norte voters decisively defeated a resolution of support last year, and Lake expects to have a similar opportunity in November of 2016: for details, please check the Lake Group report on page six of this newsletter.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership: What It Would Mean for the Environment

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is an expansive trade deal being negotiated between twelve countries in the Pacific Rim: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, Vietnam, and the United States. Because the TPP is intended as a “docking agreement,” other countries would be able to join over time.

The Pacific Rim is an area of great significance from an environmental perspective. It includes Australia’s Great Barrier Reef—the world’s largest coral reef system, home to more than 11,000 species—and Peru’s Amazon Rainforest—one of the most biologically diverse areas on Earth.

But the natural environment and rich biodiversity of the Pacific Rim are threatened by, among other things, illegal and/or unsustainable commercial exploitation. The Asia-Pacific region accounts for about one third of all the threatened species in the world. The numbers of several species of oceanic sharks, including reef sharks, are declining rapidly. And illegal logging persists in a number of TPP countries, threatening not only natural forests, but the communities who live in and rely upon the forests.

Trade agreements must serve to strengthen environmental and climate protection. The Trans-Pacific Partnership, however, follows a flawed model of trade that puts corporate profits before communities and the environment.

Lack of Transparency

The TPP encroaches on a broad range of issues—the environment, labor and jobs, food, health, access to medicines, and more. Despite the huge impact that the TPP would have on our lives, trade negotiators are developing TPP texts, or chapters, behind closed doors with very little public input. None of the texts are public, though a few have leaked. Moreover, nearly the only people apart from select TPP government officials with access to texts are more than 600 corporate representatives who serve as “official U.S. trade advisors.” The text of the TPP must be released now so that we can have a real conversation about the effects of this pact on communities and the environment.

The TPP and the Environment

The chapters in trade deals devoted to the environment have a history of lacking meaningful enforcement. But they’ve been strengthened over the years, largely thanks to citizen-led advocacy by groups including the Sierra Club. This pressure led to the forging of a bipartisan consensus in May 2007 that set the minimum standards for environment, labor, and other provisions in our trade agreements.

It is essential that the environment chapter of the TPP build on this progress. At the minimum, the environment chapter of the TPP must:

- be binding and subject to the same dispute settlement provisions as commercial chapters;
- ensure that countries uphold and strengthen their domestic environmental laws and policies and their obligations under multilateral environmental agreements; and
- include binding provisions to address the core environment and conservation challenges of the Pacific Rim region, such as a prohibition on trade in illegally taken timber, wildlife, and fish and a ban on shark finning and associated trade.

The TPP and Corporate Rights

The TPP will follow the model of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and include provisions that allow foreign corporations to sue governments directly—for unlimited cash compensation—over almost

any domestic environmental or other law that the corporation alleges is hurting its ability to profit. While typically disagreements over trade are handled between countries, the so-called “investor-state dispute settlement” cases are heard in private and unaccountable trade tribunals. This means that not only do investor-state cases threaten laws designed to protect our health and environment, they do so in a completely opaque manner. To date, corporations such as Exxon Mobil and Chevron have launched almost 600 cases against nearly 100 governments.¹

Injustice in La Oroya

In a case going on today, a U.S. corporation, Renco Group, invested in a metallic smelter in La Oroya, Peru, one of the most polluted sites in the world.² Metallic smelters, which refine metals such as lead, zinc, silver, and gold are both an environmental and health hazard; it has been documented, for example, that people living near metallic smelters have dangerously high levels of lead in their blood.

Renco was supposed to clean up pollutants and contaminants in the area of their smelter, but they never did. After the Peruvian government decided not to grant Renco a third extension on its clean-up obligations, Renco filed an investor-state suit under the US-Peru free trade agreement and demanded \$800 million in compensation. The case is still ongoing.

Increase in Dirty Fracking

The TPP would facilitate increased exports of liquefied natural gas by requiring the U.S. Department of Energy to automatically approve all natural gas exports to TPP countries. Increased exports would mean an increase in hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, the dirty and violent process that dislodges gas deposits from shale rock formations. Increased exports of natural gas would also cause an increase in electricity prices, burdening consumers, manufacturers, workers, and increasing the use of dirty coal power.

Fast-Track Authority

Fast track authority would allow the U.S. executive branch to finish negotiating and sign the TPP before ever sending the agreement to Congress. It would then limit the role of Congress to a straight up-or-down vote on the pact—with no room for amendments and limited floor debate.

Fast track is an outdated and inappropriate mechanism for trade pacts as expansive as the TPP. Congress should oppose any legislation that limits the ability of Congress to set the terms of trade and that expedites the passage of trade pacts without sufficient protections for communities and the environment.

For more information on Sierra Club’s Responsible Trade Program, please contact Courtenay.Lewis@sierraclub.org

1. *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Latest Developments in Investor-State Dispute Settlement. 2014. http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/webdiaepcb2014d3_en.pdf*

2. *For more information on this case, see Public Citizen, Global Trade Watch. “Renco Group Uses Trade Pact Foreign Investor Provisions to Chill Peru’s Environment and Health Policy, Undermine Justice.” March 2012.*

Editor’s Note: For more information and ways to get involved, visit: <http://www.sierraclub.org/trade/trans-pacific-partnership>

This article appears on the Sierra Club website.

Maxwell Farms Regional Park Update

Sonoma County Regional Parks has initiated a public process to update the master plan for Maxwell Farms Regional Park. The park is located in the heart of Sonoma Valley at the corner of Highway 12 and Verano Avenue at the boundary of the City of Sonoma.

Sonoma Creek flows freely along the western edge of the park where people can walk down to the creek. Agua Caliente Creek joins the main creek at the park’s north boundary. The natural two-thirds of the regional park is protected by a Conservation Easement. Here rustic trails allow easy walking and ancient bay and oak trees offer shade.

The upper third of the park is developed for recreation including tennis courts, soccer fields, playground, picnic area, playing fields and the Valley of the Moon Boys and Girls Club.

The 85-acre park is named after George Maxwell who was known as the “father of conservation” and an early advocate of organic farming and “homecroft.” It is one of a few parks that serve the Springs area and serves as a defacto greenbelt between the city and county.

Take the Maxwell Farms Survey

County Parks is considering new development in the park including a BMX bike

course, disc-golf, and more parking. Sierra Club supports protection of the Conservation Easement where small interpretative signs and natural walking paths may be appropriate. The Sonoma Group will be following the public process as project alternatives and an environmental review are prepared for the master plan in coming months.

Show your support for protection of the conservation easement in Maxwell Farms Regional by taking the online survey on the Sonoma County Parks Regional Park parks http://parks.sonomacounty.ca.gov/Get_Outdoors/Parks/Maxwell_Farms_Regional_Park.aspx and click on the survey on the right hand side of the page.

—TERI SHORE, SONOMA GROUP



A trail in the natural area of Maxwell Farms Regional Park.

“Trains Returning”

continued from page 1

and federal funding is currently being sought to modernize the tracks south to Larkspur, north to Cloverdale, and to complete the entire pathway.

Sierra Club members can help by letting members of the Sonoma and Marin county boards of supervisors and city council members in Santa Rosa and Petaluma know about the importance of convenient connections between buses and trains, the needs of cyclists, and support for shuttle services. It is also important for the cities to be served by the rail line to plan now for affordable housing near train stations together with pathways for pedestrians and bicyclists. For more information contact Steve Birdlebough affirm@friendshouse.org 707-576-6632.



“New Wilderness?”

continued from page 1

Rivers, is currently engaged in canvassing the region to collect support letters in order to demonstrate the strong grassroots backing Congressman Huffman needs to author legislation.

Please visit their website, <http://mountainsanddrivers.org>, to learn about

these proposals in much greater detail, and consider offering a letter of support.

We’ll be bringing you additional information about this project as it moves forward, and with any luck will be able to offer Outings into some of the proposed Wilderness areas so you can see for yourself how special they are. Exciting, isn’t it?

Outings

Fri. evening-Sun. Apr. 3-5 - Lunar Eclipse in the Black Rock Desert.

Enjoy the lunar eclipse in the spectacular Black Rock Desert about 100 miles N. of Reno. We'll camp at an undeveloped hot spring and watch the lunar eclipse, totality is early Sat. morning (about 5am). Potluck Saturday night. Sunday we'll probably visit a nearby art gallery or ????. Leader very familiar with the area. Primitive camping, bring all water and supplies, shovel for personal needs. Ham Radio Operators, bring your radios. 4WD not needed. Small RV's/trailers may be OK. Bad weather cancels. RSVP 3/20 - 3/31 for meeting time and place. Leader: David Book.

775-843-6443, KD7YIM. Great Basin Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

Fri.-Mon. Apr. 10-13 - Mojave National Preserve Outing.

Meet on Friday April 10 at Amboy Crater at noon and hike up the crater for lunch. Primitive camping Friday night near Granite Pass. Saturday head to Kelso Dunes for a hike up the dunes. Sunday visit the Kelso Depot and then the lava tube with camping at Midhills Campground. Monday we can hike to Cima Dome on the way out. All hikes are moderate (easy to some). Saturday night we will have a potluck (optional). There are no services in the preserve. Contact leader Carol

Wiley at desertlily1@verizon.net or 760-245-8734. Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

Sun. Apr. 12 - North Group. South Fork Trinity River (off Highway 299) Hike.

Much to see and hear on this perennial favorite National Forest trail. Redbud, Baby Blue Eyes, Black-headed Grosbeak. Breathtaking vistas of the river's gorge below, and trekking poles will be a plus. A profusion of wildflowers, especially since the 2008 Hell's Half mosaic burn. No dogs. Dress for the day's weather. Hikers must have water, lunch, sun/cold protection, good footwear, and some agility to cross a couple of small tributaries. Class M-6.5-B. Carpools: Meet 8:30 am at Ray's shopping center in Valley West. Leader Ned, nedforsyth48@gmail.com, 825-3652. Heavy rain cancels.

Sun. Apr. 12 - Lake Group. Boggs Lake Hike.

Hike is around Boggs Lake, a vernal pool in a volcanic caldera. If it has rained, there should be lovely flowers. Class E-1-2-A Meet: 9:00 a.m. at the parking area located on Harrington Flat Road 1 mile east from Bottle Rock Road. Follow Bottle Road 4.5 miles from its intersection with Hwy 29 to Harrington Flat Road. By reservation only. Leader Pete McGee 942 1373 or Montesol@hughes.net Rain cancels.

Sat. Apr. 18 - Napa Group. Annadel State Park Day Hike.

We will hike in Annadel State Park on trails featuring lush meadows and marshes, wildlife and wildflowers. Bring lunch and liquids. Class: M-9-B. (8-1/2 mi. 1100 ft gain) Carpools: Meet 9 am parking lot behind In-n-Out Burger 820 W Imola Ave Napa. By reservation only. Sonoma Group call for trailhead parking and arrival time at Annadel. Leader: Martin Farber 707-253-9606 kowsoi@juno.com Rain cancels.

Sat. Apr. 18 - Lake Group. Judge Davis Trail Hike.

Starting at Judge Davis trail head on Hwy 20 and ascending 300 ft to the

eastern ridge of Cache Creek canyon we will have expansive views of the canyon. Descending 2000 ft. into the canyon, we cross Cache Creek. Hiking north through Wilson Valley we climb over the 400 ft. ridge to Baton Flat and cross Cache Creek again. Climbing 600 ft to Perkins Ridge, we then descend to Redbud trailhead and shuttle cars. Bring lunch, snacks, two liters water, and river shoes or sandals for creek crossing. Experienced hikers only - 8 hour hike with 1300 ft. total elevation gain. Class: H-13-B (Hard, 13 miles, elevation gain/loss 1,000-2,000ft.). Carpools: Meet 8:15 am Lower Lake Coffee Co. on Main St. By reservation only. Leader Tom McFarling (707)994-5490 tom.mcfarling@gmail.com. Rain or Temp. over 85 degrees cancels.

Thu.-Sat. Apr. 23-25 - Death Valley Wilderness Restoration.

Help clean up a couple of non-historic military plane wrecks near Hunter Mountain. 4WD required, possibility of car-pooling. Meet Thursday afternoon at the junction of Hwy 190 and the South Saline Valley Road. Work Thur. afternoon and all day Friday. Getting to the work sites requires a very short hike on Thur, and a 2-mile moderately strenuous hike on Friday. On Sat, we most likely will be free to do a hike in the area. Camping is primitive, bring food, water and a trowel or shovel for personal use. Leader: Kate Allen, kj.allen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056. CNRCC Desert Committee

Sat. Apr 25 - North Group. Smith River NRA-Jedediah Smith State Park Hike.

We will hike Lake Little Bald Hills Trail. From the trailhead off South Fork Road, a succession of botanic communities and stunning views reward our 1,800' climb. The afternoon's steady descent finally enters old growth redwood forest as the trail nears Howland Hill Rd., where our shuttled cars await. Bring food, water, hiking boots. Class M-10-B. Meet 9:30 am Hiouchi Ranger Station (HWY 199, just past and across from Jed. Smith Campground

entrance). By reservation only. leader Melinda 707-668-4275

Sat. Apr. 25 - Mendo Group. Seal Rookery and Sand Dunes Walk.

Come for a day to observe, count, and enjoy the newborn seal pups at Mackerricher State Park. We will walk along the old Haul Road to the Ten Mile Dunes. Bring lunch, water and binoculars. Dress in layers. Class E-4-A. Meet 10:30 Lake Cleone parking lot in Mackerricher State Park. By reservation only. Leader Lorrie Lagasse lorrielas@yahoo.com

Sat. Apr. 25 - Mendo Group. Valley View Trail Cow Mt. Hike.

See spectacular views of Ukiah Valley as we ascend Valley View Trail through chaparral, lunching at the top, and then descending into a fern filled canyon to a waterfall. Wear sturdy shoes, bring water, lunch. Native Plant Society members will join us. Class: M-7-B. Carpools: Meet 9:00 am CVR Pharmacy in the Orchard Shopping Center off Perkins St. in Ukiah. By reservation only. Leader Yvonne Kramer 463-0342, kramer@saber.net. Heavy rain cancels.

Sat.-Sun. Apr. 25-26 - Service In the Carrizo Plains National Monument.

This trip is scheduled late in the wildflower season, and we pray that rains have produced a wonderful and long-lasting display. Our service on Saturday will remove or modify sections of fence to facilitate the mobility of pronghorn antelope. Sunday will be, at the choice of the group, either a hike in the Caliente Range or a tour of popular viewing areas in the plains. This is an opportunity to combine carcamping, day-hiking, exploring, and service in a relatively unknown wilderness. Contact leader for details: Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670. CNRCC Desert Committee

Fri.-Sun. May 1-3 - Manzanar/Lone Pine Lake Trip.

Join us at our beautiful creekside camp in the High Desert near Lone Pine. Saturday, a moderate 6 miles roundtrip hike with 1600' gain, from Whitney Portal to beautiful Lone Pine Lake, followed by Happy Hour, a potluck feast and campfire. Sunday, we'll caravan to Manzanar, the WWII Japanese internment camp north of Lone Pine, to visit the museum with its moving tribute to the internees held there during the war. Group size strictly limited. Send \$8 per person (Lygeia Gerard), letter-sized SASE, phone number, email, and rideshare preferences to Leader: Lygeia Gerard, P.O. Box 721039, Pinon Hills, CA 92372, 760-868-2179, Goody2shz@yahoo.com. Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

Sun. May 3 - Lake Group. Oat Hill Mine Hike.

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

Sat. May 9 - Napa Group. Jack London State Park Day Hike.

This hike will feature historic sites, shady trails, spring wildflowers, peaceful lakes, and panoramic views. Bring lunch and liquids. Class: M-8-B. (8 mi. 1500 ft gain) Co-led with Mother Lode Chapter. Carpools: Meet 9 am parking



From the Redwood Needles archive: Snow Mountain, Mendocino County, by Clark Nattkemper

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.

CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

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.

Varies, see hike description for details: Isabelle Saint-Guily
Jim Gannon

Fast-pace with few or no stops: Paul Bozzo Carol Magill

Moderate-pace with few stops:

Don Anderson Tiffany MacNeil Lorrie Lagasse

Moderate-pace with more frequent stops:

Pete McGee Tim Bartice Melinda Groom Val Nordeman
Carol Vellutini Yvonne Kramer Martin Farber Brian Collett
Carl Inglin Tom McFarling Nanette DeDonato Jonah Freedman
Steve Devoto Julie Kreis Ned Forsyth

Slower-pace: Allison Bronkall

Outings

lot behind In-n-Out Burger 820 W Imola Ave Napa. Sonoma Group call for trailhead parking and arrival time at Jack London. There is a parking fee. By reservation only. Leader Martin Farber 707-253-9606, kowsoi@juno.com. Rain cancels.

Sun. May 10 - North Group. Trinity Alps Wilderness Canyon Creek Day Hike.

Out and back past lively creek, granite cliffs, and spring blooms to meadows above Lower Falls (if early season allows). Bring plentiful food, water, sun protection, hiking boots. Class M-9-B. Carpools Meet: 7:30 am Blue Lake, First & G St.; 10am Canyon Creek Trailhead Parking (13.5 mi N Junction City on County Rd.401) leader Melinda 707-668-4275

Sun. May 10 - Lake Group. Glen Eden Trail Hike to Goat Rock Hike.

It is time to view wild-flowers in the North Cow Mtn. Rec. Area. It consists of grasslands, chaparral-covered slopes with stands of fir, pine and oak.. Bring water & lunch. Class H-8-B. (Trail head 1394' then 2600' at Goat Rock) Car pools: Meet 8:30 am Lower Lake Coffee Co. on Main Street, off junction of Hwy 29 & 53 or 9:30 am Glen Eden Trail head 8 miles from Hwy 29 intersection with Scotts Valley Rd. to Glen Eden. Trail head on left, park on right. From Ukiah take Hwy 20 E to Lake County and turn right on Scotts Valley Rd. just after Blue Lakes. Go a mile or more to pit toilet on left, trail head on right. By reservation only. Leader Julie Kreis 707-987-9040 tikaljak@yahoo.com Rain cancels.

Sat. May 16 - North Group. Ma-le'l Dunes Cooperative Management Area, Ledik Trail to Du'k Loop Trail.

Come with your kids and explore this BLM and Fish & Wildlife Service Cooperative Management Area and experience a biologically diverse dune community, one of the most pristine in the Pacific Northwest. We will see a coastal forest, sand dunes and the beach. Wear sturdy shoes and bring liquids and lunch. No strollers. Class E-1.5-A. Meet: 10 am Ma-le'l Dunes parking area: Take Samoa Blvd (Hwy 255), turn onto Young Lane, make a left and follow sign to parking lot (park near restroom). Leader Allison 707-268-8767. Rain cancels.

Fri.-Mon. May 22-25 - Black Rock Rendezvous!

This annual event is a "Great First Trip to the Black Rock" as it typically includes speakers, guided tours, visits to hot springs, rocket launches, rock hounding, a Dutch Oven cook-off, drawings, and similar events. Co-Sponsored by Friends of the Black Rock, BLM and Friends of Nevada Wilderness. Family event, bring your RV's and trailers. Primitive camping but w/ portable toilets! Bring your HAM radio as there will be lots of Ham activity. Dogs on leash, be prepared to pick up after them. For more info go to: www.blackrockrendzvous.com. Questions/sign ups: David Book 775-843-6443

Sun. May 31 - Lake Group, Mahnke Peak Hike.

This hike starts at the south end of Kelsey Creek Drive and follows a moderately sloped dirt road to Mahnke Peak with a great view over the geysers power plants. Bring lunch and two liters of water. Carpools: Meet 8 am. corner of Live Oak Drive and Highway 29 in

Kelseyville. Class H-10-C (Elevation gain 2116 ft) . By reservation only. Leader Steve Devoto sdevoto@mchsi.com. Rain cancels. Rain cancels.

Fri.-Wed. June 19-24 - Coyote Gulch Backpack.

Backpack 30 miles through some of the best of Utah's red rock, with sheer high-walled canyons and cathedral-like campsites. Trip starts with obtaining permits at the Escalante visitor center. 4-5 miles of travel each day. Most of the hiking is moderate, but requires wading back and forth across the creek. One steep trail to bypass waterfalls. There are side trips so bring a small day pack. This is the warm season, but usually quite pleasant. Trip details and agenda available on sign-up. Limit 12. Leader: David Hardy, email preferred, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, 702-875-4826. S. Nevada Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

Sun.-Sat. June 21 - 27. Marble Mountain Wilderness.

Let's go out for a 6 night out and back, backpacking 5-7 miles each day and base camping for 2 nights in the middle of the trip. We'll see the beautiful Marble Mountains, several lovely lakes appropriate for swimming, and some of the most gorgeous scenery in California. We will put in about 30 miles total. There is the possibility of staying out longer if the group chooses.

This is a backpacking trip and participants must have backpacked within the last 5 years and be familiar with and own their own backpacking equipment. Need to carry your own gear and food for 6 nights. There will be no group meals. Bear canisters will be discussed before leaving. Class: M-30-B. Limit 10 people. By reservation only. Leader Val Nordeman, 707 477-4199, nordeman@willitsonline.com

Fri.-Sun. July 3-5, Fourth of July, Black Rock Desert.

This will be a really busy weekend on the Playa as many Burning Man attendees use this as a shakedown for Burning Man. No specific plans but we'll probably meet in Reno Thursday



SPRING: Birding Walks, Valley Uprising Film Benefit, Easter Dinner, Wilderness First Aid, Mongolia Park Ranger Motorcycle Rally Benefit. See YosemiteBug.com/News & Facebook Call 866.826.7108

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

where the stars
put on a grand performance
every night

Sorensen's Resort
in beautiful Hope Valley, California
1-800-423-9949 www.sorensensresort.com

Outings Chair Report

The weather has been unpredictable. Wildflowers have boomed early in some areas. The desert had more rainfall than parts of Sonoma County. The Sierra Club Desert Committee is having great outings. I am told that the hills bordering the San Joaquin Valley (central Calif.) are having the best bloom since 2010.

Our chapter is blessed with some of the best trails and scenery in the state. Visit the Sinkyone Wilderness and the King Range for backpacking, hiking, birding, wild flowers, fantastic beaches, tide pooling, great views along the coast and hidden ocean beaches.

The last Redwood Needles featured an article about environmental heroes passing on. In Sonoma County most of our long time movers and shakers also passed on. All are worth mentioning but I will thank one for his help saving 5,000 special acres next to an urban center. Oak woodlands, cobblestone and meadows, rare wildflowers, all would be a subdivision if it were not for the more than one million dollars Henry Trione donated in a complex deal to save the park. Thank you Henry.

In Napa, Sonoma, and Lake county many acres of special natural features are being turned into mega

evening and head up to the Black Rock and camp on the edge of the Playa. We'll probably visit area hot springs and the Emigrant Trail. Primitive camping, bring all supplies and a shovel for personal needs. Possible Ham Radio License Class. 7/3 is a legal holiday, can't waste a long weekend. Leader is very familiar with the area! Sign-up after 6/15. David Book 775/843-6443

Sun.-Sat. July 19 - 25. Yolla Bolly Wilderness.

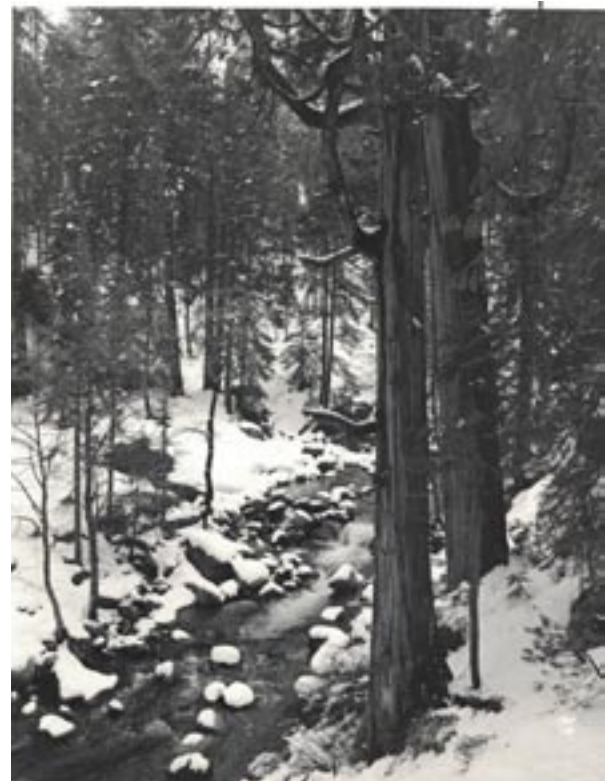
Please join me as we hike into my favorite wilderness area, where I've been going every year for 30 years. We will backpack into a beautiful spring, taking 2 1/2 days to get there, base camping for 2 nights, then returning home the same way. There are good day hikes from our base camp and a good spring. But be aware that water is scarce as we hike in and you must carry a minimum of 2 liters of water at all times, preferably 3 liters. This is a strenuous backpacking trip. You must have backpacked within the last 5 years and be capable of carrying your own food and gear for 6 days. We do not need bear canisters here. Class: H-35-C. If it's an easier hike than this indicates, then that will be good. But I have found the Yolla Bolly Wilderness to be very wild, very dry, and the trails poorly maintained at best. Limit 10 people. By reservation only. Leader Val Nordeman 707 477-4199 nordeman@willitsonline.com

winery/event centers bringing with them unsustainable water use, traffic, noise, destruction of neighbors' peace and quiet, destruction of biologically diverse wild lands and wildlife habitat, etc. Luckily citizens are jumping into action. The vision 2050 coalition (Napa) and Preserve Rural Sonoma County (Sebastopol area) are just two of the many groups fighting the disheartening development pressure \$\$\$\$ from outside of their county or the USA. Please write your supervisor asking for a moratorium on rural mega winery permits. Be the change you want to see.

Some outings leaders have stopped leading outings due to mountain biking incidents. One leader was hurt by a downhill speeding bike and another doesn't want to take the responsibility of bringing hikers on trails where they have the risk of being injured. Leaders please report any incidents with mountain bikes to me with a cc to your group outings chair. Most mountain bikers are responsible, do not go off trail, do not speed downhill, but it only takes one accident to change your life as you know it forever.

Thank you to all leaders in training who are finishing up their requirements. I hope to see your outing in the June newsletter.

-CAROL VELLUTINI, REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR



From the Redwood Needles archive: Tangle Blue Creek, April 1976, northeast corner of the then Trinity Alps wilderness proposal, by Dave Van deMark



the world isn't waiting, why are you?

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____
Email _____

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____
Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____

Don't forget to return this form with your membership fee!

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$28	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Send to: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 20966, Boulder, CO 80522-2966 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

F94G 0300 1

SIERRA CLUB

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Lake Group Report

Secessionist campaign targets Lake County

Several Lake Group leaders have recently had to turn from their usual exertions on behalf of our land, water, and wildlife in order to combat proposals to secede from California and form a new "State of Jefferson."

Although this idea offers no visible advantages to the residents of Lake County, out of county proponents were nonetheless invited to give a presentation to the Board of Supervisors in early December. It was dismaying to see some BOS members taking it seriously, making wisecracks, playing to the gallery of imported green t-shirted supporters, and taking cheap shots at state government. At that time I was the only person to voice public opposition (speaking as an individual since the Club had not yet had an opportunity to take a position), pointing out that rather than wasting time in this irresponsible manner, the Board should work with our newly elected state representatives to obtain concrete benefits for the community, starting with protecting Clear Lake.

When the proposal came back to the BOS for a vote on February 17, the atmosphere had changed, with speakers evenly split and emails and phone calls to the supervisors running strongly in opposition. Nonetheless, after two hours of debate (but no comprehensive financial analysis) the board took a series of extremely confusing votes that appeared to support the county's secession from California, with Supervisors Farrington and Steele in dissent.

But not so fast! When county counsel

pointed out that the language adopted at the chaotic February 17 meeting was subject to conflicting interpretations, the issue was re-agendized on March 3. Again, the chamber was packed, with half the room waving Bear Flags in lieu of public comment, which had been closed. The Board began by clarifying their previous actions, first deciding that their votes should be considered merely as a kind of straw poll, and not as an official expression of the will of the county. They then all made it clear that they thought such a momentous decision should be made by the citizens and not by the Supervisors presuming to speak in our names. After evaluating three possible alternative resolutions, they voted 3/2 to put an advisory vote on the ballot at the November 2016 general election.

Lake Group expects to take an active role in opposing this proposal when the time comes—and in the meantime rejoices in an outcome that has deflated the secessionist momentum, and that allows us to return for the time being to issues directly concerned with our land, water, and wildlife.

Russian River - All Rivers screening March 25.

At press time Lake Group was eagerly making plans for our March general membership meeting, consisting of a screening of the exciting new documentary "The Russian River: All Rivers - the Value of an American Watershed," which discusses biological, political and economic issues that are applicable to Clear Lake and its watershed as well as to rivers everywhere.

—VICTORIA BRANDON,

LAKE GROUP CONSERVATION CHAIR

Mendocino Group Report

There is a lot on our plate presently. A countywide coalition against herbicides, which includes the Hack and Squirt on the industrial timberlands and the Caltrans proposed spraying on the Willits Bypass mitigation lands in the Little Lake Valley, is meeting across the county. It is hoped that persons concerned with vineyard spraying will join. It's been a long time since toxic spray activists were so brutally shut down by Willie Brown. Local fire departments are involved because of the large number of standing dead trees in this time of serious drought. Mendocino Redwood Company has filed several very, very large timber harvest plans in watersheds in Albion, Comptche and Elk. Of course it is MRC intent to apply Glyphosate on these plans.

The 850 plus acre THP in Albion's Railroad Gulch is briefly on hold purportedly because of rule change updating. The community responded to this planned wholesale pillage of Railroad Gulch with one hundred letters and a petition. The acreage includes some of the last older second growth redwood in the county. Mendocino Group is following this one very closely.

The DEIR on the proposed Central Coast Solid Waste Transfer Station has been made available to the public. Mendocino Group is opposed to the siting of this facility on 17 acres of pristine pygmy forest. More appropriately described as Mendocino Pygmy Cypress and Northern Bishop Pine Forests, both onsite as well as offsite pygmy forested areas will be affected and effectively destroyed by the soil

disturbance and hydrological alterations due to the project. According to Linda Perkins, "It seems counterproductive to start by selecting a site that includes a habitat type unique to Mendocino County. This rare vegetation type deserves the utmost protection yet is fast being destroyed and degraded by (mostly) private development. It would be unconscionable for the county itself to choose to degrade what should be seen as an invaluable and irreplaceable biological asset of the county, a treasure to be guarded." There are several other CEQA issues with this project as well as that it is scaled at a size more than twice that which is needed to handle current waste. The DEIR may be read on the City of Fort Bragg's website.

Fort Bragg has infuriated locals with a Mitigated Negative Declaration on a proposed shopping mall on the south side of the city and to the west of Highway 1. Referred to as the Hare Creek Center, the project will contain, as a keystone retail store, a Grocery Outlet. The area is presently open space and the project will not front on Highway 1. The access will be from an interior street. Its rear wall will be visible from Highway 1. There is a \$1000 fee to appeal a Planning Commission decision in Fort Bragg. The fee was collected by means of small donations from many local residents in very short order. We support this appeal and Sue Boecker is following the project for us.

—MARY WALSH, MENDOCINO GROUP CHAIR

North Group Report

The New Year brought several different transportation and resource questions for public discussion, some new and some ongoing, and our annual retreat.

Caltrans conducted local public workshops in January on proposed alternatives for solving the recurring problems on Highway 101 at Last Chance Grade, in Del Norte County. North Group favors the alternatives that would result in the least disturbance to redwood forests, after looking at maps and other materials provided by the agency at the workshops.

The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors hosted a discussion of the ongoing Richardson Grove realignment project plan, and court case, at its regular March 3 meeting, attended by Ned Forsyth and about ten other citizens. Caltrans officials expect to have a revised work plan released in Fall 2015. The revised plan follows a California Appeals Court ruling that a more thorough and delicate treatment of the roots of 116 old-growth redwood trees is required, arising from lawsuits by EPIC and other plaintiffs starting in 2010.

State Senator Mike McGuire held a town hall meeting in Eureka February 7. Among a vast array of topics, including his statement of support for a ban on fracking, he reported that the multinational Red Flat Nickel Corporation had withdrawn its application to draw water for its Cleopatra Mine project from an unprotected stretch of the Smith River watershed in Oregon. After months of sustained widespread opposition to the project from Del Norte County citizens and elected officials, Senator McGuire introduced SJR 3 in January, calling on Congress and the President to "permanently safeguard...the Smith River watershed from any mining activities."

The Cleopatra project remains under analysis by the Forest Service. Thanks to Friends of Del Norte and to Kalmiopsis Rivers for their tireless ongoing efforts.

On Humboldt Bay, a preliminary proposal to the Harbor and Recreation District by US Mine Corporation to utilize the idle pulp mill facilities at Samoa for a gold-ore processing plant was withdrawn on March 6. The original plan called for ore as far away as Alaska and South America to be shipped and processed here. At a capacity-crowd hearing in February, numerous skeptics questioned the wisdom of reintroducing industrial chemicals such as cyanide to the tsunami- and earthquake-prone site, following on the heels of a large-scale emergency removal of toxic "black liquor" left by the previous operator. Our thanks to Humboldt Baykeeper, whose leadership was essential in mounting this citizen challenge.

North Group held its Annual Retreat February 8, and adopted goals for 2015, mostly carried over from 2014, including the following items:

Hold at least two general membership meetings with food provided, and a speaker or presentation on topics including climate change and public lands grazing, with information sharing and member recruiting; continue to advocate for dam removal, sound science, restoration and a unified Sierra Club position on Klamath River issues; advocate for restoration of the Eel River including adequate flows and healthy salmon stocks; work with other groups to develop a resilient habitats and a national forest regional plan for the Klamath Mountains Bioregion, and use that regional plan to guide work on individual national forest plans and local climate change adaptation plans in our region; develop new leadership.

—NED FORSYTH, NORTH GROUP VICE CHAIR

Napa Group Report

Exceeding Expectations!

400 people turned out in Napa on March 10th for a County Forum on development issues. After hearing reports on development trends, traffic, and tourism, speaker after speaker rose to express concern about commercialization of the agricultural lands, with wineries becoming "event centers" selling "tickets instead of wine". Of the dozens of speakers, only two seemed happy with the current direction. Amazingly, environmental groups, neighborhood groups, and the agricultural community all seemed virtually to be speaking from the same script, stating that Napa's traditional rural-based values are being eroded by a tourism economy that is negating our agricultural base.

Sierra Club was there to speak out, of course, and our special focus—shared by several other speakers—was protection of watersheds and open

space, as well as finishing up our long-delayed Climate Action Plan.

Napa Sierra Club is proud to be a founding member of the just-launched Vision 2050 Coalition, which deserves a lot of credit for the massive turnout. In this Coalition, Sierra Club joins with other environmental and neighborhood groups working together to advocate for a planning process which will safeguard our Napa's finite resources.

Truly, this is the most inspirational time I have experienced in local environmental activism.

Come say hello to us at Napa's Earth Day Event, Saturday April 25th, in downtown Napa.

Our next outing is Father's Day at Bothe Park.

Find us on Facebook (Sierra Club Napa Group) to sign up for our monthly newsletter and stay abreast of events.

—NANCY TAMARISK, NAPA GROUP CHAIR

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park in 2015

2015 Trip Schedule: April 5-7; May 3-5; June 14-16: A Bird Lovers Special! July 19-21; Aug. 23-25; Sept. 27-29

This is a tour of a precious area of our state not seen by many. This spring and summer, you can experience the Channel Islands, including hiking and kayaking, with Sierra Club members and a park naturalist.

This is a gift that gives twice because your tour benefits the political work of Sierra Club California, the environment's strongest voice in the State Capitol. While you are floating about the islands, you will be helping to protect them and other natural resources found only in California.

Enticingly within view of Ventura and Santa Barbara, one of California's (and the country's) most

unique environments is part of Channel Islands National Park and National Marine Sanctuary. It is also one of the least visited national parks in the U.S. The Channel Islands are only accessible by boat or plane.

The trips are organized by Sierra Club member Joan Holtz. Trip tickets cost \$615 and include meals and lodging aboard the tour boat that leaves from Santa Barbara.

Please contact the trip leader, Joan Jones Holtz, for more information at jholtzhl@aol.com. or 626-443-0706

Welcome to our new and returning ExCom Members!

From Vallejo: Erin Tator, Doug Darling, Joe Feller, AmyNoel Coughlin, and Jane Bogner.

From Fairfield: Quinton Crawford, Kathy Pettibone, Jim Dekloe and Greg Peterson.

Next meeting, Wednesday, April 8 at Denny's in Cordelia @ 6:00 pm.

Join us- we review local issues and come up with plans to protect our local environment. For more information, email sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com or leave a message at 707-319-6398.

Earth Day

Join us for Earth Day events on April 18 in Vallejo at the Farmers Market, or at Fairfield's event behind city hall on April 25, 9 am to noon. Help needed at both locations.

Sonoma Group Report

Earth Day

Climate & Energy Committee: The Sonoma Group will have a table at the April 26 Earth Day 'Day on the Green' event at Montgomery Village. There will be art, music, dance and drink sales benefitting Land Paths.

Following the Fate of Sonoma Compost

The Conservation Committee is following the fate of the Sonoma Compost facility at the central landfill. It has temporarily solved the problem that it was having with leachate water running off the site and into streams, but will need to move to a new location by 2017. Sonoma Compost does a good job at providing local composting of our food and yard waste – its compost is in great demand and is usually sold out.

Maxwell Farms Regional Park Master Plan

The Master Plan for Maxwell Farms Regional Park in Sonoma is being updated, and there are concerns about how well some of the proposed new activities, a BMX park, a dog park, and a disc golf course will impact the 2/3 of the park which has a conservation easement requiring it to be left in a natural state. (For more details, see the article on page 3.) Go to the following page to take a survey or submit comments on the Master Plan update: http://parks.sonomacounty.ca.gov/Get_Outdoors/Parks/Maxwell_Farms_Regional_Park.aspx.

Drought Continues

Water Committee: It looks as though 2015 will be an even worse year for drought than 2014. Santa Rosa is at the Stage 1: Mandatory Prohibitions level. Automatic irrigation systems are limited to use between 8pm and 6am, and overspray, runoff, sidewalk and hardscape washing with potable water are forbidden.

Environmental Dinner

At the 2015 Environmental Awards Dinner on March 15, awards for Environmentalists of the Year were given to Kimberley Burr and Larry Hanson for their dedication to forest protection. The Youth Environmentalist Award went to Kerriane McCarthy of Casa Grande High School, for her successful fundraising and hands-on engagement with the United Anglers steelhead hatchery and creek restoration projects. The Sonoma Land Trust's thirty-year old 'On the Land' program, started by Reta Lockert, won the Environmental Education Program award for its unique and ecosystem-based approach to inviting Sonoma County residents out onto protected open space. Guy Conner was awarded a Lifetime Environmental Achievement Award for his decades of behind the scenes advocacy, strategizing and support for local government measures that protect open space. A Special Award was given to Chuck Stanley, a stalwart volunteer for the Sierra Club and caretaker of the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa. The Environmental Dinner is organized jointly with SCCC, the Sonoma County Conservation Council and the Sonoma Group.

—SUZANNE DOYLE, SONOMA GROUP CONSERVATION CHAIR

Solano Breeze Corner

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

sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com 707-319-6398

Thanks!

Thanks to Nancy McCoy, Errol Dempsy, Jane and community for staffing the February VALCORE Recycling and Confidential Paper Shredding event.

VALCORE Recycling and Paper Shredding updates:

Solano Group will be helping out every 3rd Saturday of the month at 38 Sheridan Street, Vallejo from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., March 21 and April 18. There is a charge of \$10 (CASH or CHECK ONLY) per twenty 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. Volunteers get free shredding.

NEW WEEKDAY SHREDDING from 10 am to 4 pm – closed 1 pm to 2 pm for lunch, CREDIT or DEBIT ONLY.

Valcore is now recycling clothes/linens, and ink cartridges. Check www.valcorerecycling.org for more recycling information.

We need to fix our shed and truck bed. Please go to <http://www.gofundme.com/VALCORErecycling> to help with donations. Thank you.

Garden Volunteers Welcome

We continually work at Lori's Native Plant Garden located at 225 Amador St, Vallejo. NEXT WORK DAY IS May 2nd, 9 TO 11 am. We also 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.

CONTRIBUTOR: JANE BOGNER

EDITOR: GREG PETERSON

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

Sat. Apr. 25 - Hike 4 Healing, Wright Peak Summit Trail, Mount Konocti, Lake County.

Support maternal and newborn health missions lead around the globe by Dr. Dhanda. Hike rolling chamise hills, oak woodlands and pines to Konocti peak and magnificent views. Class M- 6 -B. Carpool if possible. From Hwy. 29 on south side of Clear Lake take the Kelseyville exit, Main Street. Go north .35 mile. Turn right on

Konocti road 1 mile until it turns into a dirt road. Continue up the mountain 2 miles to parking lots (2 or 3). Walk up the road and proceed to check-in station on side of road. Entrance fee for HIKE 4 HEALING: \$25.00; Children under 12 yrs. old free. Meet 8:00 am registration, 9:00 am. hike. For info: Julie 707-987-9040.

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

Volunteer Days Riverkeeper Stewardship Park in Guerneville, Every Wednesday.

9 a.m. - Noon, 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.

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 8

Submit Articles/Reports/Ad Copy via e-mail to: odavison@sonic.net

Send Outings to Carol Vellutini via email: carolvsr@sonic.net

Send Meetings to Carl Inglin: chinglin@sonic.net

Sierra Club Volunteer/Activist Opportunities

Group Hike Leaders: Many Redwood Chapter Groups need Outings Chairs. This volunteer position is working with leaders, coordinating with the Chapter Outings Chair, training leaders, keeping records, encouraging new leaders and community outreach. There is Outings Chair training available. Contact Carol 546-6308 or carolvsr@sonic.net for information.

Work with the Sonoma Group Water Committee! NOTE: The Water Committee is now meeting at 5:30 PM on the first Mondays of most months in conjunction with the Conservation and Energy Committee meetings. The Water Committee develops and promotes measures to conserve, save, and reuse our water resources. Our goal is to preserve and improve the natural water environment, by promoting the responsible use of water and the safe reuse or disposal of our wastewaters. Help protect the quality of our water for people, wildlife, fish and other aquatic life. Check for our meeting dates in the *Redwood Needles*. To get on our Water Committee e-mail list, e-mail Len Holt at lholt@sonic.net. If you are not able to attend our meetings, you may e-mail Len Holt with your concerns and ideas.

Get CHARGED by attending the Climate & Energy Committee. Join us on the 1st of the month at 5:00-5:30 p.m. at the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa, learn about what is going on in our community to fight climate change through renewable energy programs. Contact Chair Shirley Johnson-Foell: Email: Shirlgirl707@Yahoo.com, home 206-1138, or call office 433-7651.

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.

Kit Carson Lodge
www.kitcarsonlodge.com

or call:
(209) 258-8500

OPERATES UNDER USFS PERMIT

National Sierra Club Elections are Underway - PLEASE VOTE! A Democratic Sierra Club Demands Grassroots Participation

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway.

Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot in early March. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club's web site.

Your participation is critical for a Strong Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation.

In a typical year less than 10% of eligible members vote in the Board elections. A minimum of 5% is required for the elections to be valid. Our grassroots structure is strengthened when our participation is high. Therefore your participation is needed in the voting process.

How can I learn about the candidates?

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more.

Each candidate provides a statement about themselves and their views on the issues on the official election ballot. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. You can also visit the Club's election web site for additional information about candidates:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/board/election>

Then make your choice and cast your vote!

Voting online is quick and easy!

Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, we encourage you to use the user-friendly Internet voting site to save time and postage. If sending via ground mail, please note your ballots must be received by no later than election day, April 29, 2015.

Redwood Needles
Sierra Club
Redwood Chapter
P.O. Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Nonprofit
PRST STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 363
Petaluma, CA



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).

Thurs. Apr. 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. Apr. 6 - Sonoma Group.

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

Conservation Consortium (3 Committees) meets 5:00- 6:30 p.m.

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

The Sonoma Group Water Committee will meet at 5:30 PM in conjunction with

the Conservation and Energy Committees at the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

Sonoma Group Conservation Committee at 6:00 p.m. Info: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net

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

Tues. Apr. 14 - North Group.

The public is invited to attend a program on "Abrupt Climate Change - What the Paleoclimate Record Tells Us," presented by Richard Kreis, Climate and Energy Chair for the

North Group. The program starts with free pizza at 6:00 pm. An abbreviated ExCom meeting, open to the public, will follow the presentation. The meeting will be in the Conference Room at Adorni Recreation Center in Eureka, located at 101 Waterfront Drive, near "L" street. For more info, call Gregg at (707) 826-3740.

Mon. May. 4 - Sonoma Group.

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

Conservation Consortium (3 Committees) meets 5:00- 6:30 p.m.

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

The Sonoma Group Water Committee will meet at 5:30 PM in conjunction with

the Conservation and Energy Committees at the Environmental Center, 55A

Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

Sonoma Group Conservation Committee at 6:00 p.m. Info: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net

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

Tues. May 12 - North Group ExCom.

The public is invited to attend the monthly meeting of our governing committee. Join us for a discussion

of local conservation issues between 7:45 and 8:45 p.m., following the ExCom business meeting from 6:45-7:45 p.m. Meet at Adorni Center Conference Room on Eureka Waterfront. For more info, call Gregg at 707-826-3740.

Sat., May 16 - Redwood Chapter ExCom and ConsCom.

Location: Willits Environmental Center. Conservation Committee meets at 10 a.m., ExCom meets 1-3 p.m. Info: Victoriavbrandon@lakerlive.info

Tues. May 19 - 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

Thurs. May 21 - 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. April 6, Mon. May 4 - Sonoma Group Conservation Meetings.

The Sonoma Group Water Committee will meet at 5:30 PM in conjunction with the Conservation and Energy Committees at the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

Great Breaking News for the Coast: Marine Sanctuaries Set to Expand

As this edition of the *Redwood Needles* was going to press, we were thrilled to learn that a plan to extend the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries northward to protect the Sonoma and Mendocino coasts is approaching final approval.

Activists have been working for nearly 40 years to establish permanent protection against oil drilling in the area, a breathtakingly beautiful stretch of coastline that provides rich habitat for fish and other marine life. Sanctuary designation will achieve the goal of forbidding any energy or mineral exploration or production from Bodega Head north to Manchester Beach near Point Arena. The need for action has been particularly acute since 2008, when a moratorium on offshore oil drilling was allowed to expire. Subsequently, the Obama administration removed obstacles to petroleum exploration in the Gulf of Mexico, along the Atlantic Coast, and in Alaska. Environmental regulations of all sorts have also been subject to sustained attack in what many people have come to call a "war on nature."

Now the protected area, which was first given special status in 1981, will more than double in size to more than 4500 square miles, to include a crucial segment of the ocean floor where an unusual upwelling of cold water brings nutrients to the shallow water along the shoreline, encouraging intense plankton blooms that provide food for fish, marine mammals, rare turtles and countless birds. The largest seabird colony on the U.S. mainland is within the extended sanctuary boundaries, and so is the underlying food source for the existing protected areas

to the south.

Protection of the Sonoma and Mendocino coasts was a top priority for former Rep. Lynn Woolsey, who collaborated with Senator Barbara Boxer to achieve special designation legislatively, to no avail. On Woolsey's retirement, Rep. Nancy Pelosi asked President Obama to take administrative action to achieve the same objective. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration then held seven local public hearings and collected more than 1300 comments, most of them strongly supportive of permanent protection. A final Environmental Impact Statement was published in December, and a final rule on March 12; the agency action will be effective after Congress is in session for another 45 days.

For an extra celebratory touch, this wonderful news arrives just a year after we were rejoicing in the addition of the Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands in the northernmost section of the expanded sanctuary area to the California Coastal National Monument. In the words of Ocean Foundation senior fellow Richard Charter, this is "just a miracle."

-VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

