

Redwood Needles



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 58 Number 2

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

April/May 2017

Vallejo Planning Commission Rejects Proposed Cement Plant

By JOE FELLER, SOLANO GROUP CHAIR

AND VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

On March 6 the Vallejo Planning Commission voted 6 - 1 to reject the deep-water port and cement factory known as the Orcem/VMT project. Orcem, an Irish company behind the cement plant proposal, has a history of being anti-union and not attuned to environmental protection standards. Vallejo Marine Terminal is a newly-formed company that is proposing the port. City staff previously stated its opposition to the project, on the grounds that it doesn't meet the city's waterfront development plan along with many other objections.

The Solano and Napa Groups, the Redwood Chapter and the Sierra Club national staff have all declared their opposition to this project, for reasons ranging from its devastating impacts to a disadvantaged residential neighborhood, impairment of air quality throughout the North Bay, harm to the Napa River and San Francisco Bay and the potential for the port to become a coal-exporting facility.

Joe Feller, Solano Group Chair and longtime Vallejo resident, said the proposal is an "environmental nightmare" that would bring increased air pollution, noise and truck

traffic through a low-income neighborhood in South Vallejo.

Sierra Club has been working alongside Fresh Air Vallejo, a non-profit group, to spread information to Vallejo residents, especially those who live in the potentially affected area.

The groups held a press conference Feb. 22 outside Vallejo City Hall in a move to draw more attention to the project and encourage people to attend a special Planning Commission meeting on Feb. 27, which attracted more than 100 speakers and went until almost 1 a.m.

Peter Brooks of Fresh Air Vallejo stated; "We realize that Vallejo has to be a good neighbor. Stopping a cement factory from going onto our waterfront sends a positive signal to Vallejo and the whole Bay Area. The Sierra Club's support was instrumental in our victory and we thank you."

Vallejo Marine Terminal and Orcem have officially appealed to the Vallejo City Council to overturn city staff's recommendation and the Planning Commission vote. A hearing before the City Council may be scheduled, possibly in late April to early May. See <http://freshairvallejo.com/whats-new-2/> for further information.



Solano Group chair Joe Feller, Redwood Chapter Chair Victoria Brandon, and Napa Group Executive Committee member Bill Dyer speak out against Orcem/VMT on February 22.

Outings Program Moves Forward

By VICTORIA BRANDON,

REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

On February 25 about a dozen Outings leaders from throughout Redwood Chapter got together with several conservation activists to figure out ways to revitalize the program, which has seen a reduction in participation in recent years, and is in particular need of Outings Chairs on the Group level. National staffers Melanie MacInnis and Sascha Paris led the discussion, which began with a two-hour first aid course.

"The meeting was quite the success," MacInnis reflected afterwards. "It was really awesome that so many motivated and dedicated folks showed up from across the chapter."

The top priorities that came from the

meeting:

- Desire for community among leaders
- Eager to use new communications tools
- Need for clarity and transparency
- Desire to offer a variety of outings, establish partnerships with other organizations, clarify the leadership process and move ahead vigorously to recruit volunteers

Participants also express a strong desire to get to know each other better, and committed to work together more closely by going on each other's trips, and coming together socially to share information and brainstorm.

Several leaders volunteered to:

- Organize opportunities for Group leaders to get together
 - Take a "shift" as Group outings chair
 - Take a "shift" in other leadership positions as needed
 - Actively recruit new leaders and participants
 - Reach out to potential partners
 - Offer a variety of outings to attract different audiences

We're hoping to repeat this chapter-wide meeting at least once a year and to supplement by phone or webinar to enable leaders to build on the inspiring feeling of belonging to a larger whole.



Front row: Jonah Freedman, Melanie MacInnis; middle: Carl Inglin, Rue Furch, Victoria Brandon, Phil Kohlmetz; back: Lorrie Lagasse, Yvonne Kramer, Ned Forsyth, Jim Moore, Doug Tracey, Suzanne Doyle, Sascha Paris.



Berryessa Snow Mountain: Planning for the Future

By VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

About eighteen months after President Obama declared Berryessa Snow Mountain a national monument, effectively protecting the 330,000-acre section of sensitive public lands, Sierra Club joined other stakeholders and officials to discuss developing a comprehensive management plan for the land.

Tuleyome, a Woodland-based environmental organization, hosted the Jan. 20 gathering, which provided an initial conversation about how to best merge the Bureau of Land Management and the Mendocino National Forest objectives and plans for BSMNM.

Designated in July 2015, BSMNM permanently protects 330,000 acres of sensitive federal public lands in seven counties. Stretching nearly 100 miles from Cold Canyon in Solano County to north of the Snow Mountain Wilderness, the new Monument contains three federal Wilderness Areas and a Wild and Scenic River along with a remarkably diverse array of natural habitat types, ancient cultural resources, and recreational opportunities.

With acreage divided nearly equally between the Bureau of Land Management's Ukiah Field Office and the Mendocino National Forest, management is complex. Each agency has its own planning structure, established customs and corporate culture, and objectives that are "BSM: Planning for the Future"

cont. on page 3

Sonoma Group Member's Meeting

Thursday, April 20, 2017

5:30 to 7:30pm,

Presentation at 6:00pm

Environmental Center,
55A Ridgway, Santa Rosa

Do you live in Sonoma County and want to get involved with local environmental work but don't know how?

We'd like to meet you! Drop in any time for schmoozing, food & drink and a short presentation.

New members, old members and prospective members are all welcome.

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The Redwood Chapter is governed by an executive committee, with one (1) member delegated by each of six (6) regional groups and six (6) members elected at large. Each group elects its own executive committee.

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Redwood Needles Deadlines

Issue	Deadline
Dec./ Jan.	Nov. 4
Feb./ March	Jan. 8
April/May	March 8

Redwood Chapter & Sonoma Group Office

Mendocino Group Supports Timber Harvest Lawsuit In Albion

Being an environmentalist on the North Coast can feel like standing in front of an armed tank in peaceful protest during a military battle. Sometimes there's a standoff, sometimes there's a peaceful retreat, and sometimes there's destructive escalation. But the war never ends. It just takes on different forms.

For Mendocino Group executive committee member Linda Perkins and many of her neighbors in Albion, a town of about 800 people on the Mendocino coast, the battle is between residents and the Mendocino Redwood Company. It's a battle to protect clean water in Railroad Gulch, part of the Albion River watershed, to reduce fire danger and to limit the effects of climate change through carbon sequestration by forests. The battle has the taken form of a lawsuit, filed last fall by the Forest Preservation Society. Sierra Club Mendocino Group filed an amicus brief in January to support the lawsuit.

The legal action calls attention to environmental problems associated with the Timber Harvest Plan, which puts 758 acres of forest literally on the chopping block.

Even with the lawsuit, the THP is moving forward. Mendocino County Superior Court ruled against a temporary stay, and the case is now in District 3 of the Appellate Court. Sierra Club and Forest Preservation Society hope this case will set legal precedent on environmental regulations, said Perkins.

"The destruction of the forest will cause many ecological and water quality problems," said Perkins, an expert at dissecting Timber Harvest Plans. "Our group is very happy to add Sierra Club's voice and support to the effort."

Chief among the complaints, and the one that is most sound in today's political climate, is that deforestation acts against the state's efforts to curb carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions to fight climate change. In 2016, the State of California committed itself to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, also known as CalFire, enforces laws that regulate logging on private lands. When a THP is proposed, it must be approved by CalFire.

Though CalFire states on its website that it will not approve a THP that doesn't comply with "forestry and environmental regulations," it is not set up to reject a proposal simply because it is "unpopular with the public."

Yet, Perkins argues, the Railroad Gulch THP goes far beyond being unpopular with locals.

"CalFire abused its discretion by not calculating cumulative effects or short-term

effects for carbon sequestration," said Perkins. "They dodged the issue, and that's...the main legal argument."

Other environmental concerns outlined in the amicus brief are the destruction of the threatened Northern Spotted Owl's habitat and the local Albion River watershed.

"All these rivers are part of our daily lives," Perkins said. "We live with the effects."

While the Mendocino Redwood Company once pledged to conduct its harvesting plans with reverence to the environment, Perkins said a change in management has changed the company's approach.

MRC's new methods, she said, are much more aggressive with overcutting and with the use of an herbicide called Imazapyr to kill unwanted flora, such as tanoaks. "It's a wide-spectrum herbicide, meaning it kills other things than the target plant, so it will go into the roots and get into the ground water and affect nearby plants. There've been no studies done on the effects of that," she said.

Plus, she added, the size and scope of the plan is much larger than past plans. MRC intends to harvest about 60 percent of the trees in Railroad Gulch.

As the plan moves forward, the group is hopeful to get a hearing in the appeals court. "This hearing is essential, as the only venue for review of the inadequate actions by CalFire is in the courts. This is the check on power of one agency to ignore the state's commitment on greenhouse gas emissions," said Rixanne Wehren, Sierra Club Mendocino Group's coastal chair.

But, Perkins added, with more public outcry, vigilance and funding, projects like this will have a harder time moving forward without adequate environmental review.

What You Can Do:

- Join the Redwood Chapter and get active in your local group. Mendocino Group needs activists and new members throughout the county.

- Donate to Sierra Club Redwood Chapter directly.

- Write letters to the editor in opposition to deforestation and destructive logging practices.

- Attend public hearings on environmental issues affecting your community.

- Connect with Redwood Chapter on Facebook or Instagram for the latest updates on this plan and others.

—SHOSHANA HEBSHI, REDWOOD CHAPTER COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Redwood Needles

June 2017 Deadline: Due May 8th

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

"BSM: Planning for the Future"

continued from page 1

similar but by no means identical. Melding the two into an effective partnership will be challenging, but both agencies appear eager to rise to the occasion.

Although the Jan. 20 meeting was not a part of the official planning process, National Monument Manager Rebecca Wong, MNF Forest Supervisor Ann Carlson and BLM Ukiah District Field Manager Amanda James and other staff members were active participants in the discussion, guiding us through the complex series of steps needed to devise a comprehensive management plan for BSMNM.

The public will have many opportunities to comment as the management plan coalesces.

Three "community conversations" were held in Upper Lake, Winters and Willows last year and were well attended. All recreational stakeholder groups are invited to participate in future meetings, along with scientists, tribes, state and local governments, non-governmental organizations, such as the Sierra Club, and interested individuals.

The contributions received will help create a reasonable plan that preserves the sensitive values that were the rationale for designation and also maximizes its recreational potential.

With a 2018 target date for the adoption of a completed plan, it's time to roll up our sleeves and get to work.



Sierra Club Volunteer/Activist Opportunities Highlights: Outings

Share Your Love of the Outdoors!

Outings Chairs: Needed for Mendocino, Napa, North, Solano and Sonoma Groups. Chairs provide leadership, direction and oversight to Group Outings programs and its Outings Leaders, working to make outdoor activities an integrated and vital element of each Group's efforts. This position requires about 10 hours a month. All Groups also need more **Outings Leaders**. Training offered.

Chapter Outings Chair: Redwood Chapter seeks someone with good organizational skills, to ensure that all Chapter and Group Outings follow Club policies and procedures - requiring about 10-15 hours a month.

Outings Volunteer Coordinator: Work with Group and Chapter Outings Chairs to design an Outings Program that supports Chapter movement building, conservation and equity goals. Assist in identifying, training and supporting Outings Leaders to conduct outings in the Redwood Chapter. Take lead in publicizing Outings. 10 - 15 hours per month.

Redwood Chapter and all local Groups have a variety of volunteer opportunities. Visit www.sierraclub.org/redwood/get-involved for details or contact vbrandon@lakerlive.info



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 or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org

Outings

Sat. April 1 - Lake Group. Six Sigma Ranch hike.

We will hike the historic old stagecoach route from Lower Lake to Knoxville, following the ranch road through Six Sigma ranch heading east toward Morgan Valley road. We will stop by the Ranch tasting room on the way, so bring along cash or credit card if so inclined. Much of the hike will follow Asbill Creek and canyon to the confluence with Soda Creek. We will return aboard the ranch's Pinzgauer, a vintage European military 6X6, making the hike approximately 6 miles one way. This limits the number of hikers to 10 people. Class E-6-A. Meet 8:30 am Lower Lake Coffee Company, Main St. Lower Lake. By reservation only. Leader Tom McFarling (707) 994-5490. Rain cancels.

Sat. Apr. 8 - North Group. South Fork Trinity River (off Highway 299) Hike.

Join us on this perennial favorite National Forest trail with breathtaking vistas of the river's gorge below. Trekking poles will be a plus. We can expect an abundance of wildflowers, especially since the 2008 Hell's Half mosaic burn and this year's plentiful rains. 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 tributary streams and possible deadfall trees. Class: M-7.5-B. Carpools: Meet 8:30 a.m. Ray's shopping center in Valley West. Leader Ned, nedforsyth48@gmail.com, 825-3652. Heavy rain cancels.

Sun. Apr. 9 - Lake Group. Robert Louis Stevenson State Park Table Rock Hike.

Enjoy gorgeous rolling hills, wooded forests, a labyrinth, and of course the stunning views from the volcanic cliffs of the Palisades! Class: M-4.4-A. Carpools: Meet 9:30 am in front of Middletown Mugshots coffee shop on corner of Hwy 29 & 175, or 10 am trailhead Robert Louis Stevenson State Park parking lot on east side. By reservation only. Leader Julie 707-987-9040, 707-671-5947 tikaljak@yahoo.com, rain cancels.

Thur. Apr. 13 - North Group. Former Coastal Drive Redwood National Park Hike.

Walk roadway closed to vehicles since 2011, hugging bluffs overlooking rugged coast. Maintained road resumes in 3 miles, near High Bluffs Overlook. Optional side trip north to disguised WWII radar station. Return same route. Dress for coastal exposure. Bring lunch, water. No dogs. Class: M-6-A. Carpools: Meet 9 a.m. Ray's Valley West. 10:30 a.m. trailhead at Coastal Drive south closure gate. Leader Melinda mgroomster@gmail.com, 707-668-4275.

Sat. Apr. 15 - Solano Group. Crockett Hills Regional Park Hike.

Stretch your legs before your Easter Egg Hunt with a with a vigorous 7 mi r/t hike in the hills above the Carquinez Strait. We'll follow old ranch roads on a "lollipop" route (hike out 2.75 miles, do a 1.5 mile loop, then return via our original route), traversing

rolling grasslands, wooded ravines, and eucalyptus-shaded meadows. Many raptors and oaks to choose from/identify. On a clear day, we'll get views from Mt. Tam to Mt. Diablo to the Sierra. The hike is suggested for persons 14 and older. Persons under 18 must be with a parent. Bring sturdy shoes, water, a hat, sunscreen, and lunch. Friendly, well-behaved dogs on leash are welcome. Total trip time is estimated to be 5.5 hours. Rain cancels. Class: M-7-B. Meet: 10:30 am Trailhead Crockett Ranch Staging Area Parking. Exit I-80 on Pomona St. Turn left at the stop light to go east on Pomona through downtown Crockett. Turn right on Crockett Blvd, across from John Swett High School. Travel approx. .2 miles and look for the entrance to the parking area on your right. Extra points if you can identify who John Swett was (without using wikipedia). Leader Phil Kohlmetz philcoagogo@sbcglobal.net 707-704-0350.

Sat. Apr. 22 - Solano Group. Family-Friendly Mare Island Hike.

Celebrate Earth Day with a moderate 3.0 mi r/t walk past a historic cemetery and some abandoned bunkers, up to the top of Mare Island. We'll take in great views of the Carquinez Strait, San Pablo Bay, Mt. Tam and Mt. Diablo. Vallejo never looked so good. Bring sturdy shoes, water, a hat, sunscreen, and a snack. \$5 suggested donation for the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve's conservation efforts. Friendly, well-behaved dogs on leash are welcome. All ages. Total trip time is estimated to be 2.5 hours. Class: M-3-A. Meet: 10:30 am Trailhead at Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve Parking at the end of Railroad Ave. Vallejo. Take Azure Dr. south through the roundabout. Left on 14th, right on Railroad Ave. Follow Railroad Ave. through the South Gate to the Park kiosk and park in the lot on the right. Leader Phil Kohlmetz philcoagogo@sbcglobal.net 707-704-0350 Rain cancels.

Sun. Apr. 23. - Mendo Group. Glen Eden Trail Lake County Hike.

For Earth Day a great springtime hike will take us up the east side of Cow

Mountain, ascending to the ridgeline and down the other side to Goat Rock where we will have lunch. We should have wildflowers to enjoy and great views of Clear Lake and surrounding mountains to the north and east. Bring water, lunch, sturdy hiking boots, raingear, and suggested long pants due to possible poison oak. Class: H-8-B. Carpools: Meet 9 am Raley's parking lot opposite O'Reilly Auto Parts or 9:45 am trailhead. Take Hwy 20 east to just past Blue Lakes and turn right on Scotts Valley Road and go 3 mi to parking area on left. By reservation only. Leader Jonah Freedman jonfree99@pacific.net 467-1877. Rain cancels.

Sat. Apr. 29 - Solano Group. Las Posadas State Forest Wildflower, Mushroom, and Raptor Hike/Hunt.

Mushrooms, birds, and wildflowers should all be viewable for those with a watchful eye. Bring your "finders" for our trip around the hills and headwaters of Moore Creek in remote Napa County, with good views, a redwood forest, and a historic cemetery. Our route is a mixture of fire roads and single track, with plenty of ups and downs. Total trip time estimated to be 4 hours. Possible snake and poison oak encounters. The hike is suggested for persons 14 and older. Persons under 18 must be with a parent. Friendly, well-behaved dogs on leash are welcome. Bring sturdy shoes, water, a hat, sunscreen, flower finders, bird finders, and lunch. We'll picnic on the trail. Come prepared for mud. Class: M-6-B. Meet: Promptly 10 am Angwin Plaza Shopping Center, corner of Howell Mountain Road and Angwin Ave. in Angwin. Leader Phil Kohlmetz philcoagogo@sbcglobal.net 707-704-0350. Rain cancels.

Fri.-Mon. May 5-7 - Bright Star Wilderness - Restoration Project.

We will be working on the Bright Star Corridor fence that was burned in the Erskine Fire of 2016. The fence we will rebuild blocked access to a cabin site that has been removed but still faces vehicle trespass issues. This project will be the beginning of an even longer fence line that will extend across the corridor route to help protect the now vulnerable burned area. For questions

or to sign up contact leader: Kate Allen, kj.allen96@gmail.com or 661-944-4056. CNRCC Desert Committee.

Sat. May 6 - Sonoma Group. Chanate Historical Walk.

Join us as we explore the property sold by Sonoma County off Chanate Rd. for building a maximum 800 housing units. This property is next to the Paulin Creek Preserve. See this historic site before development. We will hear about the Bird Rescue Center (having Open House today), see the site of Santa Rosa's 1st hospital, rock walls with their "WPA 1941" marks, the former Sutter hospital with the colorful tiles, historical cemetery, oldest tree on property and many historical buildings. Jeremy Nichols local historian will be our narrator. Other speakers may join us. We will walk along paths with uneven surfaces and dirt trails so wear appropriate footwear. Class: E-2-A. Meet 1 pm by Bird Rescue Center 3430 Chanate Rd. Parking is to the east and then south of the rescue center. Leader Carol Vellutini 546-6308 carolvrs@sonic.net. Rain cancels. Rain date May 20th.

Sun. May 7 - Lake Group. Robert Louis Stevenson State Park Mt. St. Helena Hike.

Hike is on a trail with switchbacks for about 20 minutes through fir woods then up to a dirt road leading to the mountain top. On a clear day see spectacular views, including much of the San Francisco Bay area. View mountain ranges in a 360 degree panorama including Mt. Shasta! Bring water, lunch, binoculars & snacks. Class: M-10-C. Carpools: Meet 9:15 am in front of Middletown Mugshots Coffee Shop on corner of Hwy 29 & 175 or trailhead 9:45 am Robert Louis Stevenson Park on west side. By reservation only. Leader Julie 707-987-9040 or 707-671-5947. Rain cancels. There is a lower peak as well, which is M-7.5-C round-trip. You could sign-out and turn back from there, if 10 miles is too long.

Wed. May 17 - North Group. Coyote Creek Basin, Redwood National Park Hike.

A loop offering wide views over Bald Hills' springtime meadows and woodlands, and passing a sheep shed, barn and cabin on slopes opposite Lyons Home Place. Bring ample liquids and lunch; prepare for wind, chill, and sun. No dogs. Class: M-7-B. Carpools: Meet 9 a.m. Ray's Valley West or 10 am Lady Bird Johnson Parking. Trailhead is Lyons Ranch 10:45 a.m. Leader Melinda mgroomster@gmail.com, 707-668-4275

Sun. May 21 - North Group. Horse Mountain Botanical Area Hike.

Two loop trails, each just over 2 miles, mostly on dirt roads: one to the west of our parking area, past the old "Ski Chalet" site, with views of the King Range, the Siskiyou, and the coast, and another loop to the north and east among rugged Jeffrey pines, red rocks, and a short stretch of cobblestone-strewn single track, looking at the Trinity Alps, the Yolla Bollys, and maybe a peek at Mt. Lassen. Bring lunch, water and good boots. No dogs. Class: M-5-A. Carpools: 9 a.m. Ray's shopping center in Valley West, 10 a.m. Horse Mtn. parking area. Leader Ned, nedforsyth48@gmail.com, 825-3652. Heavy rain cancels.

Instructions to hikers

Outings will start not later than 15 minutes after scheduled meeting time. The leader is in charge of the trip and is responsible for your welfare and the good name of the Club. He/she must have your cooperation to make the trip safe, pleasant and rewarding. Never charge ahead of the leader and keep within sight or shouting distance of the person ahead of you so you do not miss an intersecting trail. Do not lag behind rear leader: if you need help, the rear leader will remain to assist you. Do not leave the group without the leader's permission. Be adequately equipped and prepared. You should carry lunch and liquids. Wear footwear appropriate for the outing. In most cases that would be hiking boots.

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

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

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

Visitors are welcome

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

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

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

To submit outings write-ups

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

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: Jim Gannon Phil Kohlmetz

Fast-pace with few or no stops: Carol Magill

Moderate-pace with few stops: Don Anderson Lorrie Lagasse Julie Kreis Paul Farley

Moderate-pace with more frequent stops: Tom McFarling Melinda Groom Val Nordeman Carol Vellutini Yvonne Kramer Brian Collett Nanette DeDonato Jonah Freedman Steve Devoto

Ned Forsyth Tim Bartice Pete McGee

Slower-pace: Allison Bronkall Carl Inglin

Outings

Fri.-Mon. May 26-29 - Mt. Grafton Wilderness Service.

Join the CNRCC Wilderness Committee's Memorial Day service trip in eastern Nevada's Mt. Grafton Wilderness--another in our ongoing series with the wilderness staff from BLM's Ely office. Useful work in a scenic area--a great way to celebrate Memorial Day out in the wilds. Optional central commissary. Contact Vicky Hoover, 415-977-5527; vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org. Project specifics available later. CNRCC Wilderness Committee.

Sun. June 4 - Lake Group. Redbud Trail to Cache Creek Hike.

Start in a meadow, wind up a ridge, enjoy oak woodlands and the last blooming wildflowers as we reach Cache Creek, then we'll double back the same route. Bring snack, water & hiking boots. Class: M-5-A. Carpools: Meet 9:00 am Lower Lake Coffee Company, Lower Lake, or 9:45 at trailhead. By reservation only. Leader Julie Kreis 707-671-5947 or 707-987-9040. tikaljak@yahoo.com rain cancels.

Fri.-Thu. June 16-22 - Escalante Backpack.

The first part of this 37 mile backpack covers 11 miles in Harris Wash, then 12 miles along the Escalante River, and finally 14 miles out 25 Mile Wash. The entry and exit washes have narrows, large alcoves, and side canyons that become slot canyons. Along the river we will take day hikes to explore Choprock Canyon and Neon Canyon. Be prepared to get your feet wet - hiking may be easier in the river if the banks are choked with tamarisk. Trip requires a car shuttle, high clearance vehicles best. Limit 10. David Hardy, 702-875-4826, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com. Email preferred.

Sun.-Thu. July 2-6: Central Nevada Backpack: Twin Rivers Loop, Arc Dome.

This area has been described as one of "deep, rugged canyons, high bald peaks, elk and wet feet." The trip begins on the North Twin River, near Carver, about an hour's drive northeast of Tonopah, at an elevation around 6300 ft. After arriving at the trailhead we will hike in 2 or 3 miles to our first camp. The next day we will hike about 5 miles and camp. On day 3 we do a day hike (bring a day-pack) to the top of 11,773 ft Arc Dome, 12 miles rt with 4100ft. elevation gain. Day 4 sees the start down South Twin, with a camp after several miles. The last day is the hike out. 16 miles, 3000 ft. elevation gain with backpacks. The group has the option to do the trip in the opposite direction. Elevation gain to the top of Arc Dome is 300 ft less. Possibility of car pool or caravan from Las Vegas, details on trip sheet. Limit 12. David Hardy, 702-875-4826, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com. Email preferred.

Outings Chair Report

Making my annual trip to the Mare Island Flyway in February was the first day it hadn't rained despite having some flooded roadways. I was happy I could get through, bringing my 12 year old neighbor for support and we had a great time. Big thanks go to Festival Director and Co-founder Myrna Hayes as each year is a huge undertaking. The main building had a leaky roof with the floors collecting a few inches of water on Friday. Volunteers had everything in place by Saturday. The Solano Group Sierra Club had a fantastic display manned by Jane Bogner. A group of high school students from Oakland with the SCA, the Student Conservation Association, were volunteering. They work as members of a diverse team of peers, gain knowledge of public land resources, environmental issues and career readiness skills. They were camping out. Students were polite, intelligent and good workers. If you have never been to Mare Island you must go with leader Phil on April 22nd for an Earth Day tour. The Island is laced with trails, elegant mansions, historical buildings, old bunkers, osprey habitat, art work and so much more. I was astonished to see the addition of two rental yurts. What a place to stay overnight! The Spirit Ship at the top of the hill is an art tribute dedicated to the workers of Mare Island Naval Shipyard marking the closure of the Shipyard in 1996. The sculpture has a "dog tag" for many of the ships built and repaired on Mare Island and is a memorial to those who have served. See www.mareislandpreserve.org/Visit/Features.html

Benson Hut, completed in 1949 at an elevation of 8,350' has been maintained by volunteers. Ken Thatcher and Clark Nattkemper were involved from the 50's-90's in keeping Benson open and functional. I took over in the 90's and in 2005 Jim Gannon stepped up and is currently the leader. Dick Simpson, hut volunteer coordinator; Eugene Miya; Val Rios and others have been collecting information on John Benson. A historical evaluation of Benson is happening for the Special Use Permit before the end of the year. Very little is known about John Benson, so volunteers are collecting info before the evaluation begins. John Benson of the 10th



Eugene Miya, Benson Hut volunteer holding 10th Mountain Division patch with crossed bayonets forming a Roman numeral X representing the unit's number. The shape on the patch is a powder-keg, suggesting the Division's explosive power. The patch is red, white & blue which are the colors in the American flag, with the white word MOUNTAIN on a blue tab.

Mountain Division was killed in action by friendly fire in Italy on Feb. 20th 1945. He was a member of the Sierra Club, an ardent skier, who skied the unbroken snows of the back country where the hut is located. Another Sierra Club member, Art Argiewicz, belonged to the 10th and died on Jan. 25 1945. The 10th came into being on July 13, 1943, at Camp Hale, Colorado. The Division entered combat on January 28, 1945 in the North Apennine Mountains of Italy. The 10th faced German positions arrayed along the 5 mile long Monte Belvedere-Monte della Torraccia ridge. Other divisions had attempted to assault Mount Belvedere three times, even holding it temporarily, but none had succeeded. To get to Mount Belvedere the division first had to take Riva Ridge. The Germans on Riva Ridge protected the approaches to Mount Belvedere. After much scouting, it was decided the assault would be at night, a 1,500-vertical-assent. The Germans considered the ridge to be impossible to scale and manned it with only one battalion of mountain troops. During the process of preparing for one of the most daring mountain warfare actions in history, several members of the 10th gave their lives. John Benson was killed in a desperate, sometimes confused battle. We honor and keep John Benson's name alive by our Sierra Club Hut. I was honored to help maintain the hut and am now involved with the Association who exists to preserve and enhance the legacy of the 10th Mountain Division for future generations.

—CAROL VELLUTINI, CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR

Island Hopping in

Channel Islands National Park 2017

May 7-9 June 11-13 July 16-18 Aug. 20-22 Sept. 24-26 Oct. 22-24

Join us for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard cruise to California's Channel Islands! Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines. Snorkle in pristine waters teeming with colorful fish. Swim with frolicking seals and sea lions. Look for unusual sea and land birds. Watch for the highly endangered island fox. Or....just relax at sea! All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. The cost, \$650, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks and beverages plus the services of a naturalist-docent assigned by the national park to help lead hikes, point out items of interest and give evening program. For more information contact leader: Joan Jones Holtz; 626-443-0706; jholtzhl@aol.com. To make a reservation send a \$100 check, written to Sierra Club, to leader, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732.



April 29th March For Climate, Jobs And Justice

Sierra Club is an environmental leader within the People's Climate Movement, which has organized the April 29th march in Washington D.C. and sister marches around the country "to resist attacks on our people, our communities and our planet."

Before the Women's March, held in locations across the nation the day after the inauguration, my sister, who lives in Arizona, expressed skepticism about the impact such a protest could have. Would anything really change? Then millions of people around the world turned out to march in support of America's fundamental values of justice and equality for all.

After recently visiting America's birthplace, Philadelphia, and the National Constitution Center located there, the truth was brought home to me again. Standing up for our values is key to effecting change. Our country was

founded by joining together and resisting unjust treatment. That's why the right to protest is enshrined in the very first amendment to the Constitution. And that's what it's taken, at times, to further amend this seminal document and to extend it's perfect vision of justice and equality for all. The women's suffrage movement and the civil rights movement are two clear historical examples of this.

Please visit <https://peoplesclimate.org/sister-marches/> to find a march near you, as well as a platform of their goals. As we went to press, sister marches are slated for Santa Rosa, Sonoma, Napa and Oakland.

To my sister, I respond: marching, protests, and making our voices heard CAN change our government's direction-- it has in the past, and it can again today.

—MARY DAVISON, REDWOOD NEEDLES EDITOR



Silver Lake & Carson Pass

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

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(209) 258-8500

OPERATES UNDER USFS PERMIT

Sonoma Group Report

Open Space and Parks

Open space and parks lovers take note! The Open Space District wants to hear from you as part of a new Vital Lands Initiative. Please speak out for open space lands you'd like to see protected forever from subdivisions, hotels and housing tracts. Learn more here <http://www.sonomaopenspace.org/projects/vital-lands-initiative/> If you care about Tolay Regional Park, Maxwell Farms, Hood Mtn. or any of the regional parks, please help us watchdog the master plans now under way. See <http://parks.sonomacounty.ca.gov/> Chair Teri Shore is leading our open space work, so us know if you have a favorite place or park you want to help protect.

Recycling and Waste

As part of our advocacy for greener recycling and local composting, the Sonoma Group urged city councils and the Board of Supervisors to support continuation of the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency. The joint powers agency oversees regional compost, household hazardous waste, recycling education and diversion reporting to the state. Each city and the county board must approve the draft extension agreement, or elect to withdraw from the SCWMA and its programs. If the SCWMA dissolves, each member jurisdiction would be responsible for implementing each of these programs themselves. So far, city councils have voted in favor of continuing SCWMA. The supervisors haven't voted yet. Theresa Ryan of the Sonoma Group ExCom took leadership on this important issue.

Occidental Wastewater

Sonoma Group commented on the plan to haul wastewater from Occidental to Guerneville in up to 15 diesel-truck trips per day. We stressed that the haul-out proposal does not adequately address the road conditions and potential for a raw sewage spill, particularly into Dutch Bill Creek. Better options need to be considered, such as preventing storm water incursions and promoting water conservation, including greywater use and revisiting the composting toilet pilot program, in order to reduce the amount of wastewater needing to be treated. Mary Davison is our issue expert who compiled the comment letter to the county water agency.

Climate & Energy Committee

The Climate Action Plan Committee has found that the cities of Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Sebastopol, Sonoma and Healdsburg have started taking steps, but have a long way to go to fully implement measures they committed to in the County's Climate Action Plan (<http://rcpa.ca.gov/projects/climate-action-2020/>). City streetlights in Santa Rosa are being replaced with more efficient LEDs and the city of Sonoma is now using 100 percent Evergreen from Sonoma Clean Power. Help us push the cities to do more by joining Co-Chairs Tom Conlon and Shirley Johnson on the first Monday of every month.

Transportation

Planning has begun for projects and policies to be funded in a renewal of Sonoma County's transportation tax, passed as Measure M in 2004 (Expenditure Plan: http://www.sctainfo.org/pdf/sonoma_co_expenditure_plan_2004_final.pdf). Sierra Club's Steve Birdleough is advocating for public transit and paratransit, bicycle and pedestrian pathways and sidewalks, and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Send us your ideas on how to spend our transportation dollars to go beyond more cars and pavement.

Sonoma Group website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/sonoma>.

—TERI SHORE, SONOMA GROUP CHAIR

Lake Group Report

Dollar General Doubleheader

As previously reported, Lake Group has challenged the proposal by Cross Development to construct a Dollar General outlet on the outskirts of Middletown on the grounds that it violates numerous policies in the Middletown Area Plan. The Planning Commission unanimously voted to deny the project last year, but the developer appealed to the Board of Supervisors, which approved the Use Permit by a 3-2 vote, conditioned on a new PC hearing on the design and environmental aspects of the project and certification of a mitigated negative declaration.

By the time the Commission voted on these matters on January 26, four new Commissioners had been seated, all of whom appeared to have done plenty of homework and to understand the fundamentals of land use planning. After several hours of testimony, including that of Group Chair Ed Robey as well as many other members of the community (all of whom opposed the project), they again voted unanimously

to deny a mitigated negative declaration and findings of consistency with the General Plan and Area Plan. The developer has since appealed this decision to the Board of Supervisors, which has two new members. A hearing date has not yet been set.

Then on February 23 the Commission heard three hours of testimony on a similar application for a Dollar General in the Clear Lake Riviera community: with the exception of the developer and the owners of the prospective site, comments were uniformly hostile, with objections ranging from Area Plan inconsistencies to negative impacts on quality of life and respected local businesses, and also an interesting assertion that considering the many applications individually rather than as elements of a single project amounts to CEQA piecemealing.

Again, the Commission voted unanimously to deny all requested entitlements, and the decision has been appealed to the BOS. Stay tuned!

Next Meeting: Earth Activism 2.0

At Lake Group's next general membership

meeting on March 22, executive committee member and former Supervisor Denise Rushing will share "permaculture" principles and practices that can keep us energized, sane and powerfully focused in these difficult political times. Learning ecosystem strategies developed over millennia by life on Planet Earth and how to apply these strategies will help us not only to survive, but also to thrive in a hostile environment, while transforming the system itself. The meeting will be held in the Round Room at Mendocino College, 2565 Parallel Dr, and as always is free and open to the public.

Berryessa Snow Mountain: the next steps.

Almost two-thirds of the BSM national monument is situated in Lake County, and Lake Group is excited to be able to participate in planning for both conservation and recreation in the region. For details, see the article elsewhere in this edition of the Redwood Needles.

—VICTORIA BRANDON,

LAKE GROUP CONSERVATION CHAIR

Napa Group Report

Napa Climate Matters

The proposed Napa County Climate Action Plan (CAP), which will be our blueprint for controlling greenhouse gas emissions has the potential to be a powerful local tool for environmental protection. However, the initial draft has severe flaws which will weaken its impact. The Napa Sierra Club Group has submitted comments, and has contributed money to the hiring of Ron Cowan, an expert in biological carbon cycles, to analyze the document and provide expert input. It will take strong pressure by environmental advocates to improve our CAP.

We are proud to be associated with Napa Climate NOW!, a local group educating citizens on climate issues and influencing policy and programs at the local and state levels. Their next meeting is Monday, March 20th, 6:30 pm, at 675 Cunard in Napa. If

you would like to attend, or to find out more at the group please contact Kit Long at kittylong00@gmail.com.

Vallejo's Orcem/VMT plant: why it matters to Napa

The proposal to construct a cement plant and deep water marine terminal at the mouth of the Napa River in Vallejo has generated strong opposition from Vallejo citizens. The project, though little publicized in Napa, has the potential to cause severe damage to Napa River habitat, as well as to pollute the air in the vicinity of American Canyon.

Bill Dyer, of the Napa Sierra Club executive committee, outlined Napa's issues with the project in a letter to the Vallejo planning commission. He pointed out that toxic contaminants from the slag used in cement production have the potential to degrade both the air and the water.

Napa County has spent millions of dollars

rehabilitating the Napa River to encourage the return of steelhead and salmon. Efforts have included Rutherford DUST and other projects which together will restore over 15 miles of fish habitat between Rutherford and Calistoga. In addition barriers to fish passage have been removed at Zinfandel Lane and other sites in the river and its tributaries.

But Napa salmon and steelhead travel to and from the ocean, right past the proposed plant. Pollution of the mouth of the Napa River by toxic chemicals could undo our progress in river rehabilitation.

The good news is that the Vallejo planning commission recently rejected the cement plant/marine terminal. But the battle is not over, since the project developers have vowed to appeal the decision to the Vallejo City Council. (See article on page one for more information.)

—NANCY TAMARIS, NAPA GROUP VICE CHAIR

Mendocino Group Report

The Central Coast Transfer Station (CCTS) has moved off of the back burner. It seems that State Parks is unwilling to go with the program to swap 12 acres of older second growth redwood for an easement on a capped (and leaking) dump site. The plan was that Parks would swap the 12 acres to Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF), JDSF would swap 35 acres in the pygmy forest to the city of Fort Bragg and the county of Mendocino, and City and County would swap the aforementioned dumpsite to Parks. Parks has said no. Another property is being sought to mix into the mix. Attorney Paul Carroll has said that enabling legislation will have to be redrawn and passed if the original proposal is altered. Mendocino Group is watching closely.

In Albion another area in the pygmy forest is imperiled. The Albion School has seen its enrollment decline to the degree that it may not function as a school next year. This is a large property located in the pygmy. The community is being solicited to derive input as to what will happen on the property. The concern of Mendocino Group is not with the actual school building but with the remaining property, that the pygmy forest will be razed to build another something. Linda Perkins has already suggested that a large scale building project find another site by arranging a site walk for the proponents and local pygmy expert Teresa Scholars. We will be closely following this.

Mendocino Group will be making a presentation at the Mendocino College campus on the coast to drum up ExCom members. This will be part of an exciting extension class on citizen participation.

An interested member from Ukiah wrote to the Mendocino Group, but the

email was lost in a hacker attack. Please contact us again, as we would like to reply and talk with you. Thanks.

—MARY WALSH, MENDOCINO GROUP CHAIR

HELP!!

Mendocino Group seriously needs a few more active members to keep our Group alive!

We need one or two active people each from the inland valleys and the south coast to advocate for conservation goals, manage the web page, and help with group and chapter tasks. Please consider joining us! Our next meeting is April 13th at the Albion School. Meetings could also be by conference call or be held in other communities. Please contact one of these members for more information: Mary Walsh, Chair, 937-0572, email: bell@mcn.org Linda Perkins, Conservation, 937-0903, lperkins@mcn.org Rixanne Wehren, Coastal Comm. 937-2709, rixanne@mcn.org

North Group Report

Pesticides on the Smith River Plain: Is Drinking Water Safe?

Recently I received a notice¹ announcing that the State Water Resources Control Board has proposed establishing a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 5 parts per trillion (ppt) for the chemical 1,2,3-Trichloropropane (1,2,3-TCP) in drinking water. 1,2,3-TCP is a man-made chemical used as a solvent and degreaser. It is also commonly found in many pesticides, including soil fumigants that are now banned in California. The most common agricultural pesticide containing 1,2,3-TCP is Telon II which was banned for use in California in 1990.

The State's notice referenced the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) which, in 2009, established a Public Health Goal (PHG)² for 1,2,3-TCP of 0.7 ppt based on the cancer risk posed by this chemical. The chemical is especially dangerous because it remains in groundwater for a long time. In fact, there is no evidence that 1,2,3-TCP can naturally decompose and removing it from groundwater is complex, expensive and not always successful.

Until it was banned in 1990, Telon II and other chemicals containing 1,2,3-TCP were used as fumigants to control nematodes. A lot of the chemical was used on lily bulb fields adjacent to the Smith River Estuary on what is known locally as Smith River Plain. Other less-studied soil fumigants are now used. The area north of the Smith River Estuary, known as the Smith River Plain, produces most of the lily bulbs sold in the USA. Greg King's Siskiyou Land Conservancy³ reports that in some years more pounds of pesticides per acre have been used on the Smith River Plain than were used anywhere else in California.

The State Water Board's announcement notes that 1,2,3-TCP has been detected in numerous drinking water sources in California. Detections in drinking water by county can be found at this link⁴. According to that site, 1,2,3-TCP has not been found in drinking water in either Humboldt or Del Norte Counties. But I've discovered that the cancer-causing chemical has, in fact, been detected in community drinking water wells operated by both the Smith River Community Service District and the Reservation Ranch dairy and beef cattle operation. Drinking water wells operated by

the two entities are located on Smith River Plain.

I discovered the 1,2,3-TCP detections because two citizens who live on Smith River Plain came to me with concerns about chemical containments in their drinking water. I agreed to investigate. That eventually led to the database⁵ which contains test results for all California's public drinking water systems. While test results for the Reservation Ranch and Smith River CSD drinking water wells reveal other problem contaminants, 1,2,3-TCP is the most dangerous chemical detected in groundwater which is pumped and piped into numerous homes.

I found it curious that these detections were apparently not reported to the State Water Board. So I began questioning the Redding based officials who are responsible for overseeing these drinking water systems and who are required to report 1,2,3-TCP detections. Those officials would not respond when I questioned their failure to report the detections. I've now filed a complaint about that with Cal EPA; the State Water Board is an agency of Cal EPA.



On the Smith River Plain some streams have been ditched and no-spray buffers are lacking.

I'll report Cal EPA's response when I receive it and I'll keep advocating for clean-up of groundwater north of the Smith River Estuary. Groundwater pollution there puts residents and workers, as well as fish and other wildlife, at risk.

Entities like Reservation Ranch and Smith River CSD have a responsibility to inform the public when the drinking water systems they operate are dangerously contaminated. State Water Board officials are responsible for making sure that happens. When it comes to the Smith River Plain, however, systems that are supposed to protect the public are not operating properly. That must change.

—FELICE PACE, NORTH GROUP WATER CHAIR

1. http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/documents/123-tcp/sbddw17_001/notice%20pr.pdf

2. <https://oehha.ca.gov/water/public-health-goal/final-public-health-goal-123-trichloropropane-drinking-water>

3. <http://siskiyouland.org/about/>

4. http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/123TCP.shtml

5. <https://sdwis.waterboards.ca.gov/PDWW/index.jsp>

Solano Breeze Corner

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

Orcem/VMT Update

The Vallejo Planning Commission voted 6 - 1 to support city staff and reject the port and cement factory which is known as the Orcem/VMT project. Staff has stated that the project doesn't meet the city's waterfront development plan along with many other objections. (See page one for more details.) The opposition by Sierra Club's Solano and Napa Groups, Redwood Chapter and the national staff was crucial for getting this project rejected. The Project Manager for Orcem plans to appeal with the City Council. Once the appeal is submitted, a later hearing will be scheduled.

Joe Feller, joe56feller@gmail.com

Solano County Earth Day activities:

- Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District Coastal Cleanup is on Saturday April 23, from 9:00am to 11:00am. There will be two cleanup sites: Lower Ledge Creek in Fairfield and Lower Union Creek in Suisun City. Sign up at <http://www.fssd.com/earthday/>

- City of Vallejo Earth Day - Solano Group will have a booth at the Vallejo Farmers Market, Saturday, April 15th, 9 am - 1 pm

- City of Fairfield Earth Day Solano Group

will also have a booth here Saturday, April 22nd, 9am-1pm, at the Fairfield Civic Center

- Sierra Club Book Fair, a fundraiser for the Solano Group, in partnership with the Barnes and Noble Bookstore Earth Day Program, at the Fairfield B&N location. It will be a book fair, and student speech/essay contest, sponsored by the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District. Saturday, April 22nd 3pm-6pm

VALCORE Recycling and Paper Shredding updates:

Solano Group will be helping out with paper shredding every 3rd Saturday of the month at 38 Sheridan Street, Vallejo, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There is a charge of \$10 (CASH or CHECK ONLY) per twenty pounds of paper shredded. (Maximum: 100 pounds).

WEEKDAY SHREDDING from 10 am to 4 pm, closed 1 pm to 2 pm for lunch (CREDIT OR DEBIT ONLY).

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!

CONTRIBUTORS: QUINTON CRAWFORD & JANE BOGNER

EDITOR: GREG PETERSON

Non-Sierra Club Outings & Events

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.

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

Garden Volunteer Days: First Friday of the Month, 9am - noon. Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa. Enjoy our native plant garden! Volunteers are essential in beautifying our site. Share your expertise or learn new skills by getting involved today! http://lagunafoundation.org/volunteer_garden.html

Laguna Stewardship Days: Once a month on a Saturday from 9am - noon (Apr 8.)

Details of the site location announced 2 weeks in advance of the workday (various sites along the Laguna) Help care for the Laguna and restore critical wildlife habitat! Joining the Laguna Stewards is a fun and meaningful way to volunteer while enjoying the outdoors.

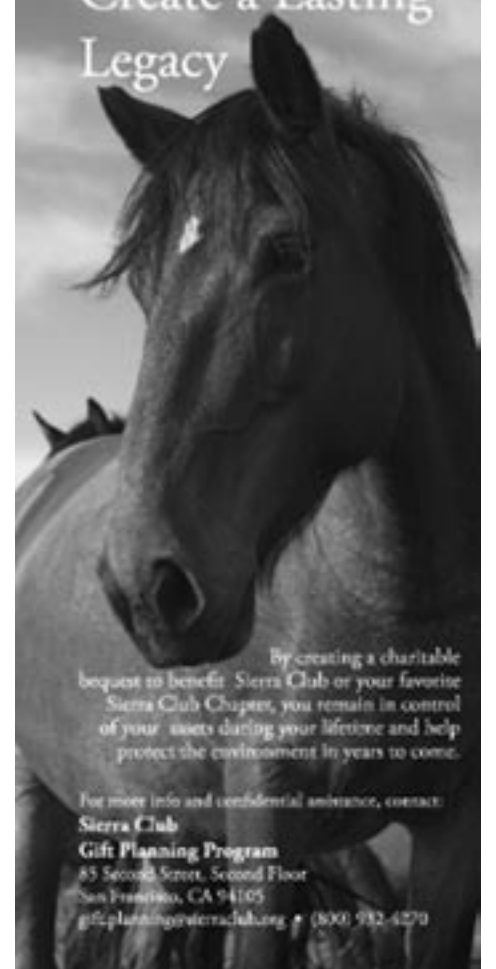
http://lagunafoundation.org/volunteer_lagunastewards.html

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.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Create a Lasting Legacy



By creating a charitable bequest to benefit Sierra Club or your favorite Sierra Club Chapter, you remain in control of your assets during your lifetime and help protect the environment in years to come.

For more info and confidential assistance, contact:
Sierra Club
Gift Planning Program
85 Second Street, Second Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
giftplanning@sierraclub.org • (800) 932-4279



National Sierra Club Elections are Underway - 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 should have received 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: 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 26, 2017.



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. 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. Apr. 3 - Solano Group ExCom.

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

Mon. Apr. 3 - Sonoma Group.

Environmental Center, Santa Rosa. Conservation Committee 5:30pm-6:30pm. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

Tues. Apr. 11 - North Group.

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.

Mon. May 1 - Sonoma Group.

Environmental Center, Santa Rosa. Conservation Committee at 5:30 pm - 6:30 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

Mon. May 8 - 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.

Sat., May 13 - Redwood Chapter ExCom. And ConsCom.

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

Tues. May 16 - North Group.

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.

Tues. May 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 napaquail@gmail.com

Thurs. May 18 - 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.

Five Things You Can Do to Stand Up for the Environment

With nearly daily attacks on the environment coming out of Washington, it's hard to stay optimistic about healthy ecosystems, protection for wildlife and the future of the planet. These things we hold dear need us now more than ever. Thankfully, there are small things we can do every day to help.

1. Drive less.

It's sometimes hard to get around in Northern California without a car, especially if you live outside of urban centers. According to the Department of Transportation, the average American drives about 29 miles each day. U.S. Energy Information Administration notes almost 20 pounds of carbon dioxide are produced by burning one gallon of gasoline.

If you want to reduce your carbon footprint, think about reducing your trips and your mileage. You can carpool, combine errands into one trip, use transit systems, go by bike or foot. It might feel awkward at first, but the more you do it, the less you feel reliant upon your car for transportation.

2. Eat less meat.

If you're already a vegan or vegetarian, thank you for helping to reduce greenhouse gasses. But for omnivores, giving up meat can feel like an impingement on basic human rights. Still, reducing meat in your diet can go a long way toward curbing climate change and improving water quality.

Raising livestock contributes to about 18 percent of greenhouse gas emissions globally, according to a 2009 study published in the journal *Climate Change*. Reducing consumption of beef and pork especially, can alter land use and result in a "large carbon uptake from regrowing vegetation." Methane and nitrous oxide emissions would be substantially reduced. Americans eat more meat than any other nationalities, except one. The average American consumed 71.2 pounds of red meat and 54.1 pounds of poultry in 2012, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

To reduce your meat consumption, look for plant-based protein sources, like beans, lentils, seeds and nuts. Order a quinoa salad instead of the burger for lunch. Try adding tofu to your curry instead of chicken for dinner. Experiment with alternatives for one or two meals a week to replace meat and pat yourself on the back for being open to helping the environment through your diet.

3. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Californians are used to recycling, and composting

has been on the rise for the last decade. But what often gets overlooked is reducing consumption of products and reusing them before recycling them.

Felicia Smith, a waste management specialist from the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency, said moving away from single-use products, like plastic wrap, to-go containers and coffee cups, can be a challenge because of easy availability and habit, but can go a long way to reducing what gets sent to the landfill.

You can also use rechargeable batteries at home, donate unwanted household items like books, appliances, toys and clothes, use rags to clean instead of paper towels and pay bills online instead of receiving paper statements. To be informed about how to dispose of potentially hazardous materials, check out SCWMA's website, www.recyclenow.org.

4. Volunteer.

Participation is key for our democracy to remain healthy. Whether that's attending a city council meeting, getting involved in a community action group or becoming a hike leader, this is the time to stand up for your values.

There are many ways to volunteer locally, and lots of organizations, like Sierra Club, looking for good help.

Decide how much time you have a week to donate, what skills you can offer and approach groups to find out what help is needed. Our chapter has a volunteer page on our website, where you can see local Group or Redwood Chapter open positions. Other environmental groups like 350 Sonoma have similar pages on their sites.

Volunteering can also look like being a watchdog for the environment. Sharing credible information about environmental issues in your area is a great way to get involved. Be an active citizen by calling your elected leaders and thanking them for their work on the environment or urging them to do more. Subscribe to your local newspaper and support community journalism to ensure a free press so you and your neighbors stay informed on important local issues. This is a great time to think globally and act locally. Your individual work always matters.

5. Donate

If you don't have enough free time to volunteer but want to make a contribution, money also helps an organization's efforts. Donating to the Sierra Club at a local level ensures that your money is spent primarily on local issues and advocacy. Small donations count, so don't shy away from giving \$20 if that's what makes sense for your pocketbook.

Go to sierraclub.org/redwood/join-donate to donate to the chapter, or become a member.

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