



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 53 Number 4

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

August/Sept. 2012

## Lawsuit Filed Over Clearcutting Forests for Vineyards

By JAY HALCOMB, REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

On June 7 conservation groups filed a lawsuit in Sonoma County Superior Court challenging a controversial proposal by a Spanish corporation to clearcut 154 acres of redwood forest to plant wine grapes in northwestern Sonoma County. The Sierra Club's Redwood Chapter, Center for Biological Diversity and Friends of the Gualala River sued the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) for violating state law in approving the Fairfax "forest conversion" project funded by Spanish company Codorniu S.A., owner of Napa Valley's Artesa Winery.

"Sonoma County has already experienced a large scale conversion of natural oak woodlands and inland forests to agriculture, and we intend to draw a line to stop further destruction of redwood forests and salmon streams for more acres of grapes," said Chris Poehlmann, president of Friends of the Gualala River.

"Sonoma County needs to conserve its remaining forestland for the benefit of future generations, not sacrifice redwood trees for the sake of Pinot Noir," said Jay Halcomb of the Sierra Club.

"Clearcutting forests to plant vineyards is the height of insanity," said Justin Augustine, staff attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity. "Redwoods-to-vineyard conversions increase greenhouse gas emissions and harm stream flows, water quality and habitat for imperiled wildlife, including endangered salmon and steelhead trout."

"The idea that Artesa could permanently clearcut and destroy 154 acres of redwood forest, rip out the stumps, remove all vegetation, bulldoze the soil, apply tons of chemicals and install miles of wildlife exclusion fencing with no significant environmental impacts, as claimed in the environmental review by the Department of Forestry, is just not credible,"

said Dave Jordan of the Sierra Club. "We're not against wine or grape-growing but we object to the destruction of forests and Native American heritage."

### Background

In preparing an Environmental Impact Report for the project, the Department of Forestry failed to consider the environmental impacts and did not analyze project alternatives less damaging to the environment, in violation of the California Environmental Quality Act. CDF only considered alternative vineyard sites that are also forested to reach the flawed conclusion that the project would be equally damaging to the environment at the alternative sites. Buying forested land with the intent to clearcut and destroy the forest to plant grapes is unnecessarily environmentally damaging since there is suitable non-forested land available in Sonoma County.

The environmental review for Artesa's project also attempts to sidestep impacts to Native American heritage and cultural resources. The land the winery purchased has been used extensively by Native Americans since prehistoric times and contains numerous significant archeological sites that have not been adequately documented or protected. The Kashia Pomo have publicly stated that the land is spiritually important to them.

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## Berryessa Snow Mountain Legislation Introduced

By VICTORIA BRANDON

On May 8, just barely too late to meet the deadline for the previous edition of the Redwood Needles, Redwood Chapter Representatives Mike Thompson, John Garamendi, and Lynn Woolsey introduced a bill in Congress, HR 5545, to permanently protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain region by designating it as a National Conservation Area—marking a historic moment for everyone who cares about good stewardship of our public lands. "The Berryessa Snow Mountain Region is a unique national treasure and we have a responsibility to preserve it for our kids and grandkids," said Rep. Thompson. "Designating the region as a National Conservation Area will preserve the land, help our local economies, and protect a wide variety of plants and animals. This is the right way forward for the region and our communities."

Permanent protection for this special area, a prime recreation spot and home to a wide array of rare plants and animals, has been a top Redwood Chapter conservation priority for a long time. Creation of an NCA can also help improve management of trails, campsites and other recreation facilities, increase opportunities for user education and help draw visitors to the area year-round, and by creating a broadly based stakeholder advisory committee maximize collaboration and formulate a joint vision for the future.

This result came about after several years of gradually increasing grassroots support, culminating in a unanimous formal vote of endorsement from the Lake County Board of Supervisors on April 17 and the Napa Board on May 8. The BSMNCA proposal offers immense potential benefits for the multi-county region covered by the enabling legislation—it's good for the land, good for the economy, and good for the people.

We'll be following the progress of HR 5545 as it moves through Congress—stay tuned!

## Redwood Chapter 2012 Primary Election Results

Overall, Sierra Club endorsed candidates did very well in the recent election: Congressmen John Garamendi (District 3) and Mike Thompson (District 5) won with more than 50 percent of the vote. Under California's new "top two" nonpartisan primary system this means they have to win all over again in November, but their decisive June victories make ultimate success seem highly probable, and in the case of Congressman Garamendi might discourage the intervention of well-funded far right Super PACs. Assemblyman Jared Huffman, endorsed by the Club, came out on top in the new "coastal" Congressional District 2. Although this open seat was hotly contended in the primary, the District is heavily Democratic and Huffman is expected to win easily in November.

Endorsed incumbent Assemblymembers Wesley Chesbro (AD 2), Mariko Yamada (AD 4), Michael Allen (AD 10) all advanced to the general election. So did State Senator Lois Wolk (SD 3) and Assemblymember Susan Bonilla (AD 14), both of

whom are running unopposed. In AD 11, an open seat, Club endorsed candidate Jim Frazier also won a slot in the November runoff.

In local contests, four of our county supervisorial endorsees won outright (Mark Lovelace, Humboldt County District 3, Linda Seifert, Solano County District 2, Skip Thomson, Solano County District 5, and Shirlee Zane, Sonoma County District 3); two dual-endorsees earned a place in the November 6 runoff (Erin Hannigan, Solano County District 1, and Susan Gorin, Sonoma County District 1) and two were eliminated (Katy Meissner, Solano District 1 and Mark Bramfitt, Sonoma District 1); and three others were defeated (Victoria Brandon, Lake County District 1, Clif Clendenen, Humboldt County District 2, and Ernie Carpenter, Sonoma County District 5).

Lake County Measure D, opposed by the Club, was also defeated.

## Reflections on Rio: Reproductive Rights, Measuring Success, and Why I Never Had Time to Get in the Water

By KIMBERLY LOVELL, PROGRAM DIRECTOR FOR SIERRA CLUB'S  
GLOBAL POPULATION AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

Sitting in a circle on a bright Tuesday morning in central Rio, a group of bubbly Brazilian teenagers are talking sex. While not an uncommon conversation for the girls—a group of peer educators from a favela called Cachoeirinha—today is a little bit different. Not only is the room where they're gathered especially crowded, and filled with English accents chirping above their lyrical Portuguese, today the girls are asked questions that extend far beyond sexual health.

"What are the three most important needs in your life?" asks one of the many Non-governmental organization (NGO) representatives gathered around the teens, listening intently to their dialogue. The group talks amongst themselves, and finally responds: "Safety and security, job availability, and a clean environment." In a city exploding with new residents, challenged by the task of providing amenities like electricity and trash collection to its ever-growing population, with huge gaps between rich and poor and an unsettling dichotomy

"Reflections on Rio" cont. on page 3

### Sonoma Group New Members Forum

Thursday, August 16

Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa

Members of the Sonoma Group ExCom and the Outdoor Committee, plus general club members, will attend this forum to offer a full picture of the activities that your membership supports, and the many ways that members can stretch your activism or outdoor enjoyment by jumping in and getting involved with their Sierra Club Redwood Chapter and Sonoma Group.

# Redwood Chapter Sierra Club Directory

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95402, Phone 544-7651, Fax 544-9861

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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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### Address Corrections:

address.changes@sierraclub.org  
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 (415) 977-5653

Issue	Deadline
Oct./Nov.	Sept. 8
Dec./Jan.	Nov. 4
Feb./March	Jan. 8

## Redwood Chapter & Sonoma Group Office

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

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

## Redwood Chapter Online

Redwood Chapter Website: <http://www.redwood.sierraclub.org>  
for Group Websites, add: /napa, /north, /sonoma, /lake, /mendocino, or /solano  
Sequoia Paddlers: [www.sequoiapc.org](http://www.sequoiapc.org)  
Redwood-Sonoma-Alerts Lists

# "Reflections on Rio" continued from page 1

between the white sand beaches of Ipanema and the crowded favelas creeping up the once-green hills, the priorities of these young people ring true for each and every one of us in the room.

The morning's conversation begins with access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), but quickly grows to a broader discussion of what those services and rights mean for women's families and futures—namely protection from gender-based violence, autonomy and independence, pregnancy timing and spacing that allows for employment outside the home, and a sustainable, clean environment in which to raise children. It becomes clear that each young person in the room is a living example of the connections between health, rights, and sustainability—the connections that brought us to Rio de Janeiro to hear their stories.

A few hours later, after leaving the BEMFAM outpost where these young people graciously shared their thoughts on reproductive health and a sustainable future, I'm once again sitting in a windowless conference room at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, or Rio+20. Flipping through emails, I see that the negotiating text for the Rio outcome document has been finalized -- and has removed language on sexual and reproductive rights and adolescents.

The enormous disconnect between the political game taking place inside the halls of RioCentro and the reality of young people's lives a few miles away is striking. In a world where 215 million women have an unmet need for family planning, and when meeting this need improves health, bolsters economies, helps women better

manage resources, aids in climate mitigation and adaptation, fosters gender equity, and promotes sustainable communities, it's appalling that this language is excluded from a document designed to create "The Future We Want."

A future where the rights of young people to make decisions about their sexuality are not guaranteed is not a future we want. An outcome document with minimal progress for women's rights and health does not create the future we want. The NGO community has worked hard these past few days and months, hosting events and panels to highlight the connections between sexual and reproductive rights and sustainability, lobbying delegates to speak out on their importance, blogging and tweeting and publishing countless articles on the necessity of a comprehensive and holistic approach to development that incorporates the needs of women—only to realize that the future we want is not the one that many world leaders want for us.

Yet something important has happened at Rio+20— a movement that began brewing in the halls and meeting rooms of RioCentro and resulted in unprecedented attention to the rights of women as they link to sustainability. "One leader after another has stood up for reproductive rights, and we've started a campaign here," explains Christian Friis Bach, Minister for Development Cooperation in Denmark, at an event hosted by the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who traveled to Rio to represent the development agenda of the United States, boldly asserts to conference delegates on Friday that "women must be empowered to make decisions on

whether and when to have children" if the world is to attain agreed-upon sustainable development goals. The final negotiating text may not reference reproductive rights, but the issue is one that has not been ignored in Rio de Janeiro, even from the highest-ranking negotiators.

As I pack up the bathing suit that never touched the water and the conference badge that's been a permanent fixture around my neck, I think about the girls in Cachoeirinha and whether we failed them this week. If we gauge success by the language in the outcome document—laying out the importance of reproductive health but neglecting to ensure the rights of women and adolescents to make decisions about their own childbearing—we have failed. But if we measure our effectiveness by the outpouring of support for linking reproductive rights and sustainability, the statements of world leaders reiterating these important connections, the multitude of side events and panels bringing together the environmental and family planning sectors, and the passion of people from around the world who devote their lives to this intersection, we have been wildly successful.

"I am not depressed about the text," explains renowned physicist, feminist, and environmental champion Vandana Shiva on a Tuesday night panel. "I did not come here for a text. I came here out of solidarity."

So in solidarity with the incredible advocates in Rio, with women and men from around the world working doggedly to create a sustainable world that embraces the rights and health of people everywhere, and in solidarity with the spunky Brazilian teens who will be infinitely more affected by our work than a single delegate at the United Nations, I will board the plane to Washington knowing that we did not fail. Together, we showed the world that a sustainable future cannot be ensured without addressing women's access to basic rights, including the critical decision of if and when to have children. A future that guarantees this access is a future we do want.

*This article first appeared in the Sierra Club's online Compass*

## Non-Sierra Club Outings

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

### Saturday Saunters for Santa Rosa Area.

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

### Sonoma County Regional Parks trail work days.

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

## Discover the Joys of Connecting Children with Nature

Bring your enthusiasm and willingness to learn about local plants and animals as you train to become a volunteer Terwilliger Nature Guide with the WildCare program at Spring Lake Park in Santa Rosa. You will learn naturalist Elizabeth Terwilliger's outdoor teaching methods which open children's senses to the natural world. Help them discover frogs and butterflies and raccoon tracks and red-winged blackbirds.

Come to a free orientation on Saturday, August 4, 2012, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at our center in San Rafael, at 76 Albert Park Lane. Directions and additional information: [www.wildcarebayarea.org/volunteer](http://www.wildcarebayarea.org/volunteer).

Nature Guide training, starting August 11th, will be provided by experienced naturalists and biologists. The curriculum will focus on local biodiversity, with topics including redwood forest ecology, bird identification techniques, wildflowers, and much more.

Eight half-day training and field sessions will take place from late August through October. Your training will take you to several sites in Marin County in addition to Spring Lake Park. When training is completed, you will be ready to lead small groups of elementary schoolchildren on Wednesday mornings at Spring Lake Park during the school year. New Guides commit to three 3-hr. field trips per month. There is a fee for training materials.

You may register online at [www.wildcarebayarea.org/volunteer](http://www.wildcarebayarea.org/volunteer). Or call Eileen Jones at (415) 453-1000, ext. 12 Email: [volunteer@wildcarebayarea.org](mailto:volunteer@wildcarebayarea.org)

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Kolunga Village Foundation is a 501 c3 nonprofit organization. Federal Tax ID #20-5108646.

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**All Creatures Great and Small**



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- John Muir

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Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
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Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
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Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.95 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, PO Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

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Requests have played a key role in Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years.

Planning now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. We have many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more info and confidential assistance, contact:  
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San Francisco, CA 94105  
[gift.planning@sierraclub.org](mailto:gift.planning@sierraclub.org) • (800) 932-4270

# Outings

## Sequoia Paddlers - Canoe and kayak roll practice.

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

## Sequoia Paddlers Section.

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

## Sun. Aug. 5 - Mendo Group. Caspar Upland Trail Hike.

Inland walkers enjoy a cool day at the coast walking the new Caspar Upland Trail, a 2 mile loop through the most southern stand of Sitka Spruce. After lunch on Caspar Beach or at the Cabrillo Light House, there will be an optional hike on the Fern Canyon Trail in Van Damme State park, starting in the Pygmy Forest, about a 3 mile loop. Dress in layers, bring lunch, water, snacks. Class M-5-A. Ukiah carpools meet Raley's parking lot in front of O' Reilly's Auto, 8:30 am. Coast walkers meet

at Caspar Beach at 10:15. RSVP Leader Yvonne Kramer, 463-0342 or kramer@saber.net

## Sat. Aug. 11 - Sonoma Group. Sonoma Coast Hike.

Hike Pomo Canyon to Goat Rock and back via Red Hill on beautiful Sonoma Coast. 11 miles with moderate elevation gain. Bring lunch, water and good hiking boots. Class M-11-B, Carpools 8:15am PG&E Park&Ride on River Road. Hike starts 9:15am and trailhead is Pomo Canyon Campground parking area. There is a parking fee at the trailhead. Leader Jim Gannon (707)-525-1052 jgannon99@sbcglobal.net

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

Our walk takes along a historic road to the highest point on Mare Island and we'll likely encounter late wildflowers blooms and spectacular views towards the Carquinez Strait and San Pablo Bay. We will also see fledgling ospreys and great blue herons along the way. There are also various historical features along the way. This walk is a fairly easy 3.0 mile r/t walk on paved roads. Class E-4-A. 9:30- 11:00. Take U.S. 101, I-80 or Hwy 29 to Highway 37 and take the Mare Island exit just west of Vallejo. Follow Walnut Ave. south to 'G' St. (1st stop sign) and turn left. Take the 2nd right at Nimitz and go to 15th S. stop sign and turn right. Go to Railroad Ave. and turn left. Follow Railroad through the South Gate to the Park kiosk and park along the road. Leader Brian Collett 530 220-3121

## Sat. Aug. 11 - North Group. Humboldt Lagoons State Park, Stone Lagoon Hike.

Hike north up the beach from Dry Lagoon, wind over the wooded hillside to Stone Lagoon, then follow the lagoon shoreline to the ocean, where we will lunch before returning along same route. Bring water, lunch and sturdy shoes. No dogs. Class M-6-A. Carpools: Meet 9:15 am McKinleyville Safeway parking lot or 10 am Dry Lagoon Parking Lot (west of Hwy. 101, across from red schoolhouse). Leader Bill 707-839-5971. Rain cancels.

## Sun. Aug. 12 - Sonoma Group. PT Reyes Hike.

Estero Trail, Drakes Head, Bucklin to Mt Vision. 12 mile hike. Return by 4:00 pm. Bring lunch, water and good hiking boots. Car shuttle hike. Class M-12-B, Car shuttle hike from Mt Vision Trail head. Hike from Estero trailhead Pt Reyes NS. Carpools 7:45am meet Rohnert Park Park&Ride (South side of 101) Leader Jim Gannon (707)-525-1052 jgannon99@sbcglobal.net.

## Mon. Aug. 13 - Fri. Aug 17 Yolla Bolly Wilderness, River Trail.

This is a beautiful loop of connecting trails through the heart of the Yolla Bolly Wilderness. We will backpack 5-6 miles each day, stopping each night at a spring. Intermediate backpacking skills are required. Must be in good shape, have a regular fitness regimen. Good boots, water purification, water bladder or extra water bottles, sunscreen are a must. Bear canister is optional, as is rain gear. Bring your own food and equipment for 5 days/4 nights. Class: M-30-B. Elevation is up and down, beginning at 5000 feet. Meet 8a.m. Covelo turnoff, 10 mi. north of Willits, Hwy. 101. We will drive into Covelo, leave a car at the ranger station if needed. By reservation only. Leader Val Nordeman, 707 477-4199, nordeman@willitsonline.com

## Fri. Aug. 17-Sun. Aug. 19 Napa Group/Sequoia Paddlers. Utica Reservoir Paddle.

3 days, 2 nights camping on Utica Reservoir. We load the boats and find a quiet camping

spot across the water. Cooking, napping, hiking, swimming, reading, painting, storytelling... By reservation only. Leader: Isabelle: izstguily@gmail.com Co-leader Carl: chinglin@sonic.net

## Sat. Aug. 25 - Sonoma Singles Picnic in Windsor.

Join us at the Riverfront Regional Park as Carl hosts a picnic potluck. Come at 2pm to socialize, dine 3pm. Optional short hike around the lakes afterward. Bring food (not requiring refrigeration or heating) and beverage to share, and \$1 for the club fund. Dishes will be provided if you help to clean up. From Hwy 101, take River Rd exit to meet betwn 1:30-1:40pm at the park and ride to carpool and split the \$7 per car fee. Or direct to Park: from SR, take River Road to right on Wohler Road, then right on Eastside Road, park will be on your left. From Windsor, take Windsor River Road to left on Eastside Road, park will be on your right. Riverfront Regional Park is at 7821 Eastside Rd., Windsor. Info. Karen before 8:30pm 664-1448.

## Sun. Sept. 2 - North Group. Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, West Ridge/Zig Zag #2/ Prairie Creek Trails.

This loop highlights vegetation differences between old growth redwoods on a ridge and along the pleasant stream below. Bring water, lunch and sturdy shoes. No dogs. Class M-9-A. Carpools: Meet 9:30 am McKinleyville Safeway parking lot or 10:30 am outside Elk Prairie Visitors Center off Newton Drury Parkway. Leader Bill 707-839-5971. Rain cancels.

## Sat. Sept. 8 - A walk at Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve in Vallejo.

Our walk takes along a historic paved road to the highest point on Mare Island and offers spectacular views towards the Carquinez Strait and San Pablo Bay. We may also see fledgling ospreys and other aquatic and terrestrial wildlife along the way. There are various historical features along the way. This walk is a fairly easy 3.0 mile r/t walk. Class E-4-A. 9:30- 11:00. Take U.S. 101, I-80 or Hwy 29 to Highway

37 and take the Mare Island exit just west of Vallejo. Follow Walnut Ave. south to 'G' St. (1st stop sign) and turn left. Take the 2nd right at Nimitz and go to 15th S. stop sign and turn right. Go to Railroad Ave. and turn left. Follow Railroad through the South Gate to the Park kiosk and park along the road. Leader Brian Collett 530 220-3121. Carpools from Santa Rosa leave 8:30 Reserve with Carol 546-6308. We will join them.

## Fri.-Sun. Sept. 7-9 - Benson Hut Work Party.

Benson Hut work party involves hiking 3 miles to the Benson Hut Saturday morning, hut maintenance Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, then hiking back Sunday afternoon. Maintenance involves stocking the hut with wood, repairs, staining and cleanup. Good exercise, wonderful setting and great fun. Friday night stay at Clair Tapaan Lodge included with work party (Dinner Friday night and breakfast Saturday am). Contact leader Jim Gannon (707)-525-1052 jgannon99@sbcglobal.net for signup or questions.

## Sat. Sept. 15 - Sonoma Group. Jack London SP Hike.

Loop hike in Jack London State Park - 10+ mile hike on state park trails. Bring lunch, water and good hiking boots. Hike starts 10:00am. Trailhead Jack London SP. Parking fee. Class M-10-C, Carpools 9:15am Safeway Calistoga Road - Calistoga Road end of lot. Leader Jim Gannon (707)-525-1052 jgannon99@sbcglobal.net

## Sat. Sept. 15 - North Group. Redwood National Park, Emerald Ridge/Tall Trees Loop.

Enjoy late summer in deep old growth redwood forest and along low-flowing Redwood Creek. Starting from Tall Trees Trailhead, we follow Emerald Ridge Trail 580 vertical ft. down to Redwood Creek. We then follow the creek along gravel bars, with several crossings, ~1.5 mi downstream to Tall Trees Trail, returning by this trail to trailhead. Bring water, lunch, sun protection, poles and footwear for stony wading. No dogs. Class M-5-A. Carpools: 9:00 am Arcata Safeway. All meet 9:45 am outside Kuchel Visitor Center to consolidate vehicles to gated trailhead. For more information, contact leader Melinda 707-668-4275 or mgroomster@gmail.com.

## Sun. Sept 16 - Sonoma Group. Marin Headlands Hike.

Loop hike from Tennessee Valley - Marin Headlands. 12 mile hike on GGNRA Headland trails with. Bring lunch, water and good hiking boots. Hike starts 9:30 am and trailhead is Tennessee Valley.

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

## Ratings for Outings Leaders

### How fast or slow do you go?

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

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

### Fast-pace with few or no stops:

Jim Gannon Paul Bozzo Carol Magill

### Moderate-pace with few stops:

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

### Moderate-pace with more frequent stops:

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

### Slower-pace:

Allison Bronkall Jim Carr

## Interested in Becoming an Outings Leader?

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

# Outings

Cass S-12-C, Carpools 8:00am meet Rohnert Park Park&Ride (South side of 101). Leader Jim Gannon (707)-525-1052 jgannon99@sbcglobal.net

## **Fri.-Sun. Sept. 21-23 - National Public Lands Day in Black Rock.**

We will be doing assigned service work and celebrating National Public Lands Day in the Black Rock Desert High Rock Canyon Immigrant Trails NCA. All meals except lunch are provided. Contact closer to the date for full details Graham Stafford 775-686-8478 graham@grahamstafford.com or Pat Bruce of Friends of Nevada Wilderness pbruce@nevadawilderness.org. Great Basin Group-Toiyabe Chapter.

## **Sat. Sept. 22 - Sonoma Singles 1st Day of Autumn Potluck in Petaluma.**

Join friends at Dave's home 5 pm for social hour, followed by dinner at 6. Bring a dish and beverage to share and \$1 for the club fund. No place setting is needed if you wash the ones provided. From 101 and Hwy 12 in Santa Rosa, take 101 south for 15 miles. Take the E Washington St exit toward Central Petaluma. Turn right onto E. Washington. Turn left onto Petaluma Blvd S. Go about .8 miles, 720 Petaluma Blvd S is on the right, 1 blk past "I" St. Follow the signs to the CLUBHOUSE. Parking guest parking or on 5th St. in back of condos. Info. call Karen before 8:30pm 664-1448.

## **Sat. Sept. 22 - Lake Group. Boggs Mountain Forest Hike.**

Hike various trails. Need sturdy shoes, plenty of water, prior long distance hiking. Neutered/spayed dogs on leash welcome. Class M-6-8-A. Meet 7:30 am Boggs Forest, Cobb. Reservation required. Leader Carol Magill, c.magill@mchsi.com 707-928-5423, 707-295-0862 (cell).

## **Sat. Oct. 6 - Mendo Group. Montgomery Woods State Park Nature Walk.**

Naturalist Kate Marianchild will lead a walk among the virgin redwoods, discussing the biology and ecology of Coast Redwoods— what allows them to grow so tall, what limits their growth, the astonishing ecosystems in their canopies, the role of mycorrhizal fungi and the fungus lobarina, and the adaptations of some of the understory plants. She will tell the story of Steve Sillet's daring first climb into the canopy of a 300-foot tree. Warning: participants may be asked to hug a tree. Bring water, snacks, lunch, binoculars, layered clothing. Return to Ukiah about 3 p.m. Heavy rain cancels. Class E-3-A Carpools: Meet at Mendo Mill parking lot, Ukiah at 9:30 am. RSVP leader Yvonne Kramer (707) 463-0342 or kramer@saber.net

## **Sun. Oct. 7 - Lake Group. Turk's Head on Mt. St. Helena Hike.**

Moderate hike on Mt. St. Helena to the ridge that separates the Napa and Russian River watersheds and a beautiful rock formation called the Turk's Head. Great views of Alexander Valley. Stop at the site of the town of Silverado. Class M-4-A Carpools: Meet 8:30 Perry's Deli Middletown or the west parking lot of RLS State Park 9:00 By reservation only. Leader Pete McGee 942-1372 or montesol@hughes.net

## **Sat-Mon. Oct. 13-15 - Fall Backpack Trip in Yosemite.**

Our late season intermediate-

advanced backpack trip will take us to the beautiful Ten Lakes region of Yosemite National Park. Located high above Tuolumne Meadows, the Ten Lakes region (elevation 9,000 feet) features grand views and jewel-like lakes. Day one will be a challenging 6-mile hike with 2,000 foot elevation gain to establish our base camp beside the second largest lake the region. Day two will feature a 10-mile day hike around the base of 11,000 foot Tuolumne Peak. Day three we'll break camp early for a 9:00 a.m. departure back to the cars. Trip limit is 10 so reserve your spot early. Previous backpacking experience required. Inclement weather forecast will cancel trip. Rated M/S 22 C. By reservation only. Leader Paul Bozzo paulbozzo@gmail.com / 707-696-0508

## **Sun. Oct. 14 - Lake Group. Oat Hill Mine Trail Hike.**

Hike up and back. Need sturdy shoes, lunch, lots of water, prior long distance hiking. Class S-10-B Meet: 8 am Oat Hill Mine Trail corner of Hwy 29 & Silverado Trail, Calistoga By reservation only. Leader Carol Magill, c.magill@mchsi.com 707-928-5423, 707-295-0862 (cell).

## **Sun. Oct. 21 - Lake Group. Table Rock on Mt. St. Helena Hike.**

This is a moderate hike to Table Rock from Robert Louis Stevenson Park. Enjoy spectacular views to the north and, from Table Rock, of the Napa Valley wine country. Class M-5-A. Carpools: Meet 8:30 a.m. Perry's Deli Middletown or the east parking lot of RLS Park 9:00 a.m. By reservation only. Leader Pete McGee at 942-1372 or montesol@hughes.net

## Outings Chair Report

Instead of writing an Outings Report I will showcase one of the leaders. Every leader sends in an outing report after their outing with the sign in sheet waiver to their Outings Chair who keeps all the records. The Redwood Chapter is the only chapter maintaining a hut in the Sierra. Benson Hut has been a part of Redwood Chapter history and members have fond memories of the adventures of dealing with a hut requiring everything being packed in by backpack. Here is Jim Gannon's work party report.

—CAROL VELLUTINI,  
REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR

### **Benson Hut Work Party: June 30th – July 1st, 2012**

Seven hut enthusiasts mustered at Clair Tappaan Lodge (CTL), Saturday June 30th for the trip to Roller Pass. Weather was ideal for a work party. The only negative was enough of a wind forecasted for both weekend days resulting in a USFS cutting ban. Chain saws, gas and bar oil were left at the lodge. Supplies and the work party were loaded into two vehicles and were heading for Sugar Bowl at 9:39 a.m..

Thanks to Sugar Bowl all the gates were open with an easy ride to Roller Pass. The hike went fast after crossing the Lincoln snow field which was straight forward with kicking steps. After a quick lunch a water detail sent down to the spring - water reported to be flowing well. The rest started with moving wood from the north staging area above the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) to the hut. About 15% of wood left from the season. The policy of stocking the wood room up to but not beyond the door jam, appears to be adequate.

Moving wood turned out to be the majority task of the weekend. Although a small work party, typical for the early work parties, this group was



The work party from upper left to right: Christian Peel, Amy Segal, Jim Gannon, Howard Higley, Simon Kenney, Pierson Bourquin, Chas Haworth.

very productive! We managed to make a real dent in the annual task of stocking the hut with wood. I'm guessing we are at 70%! I'm always surprised at how well work parties quickly pull it together.

A general clean up and assessments were made for the September work party. A few broken windows, roof screws, stove cap checks and support post footing repairs were noted. The front steps need some work. I'm looking at a replacement post as well. We'll see how September signups go and determine what we can tackle.

Although we hit the cutting ban early this year, being able to cut during both work parties last year created the room for the ban this year. The PCT stash will easily stock the hut this season. We will move two of the 6 piles staged below the PCT up above the PCT for next year. I think we have two more seasons already cut after that. One half of a large tree near the outhouse snapped off. It's a bit green but will provide some nearby wood next year. There is a new large snag down below the PCT. Above the PCT there is a snag that fell but hung in the branches of a nearby tree. It's likely to fall with a good 80+ mph wind event. We had at least three through PCT hikers move a load of wood or two up to the hut. They were rewarded with bagels and cream cheese from CTL.

— JIM GANNON, OUTINGS LEADER

## Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park, 2012

### **3 Day, Live-Aboard, Multi-Island Cruises**

**August 12-14, 2012**

#### ***This fundraising cruise benefits Sierra Club California.***

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



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

Clair Tappaan Lodge is the perfect summer base camp for anyone who enjoys the wide variety of activities offered by the Tahoe area. Explore wildflower gardens and expansive views while hiking the nearby Pacific Crest Trail. Short hikes to secluded mountain lakes begin at the Lodge and are perfect for introducing the family to the mountains. Donner Lake offers great kayaking, swimming, and fishing while Donner Summit has long been a destination for rock climbers and mountain bikers.

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

See you on Donner Summit...



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

# Napa Group Report

## Napa Pipe: Victory! – but, don't break out the champagne

In a surprising move, the developer of the Napa Pipe project recently withdrew his application to rezone the Napa Pipe Industrial Area to accommodate up to 2500 homes. The company bowed to an effective campaign waged by the Sierra Club and its allies. We had opposed the project for many reasons, including proposed use of groundwater, and our view of this project as an example of residential sprawl. We continue to believe that industrial use offers the best future for this brownfield site.

But the developer is not quitting. Keith Rogel has submitted a new proposal for Napa Pipe, which would initially allow 700 – 900 homes at the site, with the prospect for more in the future. In addition he now proposes a Costco store. Likely, if the new proposal passes, and deals can be worked out, a mall would be built on the site with Costco as the anchor. Rogel hopes to bypass the groundwater issue by soliciting water service from the city of Napa – a service to which, so far, the city has adamantly refused to commit.

Sierra Club remains opposed to a large housing development at the site, due to issues of sprawl, lack of services such as retail and schools, and serious flooding and earthquake hazards.

The most important next step is that the County Planning Department require an adequate update of the project EIR. The new proposal is a radical revision of the development plan and deserves a thorough examination and opportunity for public comment.

### Volunteer to Adopt a Park

Since last fall, a group of Sierra Club volunteers has been assisting the cultivation of young native plants at Napa's Trancas Crossing Park, on Trancas and Soscol. Our work parties go out for a couple of hours at a time, weeding and mulching... while enjoying the cries of hawks, and graceful soarings of swallows. To join our volunteer group, contact [nancy@aya.yale.edu](mailto:nancy@aya.yale.edu).

### Angwin Zoning Initiative: Measure U on November Ballot

Save Rural Angwin, a local group active in opposing development in the Angwin area, has succeeded in gathering enough signatures for a November ballot initiative. The initiative, Measure U, would rezone lands owned by Pacific Union College to prevent their sale for residential development. The Napa Sierra Club will be considering whether to support the initiative.

### Napa Valley Historical Ecology Atlas

This recently published book, authored by Robin Grossinger and designed by Ruth Askevold, is a beautifully designed and written investigation into the history of the environment of the Napa Valley. Far from being merely an exercise in nostalgia, this book will be a vital tool for restoring some shadow of the prehistoric ecology of the Napa Valley. Of interest to the layperson, as well as the environmental professional, check it out at Copperfield's books.

Send your email address to [nancy@aya.yale.edu](mailto:nancy@aya.yale.edu) to receive our email newsletters.

–NANCY TAMARISK, NAPA GROUP CHAIR

# Mendocino Group Report

Carrie Durkee reports that the Mendocino County Move to Amend coalition has proposed a ballot measure to be voted on in the November election.

The ballot measure proposes that human beings, not corporations, are persons entitled to constitutional rights and that money is not speech and can be regulated.

The 5561 signatures collected to qualify the ballot initiative were turned into Mendocino County Clerk's office on June 11, 2012. If at least 3250 signatures qualify, the county clerk will request that the Board of Supervisors place the measure on the November ballot.

The local Move to Amend is part of a nationwide movement to amend the constitution with language similar to the advisory measure being suggested for our ballot. City councils and county boards have passed such measures across the nation starting with Point Arena, and including Fort Bragg, Los Angeles, Boulder, Missoula and New York City. The group believes that, "It's a change that needs to happen, and its time has come."

On June 12 the California Secretary of State's office announced that the Right to Know initiative to label genetically engineered foods will be on the state's November ballot. The historic initiative would be the first law in the United States requiring labeling of a wide range of genetically engineered foods.

The initiative requires labeling of genetically modified

organisms (GMOs) which are plants or meats that have had their DNA artificially altered by genes from other plants, animals, viruses, or bacteria, in order to produce foreign compounds in that food. This type of genetic alteration occurs in a laboratory and is not found in nature.

SUBMITTED BY CARRIE DURKEE

Mendocino Group members Linda Perkins and Rixanne Wehren are working with an informal Pygmy Forest Working Group advocating for increased protection of the unique Pygmy Cypress Forest ecosystem in coastal Mendocino County. The Mendocino Pygmy Cypress Forest (commonly referred to as "pygmy forest") is a rare and unique vegetation type that has long captivated botanists and soil scientists. The pygmy forest is very restricted in its historic distribution of approximately 4,000 acres between Ten Mile River and Navarro River in Mendocino County (Sholars R. 1984). The Sierra Club helped to protect this ecosystem within the coastal zone through litigation, but outside of the coastal zone the county does not have any protective regulations. A statement to the County Board of Supervisors is being prepared to stress the need for protection of this ecosystem, as a first step toward regulating land use developments in the pygmy forest. Working group members include academics and local naturalists as well as representatives of CA Dept. of Fish and Game.

SUBMITTED BY RIXANNE WEHREN.

–MARY WALSH, MENDOCINO GROUP CHAIR

## Thinking about Making Substantial Energy Upgrades to Your House?

The Davis Energy Group (DEG) is looking for qualified houses to participate in a DOE-funded scientific study of house retrofits. The project will begin in late 2012 and be completed in 2013. The residence must be located in a marine climate (Mendocino, Sonoma, Napa, and Marin counties), and be a PG&E gas and electricity customer.

The projected post-retrofit energy savings must exceed 30% of initial energy use, and retrofits approaching 75% energy savings that meet the goal of the 1000 Home Challenge are more desirable. DEG will assist in the evaluation of various energy efficiency measures, provide recommendations for reaching the energy savings goal, and complete 12 months of detailed energy monitoring of the post-retrofit house. This is a unique opportunity to assess retrofit design alternatives at the beginning of the retrofit project and to collect post-retrofit monitoring data that will provide valuable insight

about the actual performance of your project.

If you are interested, please contact Mardelle Moreno-Wilbur at (530) 753-1100 Ext 28 or email at [MMWilbur@DavisEnergy.com](mailto:MMWilbur@DavisEnergy.com).

### About Davis Energy Group

DEG is a mechanical engineering firm focusing on reducing net energy use in residential buildings using practical and replicable energy efficiency measures. As a team leader for the DOE's Building America program, we work with builders, developers, and contractors to implement and evaluate strategies that provide cost-effective energy savings for new and existing homes. DEG has provided energy modeling, life-cycle-cost analysis, and verification services to clients (builders and developers to utilities) for projects ranging from radiant cooling, ground source heat pumps, and net-zero energy communities.



## Hikes Planned "Into the Woods"

Clair Tappaan Lodge, the Sierra Club Lodge located at 7000 feet in the Sierra Nevada and easily accessible via I-80 has many activities scheduled for the summer and fall. Our August 17-19 fundraiser, "Into the Woods" will get our participants into the woods to hike, to view the new "Brody Trees" (400+ year old trees) memorial and to listen to a wonderful professional cellist enchant us in the woods at Hutchinson Lodge. See the Lodge web page at <http://www.ctl.sierraclub.org/> for directions and click on Activities for a current listing of special programs.

For details on the weekend, scroll down the Calendar of Activities page to August 17 and click on "Into the Woods". All are invited and the fee is \$155 for two nights lodging and all of the activities and meals from Friday afternoon through lunch on Sunday.

There will be a one-day fee of \$50 for Saturday. After dinner on Friday night the Donner Historical Society will present a speaker on Tunnel 6 of the Intercontinental Railway nearby the Lodge. The talk will be

followed by a traditional campfire with s'mores and brandy.

On Saturday there will be a large menu of hikes with interesting themes. A photography instructor will lead a hike and instruct participants on framing a picture in the forest and mountains. Also a geologist will lead a hike and talk on the geology of the area. There will be more hikes on Sunday morning, of shorter duration.

Following the hikes on Saturday morning there will be a wine & cheese reception with cello music by David Eby. The Saturday night speaker will be Harry Weldon, the engineer on one of the 1960s wing additions to the Lodge. Throughout the weekend there will be an Art Silent Auction and a raffle for an overnight stay at Clair Tappaan Lodge and a 50/50 raffle.

This weekend event supports the Lodge as well as its Scholarship Fund for youth groups to participate in the Environmental Education programs held at the Lodge.

–OLIVIA DIAZ, CLAIR TAPPAAN LODGE COMMITTEE



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

Make a gesture that lasts a lifetime.



A Sierra Club Life Membership is a gesture on behalf of all life - from our oceans to our forests, and from the tiniest insect to the largest sequoia. As a Sierra Club Life Member, you'll be helping to support programs and campaigns that protect endangered species and preserve threatened wilderness areas (and all the life that they support) - not only for today, but for decades to come.

Make a really grand gesture. Become a Sierra Club Life Member.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (optional): \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I am pleased to enroll as a Life Member of the Sierra Club.

Please enroll me as an individual Life Member.

Full payment of \$1000 is enclosed.

\$350 first annual installment is enclosed.

We are enrolling as joint Life Members.

Full payment of \$1250 is enclosed.

\$450 first annual installment is enclosed.

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.

Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX

Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible. Your support our efforts, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.00 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, PO Box 421011, Palm Coast, FL 32139-1011 or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

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## Solano Board of Supervisors extend contract for Fairgrounds redevelopment

On June 26, 2012: The Solano County Board of Supervisors extended the contracts of the 3 major development organizations involved in the Fairgrounds redevelopment. Michael Brandman Associates, SWA and Municipal Resource Group all received contract extensions after being on hiatus for the last 6 months. In addition, a budget item of \$763,318 for "other" professional services, was added to fiscal year 2012/2013 plus a legal budget item of \$150,000.

Originally conceived as a public/ private partnership, the original Solano 360 organization was exposed by Community Activists including Sierra Club members as a heavily subsidized private retail project. The project seemingly collapsed as an "anonymous" source documented both the give away of public lands and the ongoing expense which would be borne by the county for many years.

The project to date has expended just under 2 million dollars which does not include the nearly 2 million dollars given to the original developer who has since declared bankruptcy.

Since the suspension of Solano 360 meetings, this development has left many activists unclear on how the future monies are being spent. According to public testimony, the funds will be for an EIR on an Exposition Hall with retail on the path to the hall. This plan was developed with no public input and the exposition hall has now become phase one where the original plan called for big box retailing as the main component of phase one.

The Sierra Club has opposed this project for many reasons, including the privatization of public property, the reliance on auto instead of public transportation as a component of this project including a parking facility, and the fact that the county has now become the developer and subject to all of the costs

## Solano Breeze Corner

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

and risks associated with that responsibility.

With these questions going forward, the Sierra Club hopes that the future Board member of District One maintains Barbara Kondylis' principled stand in opposing this project.

### Volunteer Thanks:

Thanks to Jane Bogner, Brian Hoffman, Adam Mangosing for staffing the May 19 paper shredding and Brian Hoffman, Matt Hoffman, Adam Mangosing and Ray Anderson for staffing the June 16 Paper shredding @ VALCORE

### VALCORE Recycling and Confidential Paper Shredding in 2012

Solano Group will be working every 3rd Saturday at 38 Sheridan Street, Vallejo from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Sept 15, Oct 20, and Dec 15). There is a charge of \$10 per twenty pounds of paper shredded. (maximum: 100 pounds). We need help tending the money and directing traffic.

We will also be working a booth at the Benicia Farmers Market promoting recycling used motor oil. Those dates are Thursday Aug 2 and Aug 30 from 4 pm to 8pm.

Composting classes @ VALCORE will be August 4, Oct 6, Nov 3 @ 10am to noon.

Benicia Composting Class is scheduled at the first street garden from 9am to 11am on Saturday, August 25.

All classes free and discounted bins offered to residents.

### Don't forget Coastal Cleanup

Various locations around Solano County on Saturday Sept

15 from 9am to noon, check out earth911.com for details.

Call Jane ASAP if you're available at (707) 319-6398

### Lori's Native Plant Garden

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

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

### Solano Group Volunteer Opportunities:

**Membership Co-Chair:** About 4 hours a month, mostly computer work.

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

**VALCORE Recycling Board Alternate:** You may need to attend one meeting per year.

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

### HELP PAY FOR OUR LANDFILL LAWSUIT.

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

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

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

CONTRIBUTORS: DUANE KROMM, JANE BOGNER, JOSEPH FELLER

—GREG PETERSON, SOLANO GROUP

## North Group Report

### Suction dredging banned in California:

North Group leaders are celebrating a new ban on in-stream suction dredge mining in California. The preponderance of scientific information confirms that suction dredging harms fish habitat. In addition, the practice mobilizes mercury locked deep within bottom sediments. The mobilized mercury is toxic and poses a very real threat to humans and most especially to pregnant women and children.

In stream tailing piles created by dredgers do attract spawning salmon. However, salmon eggs deposited in these unstable gravels almost never survive high winter flows.

The new ban is included in the recently passed California budget. The prohibition will remain indefinitely unless the in-stream mining program administered by the California Department of Fish & Game can be made "self-supporting" and "unless unavoidable environmental impacts are addressed."

The effort to end suction dredging in California has been more than a decade in the making. Led by the Karuk Tribe, the campaign has included both state and federal lawsuits. In-stream dredging for gold in recent decades has been practiced by so-called "recreational miners"— too little gold remains in California streams to support commercial mining operations.

The campaign to end in-stream dredging for gold is the brainchild of Leaf Hillman— a traditional Karuk Indian who has also served on the tribal council and who currently directs the tribe's natural resources department. Through Hillman's vision and perseverance, California's rivers, streams and associated public lands can once again be enjoyed by citizens without fear for their own health and that of the environment.

### Humboldt bag ban campaign:

The North Group is supporting efforts led by the Humboldt Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation to ban single-use plastic bags in Humboldt County. The effort includes a petition to the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors available on line at this link: <http://www.change.org/petitions/ban-single-use-plastic-bags-in-humboldt-county>

The organization Californians Against Waste has published solid information to dispel "myths and misperceptions" advanced by bag ban opponents. Did you know, for example, that two billion of the plastic bags used in the United States come from China and contain high levels of metal and lead? Learn more about the myths and misperceptions advanced by bag ban opponents at this link: [http://www.cawrecycles.org/files/CAWBagFacts\\_Dec2011.pdf](http://www.cawrecycles.org/files/CAWBagFacts_Dec2011.pdf)

### Impressive:

At our June Meeting, North Group members were treated to an impressive presentation by Paloma Herrera-Thomas, a 7th-grade student at Jacoby Creek School. Titled "Land Use and Stream Health," Paloma's presentation described the study she conducted on three Humboldt County streams to determine sources and levels of pollution associated with dry, wet and very wet weather conditions. Paloma compared pollution levels in an urban, agricultural and protected stream.

North Group members were impressed with the quality of the study and with the quality of Ms. Herrera-Thomas' presentation. With young people like Paloma coming along, we can have hope that good science will be put to work to achieve a clean and healthy environment.

Seventh-grade student Paloma Herrera-Thomas with her poster presenting an impressive stream study

—FELICE PACE, NORTH GROUP

## Sonoma Group Report

We have an open seat on the Executive Committee. This is an excellent opportunity for someone who wants to expand both their knowledge and activism with respect to local environmental issues and politics.

The Sonoma Group voted to commit resources to the Redwood Chapter in support of its lawsuit to protect conversion of forest lands into vineyards by the Artesa wine corporation. Our litigation with Sutter Hospital over transit and community impact mitigation issues has been adjudicated in our favor. The developer is required to provide passes on SMART and shuttles for employees and patients among other things. Our attorney fees are to be paid, and other settlement details are in progress.

We voted to sign on to a letter by SOS Trees group opposing clearcutting practices by PG&E under the routes of their power lines. We also signed on to a letter by the Sonoma County Water Coalition, opposing the Preservation Ranch project and urging CalPers to divest itself of the property.

We passed a motion to advocate for a local gasoline tax with the Metropolitan Transit Authority, to assure that local transit needs continue to be served.

Sonoma County Conservation Center received a \$5,000 Rose Foundation grant to expand and improve its online presence and connectivity.

The Political Committee plans an early start in reviewing City Council candidates with a view to interviewing and evaluating them for Sierra Club endorsements. The committee expects to begin this work in August. We also plan to review the Draft Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District Mitigation Policy, with the possibility of presenting a formal position statement on the matter.

We extended authority to Water Committee Chair Len Holt to represent the Sonoma Group at the meetings for the Santa Rosa Plain Ground Water Plan, Basin Advisory Panel.

ExCom member Jessica Jones, student sustainability activist at Santa Rosa Junior College, reports that the success of their Alternative Transportation Survey (1,200 responses) provides a large boost for SRJC to put alternative systems into place and advocate for participation of local transit. CA college administrators are also meeting to develop a sustainability action plan.

We will host an Environmental Forum Thursday August 16, at the environmental center, oriented toward new members. The next forum will take place in October, with the date subject to speaker availability. The subject will be Food Security, Food & the Environment. As of this writing, the speakers will be Michael Dimmock and Michele Ana Jordan.

—DAN KERBEIN, SONOMA GROUP CHAIR

## Northern California Environmental Grassroots Fund Awards SCC and SC \$5K Grant For Connectivity

The Sonoma County Conservation Council, the federation of 17 groups - including the Sierra Club, that operates the Sonoma County Environmental Center in Santa Rosa, has received a \$5,000 grant from the Rose Foundation's Northern California Environmental Grassroots Fund to help update and strengthen inter- and intra-group communications. The project team includes Portia Sinnott, Project Director, Suzanne Doyle, Blogger and Gabrielle Albright, Researcher. They are developing an on-line directory of environmental and social justice non-profits and an assertive but not aggressive blog, plus further development of the Connectivity Project. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Portia Sinnott, Executive Director of LITE Initiatives at [lite@sonic.net](mailto:lite@sonic.net)

**Fall Colors At Discounted Rates**

Come to **Silver Lake and Carson Pass** areas to relax and enjoy the spectacular fall colors of the Sierra. Fish, hike, or wander along the many lakeside and mountain trails to experience the brilliant gold and red colors of fall. After a hike, refresh in the cool water, lounge on our beach, or glide on the pristine Silver Lake waters, very peaceful. 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**  
Highway 88 at Silver Lake  
[www.kitcarsonlodge.com](http://www.kitcarsonlodge.com)  
or call: (209) 258-8500

OPERATES UNDER USFS PERMIT

## October Deadline: Due Sept. 8th

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

**odavison@comcast.net**

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

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

## Summer on the Summit!

It is summertime; time to get that nose a bit farther from the grindstone-time to meet new people, learn new skills, and enjoy the mountain lakes and summer sun.

This summer, The Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge is hosting a number of wonderful programs and workshops to help bring out the kid in you.

The Club celebrates the history and tradition of Clair Tappaan Lodge with the annual gala weekend on August 17 - 19. Filled with great food, fun hikes, swimming, historical presentations, music and dancing (Not to mention s'mores and brandy by the campfire) it's the perfect way to enjoy the summit. (See page 6 for more details.)

If you prefer, come to a free wine and cheese party where you'll learn about the culture and tastes of Tasmania, and the wild world of adventure down-under on the evening of August 19.

September brings artist Susan Barry as she offers her "Plein Air Art Retreat" where participants paint the beauty of Sierra, learning more about techniques in watercolor, pastel, and oil painting while basking in the clean air of the mountains.

Looking to tackle something new? How about a weekend of fly-fishing on the pristine waters around CTL? Let fly-fishing guru David McKinney teach you the ropes of the rod and reel. Explore the streams and secret fishing holes of Donner Summit and the Tahoe region. Designed

for beginners, all are welcome to hone their skills.

Opera echoes in the mountains this October as Gil Deane presents an encore of his popular program. No tuxedo required; bring your hiking boots instead and enjoy the wealth of knowledge, and the love of opera that Deane radiates. Opera buffs and greenhorns alike will be treated to Deane's fine collection of recordings and videos in the worthy concert hall that is Clair Tappaan. Discussion promises to be extremely lively.

Unwind with Yoga and Hiking this autumn. Emulate the calm ponderosa as you strike tree-pose on the top of Donner Peak. Focus your breath as you stride the Judah Loop Trail. This popular combination is the perfect balance as fall graces the Sierra. Beautiful peaks with panoramic views, yoga in the sun by day, and beside the cozy fireplace in the evenings. Relax and get grounded before the great cold exhale of winter returns.

Scientists now say they've found a cure for the summertime blues, and it has much to do with an escape to the mountains for some fun and fresh air. Come up to CTL and fill your prescription, whatever it may be. For more information on all events check out: <http://motherlode.sierraclub.org/sierranvada/activities.htm> or call 800-679-6778.

# Meetings

Send all Meeting events by the 8th of the month to Carl Inglin: [chinglin@sonic.net](mailto: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., Aug. 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. Aug. 6 - Sonoma Group.

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

•TheClimate&EnergyCommittee meets at 4:30, Info: contact Shirley, [shirlgirl707@yahoo.com](mailto:shirlgirl707@yahoo.com), 206-1138.

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

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

### Tues., Aug. 14 - North Group Executive Committee.

All are invited to the Adorni Center conference room, Eureka waterfront, on, to attend the ExCom meeting starting at 6:45 p.m. This monthly business meeting will end with a discussion of conservation issues,

lasting until 8:45 p.m. For more information, contact Gregg Gold at 707-826-3740.

### Tues. Aug. 21 - 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](mailto:nancy@aya.yale.edu)

### Wed. Aug. 15 - Sonoma Group Water Committee.

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

### Mon. Sept. 3 - Sonoma Group.

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

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

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

### Thurs. Sept. 6 - 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., Sept. 8 - Redwood Chapter ExCom.

Location: Willits. Conservation Committee meets at 10 a.m., ExCom meets 1-3 p.m. Info: Jay, [halcomb@sonic.net](mailto:halcomb@sonic.net)

### Tues. Sept. 11 - North Group ExCom.

Monthly North Group Sierra Club Executive Committee meeting. See Aug. 14 for details.

### Wed. Sept. 19 - Sonoma Group Water Committee.

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

### Wed. Oct. 17 - Sonoma Group Water Committee.

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

## Sierra Club Volunteer/Activist Opportunities

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

**North Group Hike Leaders:** North Group is desperately seeking hike leaders. Please contact Bill Knight, the Outings Chair, at [bill.knight.email@gmail.com](mailto:bill.knight.email@gmail.com).

**Open Seat on ExCom.** The Sonoma Group ExCom has an opening to fill! Folks who like fun and who are interested in being Sierra Club policy wonks should contact Dan Kerbein at [dkerbein@sonic.net](mailto:dkerbein@sonic.net) or come to an Executive Committee meeting on the first Mondays of the month, 6:30, at 55A Ridgway Ave, Santa Rosa.

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

**The Climate & Energy Committee is getting Amped up!** Join our discussion on the 1st Monday/Month at 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa, get Charged about community renewable energy programs. Contact Shirley Johnson-Foell Climate & Energy Committee Forum-Chair. Email: [shirlgirl707@yahoo.com](mailto:shirlgirl707@yahoo.com), home 206-1138, or call the office 544-7651.

## The Hills may be Brown, but You can still Go Green this Summer!

Reduce your carbon footprint!

To receive future copies of the *Redwood Needles* via email send a message to:

**RedwoodNeedles@gmail.com**

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

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