



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 57 Number 4

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

August/Sept. 2016

“Dogwood” Poses yet Another Threat to Coastal Forests and Rivers

BY VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

Redwood Chapter has spent years fighting to protect our coastal forests and the streams that run through them, and we’ve had some notable victories. To cite two recent examples, “Preservation Ranch” really was when a conservation buyer acquired the property, and Artesa Winery’s plans to clearcut 154 forested acres in the Gualala River watershed was decisively defeated in court.

Now we’re facing another challenge. On July 1 the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) approved the five mile long, 400+ acre “Dogwood” Timber Harvest Plan even though the entire tract lies within the floodplain of the designated Gualala River, which is both state-impaired and federally designated as Wild and Scenic.

California forestry regulations are supposed to protect forested riparian areas from the massive disturbances that inevitably accompany logging operations, destroying habitat and degrading the watershed, a watershed which in this case has already been degraded by unsustainable appropriation levels, illegal diversions, unregulated toxic discharge and underfunded enforcement. Unaccountably, CALFIRE waived those protections and instead

granted a massive “exception” to the rules—an “exception” that could set dangerous precedents elsewhere.

Unless the approval is challenged, Gualala Redwoods Timber will have a green light to destroy 90-100 year old redwoods (the old growth of the future) and to carve logging roads through wetlands populated by rare plants. The flawed environmental review that preceded project approval did not even survey these sensitive habitats in advance.

We have been maintaining for a long time that the highest and best use of the remnants of coastal redwood forest that remain is to preserved them as redwood forest in perpetuity. Ironically enough, a new study by Humboldt State University and University of Washington scientists has demonstrated yet another reason to leave these ecosystems in their natural condition: they sequester an astonishing 2,600 metric tons of carbon per hectare (about 2.5 acres), more than twice the 1,000 metric tons estimated for old growth Pacific Northwest conifer forests or massive eucalyptus forests in Australia.

As a warming planet threatens our very survival, we simply cannot afford to demolish anything so precious. More later, please stay tuned.

SAVE THE DATE:

Sonoma Group Welcomes Mike Brune

**Sierra Club Executive Director to Speak!
Friday, September 16, 7 p.m.
Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Avenue,
Santa Rosa**

The Sonoma Group is excited that Sierra Club Executive Director Mike Brune has accepted our invitation to join us in Santa Rosa! He will be here to motivate and mobilize our members and the public on climate change, moving beyond fossil fuels, protecting wild lands and turning out for the general election!



All Sierra Club members and the public are invited to hear the latest about Sierra Club’s national priorities and successes, and how it informs our local priorities.

The public event will begin at 7 p.m. with a talk by Mike Brune followed by a Question and Answer period. The cost will be \$10 donation per person to support our local Sonoma Group, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Mike is a dynamic and approachable leader who was named Executive Director of the Sierra Club in 2010. Brune’s first environmental job was as an organizer for Greenpeace. In 1998, Brune joined Rainforest Action Network, where he ultimately served for seven years as executive director.

Brune is the author of *Coming Clean -- Breaking America’s Addiction to Oil and Coal* (Sierra Club Books, 2010) and blogs regularly for Huffington Post and Daily Kos.

“Club’s Brune to speak in Santa Rosa” cont. on page 3

Yes to Community Separators

This November, we have the chance to advance

the most important greenbelt policy protections in Sonoma County in 20 years!

BY TERI SHORE, SONOMA GROUP EXCOM

The most important green measure in Sonoma County this year is the renewal of voter protections for “community separators”—the greenbelt lands in between the county’s cities and towns. They expire this year after 20 years preventing sprawl in our rural and agricultural lands.

The Sierra Club is joining with Greenbelt Alliance and Sonoma County Conservation Action to mobilize voters to say “Yes to Community Separators.”

Now that the Board of Supervisors have finalized a ballot measure, a new campaign ballot measure committee has formed to take the community separators to the finish line!

Keep Our Community Separators is the name of the new campaign committee that is bringing together the environmental, housing and agricultural community to pass the ballot measure.

Not only will the ballot measure protect the 17,000 acres of existing community separators, but they will also build on this legacy to prevent another 50,000 acres of rural and farm lands from being converted to housing tracts or strip malls! Thanks to your letters and turn-out, we convinced the county supervisors to designate new community separators between Healdsburg and Cloverdale, around Penngrove and in priority greenbelts across the county.

For more than a year, we marked maps, wrote letters, spoke up at public hearings and gathered together to organize and plan. Several hundred people turned out for public workshops held



by the county planning department in Santa Rosa, Kenwood, Cloverdale, and Petaluma.

We built strong and steady support across the county from residents, cities, elected officials, organizations, farm groups, business and the cities of Petaluma, Windsor, Sebastopol, Cotati, Cloverdale, and Healdsburg.

While Sonoma County residents are strong supporters of open space protection, we recognize that we may face opposition from those who would rather profit by paving over our agricultural and rural lands for housing subdivisions, strip malls and commercial centers.

Others may want to break the community separators and UGBs in the name of affordable housing. But we don’t need to do this. There is plenty of land within our existing cities and communities to provide for housing for all. More than 10,000 units of housing have been approved but never built in Sonoma County. Sierra Club is committed to supporting our elected officials as they tackle the housing crunch.

We all need both: protected greenbelts to prevent sprawl and pollution and attainable housing in neighborhoods near transit, shops, schools and businesses where we can live, work and play.

Greenbelts are goldmines for our environment, people and economy.

We need you with us to get endorsements, table at public “Yes to Community Separators” cont. on page 3

Redwood Chapter Sponsors Second SPROG Participant

For the second year in a row the Chapter is sponsoring a participant in SPROG (short for “Summer Program”), the Sierra Student Coalition’s cutting-edge training program for youthful grassroots environmental activists.

An environmental and social justice leadership training program for young people (ages 14-28) across the country, SPROG is an intensive week-long training program run by young people, for young people. It provides the knowledge and skills needed to succeed as a grassroots organizer and make a substantial difference in the future of the community and the planet, and also connects participants with a supportive network of young activists who fight similar battles and share similar passions. Past SPROG participants have described it

“Chapter Sponsors Youth Leader” cont. on page 3

For more Redwood Chapter information: <http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood>

Redwood Chapter Sierra Club Directory

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Redwood Needles Deadlines

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.sierraclub.org/redwood>
for Group Websites, use www.redwood.sierraclub.org and add:
/napa, /north, /sonoma, /lake, /mendocino, or /solano
Redwood Chapter Facebook:
www.facebook.com/SierraClubRedwoodChapter/

Redwood Needles

October Deadline: Due Sept. 8

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

odavison@sonic.net

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

Send Meetings to Carl Inglin: chinglin@sonic.net

Redwood Chapter Website: www.sierraclub.org/redwood

Sierra Club Trail Workday at Taylor Mountain

Join the Sonoma County Trails Council on October 22 for a Sierra Club Trail Workday at Taylor Mountain Regional Park and Open Space Preserve. Last winter Redwood Chapter was delighted to be able to make a financial donation towards trail construction at Taylor Mountain Regional Park, which provides vital open space and outdoor recreational opportunities to an underserved part of Santa Rosa. Now we can also contribute some "sweat equity" to expanding the trail system at this popular new park.



Bring a daypack with water, gloves, a hat, and wear long pants, boots or hiking shoes. No experience necessary! The Trails Council has tools and trained crew leaders with tasks for all strengths and sizes of volunteers.

In order to make sure we have enough tools and after-work beverages, please reply to trailscouncil@sonic.net if you plan to attend. If you have any questions, contact Ken Wells, executive director of the Trails Council, at (707) 538-9389 or trailscouncil@sonic.net.

Expect more details about this workday in the next edition of the *Redwood Needles*.

**When: Saturday,
October 22, 2016
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**Where:
Taylor Mountain
Regional Park**



"Club's Brune to Speak in Santa Rosa"

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In October 2012, the need to solve the climate crisis was brought into sharp relief when "superstorm" Sandy ravaged the East Coast, including Brune's hometown of Chadwick Beach, New Jersey. The storm flooded his parents' home, which had been built by his father and uncle nearly fifty years before.

"I've been working on solutions to the climate crisis for a long time, but I never really expected that it would hit home for me quite the way it did," he said. "Like the attack on Pearl Harbor or the 9/11 assault, Sandy rocked our nation into awareness of a threat to everything we hold dear. We must meet that challenge."

The Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign has risen to the challenge. The campaign celebrated a huge milestone in 2011 when it received a \$50 million donation from Bloomberg Philanthropies that would go toward helping phase out coal energy in the U.S. and replacing it with a clean-energy economy. Nearly 180 coal plants either have been retired or are scheduled to retire in part because of the Beyond Coal campaign.

"The Sierra Club's motto is to explore, enjoy, and protect the planet. It's not just about problems. This is our big opportunity to push for solutions like solar and wind." Brune says. "This is an organization that's both devoted to protecting the planet's last, best places and to having a great time exploring and enjoying those places. A love of nature helps inspire us to do what we must to save it."

For more information or to volunteer at event, contact Teri Shore, tshore@greenbelt.org

To order tickets, go to the Sonoma Group website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/sonoma>.

Redwood Chapter June 7, 2016 Primary Election Results

Overall, Sierra Club endorsed candidates did very well in the recent election: Hillary Clinton won California by a 12 point margin, better than had been predicted, and was endorsed by a vote of the Club Board of Directors the very next day.

In the Senate race, Attorney General Kamala Harris took the first slot in a field of 34 (!) with 40 percent of the vote, and is strongly favored to defeat Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez in the battle to replace retiring environmental champion Barbara Boxer.

In other federal contests, incumbent Congressmen Jared Huffman (District 2), John Garamendi (District 3) and Mike Thompson (District 5) all came out on top by substantial majorities. Under California's "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 assured. Congressman Garamendi's situation is particularly encouraging: he won 63 percent of the primary vote, a far better showing than ever before in what is considered a swing district, and one likely to discourage the intervention of well-funded far right Super PACs.

Endorsed Assembly candidate Jim Wood (AD 2) was

running unopposed. Marc Levine (AD10) also placed first with 65 percent of the vote, and will face fellow Democrat Veronica Jacobi in November.

In local contests, Humboldt County District 3 Supervisorial candidate Mike Wilson won outright, with an extraordinary 82 percent of the ballots cast, and will replace retiring many-times-endorsed Supervisor Mark Lovelace in January. Solano District 5 incumbent Skip Thomson also won outright, as did Sonoma District 1 incumbent Susan Gorin and District 3 incumbent Shirlee Zane. Former State Senator Noreen Evans took second place in the narrowly divided Sonoma District 5 race; she will face Lynda Hopkins in November. Also in Solano County, District 2 candidate Mike Ioakimedes advanced to the general election, while dually-endorsed Denis Honeychurch was eliminated. Diane Shepp was defeated in her bid for District 4 Napa County Supervisor.

To put the icing on the cake, Measure AA for a Clean and Healthy Bay, nine-county parcel tax dedicated to San Francisco Bay wetland restoration, won by 70 percent of the vote, well over the two-thirds supermajority needed.

—VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER POLITICAL CHAIR

"Yes to Community Separators"

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events, and donate to the community separator campaign ballot measure. We'll need to send mailers, make signs, hold events and be ready to combat any opposition. Watch for a festive event in one of the most beautiful community separators during the harvest season in late September!

Stay engaged and up to date on the new Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/communityseparators/>

To get involved, contact Teri Shore at tshore@greenbelt.org or 707 575 3661

"Chapter Sponsors Youth Leader"

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as one of the most inspiring and fulfilling weeks of their life.

Four training sessions will be held this summer, including West SPROG near Los Angeles in mid-July. The Chapter is helping incoming Humboldt State University Student Government President Jonah Platt to take part. Jonah already has experience in grassroots organizing and activism, and hopes SPROG will provide additional tools to "build relationships to build power and grow bottom up, and be the change I want to see in this world," with the goal of recreating the infrastructure of the University "to better serve the students and specifically student activists for social and environmental justice."

We're eager to hear how well those aspirations were met!



HSU Student Leader Jonah Platt.



With your help we can protect the wolf

Wolves are vitally important to maintaining nature's balance, culling out weak and sick animals to keep populations of elk and deer healthy and in check. The Sierra Club is working to defend wolf populations from continued threats from politicians.

Lead the pack & JOIN Sierra Club.

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Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club
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Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15	N/A
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 20	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!

9940 10300 1

Sierra Club logo and contact information.

Outings



Sun. Aug. 7 - North Group. Redwood National Park Skunk Cabbage Trail Hike.



Join us for a summer hike in the cool coastal zone. The trail follows Skunk Cabbage Creek its whole length, and there will be

good views of the beach and coastline when we reach a high point at Gold Bluffs. Bring water and lunch. No dogs. Class: M-7.5-A. Carpools: Meet 9 a.m. Ray's (Valley West) Shopping Center, 10 a.m. trailhead, clearly marked left turn 1 mile north of Orick. Leader Ned, nedforsyth48@gmail.com (707)825-3652.

Wed. Aug. 10 - North Group. Prairie Creek State Park Miners Ridge Loop Hike.

Starting from Miners Ridge Trailhead off Beach Rd., we gradually ascend through coastal rain forest into hillside redwoods. In 2 miles the Clintonia Trail connects north to James Irvine Trail and Fern Canyon. A mile south on the Coastal Trail closes our loop. Bring lunch, liquids, gear for wet woods, sun, and wind. No dogs. Class: M-7-A. Carpools: Meet 9 am Ray's Valley West or 9:45 am Elk Meadow day use parking area (off Davison Rd.) Leader Melinda 707-668-4275 mgroomster@gmail.com Rain or high winds cancel.

Sat. Aug. 13 - North Group. Drury-Chaney Loop Trail, Humboldt Redwoods State Park Hike.

This is a great beginner's hike on a lovely loop off of the Avenue of the Giants. The trail twists through ancient

redwood groves and California laurel trees (aka Pepperwood.) Come learn why a redwood grove was named after a man named Chaney. Bring water, lunch and good walking shoes. No dogs. Class: E-2.3-A. Carpools: Meet 10:00 a.m. Elk River Road/Herrick Park & Ride lot, off of Highway 101 south. Leader Allison 707-268-8767 abronkall@yahoo.com.

Fri.-Sun. Aug. 19-21 - Perseid Meteor Shower in the Black Rock Desert.

Come enjoy the Perseid Meteor shower in a dark sky area. We'll probably have about 100 people camping in the widest part of the Black Rock Desert about 100 Miles north of Reno. Expect a potluck, tours, and meteor watching. Sky will be pretty dark in this remote area and the meteors show up really well. Side trips to hot springs and the Emigrant Trail likely. David Book 775/843-6443 Great Basin Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

Sat.-Sun. Sept. 10-11 - Benson Hut Work Party #2.

Benson Hut work party involves hiking 3 miles to the Benson Hut Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, and 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 Tappaan 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.

Sun. Sept. 11 - North Group. Prairie Creek State Park Ossagon Trail Hike.

We will take an old overgrown road from Elk Prairie Parkway through majestic redwoods, spruce and alder to Ossagon Rocks on a remote part of Gold Beach. We will explore the beach, tides permitting, before returning. Bring water and lunch. No dogs. Class: M-5-A. Carpools: 9 a.m. Ray's (Valley West) Shopping Center, 10:30 a.m. Ossagon trailhead, or by prior arrangement.

Leader Ned, nedforsyth48@gmail.com (707) 825-3652.



Wed. Sept. 14 - North Group. Redwood National Park Emerald Ridge Loop Hike.

We descend by Emerald Ridge Trail through lush forest to Redwood Creek, where we proceed along gravel bars, with several shallow crossings, to reach the Tall Trees Area. Back on trail, we circuit the 1mi. Tall Trees Loop and ascend by the main trail (700') to our cars. Bring water, lunch, sun protection and footwear suited for trail, loose rock, and water. No dogs. Class: M-5-A. Carpools: Meet 9 am Ray's Valley West parking area. Trailhead: meet 10:30 am Tall Trees Parking (obtain pass at Kuchel Visitor Center, hwy 101) Leader Melinda 707-668-4275 mgroomster@gmail.com

Fri.-Sun. Sept. 23-25 - National Public Lands Day in the Black Rock Desert.

Join us in helping out in this beautiful and remote desert about 100 Miles north of Reno. Plans are not definite yet, but we will be doing a work project of some sort. The trip usually includes a day of work and day of play. More information will be available as the time draws nearer. Leader: David Book 775/843-6443. Great Basin Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

Sun. Oct. 2 - Mendo Group. Peter Douglas Trail hike Lost Coast.

The Peter Douglas Trail is a new extension of the southern end of the Lost Coast Trail. The trail has been

opened by the Save the Redwood League and the Mendocino Land Trust on the former privately owned Shady Dell property. The trail takes you through an amazing grove of candelabra redwoods with massive limbs warped by wind and along bluffs with sweeping ocean views. There is an option to group camp at MacKerricher State Park on Sat. Oct. 1. Bring lunch, water, layered clothing. Carpools: Meet 9:30 Harvest Market parking lot, Fort Bragg. Class M-4.6-A. By reservation only. Leader Yvonne Kramer, 707 463-0342, kramer@saber.net

Sat.-Sun., Oct. 22-23 - Ghost Town Extravaganza.

Celebrate Halloween by visiting the ghosts of California's colorful past in the eerie desert landscape near Death Valley. Camp near the historic ghost town of Ballarat. Saturday, a challenging hike to ghost town Lookout City with historian Hal Fowler who will regale us with tales of this wild west town. We'll return to camp for Happy Hour and a potluck feast, followed by a midnight visit to Ballarat's graveyard. On Sunday, we'll tour the town of Ballarat itself before heading home. Send \$8 per person (check payable to Lygeia Gerard), home and work phones, email address and rideshare preferences to Leader: Lygeia Gerard, P.O. Box 721039, Pinon Hills, CA 92372, 760-868-2179. (assisted by Marguerite McGuigan) Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee



Jim Gannon leader Benson Hut work party July 9th & 10th. Photo by Hillel Posner.

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.

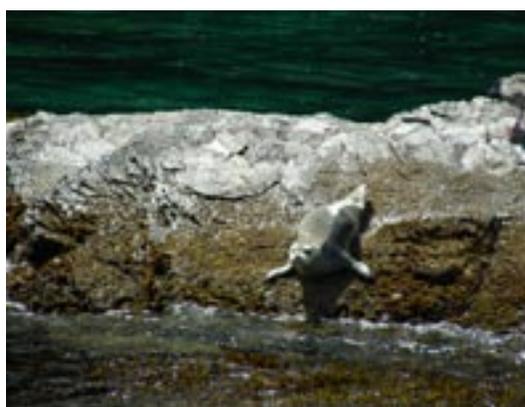
To submit outings write-ups

Send all outings write-ups to: Carol Vellutini, Outings Chair, (carolvsl@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.

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

2016 Schedule: Aug. 21-23 Sept. 25-27 Oct. 23-25



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.

Ratings for Outings Leaders: How fast or slow do you go?

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

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

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

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

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

Moderate-pace with more frequent stops: Pete McGee Tom McFarling Melinda Groom Carl Inglin Val Nordeman Carol Vellutini Yvonne Kramer Brian Collett Nanette DeDonato Jonah Freedman Steve Devoto Ned Forsyth Nick Caston Tim Bartice

Slower-pace: Allison Bronkall

July 12, 2016

A Hard and Heartbreaking Week

I don't know anyone who didn't find last week both hard and heartbreaking. Two more incomprehensible fatal police shootings of African Americans followed by a horrific and deadly attack on police officers at a peaceful protest in Dallas. Seven senseless deaths fed the fear that our nation is sliding toward a chasm of hatred and violence. Although violent crime has actually been declining in most of America for decades, it did not feel that way last week.

I've written before about why the Sierra Club supports Black Lives Matter. We believe that all people deserve a healthy planet with clean air and water, a stable climate, and safe communities. That means all people deserve equal protection under the law. We all have the right to a life free of discrimination, hatred, and violence. People of color deserve that. Police officers deserve that. LGBTQ people deserve that. Muslims, too. This is the America portrayed in my children's textbooks. But if our country isn't keeping this promise to our nation's most vulnerable citizens, don't we all lose? As we saw again so painfully last week, the plain, inescapable fact is that African Americans are not receiving equal protection.

Racism in our society—and the fear, ignorance, and misunderstanding that accompanies it—is a direct threat to our environmental progress. The Sierra Club's mission is to “enlist humanity” to protect the planet. To combat climate change, we need to build an economy powered by 100 percent clean energy for everyone. But how can we come together to do this when racism threatens to tear us apart? How can we rise to the challenge of creating clean energy prosperity—where communities of color, which have suffered the heaviest burden of carbon pollution, really benefit—when we're sinking to our deepest fears about each other?

The Sierra Club is just one out of more than a million U.S. nonprofit organizations. But after spending the past six years working and collaborating with thousands of staff, volunteers, and supporters, I've learned that the Sierra Club is much more than that. It's a community. A community of people who want to see a better world today, tomorrow, and a hundred years from now. The Sierra Club is filled with smart, passionate people who know how to listen to each other, learn from each other, and work together for positive change. A community like that cannot—must not—turn its back on its brothers and sisters who cannot walk the streets of their own country, their own neighborhoods, without the ever-present fear that they could be singled out just because of their skin color. By the same token, we can't turn our hearts from the good cops doing a dangerous job who feel misunderstood and at risk themselves as they seek closer relations with the communities they serve.

But in the face of such grief, what can we do? We can engage, all of us. Combating racism isn't an armchair exercise; just like creating a new protected area or replacing coal with clean energy, it demands passion and engagement. Sierra Club members, volunteers, and supporters know how to organize as well as anyone. That same ability to reach across differences to create a coalition to stop fracking? Let's apply those skills to dismantling racism on the way to 100 percent clean energy for all. Our solidarity with principled allies? Let's extend that to Black Lives Matter and take the pledge to “not allow ourselves to be divided.” We can't pretend that race doesn't matter on environmental issues, because the communities that care most about our issues—and are disproportionately affected by environmental woes—are communities of color.

Talk to your friends and family openly about race. Talk with fellow environmentalists about why it matters to us and how we can do more to address it. Read books and articles about racism. Seek out workshops and trainings about white privilege and racial justice. Work with others in your community who are addressing racism. Join with others who are marching for justice.

One more thought: Last week's violence was a consequence of America's worst idea—rejecting the humanity of other human beings. But at the heart of the Sierra Club's mission is what's been called one of America's “best ideas”—that parks, nature, and wild places can help us find and celebrate our common humanity. I believe that we as a community have something else to humbly offer—a rededication to sharing that idea with our friends and neighbors and colleagues. Now, at a moment when every one of us could use some help from the healing power of nature, let us resolve to never forget that it is for everyone to enjoy, that it can help anyone, and that it should be accessible to all.

—FROM THE “COMING CLEAN” BLOG OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MICHAEL BRUNE, THIS FIRST APPEARED ON THE SIERRA CLUB WEBSITE.

Editor's note: This online version contains links to several resources.

Outings Chair Report

I have been in communication with former Lake Group outing leader Boone Lodge since his house burned down in the Valley Fire. Boone lost everything in the fire and decided not to re-build. His Cobb property is currently for sale. Boone is now living in Indiana. His house is about 2/3 of the way up the hill from the historical district of Madison so he has a great view of downtown, the Ohio River and the Kentucky hills. Boone and his partner are getting used to the rain, humidity and the heavy accents that many people have in southern Indiana. Their property has deer, turtles, many species of birds and lightning bugs. Boone is seeing lots of old friends and many of his schoolmates from 54 years ago. I hope



Napa Outings Leader Martin Faber & Carol Vellutini Outings Chair.

this is a good move for him and happy that he is now settled. Martin Faber led his last Napa Group hike on May 28th (see photos). I was sad to see him leaving but happy that he choose Hood Mountain Regional Park as his last outing venue. Working on trails in Hood Mountain with my volunteer crew for over 30 years means this area has special meaning to me. Martin was a skilled leader, with a fantastic following from the Mother Lode Chapter. He will be missed by all. Martin moved to Hawaii as he loves the warm weather and the ocean.

Celebrate the National Parks 100th August birthday by going to a National Park. “Only by going alone in silence, without baggage, can one truly get into the heart of the wilderness. All other travel is mere dust and hotels and baggage and chatter.” John Muir wrote in July 1888. Go online and view the many celebrations happening across the nation and locally. The North Group is lucky to live in such a beautiful part of our Chapter and fortunate to have Redwood National Park nearby with 40 miles of rugged coastline, the tallest trees on Earth, and miles of trails. Leaders Melinda, Ned and Allison will be leading hikes in these areas. Mendo Group leader Yvonne is



A goodbye to Redwood Chapter.



Martin giving his last trailhead talk.

offering an outing to the new Peter Douglas trail by the southern part of the Lost Coast. This outing took weeks of planning as this area is a very remote part of the Lost Coast. The Shady Dell acquisition allows the public to access this new trail. Participants can drive up before the outing to camp (see description) as it is a long drive from the Sonoma, Napa and Mendo Groups. I hope to join Yvonne before the turn-off to Usal Road. Anyone wanting to go up from Sonoma Group contact me. I have been not been up to that area for years. I remember in the 1980s working with many people, especially Julie Verran, to save the Sinkyone from timber harvest plans. In the mid 1980s the timber multinational, Georgia-Pacific, was in pursuit of logging coastal ancient redwoods in the Sinkyone and the California Department of Forestry (CDF) approved. In response, native people from the

area, the International Indian Treaty Council, the Sierra Club and the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) in Eureka sued. In 1985, the California Court of Appeal handed down its precedent-setting ruling for the Sinkyone people and the environmentalists, stating that the CDF had violated California's environmental laws. So we have beautiful Sinkyone Wilderness Area in addition to the Lost Coast, Redwood National Park, the

King Range and other protected parks to offer you a great outdoor experience. Join our Sierra Club leaders on these great hikes offered in the next few months. Celebrate the land that so many worked so hard to protect so the next generation can enjoy being in the wilderness. The birds and animals are happy also.

—CAROL VELLUTINI, REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR

Sierra Club Volunteer/Activist Opportunities

Seeking a bilingual volunteer to respond to questions from members of the public through Redwood Chapter's Spanish website page. This position should only take a few hours a month, and will support our outreach efforts. For more information, please contact: Mary at odavison@sonic.net

Napa Group Treasurer: This is an opportunity to serve the Sierra Club without too heavy an investment in time, and without leaving home. No meetings to attend! Our accounts are kept on QuickBooks, and we have only a few transactions each month. The treasurer does need to become familiar with C3 vs C4 forms. If you might be interested, contact me at nancy@aya.yale.edu

Outing Chairs and Leaders: All groups need more outing leaders. Redwood Chapter also is missing Group Outing Chairs for Mendocino, Napa, North, Solano and Sonoma. Qualifications are explained Training offered. Our program is only strong when we have all positions filled. Please help out. Info Carol 546-6308 or carolvst@sonic.net

Work with the Sonoma Group Water Committee! NOTICE: The Water Committee is now meeting at 5:00 p.m. at the Environmental Center on the first Mondays of most months in conjunction with the Conservation and Energy Committee meetings. If you are not able to attend by 5:30, we can adjourn to the back room to continue our meeting later. If you are not able to attend our meetings; you may e-mail Len Holt with your concerns and ideas. The Water Committee develops and promotes measures to conserve, save, and reuse our water resources. Our goal is to preserve and improve the natural water environment, by promoting the responsible use of water and the safe reuse or disposal of our waste waters. Help protect the quality of our water for people, wildlife, fish and other aquatic life. Check for our meeting dates in the Needles. To get on our e-mail list, e-mail Len Holt at lholt@sonic.net.

Get CHARGED by attending the Climate & Energy Committee. Join us on the 1st of the month at 5:00-5:30 p.m. at the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa, learn about what is going on in our community to fight climate change through renewable energy programs. Contact Chair Shirley Johnson-Foell: Email: Shirlgirl707@Yahoo.com, home 206-1138, or call office 544-7651.

North Group Report

Red Buttes Reflections

I am fortunate to have a copy of John Hart's Sierra Club Totebook: *Hiking the Bigfoot Country*, and fortunate to have several friends to share in an overnight trip to the Red Buttes Wilderness this past week. In fact, it was their idea.

We left Arcata and took State Route 96 through the Klamath River country, and after turning north at Seiad Valley we came to our destination: Cook and Green Pass, a primitive and historic camping spot on the Pacific Crest Trail.

After a night of dispersed car-camping, dinner and breakfast on the side of a nearby spur road, we set out on the Boundary Trail portion of the PCT

to Bee Camp and Lily Pad Lake, reveling in marvelous wide vistas of the storied Klamath and Siskiyou mountains. We shared brief conversations with many "through hikers," as they call themselves, many of whom had traveled hundreds of miles on foot already. Penstemon, Paintbrush, and several members of the Lily and Sunflower families graced our passage. The songs of Lazuli Buntings and other hard-to-see little birds cheered us on. A solitary patch of snow on 6,694-foot Kangaroo Mountain, a massive red-rock peak well hidden among its



comrades, was all that remained of the past season's snowpack around us.

In *Bigfoot Country's* Acknowledgments the first names listed by John Hart happen to be David Van de Mark and Lucille Vinyard. It was a pleasure to talk with Dave at Lucille Vinyard's

Celebration of Life this past May.

Back home, I found John Hart, born 1948, on his website. Included in his blog is his salutation to the new Berryessa-Snow Mountain National Monument: "A Fiery Birth." A number of books by him and others are listed for sale. *Hiking the Bigfoot Country*, published in 1975, is available.

One is tempted to say, "small world," but "big people" would be more fitting.

See you out there!

—NED FORSYTH, NORTH GROUP VICE CHAIR

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.

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 bmphoto@comcast.net.

Sonoma County Regional Parks trail work days.

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

Volunteer Days Riverkeeper Stewardship Park in Guerneville, Every Wednesday.

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

Lucille Lovingly Remembered by Community

On May 22, a Celebration of the Life of Lucille Bartlett Vinyard was held in Arcata.

North Group's Sue Leskiw and Mary Gearheart of the Redwood Parks Conservancy planned the event at the request of Lucille's sister, Ellicott. Nearly 150 people attended, traveling from near and far to honor Lucille, who passed away last December. Representatives from CalTrans and Redwood National Park, as well as those who collaborated with Lucille during the battles in the '60s and '70s to save North Coast ancient redwoods, were the featured speakers. Their presentations were followed by a long line of attendees who came up to the microphone to share their remembrances. Many spoke about how Lucille served as a mentor to them on coastal, forestry, and wilderness issues. Visual



Lucille Vinyard, planting a tree in Humboldt Redwoods State Park on Feb. 15, 1976. Photo by Bill Devall.

highlights were provided by Dave Van de Mark's wonderful oversized photos of Lucille in the outdoors and a sample of Lucille's journals, papers, and photos that are currently being archived by Humboldt State University.

If you would like to make a donation in Lucille's name, there are two venues: 1) HSU Library Lucille Vinyard/Susie van Kirk Trust (supports archiving Lucille's records), <https://library.humboldt.edu/giving/vankirk.html>; and 2) North Group Environmental Education Fund (supports sending local children to camp). Send checks to PO Box 238, Arcata CA 95518 with "Camper Fund" in the memo line.

—SUE LESKIW, NORTH GROUP TREASURER

Lake Group Report

To Make a Difference, Just Show Up

A recent incident demonstrated that sometimes all you have to do to influence the course of events for the better is simply to show up and ask. Bringing a partner helps.

Both Lake Group and Redbud Audubon Society have been concerned recently about the way that agricultural expansion into woodland and chaparral is nibbling away at wildlife habitat, not only through direct conversion but also because of impaired connectivity. We thought that one particular vineyard project, though including suitable mitigations and voluntarily setting aside several conservation areas, could be improved considerably by inclusion of a wildlife corridor—and the project map seemed to show a good place to put it.

So we teamed up to ask for a hearing before the county approved the requested grading and use permits. When we met with planning staff and the developers we learned that our suggested corridor location wouldn't work because of existing fences and cattleguards on adjacent properties— but after giving the map a good hard look the developer volunteered to place an east-west corridor near the center of the property, bisecting one of the proposed blocks of grapes and connecting substantial areas of native vegetation on either side.

Win one for the deer and coyotes!

Lake Group Awards Scholarships

For the fifth year in a row Lake Group has awarded a pair of \$1000 scholarships to graduating seniors from Lake County high schools who are planning careers that will support the Club's mission to "enjoy, explore, and protect" the planet.

Clear Lake High School graduate Mina Werner is intends to become a veterinarian, first attending CSU Sacramento, and then moving on to UC Davis or Oregon State. In the meantime, she has transformed her family home in Lakeport into something of a wildlife refuge, helping animals from turkeys to tortoises heal and survive.

The second scholarship recipient, Middletown High School senior Wyatt Jones, is an active member of the Middletown 4-H, Lions Club, and several athletic teams; Wyatt has also worked as a mechanic's assistant at Langtry Vineyards. He plans to attend Reedley College, near Fresno, with the goal of becoming an Agricultural Engineer. Wyatt reports, "I enjoy the outdoors, interacting with others and am fascinated with the building and creating of new things . . . I want to support my heritage in agriculture, helping to invent and streamline processes in the field."

Congratulations Mina and Wyatt!

End of an Era

This year's *Redwood Needles* deadline coincided with Lake Group's annual midsummer potluck BBQ, a festive occasion that was tinged with poignancy this time when Club members Peter and Kathy Windrem let us know that after 15 years this would be their last stint as hosts. This party has been a key to the vitality and unity of the Sierra Club in Lake County, and we've all also had a wonderful time! Thank you, thank you Peter and Kathy for giving so many people so much pleasure, and also for contributing to environmental protection in Lake County in this uniquely powerful way.

—VICTORIA BRANDON, LAKE GROUP CONSERVATION CHAIR

North Group Needs Your Help!

Volunteer opportunities are available. Please contact Gregg or Ned for details, or make plans to attend a regular Executive Committee meeting in Eureka. Your ideas and skills are welcome, from Internet communications to outings leaders and more.

SIERRA CLUB
LIFE PLANNING
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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

Solano Breeze Corner

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

sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com

707-319-6398

Sierra Club Solano Group ExCom meetings are mostly on the first Monday of each month, at Denny's, Cordelia, 7 pm. All Sierra Club members welcome. Call Jane at 707-644-9183, or Greg at 707-386-6411 to confirm.

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. The charge is only \$10 (CASH or CHECK ONLY) per twenty pounds of paper shredded, but volunteers get FREE shredding! (Maximum: 100 pounds).

There is also 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.

We are currently monitoring the following issues:

- We are monitoring a situation on an island in the Carquinez Strait that has been taken over by a duck hunting club. The water board has started proceedings to fine the club for unauthorized work. No permits were pulled for the work that was accomplished (restoring old viaducts around the island).
- We are also monitoring a situation on Ryer Island that will bring solar panels to the island.
- The Vallejo Marine Terminal (VMT) project is proceeding and seems headed to approval. Of great concern, now that the City of Oakland has terminated their coal export project, is that the VMT portion does indeed include coal export.
- There is a new project that has been brought up that involves taking ag land for a liquor refinery. We are monitoring that situation.

CONTRIBUTORS: JANE BOGNER, JOSEPH FELLER

EDITOR: GREG PETERSON

Mendocino Group Report

Mendocino Group is involved in responding to the rereleased FEIR for the Central Coast Transfer Station. We are not opposed to moving the Garbage Processing Facility from its present site in a residential neighborhood, we are opposed to siting it on pristine pygmy forest, "exceptionally high quality Mendocino Pygmy Cypress Woodland and good Northern Bishop Pine Forest habitats...this parcel supports habitat of the highest quality." (Dept. Fish and Wildlife Feb 2014). Among three sites that were studied, which are within 1.5 miles of each other, the other two have been bulldozed, one is already publicly owned. Why pick the one that is most destructive of the environment? Is it because the parcel chosen is part of Jackson Demonstration State Forest and the Joint Powers (city and county) think they can get it free through a trade with acreage from State Parks? The Joint Powers propose a trade of 12.6 acres of Russian Gulch State Park, public land, marbled murrelet habitat to JDSF for the pristine pygmy site. JDSF would eventually log it. Parks would get in exchange the present Transfer Station site and the former Caspar Landfill for this presently protected 12.6 acres. How can this be? Apparently any protected acreage can be appropriated and flung into the maw of progress provided the framing is just convoluted enough and some enabling legislation has been passed. Mendocino Group is encouraging City and County to take a closer look. We will be lobbying the administrative bodies and elucidating the details just in case the city council members and the supervisors are unclear on the details of the EIR. We want to encourage more forward thinking means of garbage disposal other than trucking it out to a site outside the county. Disposal elsewhere does little to lessen garbage production either through waste stream reduction or recycling.

—MARY WALSH, MENDOCINO GROUP CHAIR

Napa Group Report

Walt Ranch: Tentative County Decision Announced

To our disappointment, the County of Napa has tentatively approved a "reduced intensity" version of the Walt Ranch project. This plan, which slices about 100 acres off of the original proposal, will still destroy over 200 acres of woodland habitat and threaten other resources.

The Circle Oaks community and the City of Napa see potential threats to their water supplies, while the Center for Biological Diversity finds inadequate protection of rare species. Residents fear the routing of heavy equipment over Circle Oaks Drive will damage the unstable roadbed and underlying sewer and water pipes. Construction and harvest traffic on the narrow twisting road with no shoulder or sidewalk will also endanger pedestrians.

An array of organizations, including the Sierra Club, Living Rivers Council, Circle Oaks Water District and Homes Association, and the Center for Biological Diversity continue to object to the Environmental Impact Report, which has failed to adequately address environmental concerns. The next step for opponents, after the official announcement due on August 1st, will be an appeal to the Board of Supervisors.

Deforestation is a global issue. We can't abhor deforestation in the Amazon, while tolerating it in the U.S. for the sake of luxury wine.

The battle to prevent deforestation of 300 acres in Napa County continues.

Climate Change Event

Long-time Berkeley-based climate advocates, Lee Ballance and Mary Selkirk, will talk about how climate change affects public health on Monday, August 8, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Napa

Library.

Open Volunteer Opportunities

Treasurer Retiring

After decades assisting us in the treasurer post, Tom Davis is retiring and moving to Nevada. He will be missed.

We need a new treasurer. Tom has been keeping our accounts on Quick Books, though he tells me that we have so few transactions, that it is almost overkill. This is a great way to contribute from your home.

Empty Seat on Napa ExCom

Ready for more active involvement? Consider joining our executive committee.

We meet every two months, and individuals take on projects of interest.

If you might be interested in either of these positions, contact me at nancy@aya.yale.edu

Keep Abreast of Napa Events and Issues

Contact us at napavalleyssierraclub@gmail.com to receive our monthly e-mail newsletter. We promise not to bombard you with messages, or share your address with other organizations.

—NANCY TAMARISK, NAPA GROUP CHAIR

Napa Group Members

Our e-newsletter arrives in your mailbox on the 3rd of every month. If you are not seeing it: check your spam folder or send us an e-mail so that we can add you to our list:
napavalleyssierraclub@gmail.com

Sonoma Group Report

Gualala River logging

Unfortunately, Cal-Fire has just approved the 'Dogwood' logging plan to cut redwoods in the floodplain of the Gualala River in spite of strong opposition organized by Friends of the Gualala River. Details appear on page one of this issue. See the FoGR website (gualalariver.org) for more information and next steps.



Formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)

California has been one of the last states to regulate and protect groundwater resources, but now that regulation is happening following the passage of the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Act. Our major groundwater basins (Sonoma Valley, Petaluma Valley, and the Santa Rosa Plain) have been mapped and studies are almost completed. Details of the three Projects can be found on the Water Agency's website at <http://www.scwa.ca.gov/groundwater/>.

Sonoma County is now working on forming Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, or GSAs, to oversee groundwater planning for each basin. The County has identified a list of "GSA Eligible" entities which could have representatives on the GSAs and a public meeting on GSAs is being held in each basin.

Sonoma Group is concerned about the lack of groundwater users on the GSA entities list since the list includes mostly agencies which deal with surface water from the Russian River. We also believe that there should be a strong Technical Advisory Committee so that the resulting plan is based more on science than politics. The letter submitted by the Group to the GSA planning body is available on our website.

Community Separators

To volunteer to help pass November's ballot measure renewing our community separators, see the article in this issue and contact Teri Shore, tshore@greenbelt.org.

Save the Date:

Sonoma Group welcomes Michael Brune, Executive Director of the Sierra Club

Michael Brune will be speaking here at the Glaser Center on Friday, September 16. See the article on page one for more information, and go to our website to reserve tickets.

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

—SUZANNE DOYLE, ACTING SONOMA GROUP CHAIR

2016 Redwood Chapter and Group Elections Schedule

August 10, 2016: Appointment of Chapter Nominating and Elections Committees.

September 8, 2016: Appointment of Nominating Committee by Groups.

October 6, 2016: Receipt of all candidates' applications (statement of intent to run) with contact information, for consideration by Group Nominating Committees.

October 13, 2016: Group Nominating Committees inform all potential candidates of their status and submit lists of candidates, with contact information, to their respective ExCom and Chapter Election Committees.

October 27, 2016: Group Nominating Committees submit ballot statements to Election Committee.

October 27, 2016: Statements are sent for December *Redwood Needles*.

November 7, 2016: Receipt of ballot petitions and ballot statements by election Committee.

Approved statements sent for December *Redwood Needles*.

December 30, 2016: Ballots due in office.

January 2, 2017: Ballots counted. Notify all candidates, Chapter ExCom and *Redwood Needles* of results.

Meetings

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

Mon. Aug. 1 - Sonoma Group.

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

Water Committee meets 5:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Climate&EnergyCommitteeat5:30p.m, Contact Shirley, shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, 707-206-1138.

Conservation Committee at 6:00 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

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

Thurs. Aug. 4 - Solano Group ExCom.

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

Tues. Aug. 9 - 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. Sept. 5 - Sonoma Group.

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

Water Committee meets 5:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Climate&EnergyCommitteeat5:30p.m, Contact Shirley, shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, 707-206-1138.

Conservation Committee at 6:00 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

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

Tues. Sept. 13 - 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.

Thurs. Sept. 15 - 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. 17 - Redwood Chapter ExCom. And ConsCom.

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

Tues. Sept. 20 - 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 napaquail@gmail.com

Two Sonoma County Cities Renewing Urban Growth Boundaries

The City of Cotati in Sonoma County plans to renew its Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) with a city-sponsored ballot measure in the November 2016 General Election. Cotati is one of nine cities with a voter-approved UGB in Sonoma County—the only Bay Area county that has a UGB in each of its cities.

The City of Sebastopol renewed its UGB for another 25 years by a vote of the City Council after activists gathered the required signatures for a ballot measure.

Cotati

Cotati residents first approved the city's urban growth boundary in November 1998 with 71% of the vote. As the city's general plan was updated last year, Greenbelt Alliance and community members urged the City to consider renewing its UGB in November 2016 instead of waiting until 2017 or 2018. Mayor John Moore, the other councilmembers, and city staff agreed.

The City Council has voted unanimously to maintain the urban growth boundary line, extend the sunset date for 30 years or more, and to consider strengthening policies and language to protect groundwater basins and biologically sensitive habitat.

At the same UGB meeting, the City Council voted to support the renewal and extension of community

separators in Sonoma County, which protect the greenbelts between towns and cities.

Sebastopol

Sebastopol voters were among the first in the Bay Area to adopt a 20-year UGB that was set to expire in 2016.

In Sebastopol June 7 (Election Night), the City Council unanimously adopted a citizens' initiative to renew the city's urban growth boundary (UGB) for 25 years, maintain existing boundaries, and add strengthened policies.

A group of motivated activists in Sebastopol collected double the number of signatures needed for a ballot measure to renew the city's voter-approved urban growth boundary before it expired at the end of 2016.

The group, called the Citizens to Renew the Sebastopol Urban Growth Boundary 2016, wanted to maintain the existing boundaries and extend the sunset date.

Allowing the expiration of voter protections for any urban growth boundary opens the door to development beyond the growth boundaries with a simple majority vote of the City Council instead of a vote of the people.

Greenbelt Alliance, Sonoma County Conservation Action, the Sierra Club, Sebastopol Tomorrow, the Western Sonoma County Rural Alliance, and other open space enthusiasts supported the UGB renewal.

Help Wanted: Redwood Chapter Seeks Communications Coordinator

Redwood Chapter is hiring a communications coordinator to strengthen connections with our members and help us send a strong environmental message to the general public.

Working closely with volunteer leaders, this talented individual will develop and launch a biweekly email newsletter to supplement the bimonthly *Redwood Needles*, manage social media outreach including the creation of a Twitter feed, pitch Sierra Club stories to the press, assist local groups to connect with members, and organize a series of public forums in Santa Rosa.

Strong communications and computer skills are essential, and a passion for protecting the planet.

This half-time job will be based in Sonoma County though some telecommuting may be possible, and is expected to last about six months, with an extension also possible.

A full job description and link to the application form is available on the Club Careers website, <http://bit.ly/29ArKGN>. Chapter Chair Victoria Brandon is also glad to answer questions: feel free to call her at 707 994 1931 or to send an email to vbrandon@lakelive.info.

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