

Redwood Needles



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

August/Sept. 2017

Protecting Our Monuments and Sanctuaries:

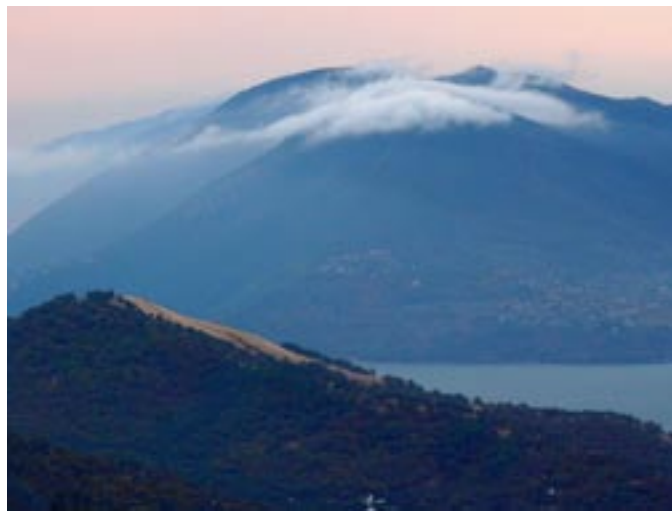
The View from Here

By VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

The comment period on the Department of the Interior's "review" of 22 national monuments and five marine sanctuaries closed on July 10, ironically enough two years to the day from the designation of our own Berryessa Snow Mountain national monument. The public spoke out loud and clear: 2.7 million comments were received, with 98 percent supporting the continued protection of these very special places. Some 49,000 comments were specific to Berryessa Snow Mountain.

If the administration were sincere in its declared intention to gauge the pulse of public opinion Secretary Ryan Zinke's next action should be to issue a declaration that none of the threatened monuments will be eliminated or reduced in size, but unfortunately there is no good reason to believe that sincerity has played any part in this whole exercise, which was founded in duplicity and fueled by greed.

A few days later DOI recommended that Craters of the Moon national monument in Idaho and Hanford Reach national monument in Washington remain protected. While that's good news for those very deserving places, the decision underscored the arbitrariness that has been the most consistent feature of Zinke's review. No one has known which monuments are actually being targeted or what criteria are driving the decisions in a process without logic or transparency. Our public lands, the federal agencies that manage them, and the local economies that depend upon them all deserve better than to be manipulated as



Mt. Konocti from Bartlett Mountain Summit

pawns in a cynical game.

As the *Redwood Needles* was going to press, the comment period had not yet closed on a parallel "review" of the protected status of five marine sanctuaries, including Cordell Bank and Greater Farallones here on the coast of northern California. This nutrient-rich water supports an extraordinarily diverse ecosystem, including at least 25 endangered or threatened species and 36 marine mammal species, and an abundance of sea life

"The View from Here" cont. on page 3

Solano Jumps the Gun on Highway 37 Plan

The State Route 37 improvement saga continues this month, as Solano County vies for "lead agency" status to oversee the B and C segments of the project. Sierra Club members are involved in a study group created to assess the project and provide recommendations to the State Route 37 Policy Committee.

The highway, which runs east-west from Vallejo to Novato along the north shore of San Pablo Bay, was closed near its junction with US-101 due to flooding earlier this year. Sea-level rise and predicted heavy storms caused by climate change will continue to inundate the road unless measures are taken to raise the road.

The four-county policy committee commissioned a study of cost-effective ways to avoid similar incidents in the future and to address traffic congestion in the corridor. Parts of the study may be available this September, and the full results should be available in early 2018.

Redwood Chapter's Steve Birdleough, Chris Benz and Joe Feller, plus San Francisco Bay Chapter's Doug Karpa, form Sierra Club's study group. Birdleough, who chairs Redwood Chapter's transportation committee, said tolls may be enacted to help fund a solution.

In the meantime, the Solano Transportation Authority has taken the unusual step of offering to be the "lead agency" for an environmental study of a causeway along the nine-mile, two-lane portion of the highway (Segments B and C).

Because an understanding of all funding and construction options in the study will influence environmental decisions, the Sierra Club has advised members of the policy committee that it does not favor separating consideration of the two-lane part of the road east of Sears Point from the four-lane part between Sears Point and US-101 (Section A).

In a letter sent June 23 to David Rabbitt, the chair of the policy committee, Sierra Club Chapter Chairs Victoria Brandon (Redwood) and Igor Tregub (San Francisco Bay), outlined concern for installing a "lead agency" prior to approval of the study.

"It seems to us that this request is premature," they wrote. "It would make it likely that differing funding and policy decisions would affect various parts of the corridor, to the detriment of the environment and users as well."

The Bay Area League is planning a Saturday seminar on Planning for the Future of Hwy 37, on August 19th, 9:30-1:00 p.m. at the Novato City Council Chambers.

Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hwy-37-planning-for-the-future-tickets-35383020567>

Community Separators Put to Test

By Teri Shore, Sonoma Group Chair

Just months after 81 percent of Sonoma County voters passed Measure K to protect community separators for the next 20 years, a luxury resort and large scale special event center is being proposed on the north edge of Santa Rosa in the Windsor-Larkfield-Santa Rosa Community Separator.

The location is 20 acres at 3890 Old Redwood Highway, Santa Rosa, which currently has two homes and was formerly the Buzzard's Gulch youth camp that has not been in operation for years. The public's first look at the luxury resort project occurred at the County Design Review Committee meeting on June 21.

If allowed as proposed, the weddings, dinners, and other special events alone would attract about 16,000 to 30,000 new visitors per year, larger than the population of any one of these cities: Cotati, Sonoma, Sebastopol, Healdsburg or Windsor. Adding to the effect of a new community in a community separator, the developers want to construct a massive new event hall, a large new office, two dozen cabins, a large new pool and cabanas, pave over most of a meadow for parking, construct a loop road and convert two residences to vacation rentals.

Also worrisome is that the project site is right next door to the historic and still operating 160-acre Cloverleaf Ranch, where children come every summer to ride horses, go on hay rides and enjoy low-key outdoor fun. The owners of Cloverleaf Ranch attended the design review meeting and said they were upset about the luxury lodging with its wine and food events and how an influx of visitors right on their property line could impact the camp.

Sierra Club and other Measure K supporters are concerned that the size and scale of the luxury resort and event center is inconsistent with community separator policies, zoning and Measure K. It is also in the wrong place because the Windsor-Larkfield-Santa Rosa Community Separator is already compromised by commercial development and sprawl all around it.

Community separators do not stop all development, and allows farmers to build a barn or even a winery in some cases and landowners to keep existing land use rights. But Measure K was clearly intended to stop housing tracts, shopping malls and commercial development including luxury resorts like this one from being built in the green buffers between the nine towns and cities in Sonoma County.

The luxury lodging is more in line with commercial and recreational and visitor serving uses than existing resource and rural development zoning. Either the zoning needs to be changed with a countywide vote per Measure K, or the project needs to be scaled way back to be in line with existing zoning and the intention of community separators.

The Design Review Committee provided extensive design comments on conceptual plans but veered away from any comments about the size or scale of the project, saying that will be up to the Board of Zoning Adjustments. That entity will review the luxury hotel and hold a public hearing in four or five months, according to a county planner.



City Council Overrules Community Opposition to Vallejo Cement Plant

Despite months of organized and very vocal opposition to a proposed cement plant and deep water marine terminal in south Vallejo, the city council approved an appeal from developers that keeps the project afloat.

The final vote was 4-3 to finalize the draft Environmental Impact Report, which city staff and the planning commission had rejected due to many flaws.

Sierra Club Solano Group actively mobilized members and Vallejo residents alongside grassroots organization Fresh Air Vallejo to stand up against the project, saying it would bring an onslaught of noise, air and water pollution into a vulnerable area near an elementary school in a low-income neighborhood.

Solano Group Chair Joe Feller said after holding two hearings May 30 and June 1,

the city council directed staff to return to the environmental review process to allow the applicant to "correct and complete" the DEIR. The council set a date to revisit the project in January.

"It wasn't pretty," he said.

The three council members who voted to uphold the planning commission's decision were Robert McConnel, Bob Sampayan and Katy Miessner. The four who countered public opinion and voted to move forward were Rozanna Verder-Aliga, Jess Malgapo, Hermie Sunga and Pippin Dew-Costa.

Feller said the community activists have not yet identified next steps. If you would like to get involved, please contact Joe Feller at joe56feller@gmail.com.

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

Redwood Chapter Sierra Club Directory

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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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Women in the Lead:

One Milestone on the Path to Equity, Justice, and Inclusion

BY LAUREN LANTRY, SIERRA CLUB MEDIA COORDINATOR

From the mothers in Flint, MI, and Porter Ranch, CA, to the female leaders of the Standing Rock Sioux, women's leadership on climate, environmental, and health issues is critical to a safe and healthy future for us all.

That's why I was excited to hear the results of the Sierra Club Board of Directors' election of officers. For the first time in the Sierra Club's 125-year history, an all female-identified executive committee was elected. The Sierra Club Board of Directors elected Loren Blackford as the new Board President, Susana Reyes as the new Board Vice President, Robin Mann as the new Secretary, Liz Walsh as returning Treasurer, and Margrete Strand-Rangnes as the new fifth officer.

It is fitting that on the Sierra Club's historic 125th anniversary, an all-female executive committee was elected. When the Sierra Club was founded in 1892, it was one of the few outdoor clubs that accepted women. The Sierra Club has come a long way in its 125 years, and this election is just one milestone of many on our road to a more inclusive community that welcomes and celebrates people from all backgrounds.

In a statement about the election, Blackford said "Together, we are committed to the principles of justice, equity, and inclusion, and we will build on the Sierra Club's 125 years of success fighting for clean air and water, renewable energy, and access to nature for all."

The effects of climate disruption aren't gender neutral and neither are the solutions. Women often face a greater risk of getting sick, losing their livelihoods, living in poverty, and being displaced when weather disasters strike. After Hurricane Katrina, a storm

fueled by climate disruption, landed in New Orleans in 2005, 80 percent of those left behind in the Lower Ninth Ward were women.

Women's leadership leads to stronger environmental outcomes. When more women are involved in the decision-making process, their perspectives are likely to promote improvements in energy access as well as innovative ways to combat climate change. Companies with more women on their boards are more likely to proactively invest in renewable power generation, and the number of women serving in a country's legislature can determine whether that country reduces climate emissions.

Sierra Club Vice President Susana Reyes noted the similarities between the impacts of climate disruption and the debate over repealing the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare. From committee hearings to White House meetings, the only people in the room have been men. The failure to act on climate has disastrous consequences for women, and so will Trump's disastrous plan to reduce access to healthcare.

But the Sierra Club still has growing to do. Green 2.0's study, The State of Diversity in Environmental Organizations, shows that most of the gains in diversity in the environmental movement have come from progress in promoting the leadership of white women. Success toward inclusion requires organizations to elevate women from all ethnic backgrounds and not only white women.

People of color in the U.S. are disproportionately harmed by environmental issues. Within the "Women in the Lead" cont. on page 5

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.

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for Group Websites, use www.redwood.sierraclub.org and add: /napa, /north, /sonoma, /lake, /mendocino, or /solano

Redwood Chapter Facebook:
www.facebook.com/SierraClubRedwoodChapter/

“The View from Here” continued from page 1

that extends at least as far south as the Monterey Canyon.

Loss of protected status could re-open the area to resource exploration and extraction, including off-shore oil and gas drilling; the potential for catastrophe is obvious.

A resolution of support from the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors said that rescinding the sanctuary status would “create unnecessary economic uncertainty and is in disregard to the expectation of fisherman, residents, recreational users, researchers, state and local governments, and others who participated in the process that led to the Sanctuary designation and related protections.” We agree wholeheartedly.



Sierra Club Statement on Breakaway of Massive Antarctic Ice Shelf, Larsen C

WASHINGTON, DC - As reported by the New York Times, “A chunk of floating ice that weighs more than a trillion metric tons broke away from the Antarctic Peninsula, producing one of the largest icebergs ever recorded and providing a glimpse of how the Antarctic ice sheet might ultimately start to fall apart.”

In Response, Sierra Club Global Climate Policy Director John Coequet Released the Following Statement:

“This stunning wake-up call serves as a profound warning in the wake of Donald Trump’s irresponsible and historically misguided decision to withdraw from the Paris agreement, as well as his regular attacks on domestic climate and clean energy policies. If we do not transition off of fossil fuels and tackle the climate crisis as quickly as possible, there is an overwhelming consensus that events like

this - which risk the collapse of the entire West Antarctic ice sheet - will increase in frequency and could raise seas by more than 12 feet in the long term.

“Progress must be made in tackling the climate crisis and, despite Donald Trump’s worst efforts, states and cities across the United States are leading the way forward on climate action and are committed to advancing our progress alongside the nations of the world. It’s clear that we need American leadership from people across the country now more than ever, and we will work alongside states, cities, and corporations to ramp up to 100% clean, renewable energy as quickly as possible.”

From Sierra Club’s website

“Climate Activists on Point”

continued from page 8

better lifestyle throughout the county.

“We can have it all, better mobility, better living outcomes and less carbon pollution,” Conlon said.

Sonoma County activists are not alone in their quest to combat climate change. One county over, members of Sierra Club Napa Group are working in tandem with Napa Climate NOW!, an organization dedicated to educating the public and elected officials on the latest climate science.

Napa Group Chair Chris Benz, also a member of Napa Climate NOW! said the group has met with county supervisors, planning commissioners and state legislators’ staff to discuss goals on emissions reduction in the next 10 years. Members also have presented on climate change to high school and middle school students throughout the county, as well as offered a training for community members on how to talk about climate change.

Napa County reviewed its Climate Action Plan on July 5, and Sierra Club members were there to speak up.

Sierra Club members will also participate in a Climate Summit held in Santa Rosa July 31. The Summit, organized by Occupy Sonoma County and 350Sonoma, will be a roundtable discussion of what initiatives groups are engaged in and how to band together as a unified voice for climate action.

In the meantime, every one of us can participate in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Every day choices can make a difference. Here are three things you can do today, tomorrow and the next day to take action.

- Drive less
- Eat less meat
- Check your carbon footprint at CoolCalifornia.org

If you are interested in doing more, volunteer with Sierra Club Sonoma Group’s climate action team <http://facebook.us15.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=420fa35f92458b876f914bd50&id=9dd67d474f>

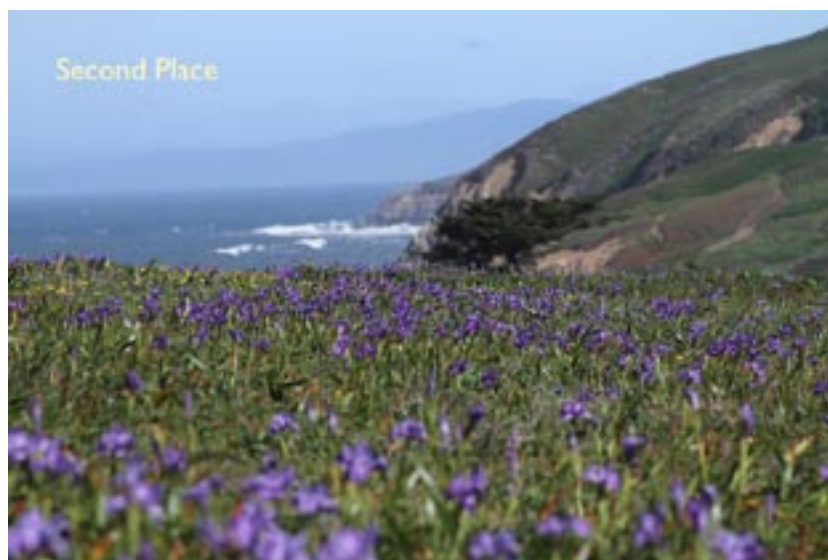
Redwood Chapter Spring Photo Contest Winners

Thank you to all who entered our spring photo contest. Our executive committee voted, and chose three winners that best captured our theme: Northern California’s spring super bloom.

First Place

Neil Simmons, Santa Cruz

The photo is one of the photographer’s favorite local beaches, Shark Fin Cove. Says Simmons: “I used a flash light for about 3 seconds to light up the flowers and the overall exposure was 25 seconds @ISO 3200 F2.8 with the Nikon 14-24 and D800e. The light on the horizon is a fishing boat about to float around the corner of the cove at 4 a.m. I’m always inspired to try and get the most interesting foreground out of my milky way images which helps lead your eye into this image. Our most challenging issue in the Santa Cruz coastal area is getting a clear night to photograph the milky way. I literally had one night in the month of May that was clear enough for me to capture this image.”



Second Place

Joe Roberts, Santa Rosa

“We go to Bodega Head on a regular basis to walk. We love the changing scenes. This particular day, the spring flowers were at one of their best. The sun and ocean cooperated. We have lived in Sonoma County for the past two years and think of it as paradise.”

Third Place

Gini Newell, Santa Rosa

“I photograph lots of nature happenings because I have perpetual appreciation for the abundant and beautiful biodiversity in my backyard and beyond. I was enrolled in a California Naturalist Program at the time and further discovery, exploration, study and stewardship of the environment prevailed. My photo of the bee is titled “Be Kind” because I knew of Colony Collapse Disorder and decrease of other native pollinator populations.”



Editor’s Note: To view the original color photos, visit www.sierraclub.org/redwood and click on the August newsletter.

Outings

Sat.-Sun. July 29-30 – First Redwood Chapter Benson Hut Work Party.

Benson Hut work party involves hiking 3 miles to 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 Tappaan Lodge included with work party (Dinner Friday night and breakfast Saturday am). Contact leader Jim Gannon (707)-757-5695 jgannon@sonic.net for signup or questions.

Fri.-Sun. Aug. 11-13 - Perseid Meteor Shower Campout.

Expect about 100 people at this event in the Black Rock Desert about 100 miles north of Reno. Playa conditions permitting, we'll be camping mid-Playa about 10 miles from a couple of hot springs. We'll have porta-potties but little else so bring water, food etc but there's usually a potluck/Dutch oven meal one night. LNT, dogs must be on leash and expect to pick up after them. David Book 775/843-6443 Great Basin Group

Sun. Aug. 13 - North Group. Prairie Creek Ossagon to Parkway Hike.

We descend by the Ossagon Trail to the beach, where we may pause to explore around the impressive rocks before heading south to meet West Ridge Trail. Turning inland, we begin a long ascent to the ridge, from which the brief Zig-Zig#2 Trail connects us back to the Parkway, where we will have shuttled vehicles for the return to Ossagon. Bring water, lunch, and hiking footwear. Class: M-6-B Carpools: Meet 9 am Ray's Valley West or 10:15 am. Newton B. Drury trailhead (mileage marker 130.54). Leader Melinda 707-668-4275 or mgroomster@gmail.com rain/wind cancels.

Sat. Aug. 19 - Lake Group. Mt. St. Helena Site of the Town of Silverado and Turk's Head.

Hike to and through the town site of Silverado which lies within Robert Louis

Stevenson State Park on the south face of Mt. St. Helena. No buildings remain from the mining town that was home to over 1,000 people, but the early restoration of the area for tourism left several buildings. Fruit trees and other ornamentals date back to the early 1900's. We will walk to the rock formation known as the Turk's Head which lies on the ridge dividing Napa and Alexander Valleys. Bring water and snacks Class E-2-A Meet 8:00 a.m. at the RLS parking area on the east side of highway 29. By reservation only. Leader Pete McGee at 707 942-1373 or montesol@hughes.net

Sat. Aug. 19 - Solano Group. Lynch Canyon Open Space Hike.

Enjoy rolling grasslands, oak woodlands and excellent views of the North Bay. The 4 mile hike on fire roads will take 3-4 hours. Hike is considered moderately strenuous due to 600 ft elevation gain. There is limited shade on the hike, exposed ridgelines can be windy, hot or cold with fog. Be prepared with clothing layers, hat, sunscreen, snacks and water. Class: M-4-B. Meet: 9:30 am. Lynch Canyon staging area on McGary Road. Take Hiddenbrooke/American Canyon exit off I80. \$6 parking fee. Parking lot opens at 9 am. Leader Doug Tracey 925-366-9612 dbtracey@gmail.com

Sun. Aug. 27 - Lake Group. Montgomery Woods Redwood Grove.

We will venture to Mendocino County to visit a lovely grove of mostly old-growth redwoods. This is an easy 2-mile hike with only a short uphill stretch near the start. To arrive at the hike, take Orr Springs Road for 14.1 miles from North State Street in Ukiah to a small parking lot on the left just before a bridge over the river. Meet at 10 a.m. Coming from Lake County, take the Lake Mendocino exit from Highway 101 and travel south on North State Street until you come to Orr Springs Road on the right. Figure on 1 1/4 hours driving time from Lakeport. By reservations only. Leader: Steve Devoto, sdevoto@mchsi.com or 279-8308.

Sat. Sept. 2 - Solano Group. Skyline Wilderness Park Hike.

Enjoy an invigorating hike through woodlands and open ridgelines with views of the Napa Valley. On this 5 mile hike we will be taking the Buckeye and Skyline trails to Lake Marie, return to the parking lot on Marie Creek Trail. Hike is moderately strenuous with a 500 ft elevation gain, mainly at the beginning of the trail. Be prepared with clothing layers, hat, sunscreen, snacks and water. Class: M-5-B. Meet: 9 am, Skyline Wilderness Park parking lot (to the right of the kiosk). Located at 2201 Imola Avenue off Soscol/Hwy 221. Parking fee \$5. Parking lot opens at 8 am. Leader Doug Tracey 925-366-9612 dbtracey@gmail.com

Wed. Sept. 6 - North Group. Redwood National Park Emerald Ridge Loop Hike.

We descend by Emerald Ridge Trail through lush forest to Redwood Creek. We proceed by gravel bars, with several creek crossings, to the Tall Trees area. Back on trail, we stroll the tall Trees Loop before returning by the main trail (a climb of 700') to our cars. Bring water, lunch, sun protection and footwear for trail, loose rock, and water. Class: M-5-A. Carpools: 9 am Ray's Valley West or 10:30 am. Tall Trees trailhead (Obtain pass at Kuchel Visitor Center, hwy 101 south of Orick) By reservation only. Leader Melinda 707-668-4275 or mgroomster@gmail.com

Sat.-Sun. Sept. 9-10 - Second Redwood Chapter Benson Hut Work Party.

Benson Hut work party involves hiking 3 miles to 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 Tappaan Lodge included with work party (Dinner Friday night and breakfast Saturday am). Contact leader Jim Gannon (707)-757-5695 jgannon@sonic.net for signup or questions.

Sat. Sept. 16 - North Group. Lacks Creek/Pine Ridge Prairies Hike.

Come and explore this nearby Bureau of Land Management area off Highway



Benson Hut buried in snow.

299, on new and old trails created by BLM, Humboldt Trails Council, and Redwood Coast Mountain Bike Association. We will see a mix of oak savannas, old-growth conifers, and regenerating hardwood-covered slopes. Humboldt Bay and ocean views a possibility. Bring lunch and water, and dress for an early fall day at 3,600 feet elevation. Class M-5-A. Carpools: Meet 9 a.m. Ray's Market in Valley West. Leader Ned, nedforsyth48@gmail.com, (707) 825-3652 message phone. Heavy rain cancels.

Fri.-Sun. Sept. 29-Oct. 1 - National Public Lands Day.

Join various N. Nevada outdoor groups for an as yet undetermined volunteer project in the Black Rock Desert about 100 miles north of Reno. Current plans are for a project at Soldier Meadows Hot Spring. Most food provided but you'll have to work for it! There's usually a work day and a play day so we won't work all weekend! Call David Book 775/843-6443 for more info as we get closer to the event! Great Basin Group

Fri. Eve, Oct. 6 - Lake Group. Full Moon over Clear Lake.

A funny little hike to obtain a spectacular view of the sunset as the full moon rises over the lake. We will hike a steep two miles to the top of Elephant Mountain with breathtaking views of Clear Lake from high above the north shore between Lucerne and Glen Haven. The first two thirds is up a Kono Tayee subdivision street. We will meet in the

early evening. Bring food for dinner and drinks Class: M4A. Call the leader Steve Devoto 279-8308 or sdevoto@mchsi.com to find out the time and place of the meeting. Limit 15.

Sun. Oct. 8 - Sonoma Group. Gunsight Rock Hike.

Experienced hikers only; this trail is steep with loose footing in some sections. Starting out at Sugarloaf State Park Goodspeed Trailhead we'll see the fall colors from Gunsight Rock. Bring water, snacks, lunch, wind parka, hat and sturdy hiking boots. The Nattkemper Trail is our Sierra Club Trail, constructed in 1982-1985 Meet: 9:15 Goodspeed trailhead Sugarloaf State Park first parking area on the left on Adobe Canyon Road (2.2 miles from Hwy 12). Parking is \$8; exact change only. Class: S-71/2-B. Leader Dave 849-1111 Rain Cancels.

Fri.-Sun. Oct. 27-29 - Wilderness Restoration in Death Valley National Park.

Join us as we continue the clean-up of a grow site in this beautiful National Park. We will hike about 3 miles up a rugged canyon to gather and carry out the trash left behind in an illegal grow site. Participants should bring an old backpack if they have one. Sturdy trash bags will be supplied to protect packs. Details on meeting time and camping location have not been finalized. Potluck Saturday night. Leader: Kate Allen, kj.allen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056.

Instructions to hikers

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

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

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

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

Visitors are welcome

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

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

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

To submit outings write-ups

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

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

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park 2017

Aug. 20-22 Sept. 24-26 Oct. 22-24

Join us for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard cruise to California's Channel Islands! Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines. Snorkle in pristine waters teeming with colorful fish. Swim with frolicking seals and sea lions. Look for unusual sea and land birds. Watch for the highly endangered island fox. Or....just relax at sea! All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. The cost, \$650, includes

an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks and beverages plus the services of a naturalist-docent assigned by the national park to help lead hikes, point out items of interest and give evening program. For more information contact leader: Joan Jones Holtz; 626-443-0706; jholtzhl@aol.com. To make a reservation send a \$100 check, written to Sierra Club, to leader, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732.



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

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

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

Varies, see hike description for details: Jim Gannon Phil Kohlmetz Doug Tracy

Fast-pace with few or no stops: Carol Magill

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

Moderate-pace with more frequent stops: Tom McFarling Melinda Groom Val Nordeman Carol Vellutini

Yvonne Kramer Brian Collett Nanette DeDonato Jonah Freedman Steve Devoto Ned Forsyth

Tim Bartice Pete McGee

Slower-pace: Allison Bronkall Carl Inglin

Sierra Club Volunteer/Activist Opportunities

Help Wanted: Chapter Secretary and Outings Chair

Redwood Chapter is actively seeking applicants for two important positions. After eight years of exemplary service Chapter Secretary Jill Hunter is retiring and moving to the Gold Country. A full job description for this vital post is available at <http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/volunteer-redwood-chapter>, but the main responsibility is to take minutes at chapter meetings, which are held six times annually in either Santa Rosa or Willits.

We are also looking for a Chapter Outings Chair or (alternatively) an Outings Coordinator. After more than 30 years of outstanding service to the Club, Carol Vellutini is also taking a well-earned retirement as of the end of the year. Job descriptions for both positions are also posted at <http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/volunteer-redwood-chapter>. Familiarity with the Sierra Club Outings program or willingness to learn is an essential component of either of these jobs, but please note that qualification as an Outing leader is not required.

Interested? Please contact Chapter Chair Victoria Brandon, 707 994 1931 or vbrandon@lakelive.info

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

Special Screening & Discussion "An Inconvenient Sequel"

Saturday, July 29, 7 p.m.

Summerfield Theater, Santa Rosa

We are excited to bring an early screening of "An Inconvenient Sequel" to our region Saturday, July 29, and we hope you will join us for this event. A discussion with local climate activists and civic leaders will follow the film.

"An Inconvenient Sequel" is a documentary that follows up "An Inconvenient Truth" (2006), which catapulted the uncomfortable discussion about the effects of climate change into the public sphere. This sequel follows former Vice President Al Gore as he travels the world working on clean energy initiatives and climate action.

This early screening will give you a chance to see the film before it opens in wider release, plus an opportunity to participate in a discussion with local leaders on what Sierra Club, city and county governments and other environmental groups are doing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and take on the real threat of climate change.

Seats are limited, so get your ticket at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/inconvenient-sequel-pre-screening-and-talk-tickets-36108618851> soon before it sells out. We are suggesting a \$10-\$20 donation per ticket to help cover event costs and support Sierra Club's local climate work.

"Women in the Lead" continued from page 2

demographics of women, the effects of environmental injustice are amplified for women of color and those in the LGBTQ community. Lesbian, bisexual, transgender women, and those who identify outside of the gender spectrum face disproportionate levels of violence at the hands of both strangers and intimate partners. This is only exacerbated by climate disruption. As Nellis Kennedy-Howard noted when interviewed by the Huffington Post at the Washington, D.C., Women's March, Native women and other women of color face

elevated rates of sexual assault.

No matter one's gender, everyone has the right to live in a safe and clean environment, free of gender-based violence and discrimination, and with access to clean air, water, and energy.

For the Sierra Club, this milestone in female leadership can serve as a stepping stone for our work on equity, inclusion and justice. We'll keep working to transform ourselves and our organization, because everyone deserves a seat at the table.

Excerpted from Sierra Club's online blog



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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 Phone _____
 Email _____

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

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

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 13	N/A
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 39	<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"/> \$ 1200
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!

9440 0300 1

Enclose a check and mail to: Sierra Club, PO Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32140-1041 or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org

Outings Chair Report

New Solano Group leader Doug Tracy, living in Benicia, is starting out in August with short hikes because of the (sometimes unpredictable) hot weather. New Sonoma group leader David Oliver will lead his 1st hike in October.

Thank you to Sierra Club members who helped with halting the Dogwood THP by the Gualala River. Judge Rene Chouteau awarded \$162,000 in attorney's fees to the successful parties in environmental litigation. This was a very long ordeal.

On page 4 is a photo of Benson Hut covered completely in snow. Jim Gannon had to re-schedule his summer work party due to snow still on the ground in July.

The book "The Boys of Winter" by Charles Sanders is about the U.S. Ski Troops during the Second World War. Sierra Club's Benson Hut is named after Lieutenant John



John Benson

Benson. This photo of John from the book was taken days prior to the Mt. Belvedere attack. John was killed by friendly fire Feb. 20th 1945. The end of that campaign and official Nazi surrender in Italy was May 2nd and the 10th had sustained nearly 1000 fatalities. April 30th 1945 Adolf Hitler had taken his life in Berlin and the war ended Sept. 2 1945. David Brower served in the 10th Mountain Division as did many Sierra Club members. In a 1945 Sierra Club Bulletin Brower states "I hope they will remember not with sackcloth, not with tears-but just by contemplating a little, what these men gave, willingly or not, has contributed toward an opportunity still to travel the trails". The 10th Division men lucky enough to return home from the mountains of northern Italy literally founded the US ski industry, and contributed mightily to the growth of the American ecological movement. We are fortunate to have Benson Hut in the Sierra. Clair Tappaan was a center for skiing back in the



Jeanette Spiegel and Val Rios at the annual 10th Mountain Division picnic.

day. Please visit Clair Tappaan, spend the night and hike into Benson hut the next day. Join Jim Gannon on his work party. Think about what I have written about Lieutenant Benson and how fortunate that Sierra Club has built this hut in his honor.

Jeanette Spiegel and I attended the 10th Mountain Division annual picnic at Sebastiani Vineyards in Sonoma at the request of Eugene Miya of the Loma Prieta Chapter. See photo of Jeanette with Val Rios, the Sierra Nevada Chapter Director. Val brought along the official 10th Division Flag (see photo) and lyrics to some of the 10th songs. (of course we sang) There were three 10th Division veterans at the picnic. Jeanette was married to Albert Spiegel. Albert was drafted in 1941. He trained at Camp Roberts. Albert's last stop was Texas. They took mules to Italy as they thought mules would be a help. However they were told they couldn't use them so they gave the mules to Italian farmers. Jeanette has a memory book, Albert's bronze star, and many items that Albert brought back from the war. Albert passed on in 1999. I was fortunate to meet Jeanette and we remain good friends.

Many hikers on the Pacific Crest Trail have had problems this year due to the late snows, raging rivers, and then the hot spell in the desert. If you go backpacking this year please check how the trails and weather will be before you leave. Be safe.

-CAROL VELLUTINI, REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTING CHAIR



World War II veterans holding the 10th Mountain Division's flag at their annual picnic.

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. **We now offer some pet friendly cabins.**

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Sonoma Group Report

Sierra Club in Action

A big crowd jammed the room to view the new documentary "Water & Power: A California Heist" at the Sierra Club in Santa Rosa on June 3. The film, screened first at Sundance to critical acclaim, presents the story of how a few water barons gained control of our state's most precious resource. If you missed it, you can see it on August 9 with Sierra Club and The Farmers Guild at the Sebastopol Grange. Free but seating limited. Potluck starts at 6 p.m. Movie starts at 7 p.m. A discussion on local water issues will immediately follow the screening at about 8:20 pm.



Rue Furch leads the "Water & Power: A California Heist" discussion for Sonoma Group.

it is transferred from the county to private developers, that the natural resources could be compromised if converted to a more traditional park. We'll be keeping close watch.

In Petaluma, the Friends of Kelley Creek and community groups convinced the City Council to reject the Scott Ranch/Davidon Homes environmental review on a 5-0 vote. Now the developer has to come back with a much smaller project - allowing more time to pursue conservation options.

The Maxwell Farms Regional Park Master Plan in Sonoma Valley is now out for public review through August 4. Now

is the time to speak up for more green space and less parking and pavement. Contact Planner Scott Wilkinson (707) 565-2734 or scott.wilkinson@sonoma-county.org or visit <http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Parks/Planning/Maxwell-Farms-Master-Plan/>

During the Vital Lands Initiative workshops with the Open Space District, people turned out in force to advocate for permanent protection of community separators, wetlands and forests, urban green space and farmlands that produce

food and fiber. You can still fill out the online survey here: <http://www.sonomaopenspace.org/projects/vital-lands-initiative/> Watch for the new draft for priorities for the next 15 years based on the extensive public outreach to come out for review this summer.

Climate & Energy Committee

Sierra Club Executive Committee Member Theresa Ryan just returned charged up for



Sonoma Group Transportation Chair Steve Birdleough enjoys a SMART train preview ride.

climate action after immersion in the three-day intensive Climate Reality Leadership Corps training and work with former US Vice President Al Gore. She said it was intense and inspiring and also a bit frightening to know what could lie ahead if we don't act now.

Our Committee is hard at work motivating our cities to move forward on their commitments under the Sonoma County Climate Action Plan. Christina Meyer has signed on as the Volunteer Chair for the Climate and Energy Committee. We still need climate representatives from Cotati, Windsor or Cloverdale. Please contact Chris if you want to make a difference. Leave a message with Tom Devlin in our Santa Rosa office 707-544-7651.

Co-chairs Tom Conlon and Shirley Johnson engaged in the local Sonoma County Climate Change Activists Summit that Occupy Sonoma County held on July 31 in Santa Rosa.

Join the Climate & Energy Committee on the first Monday of every month at 5:30 pm at

the Environmental Center before the ExCom meeting.

Recycling and Waste

The challenges facing Sonoma County and our communities on composting, recycling and waste contracts continue. Sierra Club has recently begun work with partners to help craft a zero waste ordinance to set a high bar for the county and cities as they make their decisions now and in the future. If recycling, waste or composting is your thing, now is the time to get engaged with Sierra Club.

Smart Train Running

Who doesn't like a free ride? This summer we can hop on the SMART train for a free ride through Sonoma and Marin counties before regular commute service gears up! Sierra Club Sonoma Group was key to getting voters to pass the funding measure for the train back in 2008! For more information about the preview rides, visit www.SonomaMarinTrain.org.

-TERI SHORE, SONOMA GROUP CHAIR



Steve Birdleough, Sonoma Group and Chapter Transportation Chair, discussing the SMART train preview ride with other riders.

Open Space and Parks

Neighborhood groups won permanent protection of the Paulin Creek Open Space Preserve in Santa Rosa off Chanate Road where Sierra Club Outings Chair Carol Vellutini has led hikes for years. The oak woodlands and meadows is now off limits to development as part of the sale of the old public hospital site for housing. Yet concerns remain that as

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



Non-Sierra Club Outings & Events

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

Sonoma County Regional Parks trail work days.

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

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

Laguna Stewardship Days: Once a month on a Saturday from 9am - noon.

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

http://lagunafoundation.org/volunteer_lagunastewards.html



Mendocino Group Report

We wish everyone a happy summertime. We are glad for the favorable decision for attorney fees in the Dogwood thp in Gualala. In January the plan was returned to CalFire with the charge that a proper cumulative impacts assessment be conducted. The litigators will appear again in court in August. Well done to FROG and allies.

The Albion River Bridge has achieved landmark status with the National Register of Historic Places. This designation, however, does not diminish Caltrans resolve to build a new bridge. There will be a meeting on July 27 with Caltrans and interested parties as part of the Community Impact Assessment. The Mendocino Group will continue to keep an eye on the situation.

Yvonne Kramer has become active with the Courage Campaign in Ukiah. She made us aware of the Glyphosate hearings in Sacramento. Through hers and others' and our efforts at getting the word out, Glyphosate has been declared a cancer risk and will be on the Prop. 65 list. Yvonne also writes that the Courage Campaign has been working with the Ukiah City Council regarding toxic free parks in Ukiah as part of is Adopt-a-Park program.

The Central Coast Solid Waste Transfer Station is still in Limbo. During the winter ExCom member Sue Boeker went out and took pictures of the flooding out there. The photos were eerily beautiful, evocative of the Everglades, graphic evidence of the unsuitability of the site as a Waste Transfer Station.

-MARY WALSH, MENDOCINO GROUP CHAIR

Redwood Needles

**October 2017 Deadline:
Due Sept. 8th**

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

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

Send Meetings to Carl Inglin: **chinglin@sonic.net**

North Group Report

Climate Effects on Ocean Ecology

John Muir's oft-quoted observation, "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe," was his interpretation of the "unity of nature" argument of Muir's mentor, naturalist Alexander von Humboldt. We should not be surprised, then, to discover that abrupt climate change affects more than weather patterns and sea level height.

Rapid warming of the earth from human causes (fossil-fuel use, agricultural practices, etc.), about which one climate scientist quipped that there is now higher certainty than that smoking causes cancer, is having profound effects on ocean ecology. Jellyfish are clogging cooling-water intakes to nuclear power plants. Other animals and plants that make up the planktonic soup that is at the base of most food chains are struggling to survive in increasingly acidic oceans. Algal blooms in arctic waters formerly protected by ice sheets are producing anoxic "dead zones" similar to those at the Mississippi River Delta. Corals like those on the Great Barrier Reef are turning white as the stress of warming water causes them to expel the colorful algae they contain.

The oceans might be seen as doing us a favor by absorbing much of the extra heat reflected back to earth by the ever-increasing concentrations of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere, and by absorbing a significant part of the carbon dioxide gas that we have only recently begun to regard as pollution. The ocean acting as a buffer in this way opens a wider window of time to allow us to get our act together to reduce the impacts of our industriousness. But, this period of grace is not without its costs. Scientific journals are chock-a-block with reports on newly identified associations between rapid changes in the climate and increasing stresses on oceanic life.

Ocean Acidification

Carbon dioxide absorbed by the oceans combines with oxygen to produce carbonic acid, the same club soda invented by Joseph Priestley in 1767 that we use today to

make mixed drinks and Coca-Cola. The problem with soda water in the ocean is that it combines with calcium to become calcium carbonate (Tums). Calcium combined in this way is less available to zooplankton to make their shells. Then, when calcium carbonate combines to make calcium bicarbonate (which it likes to do), calcium becomes even less available to the oysters and other shellfish, including the copepods (see illustration) so vital to food chains.

Coral Bleaching

Scientists attending a recent conference on the corals of the Great Barrier Reef were reported to be crying as they shared their latest observations. Vast areas of corals are turning white ("bleaching") as they respond to the stress caused by rapid warming of the shallow waters where they live. Coral polyps are actually animals that feed by filtering the water, but they obtain most of their nutrients from the colorful zooxanthellae that live within them in an endosymbiotic relationship. As a survival tactic, the polyps can expel the algae in order to reduce stress. Without the nutrients provided by the algae, however, the corals begin

to starve. Corals can recover from episodes of stress and restore their algal relationships; but with prolonged stress, corals without nutrients from their algae will eventually die of starvation.

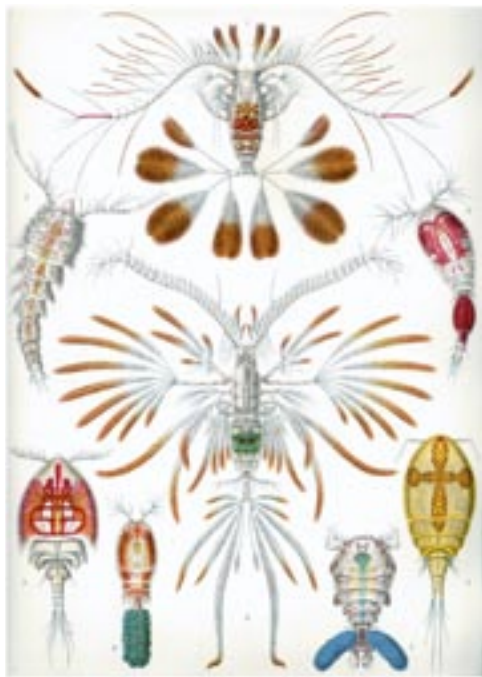
Global warming means more than worrying about where we will live after our coastal cities have flooded, or how we will eat after the desertification of our farm lands. It is not just about us. All life is tied up in a web of great complexity, and we are only beginning to appreciate the dynamics of life responding to rapidly changing climate.

The illustration is in the public domain according to Wikipedia, from which I lifted it:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copepod#/media/File:Haeckel_Copepoda.jpg

—RICHARD KREIS, NORTH GROUP CLIMATE AND ENERGY CHAIR

This article first appeared in the EcoNews



Kunstformen der Natur (Ernst Haeckel)



North Group's May 21 Horse Mountain hike.

Napa Group Report

Water & Power

Join us for a free film about water – perhaps our most precious and threatened resource.

Water & Power: a California Heist. This acclaimed film focuses on efforts to privatize groundwater in California, primarily by corporate agricultural interests. It also examines how the State Water Project, which supplies the bulk of the water to American Canyon and the city of Napa, allocates water resources throughout the state.

Napa Sierra Club, League of Women Voters, and the Unitarian Universalist Church are sponsoring this free screening, which will be followed by a panel discussion linking the film to our local water issues.

The event will be Friday, Sept 8th, at 7 pm, at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 1625 Salvador in Napa. Doors open at 6:30 pm.

Please register beforehand, as seating is limited:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/water-power-a-california-heist-screening-tickets-35887095268>

County Climate Action Plan

The long-delayed Napa County Climate Action Plan (CAP), which will set policy to cut greenhouse gases, is generating so much public interest, that the

July hearing before the Planning Commission was expanded to include a second session to be held September 20th.

The Sierra Club and allies including Napa Climate NOW!, Vision 2050 and Center for Biodiversity have submitted extensive comments on the plan. Chris Benz, Napa Sierra Club Chair, speaking for Napa Climate NOW!, pointed out that of the 48 measures proposed in the CAP, only 7 met the "trifecta" of being mandatory, feasible, and quantifiable. That leaves 41 measures which are unlikely to have any effect at reducing emissions. Her analysis seemed to gain some traction with the Commissioners.

Other strong lobbying points by Sierra Club and allies have been to push for greater protection of our forests and woodlands, which take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, and for more action to be taken against methane and black carbon emissions. These Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SCLPS) are actually much more powerful forces causing global warming than carbon dioxide.

Get our monthly e-newsletter, by contacting us at scnapapam@gmail.com, and follow Napa Group on Facebook.

—NANCY TAMARISK, NAPA GROUP VICE CHAIR

Lake Group Report

Middletown Dollar General: All's Well that Ends Well

After nearly two years of trying, Lake Group joined most Middletown residents in rejoicing at the rejection of the Dollar General outlet proposed on the edge of downtown. As discussed in the last newsletter, on April 18 the Board of Supervisors overturned the Planning Commission's rejection of the proposed project, and directed county counsel to prepare Findings of Fact to back them up. Those Findings included the statement that "the project is in conformance with any applicable community design manual criteria," a most dubious assertion given the dozens of inconsistencies with the Middletown Area Plan that had been identified in both written and oral testimony at numerous hearings.

But not so fast! When the Board met to approve the findings on May 23—ordinarily a routine matter but one that had been placed on the timed agenda at the request of Lake Group chair Ed Robey—the chambers were packed once again. Again, one speaker followed another in urging the supervisors to reject the glaringly implausible Finding that the project was consistent with the Middletown Area Plan. Although none of these persuasive arguments was new, District 4 Supervisor Tina Scott had thought things over since April 18 and concluded that the project did not meet the MAP design criteria and therefore she could not in conscience support it. It was then left to county counsel to draft an alternative set of Findings in support of the decision to reject the project.

In a brief and uneventful special meeting on May 31 the Board approved findings that the project "does not meet the spirit and intent of the Middletown Area Plan . . . does not possess a village scale and character . . . does not reinforce Middletown's small town character . . . and detracts from the area as a whole," which is what we had been saying all along. That makes three consecutive rejections: maybe Dollar General will finally start to feel unwelcome.

Save the Date: film festival coming in October

On October 28 Lake Group is sponsoring a Wild and Scenic Film Festival at the Soper Reese community theater in Lakeport. Besides a series of prize winning films from last January's acclaimed Wild and Scenic Festival in Nevada City, the event will feature some local films, wine, beer and other refreshments, informational tabling from local groups and at least one live performance—hours, co-sponsors, ticket prices and other details coming soon.

Midsummer BBQ July 21

As the *Redwood Needles* was going to press Lake Group was busy with last minute plans for our annual midsummer BBQ, which for the first time this year will be held at the Highland Springs Equestrian Center. As usual, the Club will provide a main dish, and guests are asked to bring beverages, and a side dish or dessert to share, along with their own plates, napkins, and eating utensils.

—VICTORIA BRANDON,
LAKE GROUP CONSERVATION CHAIR

Solano Breeze Corner

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

Join Solano Group meetings, usually on the first Monday of each month. Our next expected meeting dates are: August 7, September 4, October 2, 2017. To confirm, call Jane at 707-319-6398

VALCORE Recycling and Paper Shredding updates:

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

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

Sierra Club volunteers help tend the money and direct traffic. Once a year is all we ask, and you only need work an hour or so. Volunteers get FREE shredding!

Join Coastal Cleanup on Sat Sep 16. 9 to noon In Vallejo, Call VALCORE Recycling 707 645-2852.

Log onto www.coastal.ca.gov to register for all other sites in Solano County.

CONTRIBUTOR: JANE BOGNER
EDITOR: GREG PETERSON



Meetings

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

Mon. Aug. 7 - 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. 7 - Sonoma Group.

Conservation Committee 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

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

Tues. Aug. 8 - 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. 4 - Sonoma Group.

Conservation Committee at 5:30 pm - 6:30 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

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

Mon. Sept. 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.

Sat., Sept. 9 - Redwood Chapter ExCom. And ConsCom.

Location: Santa Rosa Environmental Center. Conservation Committee

meets at 10 a.m., ExCom meets 1-3 p.m. at the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa, 55A Ridgway. Info: Victoria vbrandon@lakelive.info

Tues. Sept. 12 - North Group.

The public is invited to attend the monthly meeting of our governing committee. Join us for a discussion of local conservation issues between 7:45 and 8:45 p.m., following the ExCom business meeting from 6:45-7:45 p.m. Meet at Adorni Center Conference Room on Eureka Waterfront. For more info, call Gregg at 707-826-3740.

Tues. Sept. 19 - Napa Group ExCom.

7 p.m. Our location varies; it is generally at a member's home. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting should contact the chair, Nancy Tamarisk at napaquail@gmail.com

Mon. Oct. 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.

2017 Redwood Chapter and Group Elections Schedule

August 8, 2017

Appointment of Chapter Nominating and Elections Committee

September 1, 2017

Appointment of Nominating Committee by Groups

October 5, 2017

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

October 12, 2017

Group Nominating Committee inform all potential candidates of their status and submit list of candidates, with contact information, to their respective ExComs and Chapter Election Committees

October 26, 2017

Group Nominating Committees submit ballot statements to Election Committee

October 26, 2017

Statements are sent for December *Redwood Needles*

November 2, 2017

Receipt of ballot petitions and ballot statements by Election Committee

Approved statements sent for December *Redwood Needles*

December 30, 2017

Ballots due in office

January 3, 2018

Ballots counted. Notify all candidates, Chapter ExCom and *Redwood Needles* of results

Climate Activists Keep Sonoma County on Point

By SHOSHANA HEBSHI,

REDWOOD CHAPTER COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

When President Trump announced he would pull out of the Paris Climate Agreement May 31, it felt like a national day of mourning to many concerned about the future of the planet. But the conversation quickly shifted to efforts by state, county and city governments, businesses, individuals and organizations to uphold and even go beyond Paris' carbon-limiting recommendations.

"For every terrible decision Trump makes, grassroots activists, frontline communities, local governments, and concerned people across the country are fighting to make sure clean energy continues to grow by leaps and bounds," Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune said in a statement following Trump's announcement.

Sonoma County is no exception. Seven years ago, environmentalists in Sonoma Valley began an initiative to shift their focus from the national to the local level in addressing the growing challenges of climate change, resource depletion and economic instability.

Sonoma resident Tom Conlon joined a handful of other concerned citizens to form Transition Sonoma Valley, a certified local "initiative" of the international, grassroots Transition Movement to organize and prepare local communities for climate change and economic threats ahead.

TSV was founded on Oct. 10, 2010, and Conlon said it seemed to hit a nerve, growing rapidly by word of mouth, partnership events with existing nonprofits and local press coverage.

"If we try to do stuff by ourselves as individuals, we won't accomplish enough to solve the really big problems, and if we wait for governments to act for us we'll be waiting for Godot. But if we come together and act as communities we just might be able to do what needs to be done, just in time," Conlon said. "That's what brought us together, and we began hosting films and speakers to teach ourselves about the challenges and the needs for local community building."

Once the TSV team began examining the efforts of its local government to act on climate change, it discovered some surprising gaps in how local policy was matching up with scientific data. For example, just before the passage of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, the City of Sonoma had set for itself greenhouse gas reduction goals that were even more ambitious. That law required California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. But like other county jurisdictions, the city had passed a resolution to go even further and faster: 25 percent below 1990 by 2015.

Conlon said the resolution sounded great and attracted worldwide attention to Sonoma, including grants and a climate leadership award from the Obama administration, but by the 2015 deadline, emissions had not declined in the City of Sonoma. In fact, because of rising affluence and a growth in Wine Country tourism, emissions had increased by 21 percent, missing the goal by a whopping 62 percent.

The TSV team saw this failure as an urgent call for new democratic engagement and advocacy. TSV met with Sonoma County Supervisor Susan Gorin and started attending Sonoma City Council meetings to express concerns about this lack of meaningful action on climate, offer constructive recommendations and ask for staff time to work together on it.

"We found that city leaders were very responsive,"

he said. "When the City of Sonoma took our advice and switched to 100-percent clean energy for all municipal electricity accounts...we realized this informed, face-to-face approach can be useful around the county."

In early 2017, TSV stepped out of Sonoma Valley and reached out to other groups, including Sierra Club Sonoma Group. Conlon helped establish and co-leads a climate action committee for Sonoma Group, which is working on implementing the TSV strategy in every city in the county.

"The number-one thing we need to do is understand the scope of the challenge we face," Conlon said. "We can't manage this human-driven climate crisis unless we start to measure our impact. It's not just personal impact, it's business impact, it's government impact. It all comes down to the decisions people make. When you start to look at the world this way, we are all part of the problem. That means we are all part of the solution if we decide to take up the challenge."

Sonoma Group's climate action committee has been nudging city leadership in Rohnert Park, Sebastopol, Healdsburg, Petaluma, Cotati, Santa Rosa and Windsor to move on their climate action plans and reduce emissions. Vehicle emissions and existing residential buildings are the major contributors of greenhouse gases in Sonoma County, yet recent emissions reduction claims are based on lower output of methane from a decline in county-raised livestock and from trucking garbage to other counties.

Yet, while there's across-the-board agreement on the need to take action, understanding the complex problem and moving toward viable solutions can be difficult.

"Step one is having (municipal governments) follow through on the commitments they have already made," he said, adding the City of Sonoma has done that and Healdsburg is moving forward too. That city just implemented the county's first bike-share program this summer.

Originally these local actions were presented as a package, alongside a new streamlined environmental review option for developers to use on new projects.

A court case is delaying this programmatic EIR process from going into effect, but, as the City of Sonoma has made clear, that lawsuit doesn't need to halt climate action. Sonoma upgraded old street lights to LED and saved \$70,000 a year. This windfall allowed the city to spend an extra \$20,000 per year on 100 percent clean power.

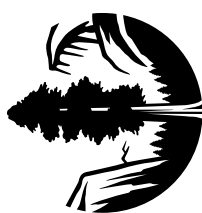
The Sierra Club climate committee has designed a fact sheet for each city listing the measures that city has agreed to take and a list of recommendations it should adopt. One of these recommended actions is signing on to Sierra Club's "Mayors for 100 Percent Clean Energy" campaign, which received a surge of signatories following Trump's Paris announcement.

Another is for cities to regularly conduct energy audits of their own facilities and fleets to gauge emission levels and find new ways to reduce consumption by adopting best practices and methods implemented successfully elsewhere.

"Our volunteers are having conversations with elected leaders all over the county," said Conlon. "Eventually we hope to see whole teams of people engaging in each community to raise everyone's climate literacy. We all need to be working together as a community."

The ultimate goal will be to meet the annual 5 percent greenhouse gas reduction goals required by the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 while creating a robust economy in sync with those goals and building a

"Climate Activists on Point" cont. on page 3



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