



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 54 Number 6

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

Dec. 2013/Jan. 2014

Redwood Chapter Defends Redwood Forest from Vineyard Conversion

The on-going battle to protect north coast forestland from conversion to vineyards went to court on October 18. The Redwood Chapter, along with co-plaintiffs Center for Biological Diversity and Friends of the Gualala River, challenged the environmental impact report (EIR) prepared by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal-Fire) for the "Faifax" conversion project proposed by Spanish-owned winery Codorniu Napa, which does business as Artesa Vineyards and Winery. We filed suit because we think the highest and best use of coastal forests is to remain in their natural condition so they can protect our coastal rivers, support fish and wildlife, and combat climate change by sequestering carbon.

Codorniu received a 154-acre timberland conversion permit from Cal-Fire. They plan to cut more than a million boardfeet of redwood and Douglas fir, bulldoze the land and plant a vineyard on a property in northwestern Sonoma County, near the community of Annapolis. Cal-Fire spent more than seven years preparing the EIR, which states, implausibly, that the project would cause no significant or cumulative adverse environmental impacts.

Protecting forestland

The importance of this case goes far beyond the 154 acres proposed for destruction by Artesa Winery's project. As the first forestland-to-vineyard conversion project in the State of

California ever to complete, and receive approval based on, a full environmental impact report, this case will set a precedent.

If Artesa's project goes forward, other projects will follow. If, on the other hand, Artesa's project is stopped, that will send a message to developers that the Redwood Chapter and our allies insist on strict enforcement of California environmental laws. We will not allow regulatory agencies to rubber-stamp projects without the thorough environmental review required by law.

The Redwood Chapter campaign to protect forestland from conversion to vineyards was launched more than a decade ago by the late Jay Halcomb, who chaired the campaign, and later became chair of the Redwood Chapter, until his death last year. Jay led the ultimately successful effort to stop the misleadingly named "Preservation Ranch" proposal.

As demonstrated by Preservation Ranch, there are many thousands of acres of north coast forest that developers would like to chop down in order to grow grapes. But the most profitable

use of land in today's economy may not be the most beneficial use of that land for the long-term health of the environment.

By the time you read this, the judge is likely to have issued his decision in the case. Visit redwood.sierraclub.org to find out the latest information.

Legal case

In his written briefs and oral argument at the hearing in Sonoma County Superior Court on October 18, attorney Paul Carroll, representing plaintiffs Redwood Chapter and Friends of the Gualala River, enumerated some of the many serious deficiencies of the EIR. The EIR fails to discuss the conflicts between the project and the Sonoma County General Plan and California Board of Forestry policy, fails to consider a range of less damaging alternatives, fails to mitigate the effects of pesticides and the effects of noise, and fails to mitigate impacts to cultural

"Chapter Defends Redwood Forest" cont. on page 3

Berryessa Snow Mountain Bill to get a Senate Hearing

Just as this issue of the Needles was going to press, we received the exciting news that the Public Lands, Forests, and Mining subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources has scheduled a hearing on S. 483, a bill designating the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area. The hearing will be held at 3:30PM on Wednesday November 20. S. 483, sponsored by California Senator Barbara Boxer, is a companion piece to H.R. 1025, which was heard by the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation in July.

Designation of the 350,000 acre Berryessa Snow Mountain NCA has been a top Redwood Chapter priority for several years. This landscape-level legislation will permanently protect a diverse and environmentally sensitive region, provide a collaborative framework for more efficient and beneficial management of existing federal public lands, increase funding opportunities and recreational potential, and offer substantial potential economic advantages to the surrounding communities. Situated almost entirely within Chapter boundaries, it includes portions of five counties and three Congressional districts; the House legislation is co-sponsored by all three of Redwood Chapter's stellar Congressional delegation (representatives Mike Thompson, John Garamendi, and Jared Huffman), and has been endorsed by many local governmental entities, non-profit organizations, businesses, and individuals.

For a report on the November 20 Senate hearing, visit redwood.sierraclub.org or check out the Chapter blog at sierraclubredwoodchapter.wordpress.com.

Stornetta Protection on Horizon



California BLM Director Jim Kenna, newly nominated national BLM Director Neil Kornze, and Congressman Jared Huffman listen to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell discuss her vision for the permanent protection of the Stornetta Public Lands.

On November 8 the California coast put on a tremendous show to welcome Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell: the sun was shining, surf pounding, blowholes spouting, and humpback whales breaching.

Secretary Jewell came to Point Arena to hold a town hall meeting to discuss the community's vision for the permanent protection of this outstandingly scenic area, and specifically to get their reactions to the proposal to add the Stornetta Public Lands to the California Coastal National Monument, a proposal that the Sierra Club strongly supports, and that has been discussed previously in the Redwood Needles. In July the House of Representatives unanimously passed H.R. 1411, Representative Jared Huffman's bill enabling the Monument to "Expand onto the Land," and S. 61, a companion bill sponsored

"Stornetta Protection on Horizon" cont. on page 8

Brandon Receives Hattoy Award

At the 2013 Sierra Club California Convention in San Luis Obispo Redwood Chapter Chair Victoria Brandon was honored to receive the Bob Hattoy Award, established in 2011 to recognize "an individual who has made a significant contribution to Sierra Club political activities in California." Bob Hattoy, a witty and outspoken advocate for the environment and for AIDS research, was the Sierra Club Southern California Regional Representative from 1981 to 1992, and subsequently served in the U.S. Department of the Interior from 1993 to 1999, and the California Fish & Game Commission Board from 2002 until his death in 2007.

Brandon has been the Redwood Chapter political chair and a member of the California political committee since 2006, and is also a long-standing member of the Northern California Candidate Review Committee. She currently sits as one of the nine volunteer members of the Club's National Political Team.



Sierra Club California Executive Committee Chair Vicki Lee presenting the Bob Hattoy award to Victoria Brandon (left).

Redwood Chapter Sierra Club Directory

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

Office Address: Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa (West off of Cleveland Ave., to the west of Hwy 101)

Redwood Chapter

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.

| | | |
|---|--------------|-------------------------|
| Chair • At Large • Political Chair • RCC Delegate • Wilderness Chair | | |
| Victoria Brandon* | 994-1931 | vbrandon@lakelive.info |
| Vice Chair • Sonoma Group Delegate to Chapter • Regional Conservation Committee Delegate Alternate | | |
| Steve Birdlebough* | 576-6632 | affirm@friendshouse.org |
| Secretary | | |
| Jill Hunter | | redwoodjill@comcast.net |
| Treasurer | | |
| Tom Davis | 963-4466 | tom@napavalleycpas.com |
| At Large • Legal Chair • Council of Club Leaders Delegate | | |
| Keith Kaulum* | 538-5569 | kkaulum@sonic.net |
| At Large • Conservation Committee Chair • Public Land • North Group Delegate Alternate | | |
| Diane Beck* | 445-2690 | dfbeck@northcoast.com |
| At Large • CCL Alternate | | |
| Leonard L. Holt* | 527-7516 | lholt@sonic.net |
| Lake Group Delegate to Chapter | | |
| Ed Robey* | 994-8304 | edrobey@wildblue.net |
| Lake Group Delegate Alternate | | |
| Win Stiles | 262-1242 | win@w_s.com |
| Mendocino Group Delegate to Chapter | | |
| Mary Walsh* | 937-0572 | bella@mcn.org |
| Mendocino Group Delegate Alternate | | |
| Lorrie Lagasse | 964-3011 | lorrielas@yahoo.com |
| Napa Group Delegate to Chapter | | |
| Nancy Tamarisk* | 257-3121 | nancy@aya.yale.edu |
| Napa Group Delegate Alternate | | |
| Marc Pandone | 966-1902 | mpandone@attwb.net |
| North Group Delegate to Chapter | | |
| Joyce Yowell* | 559-916-8575 | jayowell@hotmail.com |
| North Group Delegate Alternate | | |
| Ned Forsythe | 826-2417 | eaf7@humboldt.edu |
| Sonoma Group Delegate Alternate • Regional Conservation Committee Delegate Alternate | | |
| Dan Kerbein | 535-0326 | dkerbein@sonic.net |
| Solano Group Delegate to Chapter | | |
| Duane Kromm | 580-7321 | dkkromm@gmail.com |
| Administrative Staff • Publication Rep | | |
| Tom Devlin | 544-7651 | tdevlin@sonic.net |
| Finance Committee | | |
| Jana Selph | 829-5356 | jselph@sonic.net |
| Outings Chair • Outings Leadership Training | | |
| Carol Vellutini | 546-6308 | carolvsr@sonic.net |
| Redwood Needles Editor | | |
| Mary Davison | 874-3704 | odavison@comcast.net |
| Chapter Webmaster | | |
| Melanie Matway | | adastra7@hotmail.com |

Lake County Group

| | |
|---|----------|
| P.O. Box 27 | 994-8304 |
| Lakeport CA 95453 | |
| Chair • Chapter Delegate • Political Chair | |
| Ed Robey* | 994-8304 |
| edrobey@wildblue.net | |
| Vice Chair | |
| Cheri Holden* | 263-5787 |
| cherisierraclub@gmail.com | |
| Secretary • Chapter Delegate Alternate | |
| Win Stiles* | 262-1242 |
| win@w-s.com | |
| Treasurer | |
| Julie Kreis | 987-9040 |
| tikaljak@yahoo | |
| Outings Chair | |
| Steve Devoto | 279-8308 |
| sdevoto@mchsi.com | |
| Conservation Chair • Newsletter Editor • Webmaster | |
| Victoria Brandon | 994-1931 |
| vbrandon@lakelive.info | |

Mendocino County Group

| | |
|---|----------|
| P.O. Box 522 | 937-0903 |
| Mendocino 95460 | |
| Chair • Treasurer • Newsletter Editor • Membership • Chapter Delegate | |
| Mary Walsh* | 937-0572 |
| bella@mcn.org | |
| Vice Chair • Coastal Trails • Coastal Committee | |
| Rixanne Wehren* | 937-2709 |
| rixanne@mcn.org | |
| Secretary • Conservation Chair • State Forests | |
| Linda Perkins* | 937-0903 |
| lperkins@mcn.org | |
| Environmental Education • Endangered Species/Wildlife • Chapter Delegate | |
| Lorrie Lagasse* | 964-3011 |
| lorrielas@yahoo.com | |
| Corp. Accountability • Energy • Global Warming • Toxics Committee | |
| Bernie Macdonald* | 937-4352 |
| omni@mcn.org | |
| Outings Chair | |
| Vacant | |
| Webmaster | |
| Dave Jordan | 884-3426 |
| scmendoweb@gmail.com | |

Napa County Group

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Box 644, Napa 94559 | |
| Chair | |
| Marilee Talley* | 252-6854 |
| mtalley1@comcast.net | |
| Vice Chair • Chapter Delegate Alternate | |
| Marc Pandone * | 966-1902 |
| mpandone@attwb.net | |
| Conservation Chair | |
| Roger Hartwell* | 257-3121 |
| roger_hartwell@hotmail.com | |
| Chapter Delegate | |
| Nancy Tamarisk* | 257-3121 |
| ntamarisk@earthlink.net | |
| Treasurer | |
| Tom Davis | 963-4466 |
| tom@napavalleycpas.com | |
| Membership Chair • Secretary | |
| Linda Gail Brown* | 254-1001 |
| lindagailbrown@earthlink.net | |
| Web Master | |
| Nancy Tracy | ntracy@sbcglobal.net |

Political Chair • Legal Chair

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Carol Kunze* | 966-5211 |
| ckunze@ix.netcom.com | |
| ExCom | |
| Paula Fields* | |
| Outings Chair | |
| Vacant | |

North Group

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Box 238, Arcata 95518 | |
| (Del Norte, Humboldt, W. Siskiyou, and parts of Trinity County) | |
| Chair | |
| Gregg Gold* | 826-3740 |
| gregggold@netscape.net | |
| Vice Chair • Political Chair | |
| Ned Forsyth* | 826-2417 |
| eaf7@humboldt.edu | |
| Secretary • Membership Co-Chair • Chapter Delegate | |
| Joyce Yowell* | 559-916-8575 |
| jayowell@hotmail.com | |

Conservation Chair • Chapter Delegate

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Diane Beck* | 445-2690 |
| dfbeck@northcoast.com | |
| ExCom | |
| Richard Kreis | 626-622-8148 |
| rgkreis@gmail.com | |
| Treasurer • Membership Co-Chair • Education Chair | |
| Sue Leskiw | 442-5444 |
| sueleskiw@suddenlink.net | |
| Publicity Chair • Newsletter • Agriculture • Water | |
| Felice Pace* | 954-6588 |
| unofelice@gmail.com | |
| Outings Co-Chairs | |
| Bill Knight | 839-5971 |
| bill.knight.email@gmail.com | |
| Allison Bronkall | 268-8767 |
| abronkall@yahoo.com | |

Solano Group

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Box 4717, Vallejo 94590 | 553-1653 |
| sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com | |
| Chair • Wild Lands • Genetic Engineering • Chapter Delegate Alternate | |
| Jim Dekloe | 864-3123 |
| JIMDEKLOE@aol.com | |
| Vice Chair • Political Chair • Chapter Delegate | |
| Duane Kromm* | 434-0316 |
| dkkromm@gmail.com | |
| Outings | |
| Brian Collett | 530-220-3121 |
| brcollett@gmail.com | |
| Co-Membership | |
| Kitty Powell* | 642-3477 |
| kitmom@pacbell.net | |
| Newsletter Editor | |
| Greg Peterson* | 864-8573 |
| gspeterson1@gmail.com | |
| Secretary | |
| Joe Feller* | 415-902-3395 |
| joe@americantelecomwest.com | |
| Treasurer • Fundraising • Recycling • Newsletter • Volunteer Coordinator | |
| Jane Bogner | 644-9183 |
| jabogner@juno.com | |
| Agriculture • Urban Sprawl | |
| Patricia Gatz* | 644-2943 |
| pgatz@scronline.com | |

Sonoma County Group

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Box 466, SR 95402 | 544-7651 |
| 55A Ridgway Ave., Santa Rosa | |
| Executive Committee Members* | |
| Steve Birdlebough* | 576-6632 |
| affirm@friendshouse.org | |
| Annabel Ascher* | 508-9645 |
| annabelascher@yahoo.com | |
| Jessica Jones* | 696-1963 |
| rotishot@gmail.com | |
| Wendy Cromwell* | 703-7111 |
| w_cromwell@comcast.net | |
| Dan Kerbein* | 535-0326 |
| dkerbein@sonic.net | |
| Suzanne Doyle* | carsort@sbcglobal.net |
| Shirley Johnson-Foell* | 206-1138 |
| shirlgirl707@yahoo.com | |
| Chair | |
| Dan Kerbein* | 535-0326 |
| dkerbein@sonic.net | |
| Administrative Chair • Sierra Student Coalition: | |
| Jessica Jones* | 696-1963 |
| rotishot@gmail.com | |
| Conservation Chair | |
| Suzanne Doyle | carsort@sbcglobal.net |
| Office Coordinator • ExCom Secretary | |
| Tom Devlin | 544-7651 |
| tdevlin@sonic.net | |
| Outings • Parks & Trails • Backpacking | |
| Carol Vellutini | 546-6308 |
| carolvsr@sonic.net | |
| Political Chair | |
| Keith Kaulum | 538-5569 |
| kkaulum@sonic.net | |
| Membership Chair | |
| Annabel Ascher* | 508-9645 |
| annabelascher@yahoo.com | |
| Treasurer | |
| Jana Selph | 829-5356 |
| jselph@sonic.net | |
| Webmaster | |
| Melanie Matway | |
| adastra7@hotmail.com | |
| Volunteer Coordinator | |
| Diana Nasser | 823-4293 |
| diananas@sonic.net | |
| Water Committee Chair | |
| Leonard L. Holt | 527-7516 |
| lholt@sonic.net | |
| Climate & Energy Committee | |
| Shirley Johnson-Foell* | 206-1138 |
| shirlgirl707@yahoo.com | |

Sequoia Paddlers

| | |
|--|----------|
| POB 1555, Forestville 95436 | |
| groups.yahoo.com/group/sequoiapaddlers | |
| Chair | |
| Tom Meldau | 887-7416 |
| paddlesportsinfo-email@yahoo.com | |
| Secretary | |
| Carl Inglin | 538-8271 |
| chinglin@sonic.net | |
| Treasurer | |
| Bob Clemens | 887-2303 |
| Activities | |
| Shane McColgin | 887-7416 |

Redwood Needles

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club of California

| | | |
|--|--|----------|
| Editorial Board: | | |
| Mary Walsh, Becky Frank, Sue Leskiw, Diane Beck, Victoria Brandon | Needles Subscriptions, P.O. Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95402 | |
| Editor: | | |
| Mary Davison (707) 874-3704 odavison@comcast.net | The <i>Redwood Needles</i> is published six times a year on recycled paper using soy-based ink. Circulation: 7,400 | |
| Advertising Manager: | | |
| Holly Oppenheimer (707) 544-7651 hollyoppen@gmail.com | An additional 505 newsletters are distributed electronically. Printing: Healdsburg Printing, Inc. | |
| Classifieds: \$5/10 words. Send check and ad copy by the 8th of the month. | | |
| Submit articles by deadline via e-mail or fax to: | | |
| <i>Redwood Needles</i> | | |
| e-mail: odavison@comcast.net | | |
| P.O. Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 | | |
| Ph 707-544-7651 | | |
| Fax 707-544-9861 | | |
| Redwood Needles Deadlines | | |
| Address Corrections: | Issue | Deadline |
| address.changes@sierraclub.org | Feb./March | Jan. 8 |
| Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 (415) 977-5653 | April/May | March 8 |
| Non-member Subscriptions: | June/July | May 8 |
| \$6.00 per year. Requests: Redwood | | |

Lead the Adventure!

Interested in Becoming an Outings Leader?

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

Redwood Chapter & Sonoma Group Office

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

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

Redwood Chapter Online

Redwood Chapter Website: <http://www.redwood.sierraclub.org>
for Group Websites, add:
/napa, /north, /sonoma, /lake, /mendocino, or /solano
Sequoia Paddlers: groups.yahoo.com/group/sequoiapaddlers
Redwood Chapter Blog: sierraclubredwoodchapter.wordpress.com
Redwood Chapter Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/SierraClubRedwoodChapter

Chapter Chair Report

On the afternoon of September 14 a diverse group of North Coast Sierra Club leaders gathered at the Santa Rosa Environmental Center to take a long term strategic look at the past, present, and future of our organization. Almost all the Chapter Executive Committee members were present (at large members Keith Kaulum, Diane Beck, Len Holt, and myself; and Group representatives Steve Birdlebough, Nancy Tamarisk, Ed Robey, Duane Kromm, and Joyce Yowell) along with Chapter Secretary Jill Hunter, Assistant Treasurer Jana Selph, Sonoma Group Chair Dan Kerbein, Outings Chair Carol Vellutini, newsletter Editor Mary Davison, and Sonoma County activists Rue Furch, Diana Nasser, Suzanne Doyle and Tom Devlin (who very helpfully took detailed notes).

We started with a convivial potluck lunch, then eased into the business of the afternoon with a report on the Outings program. Carol Vellutini gave a brief history, including the little-known information that Redwood has long assumed full responsibility for maintenance of the Benson Hut near Clair Tappaan Lodge in the Sierra. She described some of the adventures associated with the regular maintenance outings organized by volunteer Jim Gannon, which among other considerations (such as blizzards and bears) include coping with a two-story outhouse, a feature surely unique to this establishment.

Closer to home, a regular program of hikes is conducted in every one of the chapter's six Groups, although Solano, Mendocino and Napa Groups do not currently have an outings chair. This doesn't stop them from getting outdoors, though it does make more work for Carol. Although our outings program is one of the chapter's strong points, participation has unfortunately declined in recent years, and we have fewer hike leaders, too. We discussed the desirability of encouraging conservation activists to attend hikes and (as a corollary) using

hikes as a means of recruiting conservation activists. Everyone agreed on the desirability of coordinating outdoor activities and conservation goals, though the best way to achieve this objective is not yet clear.

Next on the agenda: communication tools in the 21st century. As an indication of how much the world has changed, Redwood Chapter has become quite unusual in sending a regular printed newsletter to all members. *Redwood Needles* Editor Mary Davison outlined the process that was adopted a couple of years ago to achieve coordination between the newsletter and the chapter website. Although the chapter's new wordpress blog and Facebook page are not yet fully integrated into our communications system, they are already providing positive opportunities to keep content fresh and up to date, and valuable tools for members to take action on conservation issues. To complicate matters, the software and server system used by the whole Sierra Club is about to change, meaning that all the chapters and groups will have to redesign their sites and learn new ways of managing them. In conclusion, we decided to regard this challenge as an opportunity to create a more vibrant interactive method of multi-faceted communication that integrates newsletter, blogs, email alerts, social media, and whatever innovation may come along next. Mary agreed to put together a communications team to figure out how to make this happen— stay tuned.

This subject led naturally to the next item on the agenda,

which was membership engagement: what are the most effective ways to transform members into activists and activists into Club leaders? Many people in our region care passionately about the environment, but Sierra Club membership has nonetheless fallen steadily over the past few decades, while our tiny group of activists and leaders gets older all the time. Perhaps we need fewer talking heads and dull committee meetings and more social activities that appeal to families with kids— who are after all the future of the planet. Suggestions were also made that we recruit volunteers for simple hands-on activities that give an opportunity to make a positive contribution without requiring an immense time commitment, and that we start by conducting a survey to find out what members want and what they really care about. (Stay tuned on that too.)

In conclusion, the discussion turned to conservation priorities. Ideally, we would chart our course well in advance, deciding what issues are the most significant and concentrating our efforts to achieve predetermined goals, but in practice we tend to spend most of our time reacting to specific threats to water and forest resources and to urban development and transportation proposals. Limited volunteer and financial resources are a constant problem, as is a partial disconnect between the national Club's focus on climate change and the chapter's focus on natural resources and public lands. This makes it difficult to take advantage of the professional messaging and marketing tools offered by national, resources that have allowed other chapters to increase their clout by plugging into national campaigns.

At the end of the day (literally and figuratively) we decided that since so much of the chapter's conservation work is actually conducted by the Groups, setting appropriate chapter-wide priorities was impossible without detailed Group input. So we adjourned with a homework assignment: to go back to our Groups and report back on the top three issues selected by each one. With that information in hand, we hope to have the tools needed to develop chapter goals best calculated to support those priorities. Stay tuned! (or did I say that already?)

—VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

"Chapter Defends Redwood Forest"

continued from page 1

heritage (the project site was inhabited by the Pomo people for thousands of years).

Attorney Justin Augustine, representing plaintiff Center for Biological Diversity, focused his attention on the issue of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and carbon sequestration. He argued that Cal-Fire had used an improper baseline against which to measure the GHG impacts of the project. Under California law, the baseline must be "existing conditions," which Augustine argued is a standing forest. Cal-Fire instead compared the project to a hypothetical condition, which it called "business as usual."

When is a forest not a forest?

The EIR says, "Vegetative cover on the timberland conversion portion of the site consists of young-growth coast redwood and Douglas-fir intermixed with madrone, tanoak, coast live oak, California bay, and bigleaf maple... Timber on the project site is located in even aged stands that are approximately 50 to 75 years old."

Despite this description, the defendants'

attorneys argued that, "the project site is not a 'redwood forest'" and that "conifer timber is now just beginning to recapture the site."

Considering that these trees have been growing for more than fifty years and that the developers expect to harvest "approximately 1.25 million board-feet" of redwood and Douglas fir timber, this argument seems dubious to say the least. And since almost all of the forest on the north coast has been logged at least once, the argument that second growth forest isn't really forest at all, and does not deserve protection, is extremely dangerous.

Send a message that "business-as-usual" is unacceptable.

Please sign the online petition opposing the Artesia conversion from redwoods to vineyards: <https://www.change.org/petitions/artesia-vineyards-winery-don-t-destroy-redwood-forest-for-vineyards>

Non-Sierra Club Outings

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

Saturday Saunters for Santa Rosa Area.

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

Sonoma County Regional Parks trail work days.

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

Volunteer Days Riverkeeper Stewardship Park in Guerneville, Every Wednesday.

8:30 - 11:30 am, 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.

2014 Sierra Club Calendars on sale now! See page C for details.



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

The Lodge grooms its own cross country ski and snowshoe trails, rents equipment for these activities and offers cross country ski lessons. The unbeatable location of the Lodge provides quick and easy access to the legendary Donner Summit backcountry ski terrain or any of its downhill or cross country ski resorts.

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

See you on Donner Summit...



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

Outings

Sat. Dec. 7 - Napa Group Tilden Regional Park Day Hike.

Co-led with Mother Lode Chapter in the hills west of Berkeley, hike follows a ridge trail to Vollmer and Wildcat Peaks, with sweeping panoramic views of the Bay to the north and west, Briones and San Pablo Reservoirs to the east, and Mt. Diablo and the valley below to the south. The pace will be just a bit on the slow side of Moderate, mostly flat or downhill, with a car shuttle. Lunch stop at a favorite hilltop with a great view. Towards the end, we'll drop down to San Pablo Reservoir, past the dam to a peaceful green park called Kennedy Grove. Bring lunch, layered clothing, and liquids. Class: M-8-A. By reservation only. <http://www.meetup.com/Sacramento-Sierra-Club/events/149102652/> or 707-253-

9606kowsoi@juno.com Leader Martin Farber. Rain cancels.

Sat. Dec. 14 - Sonoma Group Chanslor Ranch Ocean View and Miwok Village Hike/Optional Camping.

Join us at this beautiful 378-acre ranch to hike up the Blacktail Trail to open ocean vistas. Lunch break along Salmon Creek, then to the site of an ancient Miwok village. Hiking poles available by reservation. Class: M-6-B. Bring water, lunch, snacks and dress in layers. Carpools: 9 am Santa Rosa. Call leader for location or 10 am Chanslor Ranch red barn, 2660 N. Hwy 1, Bodega Bay. Also available Sierra Club members receive a 50% discount on camping for Sat. and/or Sun. night. By reservation only. Leader Tiffany MacNeil (707) 696-3387 asmtif@sonic.net

Sat/Sun. Dec. 14-15 - Peter Grubb Hut Trip (Beginner-Intermediate).

Snowshoe/Ski 3 miles (800') to Peter Grubb Hut for a Saturday overnight and avoid the shopping crowd. \$28 (\$30 Non Sierra Club members) by Nov 14th to Jim Gannon; PO Box 1038, Rohnert Park, CA 94927. Non-refundable reservations. Please



Colliss Ranch hike Sonoma Coast, Leader Tiffany, photo by Kim Moran.

include email address/phone#. Optional stay at Clair Tappaan lodge Fri 14th. Make reservations early to avoid disappointment. Lodge reservations 530-426-3632. Indicate you are with Peter Grubb trip-Redwood Chapter. Sno-Park pass necessary for parking at Sno-Park trailhead. Central commissary is planned. Meeting time/location provided with trip sign up. Contact Jim Gannon jgannon99@sbcglobal.net (707)-525-1052. Leader Don Anderson donsluck@live.com coleader Jim Gannon.

Sun. Dec. 15 - Mendo Group Eastside Trail, Lake Mendocino Hike.

Take a break from the hectic holiday season and see Bald Eagles, Hawks, Egrets, Flickers, Juncos and more as we walk the very agreeable Eastside Trail from the Bushay Campground. This wonderful trail, which we owe to the hard work of the Ukiah Valley Trail Group, follows the contours of the hills as we walk along the east side of the lake, making our way to the Miti Boat-in campground, about 2.5 miles from where we park our cars at the ranger kiosk at Bushay. This is a special, relaxing hike which we will take our time on and which is very appropriate for children. At Miti, we can enjoy our lunches under the oaks as we check out the bird life around us and on the lake and scan for the resident eagles that hang out near there. Round trip of about 5 miles with little elevation change and a roundtrip time of about 4-5 hours. Class E-5-A. Bring water, snacks, binoculars, and lunch, wear weather appropriate layered clothing, and ankle-high boots. Carpools: 10:15 Raley's parking lot in front of O'Reilly Auto Parts or 11 am in front of the closed ranger kiosk at Bushay Campground. Jonah Freedman, 4671877 or jonahfreedman@sbcglobal.net. Rain cancels.

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

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Create an Environmental Legacy.

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

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

For more info and confidential assistance, contact:
Sierra Club
Gift Planning Program
85 Second Street, Second Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
gift-planning@sierraclub.org • (800) 933-4279

Sun. Dec. 22 - Sonoma Group Annadel Ramble.

Time for some mild exercise before the holidays. We'll start at Cobblestone trailhead and head for Lake Ilesanjo for lunch, then return by North Burma trail and Channel Drive. Dress in layers for the weather, have good hiking shoes, and a Santa hat if you've got one. Bring lunch, liquids and Christmas cookies to share if you want. About 6.5 miles. Class M-6.5-A. Meet at the Cobblestone trailhead on Channel drive at 10:15 am. Leader: Carl Inglin 707-538-8271 or chinglin@sonic.net. Rain cancels.

Sun.-Thu. Dec. 29-Jan. 2 - Holiday Service in Carrizo Plain.

Once again, we return to the Carrizo Plain to celebrate the end of the year and to offer service to the pronghorn antelope in this National Monument. Lying between Bakersfield and San Luis Obispo, this vast grassland is home to pronghorn antelope, tule elk, kit fox, and a wide variety of birds. A welcome hike Dec. 29, two and a half days of service modifying barbed wire fencing, and a full day for hiking and exploring are planned. Use of accommodations at one of the old ranch houses is included. Limited to 12 participants, \$30 covers four dinners and breakfast on New Year's morning. For more information, contact leader: Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, (310-477-6670). CNRCC Desert Committee

Mon.-Wed. Dec 30, 31, & Jan. 1, Napa Group Ski Trip-Hutchinson Lodge.

Join us to bring in the New Year by X-country skiing, down hill skiing, snow shoeing, or just to play in the snow! Hutchinson Lodge is located in Norden/Soda Springs off Hwy 80 just before the town of Truckee. There are many ski resorts located down the road and in the area. We are located

next to the Sierra Club's Claire Tappaan Lodge where we will celebrate New Year's Eve in style. X-country ski rentals



Abhayagiri Buddhist Monastery, Leader Jonah.

or snow shoe rentals are available at Claire Tappaan Lodge. Cost is \$120 which includes 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners, trip limited to 15 people. Full payment confirms your reservation. Leader: Nanette DeDonato-Dover nandedo@netzero.net.

Sat. Jan. 4 - Sonoma Group Snowshoe Hike.

A day trip for those interested in an easy excursion or a first experience on snowshoes. We'll probably do about 2 miles on easy/moderate terrain. Location will be on either the I-80 or Hwy 50 corridors, depending on snow conditions. This outing is contingent on snow, weather and driving conditions. Contact leader for more details. Leader: Carl Inglin 707-538-8271 or chinglin@sonic.net.

Sat. Jan. 11 - Sonoma Group Post-Holiday Reconnect Hike Sonoma Valley Regional Park.

In this time of year often spent indoors and in stores, take time to reconnect with nature and yourself. We will hike the Canyon and Ridge trails, skirting Lake Suttonfield, to make a scenic loop. Listen for Acorn Woodpeckers, breathe the fresh air, and enjoy the stunning views of oak woodlands and

Instructions to hikers

Outings will start not later than 15 minutes after scheduled meeting time. The leader is in charge of the trip and is responsible for your welfare and the good name of the Club. He/she must have your cooperation to make the trip safe, pleasant and rewarding. Never charge ahead of the leader and keep within sight or shouting distance of the person ahead of you so you do not miss an intersecting trail. Do not lag behind rear leader: if you need help, the rear leader will remain to assist you. Do not leave the group without the leader's permission.

Be adequately equipped and prepared. You should carry lunch and liquids. Wear footwear appropriate for the outing. In most cases that would be hiking boots.

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

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

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

Visitors are welcome

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

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

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

To submit outings write-ups

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

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

Ratings for Outings Leaders

How fast or slow do you go?

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

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

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

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

Moderate-pace with few stops:

Penny Proteau Don Anderson Tiffany MacNeil Lorrie Lagasse
Boone Lodge Chip Bouril Paul Farley

Moderate-pace with more frequent stops:

Pete McGee Tim Bartice Bill Knight Melinda Groom Val Nordeman
Carol Vellutini Yvonne Kramer Martin Farber Brian Collett
Jean Crossley Carl Inglin Tom McFarling Nanette DeDonato
Jonah Freedman Steve Devoto

Slower-pace: Allison Bronkall

Outings

open meadows. Partial dirt trails and paved paths. Bring water and rain gear if needed, as hike will go rain or shine. (We will finish by noon). Class E-3-A. Carpools: 9:30 am Santa Rosa call leader for location or 10 am Sonoma Valley Regional Park Hwy 12. \$7 fee per car at park entrance. Leader Tiffany MacNeil (707) 696-3387 asmtif@sonic.net

Sat. Jan 18 - Mendo Group Lichen Walk, Greenfield Ranch.

The walk will focus on lichens and lichen ecology, guided by Jennifer Riddell, local plant biologist and lichen ecologist. Midwinter will allow for maximum lichen enjoyment. Jen will begin with a talk about lichen biology, followed by a walk to explore local micro-biodiversity. Jen says, "Be prepared to fall in love with small things." Bring hand lenses, or close up binoculars. Dress in layers, for possible wet weather. Class: E-2-A. Meet: 12 pm Raley's Parking lot near O'Reiley's Auto to car pool 8 miles to ranch gate, northwest of Ukiah. By reservation only. Leader Yvonne Kramer (707) 463-0342 or kramer@saber.net

Sat.-Mon. Jan. 18-20 - Bradley Hut Trip (Adv Beginner-Intermediate).

Snowshoe/Ski 5 miles (1500') to Bradley Hut for MLK weekend Sat. /Sun. overnight and back out on Mon. midday. \$48 (\$50 Non Sierra Club members) by Dec 18th to Jim Gannon; PO Box 1038, Rohnert Park, CA 94927. Non-refundable reservations. Please include email address/phone#. Optional stay at Clair Tappaan lodge Fri 18th. Make reservations early to avoid disappointment. Lodge reservations 530-426-3632 indicate you are with Bradley trip-Redwood Chapter.

Central commissary is planned. Meeting time/locations provided with trip sign up. Contact leader Jim Gannon (707)-525-1052 jgannon99@sbcglobal.net co leader Don Anderson donsluck@live.com

Sat. Jan. 25 - Napa Group. Novato Olompali SHP Day Hike.

Co-led with Mother Lode Chapter. Hiking along a cool, shady forest trail to Mount Burdell, about 5 miles along a very steady, gentle upgrade 1,500 ft. elevation gain to the summit, we will return 3 miles along a moderate downgrade through the rolling grasslands and meadows. The pace will be just a bit on the slow side of Moderate, with lunch on a mountaintop with a great view. Bring lunch and liquids. Class: M-8-B. By reservation only online <http://www.meetup.com/Sacramento-Sierra-Club/events/149103222/> or 707-253-9606 kowsoi@juno.com Involves a short car shuttle Leader Martin Farber Rain cancels.

Sat. Feb 1 - Napa Group Mt. Tamalpais East Peak Day Hike.

Co-led with Mother Lode Chapter. Loop hike from Mountain Theater to East Peak. 700 ft gain, enjoy outstanding panoramic views, well-maintained trails. The pace will be just a bit on the slow side of Moderate. Bring lunch and liquids. Class: M-9-A. By reservation only. <http://www.meetup.com/Sacramento-Sierra-Club/events/149103562/> or 707-253-9606 kowsoi@juno.com. Leader Martin Farber. Rain or shine.

Fri.-Sun. Feb 7, 8, & 9, Napa Group Ski Trip-Hutchinson Lodge.

All are welcome to join us for our second ski tip of the year at Hutchinson Lodge located in Norden/Soda Springs off of Hwy

Outings Chair Report

The Redwood Chapter outings leaders who attended the training at Jughandle Farm on the coast by Casper had a great time meeting each other and talking about their experiences. A big thank you to Tony Loftin from Mother Lode Chapter for doing the 101 update training (I did not know that leaders can't do key exchanges on Sierra Club hikes anymore) Tony drove all the way from Sacramento and had to set up the computer, screen, etc. He does a fantastic job explaining how to lead outings. Isabelle gave a presentation about Meetup. Our Chapter Chair Victoria Brandon drove all the way from Lake County to participate on Sunday. North Group's Bill Knight was working in Billings, Montana but sent his report to me. Thank you, Bill. Solano Group leader Brian Collett also sent me his report as he is off to Kuwait for a year to do an exciting restoration project. See you next year, Brian. Mare Island won't be the same without you. A total surprise for me was the presentation of a huge, heavy 432 page book "Art of the National Parks" Historic Connections/Contemporary Interpretations by the outings leaders (Isabelle's idea) with signatures of those present. I will treasure it forever.

The coast was cold and foggy during our retreat, while a few miles inland was hot. The drive for me was a step back in time. I hadn't been on those roads for at least 5 years. The fall color driving through Branscomb, Boonville, 253 and 128 was



2013 Outings Leaders training at Jughandle Farm.

spectacular. I forgot how beautiful the Anderson Valley and Navarro are. All the small wineries with picket fences and farm houses instead of monster corporate mini-mansions were a breath of fresh air. Noyo Harbor seemed the same as the last time I visited. I traveled almost 300 miles. Redwood Chapter has so many mountains and valleys to cross and no easy way to go from valley to ocean. We are blessed to live in such beauty.

Please consider becoming a winter backpacking leader or co-leader as our Sierra huts are very special with spectacular scenery snowshoeing or skiing in.

Thanks to all outings leaders. I must say that the Mendo Group has been leading interesting outings. Jonah arranged a tour of the Buddhist monastery off Tomki Road. Our trail on the nature walk went by some of the tallest oak trees I have seen in quite some time.

See you on the trail.

-CAROL VELLUTINI, REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR

80, south of Truckee. There are many ski resorts located down the road or around the area for X-country skiing, down hill skiing, snow shoeing, or just for fun in the snow. X-country ski or snow shoe rentals are available at Clair Tappaan lodge which is located next door. Cost is \$90 which includes 2 breakfasts & 2 dinners, trip limited to 15 people. Full payment confirms your reservation. Leader Nanette DeDonato-Dover nandedo@netzero.net.

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

3-Day, 3-Island, Live-Aboard Cruises

2014 Schedule:

April 12-14 May 4-6

June 8-10 July 22-22

August 24-26 Sept. 14-16



Join us as we explore these enchanting islands! Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines. Marvel at pristine waters teeming with frolicking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on unusual sea and land birds. Watch for the highly endangered island fox. Look for reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or just relax at sea. A ranger/naturalist will travel with us to help lead hikes, point out items of interest and present evening programs. All cruises depart from Santa Barbara, California. The cost, \$590, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, and beverages plus the services of a ranger/naturalist.

To reserve space, send a \$100 check, written to Sierra Club to leader Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. For more information contact leader; 626-443-0706; jholtzhl@aol.com



Don't Get Left Out In The Cold... Join Us!

Sierra Club Outings are a terrific way to meet new people and enjoy the great outdoors. Whatever your interests - hiking, canoeing or birdwatching - there is an outing for everyone. If you are new to the area, let your local Chapter or Group show you around. Join today and become part of America's largest environmental organization with the most enjoyable outings.



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

YES! I would like to give a gift membership to
 Gift Recipient _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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"/> \$15 | |
| 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"/> \$1250 |
| Senior | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 |
| Student/Limited Income | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 |

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.
 Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

F94Q W 0300 1

Authorized dealer for Bike Friday®

Quality FOLDING Bikes

Great for students & travelers

Hand-Made in Oregon

We deliver to renters or buyers

Carry EASILY anywhere

BikePartners.net

855-483-3732 toll free
 rentabike@bikepartners.net

Visit our Shop & Tour Center at 111 5th Street, Santa Rosa, in the heart of historic Railroad Square

Lake Group Report

A Second Chance for the Healthy Lake Tax?

Last year the Sierra Club strongly supported Lake County Measure E, a countywide sales tax benefitting Clear Lake; although getting a very healthy majority of the votes cast in November 2012, it barely failed to reach the required two-thirds majority. Recently a group of stakeholders (including a Lake Group representative) has rewritten the proposal with the objective of giving it another chance in June 2014: like Measure E, it would impose a half cent sales tax with the proceeds going entirely to improve water quality, prevent aquatic invasive species, and alleviate nuisance weeds and algae, but many details have been changed. For example, the new measure would remove set percentages from the spending priorities and substitute a requirement that the Department of Water Resources submit an annual detailed expenditure plan to the BOS and a separate oversight committee; change the composition of the oversight committee to include few (if any) elected officials and more citizens; and establish a clear emphasis on measures benefitting the long-term health of the lake.

The enabling ordinance must be adopted by the Board of Supervisors to be placed on the ballot, but before taking the proposal up in formal session the BOS held “workshops” on October 22 and November 5, first to get citizen input and then to review a tentative first-year expenditure plan that includes measures significantly strengthening defenses against quagga mussels and other aquatic invasive species. Lake Group will be keeping a close eye on this proposal as

it moves ahead.

Trails Forum in November

At the November 20 Lake Group general meeting county Trails Coordinator Gigi Stahl gave an overview of the 2014 Konocti Regional Trails Plan, which will include at least one project located in each of the six KRT Study Areas. We also learned about other local trails-related matters, including a report on the recent “Wag, Walk, Wride” event at Boggs Mountain, where equestrians, mountain bikers, and hikers came together to discuss ways to create a collaborative, inclusive trail culture here in Lake County, and saw photos and video from a recent California State Parks trails management training week at Samuel Taylor State Park in Marin County, where techniques in multiuse trails design were discussed.

Annual holiday party

December 13

Lake Group’s ninth annual holiday festivities will be held on Friday, December 13, at the home of Outings Chair Steve Devoto—we’ll enjoy great food, fine wines and other refreshments, a spectacular view of Clear Lake, an open fire, and lots of convivial conversation. The Group will provide the main dish, but asks guests to bring a side dish or dessert to share as well as their own re-useable plates, beverage glasses, and eating utensils. Our host is again very generously providing wine for all.

This celebration is entirely free and all Sierra Club members are most cordially invited, along with visiting friends and relations. To RSVP, call Ed at 994 8304 or send an email to edrobey@wildblue.net.

—VICTORIA BRANDON, LAKE GROUP

Napa Group Report

Sierra Club Napa Group Connects with Local Members, Friends

We are energizing the Sierra Club Napa Group and providing friendly forums where we all can meet like-minded Napa people, or Napkins as some like to call themselves. Our members continue to keep a watchful eye on key environmental actions by local and regional political bodies, and to speak out when needed to ensure that political policies are in line with a healthy watershed, open space, and a rural life-style.

But Sierra Club Napa Group also is looking for and creating opportunities to renew old friendships and start new ones. We’re hosting and planning many fun events—indoors, outdoors, and into the wilderness. Membership chair Isabelle Saint-Guily is helping to launch us into social media and electronic communications. Please think of this as an environmentally responsible way of creating a social network and community forum. We’re saving trees!

Are you receiving the Napa Sierra Club Group’s e-newsletter? It should be dropping into your e-mail box. We’re using the e-newsletter — in addition to our Facebook page — to tell local Sierra Club members and friends about events like September’s poetry readings on nature or November’s social gathering and family-movie night. Did you hear about them? They were held at the Napa City-County Library. More events

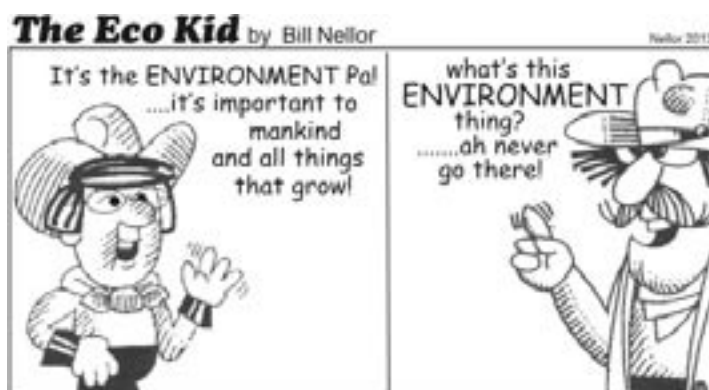
are planned for 2014 in January, March, and May. Members, non-members, friends are invited. Don’t miss out on the fun.

But the newsletter is more than a bulletin of events, it’s a public space for you to share your own personal nature stories, perhaps through photos, poetry, or short essays. Send your contributions, ideas, and, of course, your e-mail to napavalleyssierraclub@gmail.com.

Napa County is blessed with so many citizen groups who volunteer countless hours to ensure we have public trails and outdoor space. These groups also are using this e-newsletter to announce hikes, work days, or dedications. Stay connected.

And don’t forget to “like” us on Facebook: Sierra Club Napa Group.

—MARILEE TALLEY, NAPA GROUP CHAIR



Sonoma Group Report

A new Director has been named to the PRMD (Planning Dept.), who turns out to have backed a project that our group opposed and helped get withdrawn this year. TJ Wick was the planner and lead promoter of the Carneros-Port Sonoma project, ostensibly intended to convert bay dredge spoil into agricultural soil. After the threat of a suit, the county supervisors backed off the PRMD’s “without prejudice” approval of the project and required an EIR. The project’s backers withdrew the plan—but two new events occurred during the past few months: TJ Wick was named Director of PRMD, and a new Carneros-Port Sonoma project has been proposed, much larger in scope. The Sonoma Group is keeping an eye on this project, and strategies to bring an effective voice to our county government.

In other news of planning, the county’s General Plan is up for renewal, and the Riparian Ordinance Study (to protect streamside habitat and watersheds) scheduled for adoption this year has been delayed and meanwhile a stakeholder group is being recruited. The Sonoma Group is drafting a letter to the county supervisors, demanding a place at the table for the experts who did the analysis for the General Plan, along with other environmental groups that were part of drafting the original Study which has been successful in protecting our watersheds.

We sent out a letter (drafted with Sonoma County Conservation Action) to Santa Rosa’s daily paper, the Press Democrat, endorsing a ban on disposable plastic shopping bags. ExCom member Jessica Jones also appeared at City Council meetings to request that they also join in the bag ban, so it becomes the rule all over the county.

Kimberly Burr, of our Forest Protection

Committee, has kept us up to date on random cutting of old trees that has been either ignored or allowed by planning departments in their site plan reviews. Kimberly is urging the county to pass a comprehensive tree ordinance that protects native oaks, maples etc., as well as redwoods, or our inhabited areas will become paved and treeless.

According to Climate Committee member Woody Hastings, the next two months will be critical to let the Public Utilities Commission know our views about the future of solar energy—particularly, how solar users will get paid for extra power their systems put out to the electrical grid. Go to the web site for the California Solar Electric Industry Assn., <http://www.calseia.org>, for more information. Climate Chair Shirley Johnson is drafting a letter encouraging the cities and the county to divest themselves from fossil fuel companies, and put their money instead behind renewable projects.

We have joined a suit demanding that the 20-year Plan Bay Area become realistic about reducing GHGs, by increasing transit and reducing freeway expansions.

We invite the public to the SCCC holiday networking event at the Sebastopol Grange in December (see the ad in this issue of the Needles).

We are planning an Environmental Forum in January to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, and another one in February to educate the public about fracking (hydrofracturing to explore for gas) taking place and proposed in California. We are endorsing a moratorium on fracking. We’ll send out a bulletin and put it on our Facebook page with more info.

—DAN KERBEIN, SONOMA GROUP CHAIR

Collaboration Sensation!

On November 6th, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District unanimously passed the climate protection resolution, which sets a greenhouse reduction goal at 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

The climate and energy committee has some much needed good news to report. The Air District Climate Protection Committee meeting on Oct.23 was a big success! 350 Bay Area negotiated with Air District Board Members and staff to bring Resolution No.2013-A Resolution Adopting a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goal and Commitment to Develop a Regional Protection Strategy to the Board of Directors of the BAAQMD for a vote. The committee voted unanimously to amend the staff climate Resolution per our suggestions, and will add content regarding social and environmental justice.

Sonoma Group Climate and Energy Committee collaborated with 350 Bay Area in a meeting with Supervisor Shirlee Zane about the BayCAP Resolution.

She participated via web conference and made a positive difference in the outcome of the vote. She brought up the critical issue of whether the final Resolution would just commit the District to “make progress” to achieve the 2050 goal, or to develop a plan to “achieve” the goal. Her point was included in

the amended Resolution (amended from a staff Resolution that undercut our aims). The Resolution with that and other good amendments was passed unanimously.

Teresa Barrett of the Petaluma City Council was there as well. I spoke to her on Saturday about the issues. She is also a strong supporter of our cause.

Here is a portion of the resolution:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Board of Directors seeks to build on local, regional and state climate protection planning efforts by leading a regional climate protection planning process to include:

Setting a goal for the Bay Area region of reducing GHG emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050, and developing specific performance objectives to track progress in achieving the goal; and

Developing a Regional Climate Action Strategy to guide and document the Air District’s work towards achieving the 2050 goal for GHG emission reductions that complements existing planning efforts at the state, regional and local levels, utilizing the Air District’s 2014 Clean Air Plan to coordinate the planning and outreach processes; and

Directing staff to develop a work program to guide and document the Air District’s climate protection activities in the near term, to be approved by the Board of Directors in the first quarter of 2014.

Thanks to our two excellent reps in Zane and Barrett on the BAAQMD Board and Climate Committee for helping to promote progress on climate action.

—SHIRLEY JOHNSON-FOELL, SONOMA GROUP CLIMATE AND ENERGY COMMITTEE

Mendocino Group Report

Good News on the 10-Mile Dunes – Coastal Commission Rules “No Substantial Issue”

Our report on the 10-Mile Dunes last month left you with the news that the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 to approve Parks’ Coastal Development Permit and to deny the appeal that brought it to the Supes. Good news!

After that approval, as expected, three individual appellants carried their opposition to the next level by filing an appeal with the Coastal Commission. The primary claim of the appeal is that Parks’ proposed removal of old haul road remnants will deny them access to the ocean and to the dunes systems.

Our position is that the minor recreational use made of the continually disintegrating haul road through the dunes pales in comparison to the benefits that will accrue to protected wildlife species as a result of the planned restoration project. All access points into the Preserve remain open, as do the dunes. And most people continue to use the preferred Coastal Trail along the hard-packed sand at the shoreline - within sight of the ocean. Of course!

Both the Mendocino Group and the Redwood Chapter studied the project and submitted comments to the Coastal Commission in support. State Parks’ focus on ecosystem restoration - that includes hand removal of invasive beach grass and ice plant and re-planting of native species - will create

an additional 250 acres of critical wintering and nesting habitat for the Western Snowy Plover, restore rare native plants and dune vegetation, and, with the haul road gone, free two streams from the constriction of obstructive culverts. What’s not to like?

Coastal Commission staff reviewed the appeal and issued a 500-page report, 40 pages of which were their “Findings and Declarations”, including their analysis of the appellants’ contentions.

Their conclusion: “Therefore, Commission staff recommends that the Commission find the appeal raises no substantial issue with respect to the grounds on which it was filed.” That’s more good news!

If the Commission agrees with Staff’s findings, the permit is approved and Parks can go forward with restoration of this rare and precious piece of California’s natural heritage.

And finally, breaking good news just as the *Redwood Needles* goes to press: the CC heard the appeal this morning, November 13th. The CC voted unanimously to deny the appeal and uphold the Parks project. This means that the funding is secure and we can all look forward to watching a recovering Dunes ecosystem. For more details, visit our website: <http://www.redwood.sierraclub.org>

—LINDA PERKINS,

MENDOCINO GROUP CONSERVATION CHAIR

North Group Report

Amid Humboldt State’s Centennial celebration and record warm temperatures in the 70s and 80s, the HSU Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology held its Biodiversity Conference October 4, 5 and 6. North Group members took part in tabling at an expo of local conservation groups, and in at least one formal panel discussion.

A sampling of presentations:

Tyrone Hayes, the keynote speaker, described his extensive work on endocrine-disrupting toxins, Atrazine in particular, and their destructive effects on amphibians and most other vertebrates at concentrations well below legal limits. Dr. Hayes, in deconstructing, and celebrating, the word “activist,” closed by invoking Albert Einstein: “Those who have the privilege to know, have a duty to act.”

Klamath Basin Water Rights and Dam Removal Forum: Humboldt County Supervisor Mark Lovelace introduced the discussion with a history of the science and politics of the four dams on the Klamath, the disastrous fish kill of 2002, and the emergence of the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement and Klamath Hydro Settlement Agreement from talks with Secretary Gale Norton’s Interior Department in 2004. Felice Pace, several tribal reps, and PCFFA’s Glen Spain participated. Some numbers: 64,000 dead salmon in 2002; the four dams generate less than 1 per cent of Pacificorp’s portfolio; recent salmon runs are down to 2 per cent of historic levels; annual economic assistance to the region has been running at \$18 million since 2001; 10 to 12 thousand birds died in the Klamath Basin refuges in 2013; under the Agreements, the four dams would be removed starting in 2020, starting with the farthest

upstream to minimize downstream impacts. An alternative path to removal would be the FERC 401 certification process, whereby the impending license renewals would need to meet current requirements such as fish ladders, an economically prohibitive cost that may lead to removal. Several participants indicated an interest in both the FERC and KBRA/KHSA potential outcomes. About 80 people attended.

Tom Stokely, a longtime Trinity River advocate and scientist, spoke on “Twin Tunnel Impacts on the Trinity and Klamath Rivers,” making a strong case against the joint state-federal effort to “improve” the Sacramento-San Joaquin delta with a huge construction project. According to Stokely, the net effect would be to further exacerbate the problems of low flows in the North, and lead to further over-allocation of water, beyond the six-fold discrepancies of recent years. The project’s cost, estimated at \$15 billion today, could run much higher. Earthquake risk to the levees is cited by proponents, but in fact statewide maps of seismic risk show a relatively low value for the Delta, and much higher risks elsewhere, including water destinations like San Luis Reservoir and Kern County. Stokely is currently affiliated with CWIN, the California Water Impacts Network.

For information about the HSU Chapter of Society for Conservation Biology contact Bobby Shearer, president, at rls511@humboldt.edu. For BioConf2013 materials, including presentation videos, visit www.humboldt.edu/biodiversity.

—NED FORSTYH, NORTH GROUP VICE CHAIR

Solano Breeze Corner

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

EXCOM Members needed.

The Solano Group is in need of people who want to make a difference in Solano County. Put on your Sierra Club Hat and join us for monthly meetings where we review local issues and come up with plans to protect our local environment. For more information, email sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com or leave a message at 707 319-6398.

Thanks to Nancy McCoy, Matt Hoffman, Adam Mangosing, and Jane Bogner for staffing the Sept. and October paper shredding.

VALCORE Recycling and Confidential Paper Shredding 2013 and 2014.

Solano Group will be working every 3rd Saturday of the month at 38 Sheridan Street, Vallejo from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Dec 21 & Jan 18, Feb 15, Mar 15). There is a charge of \$10 per twenty pounds of paper shredded. (maximum:

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

We continually work at Lori’s Native Plant Garden located at 225 Amador St, Vallejo. We weed, plant, prune and mulch year-round. If you have an hour, call Jane and she’ll work with you to get you started. 707-319-6398

EXCOM: Come join us for our monthly meetings which rotate between Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville. We meet on the first Thursday of the month and are making a positive impact on our county and need a few more members to help carry the load. Call Jane (707) 319-6398 or Greg (707) 386-6411 for current meeting info.

—CONTRIBUTOR: JANE BOGNER

—EDITOR: GREG PETERSON

Holiday Networking Party and Environmental Awards Dinner News

Wednesday December 4, 2013, 5-8 pm, will be the annual Sierra Club/SCCC Holiday Networking party. But we will no longer be at Omelete Express!

Thanks to Don Taylor for hosting this delightful gathering for many years.

Luckily, the Sebastopol Grange, conveniently located on Hwy. 12, in between Santa Rosa and Sebastopol, (6000 Sebastopol Ave; the recent host site for the state Grange Conference!), has offered to sponsor our party!

Love to cook? Help make the feast! We need a few people to prepare a dish for 18-20 people in exchange for admission and our gratitude! Please contact Wendy, 544-4582; wlk@sonic.net.

See page 8 for more details.

SAVE THE DATE - Sunday, March 16, 2014, 5-9 pm, will be the 38th Annual Environmental Awards Dinner, at the Sebastopol Community Center.

Joseph McIntyre, President of Ag Innovations Network, will speak on Building a Stronger Coalition for the Environment: Some Practical Thoughts for 2014, and Supervisor Susan Gorin will MC.

Nominations for Environmental Awards are open Nov. 18 - Jan 17; envirocentersoco.org/awards.

Quality Auction Items Needed! If you have art pieces, environmental memorabilia, unused gifts or other interesting objects at home, you may want to donate them to the silent auction at the dinner. Your tax deductible donation of goods or services benefits the Environmental Center. Contact Diana Nasser, 823-4293; diananas@

Redwood Needles

Feb. Deadline: Due January 8

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

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

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

Picnicking with Audubon



Birdwalk participants scan the ocean. Photo by Sue Leskiw.

Approximately 20 members of North Group Sierra Club and Redwood Region Audubon attended a picnic on September 28 at Patrick’s Point State Park in Trinidad. The day began with a 10 a.m. bird walk led by Tom Leskiw, followed by a potluck picnic at noon. The weather was passable, the food enticing, and the conversation stimulating. Thanks to Sue Leskiw for organizing the event.



Chowing down at the picnic. Photo by Sue Leskiw.

“Stornetta Protection on Horizon”

continued from page 1

by both of California’s Senators is under consideration in the other chamber.

Public enthusiasm for this idea was demonstrated by a standing-room-only crowd of at least 300 people who crammed into the diminutive Point Arena city hall to welcome the secretary, Congressman Huffman, and BLM Deputy Director Neil Kornze, and countless other federal, state, and local dignitaries. Members of the Point Arena/Manchester Band of Pomo Indians opened the gathering with a prayer and a dance, followed by students from Pacific Community Charter reading their own poetry and singing “This Land is Your Land.” In response, Secretary Jewell thanked the Stornetta family for their stewardship and vision, and went on to recognize that “communities know lands that are special, lands that have nurtured people for thousands of years. “ When she asked for a show of hands on recommending that the President use his powers under the Antiquities Act to add

Stornetta to the Monument should Congress fail to act, the expression of support was instantaneous and unanimous— including that of the secretary herself, whose hand reached towards the sky.

Despite the remote location, several dozen Sierra Club representatives attended this inspiring event, including Redwood Chapter Conservation Chair Diane Beck, Mendocino coastal activist Linda Perkins, Deputy Program Director Michael Bosse, and national Wildlands Committee member Angel Martinez. I had the privilege of appearing at the podium on behalf of the Chapter to thank Secretary Jewell for visiting the North Coast, express the Club’s enthusiastic support for the permanent protection of the Point Arena-Stornetta area by including it in the monument, and present her with 1800 signatures on a support petition that the Club had circulated in an online campaign.

Next step: we’re all looking forward to making another journey to the Mendocino coast for the dedication ceremonies.

Meetings

Send all Meeting events by the 8th of the month to Carl Inglis: 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. Dec. 2 - Sonoma Group.

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

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

- Sonoma Group Conservation Committee at 5:30 p.m. Info: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net

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

Thurs. Dec. 5 - 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. Dec. 10 - North Group ExCom.

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

info, call Gregg at 707-826-3740.

Tues. Dec. 17 - 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 [HYPERLINK “mailto:nancy@aya.yale.edu” nancy@aya.yale.edu](mailto:HYPERLINKmailto:nancy@aya.yale.edu)

There will be no meeting of the Sonoma Group Water Committee in December.

Mon. Jan. 6 - Sonoma Group.

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

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

- Sonoma Group Conservation Committee at 5:30 p.m. Info: Info: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net

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

Tues. Jan. 14 - North Group ExCom. See Dec. 10.

Wed., Jan. 15 - The Sonoma Group Water Committee.

7:00 PM at the Environmental Center,

55A Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

Thurs. Jan. 16 - 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., Jan. 18 - Redwood Chapter ExCom.

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

Wed. Feb. 19 - The Sonoma Group Water Committee.

7:00 PM at the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

Wed. March 19 and Wed. April 16 - The Sonoma Group Water Committee.

7:00 PM at the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

Make a New Year’s Resolution: Reduce Your Carbon Footprint in 2014!

Join over 500 of your local fellow Sierra Clubbers! To receive future copies of the Redwood Needles via email send a message to: RedwoodNeedles@gmail.com with your name and address, and “newsletter by email” in the subject line; or to receive notification that the current newsletter is available online and a link to it, please specify: “Notification newsletter is online”.

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Advance Purchase: www.envirocentersoco.org</p> <p>Checks To: SCCC, PO Box 4346, Santa Rosa, CA 95402</p> <p>Volunteers Needed: Cooks: Make a dish for 15-20 people Dec. 4 : Set-up; food & drink servers</p> <p>For More Info: Wendy Krupnick, wik@sonic.net 544-4582</p> | <p>Make This Your Group’s Holiday Party! \$17 each for groups of 6 or more, with advance purchase!</p> <p>The Sonoma County Conservation Council The SCCC is the federation of non-profits that operates the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa. The Council supports the work of member organizations, serves as an information and referral service, and provides connectivity for ad-hoc collaborations.</p> |
|---|---|

Thank You to our sponsor – Sebastopol Grange!
Save the Date!! The 2014 Environmental Awards Dinner
March 16, 2014, 5:00-9:00 pm, Sebastopol Community Center
Nominations open Nov. 18; envirocentersoco.org/awards