

Redwood Needles

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 55 Number 6

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

December 2014/Jan. 2015

Berryessa-Snow Mountain National Monument Moving Ahead



Brophy Canyon in the proposed Berryessa-Snow Mountain National Monument.

BY VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR
During the past few weeks the proposal to designate the Berryessa-Snow Mountain region as either a National Conservation Area or a National Monument has gained key support from surrounding local governments. On October 7, the Solano County Supervisors voted unanimously to support efforts for the permanent protection of these public lands; on October 21, the Lake County Board, which had endorsed National Conservation Area designation in 2012, confirmed its support for Monument designation as well; then on November 4 both the Yolo and Napa Boards of Supervisors took similar action. Except for Yolo, these counties are all in Redwood Chapter, as is almost all the area proposed for special designation.

As has been previously discussed, securing the permanent protection of these remarkable 350,000 acres of federal public lands has been a major Chapter priority for several years. The region contains lush forests, wildflower meadows, three designated Wilderness areas, and a Wild and Scenic River. It is home to tule elk, river otters, California's second largest population of wintering bald eagles, and the rare Pacific fisher, while its amazingly diverse assortment of plants make it a biodiversity hotspot of global importance. Berryessa-Snow Mountain also offers a wealth of recreational opportunities to

hikers, campers, birders, anglers, and equestrians: in the words of Lake Group Chair (and former Lake County Supervisor) Ed Robey, "this landscape is truly an outdoor wonderland." With sensitive management, this recreational potential can be enhanced while preserving the conservation values that make the area so special.

Extending more than 100 miles from Solano County to the Snow Mountain Wilderness, this "undiscovered landscape" includes portions of five counties, and is administered by three federal agencies— but with neither formal recognition nor a unifying management framework, it gets hardly any federal funding for stewardship, law enforcement, invasive species eradication, and recreational enhancement. A special designation will give it a formal name, acknowledge its local and national importance, allow landscape-level management, and make funding much easier to obtain while simultaneously offering substantial potential economic advantages to surrounding communities.

Efforts to provide permanent protection by creation of a Berryessa-Snow Mountain National Conservation Area have bogged down in Congressional infighting. So we are seeking an alternative path to the same destination by asking the President to use his powers under the Antiquities Act to declare the region a National Monument. National Monument designation would offer the same advantages as a National Conservation Area, create

no additional restrictions on land use or the rights of nearby landowners, and could provide additional benefits because the designation is better known and has a higher profile.

Last spring Redwood Chapter rejoiced in the inclusion of the Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands on the Mendocino Coast in the California Coastal National Monument. Then in October the Sierra Club joined many other conservation and recreational organizations in applauding President Barack Obama for assuring the permanent protection of nearly 350,000 acres within the San Gabriel Mountains northeast of Los Angeles by designating the area as a National Monument. Will Berryessa-Snow Mountain become the next major addition to the President's conservation legacy? Stay tuned!



NORTH GROUP CELEBRATES FIVE DECADES

On November 6, the North Group threw a party to commemorate the golden anniversary of its formation in 1964. The occasion also celebrated the 50th anniversary of Wilderness Act passage.

Thirty Sierra Clubbers mixed and mingled while enjoying appetizers, desserts, and beverages.



Dave van de Mark and Lucille Vinyard cut the 50th anniversary cake.

Honored guests included Lucille Vinyard and Dave van de Mark— original members of the group that advocated for the creation of Redwood National Park— and Redwood Chapter Chair Victoria Brandon. Victoria presented North Group with a California Wilderness commemorative poster and a round of wood branded during a Wilderness Act celebration in Vallejo. Dave and Lucille relayed funny, mainly bear-centric stories from long-ago hiking and camping trips. Historical photos and documents from the 1960s onward were on display.

North Group extends a hearty THANK YOU to Sue Leskiw for producing our celebration. Sue managed the party invitations and responses, secured the venue, and brought refreshments.



North Group Vice Chair Ned Forsyth accepts the commemorative poster and wooden plaque from Victoria Brandon.



NATIONAL WILDERNESS CONFERENCE INSPIRES

BY TERI SHORE, SIERRA CLUB WILDERNESS ACTIVIST AND BACKPACK LEADER

Aldo Leopold famously wrote in his foreword to the Sand County Almanac that there are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot. About 1,200 of those who cannot converged on Leopold's one-time hometown of Albuquerque, New Mexico, for the National Wilderness Conference in mid-October to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

A who's who of today's wilderness heroes, far too many to name, joined together in the largest gathering of the wilderness community since the Act was signed in 1964. Info and audio available here: <http://www.wilderness50th.org/>
Throughout the conference, wilderness advocates, Native Americans, natural resource managers, land stewards, academics and politicians shared compelling perspectives on

wilderness successes, threats and challenges ahead. The program featured stimulating keynote speakers, panel discussions, workshops, trainings and field trips to the desert, mountains and rusty Rio Grande. Many of us learned the word "bosque," which is the locally used Spanish word for the riparian corridors. At the time, tall cottonwoods along the river were peaking in yellow and sandhill cranes landing for the winter.

The Sierra Club helped spearhead the jam-packed wilderness marathon. As a keynote speaker, Sierra Club President Dave Scott recalled the "17 years of blood, sweat and tears" that culminated in the Wilderness Act. He also reminded us that Sierra Club's legacy of wilderness protection dates back more than 100 years to John Muir. Looking forward, he urged a broader, more diverse wilderness community and the need to tackle climate change in order to "leave for future generations

"NATIONAL WILDERNESS CONFERENCE INSPIRES" CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

We're Getting a New Look!

BY VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

The Sierra Club is in the middle of a coordinated national effort to modernize and enrich our presence on the web and our electronic communication system generally. As part of that effort, all Chapter websites are moving to a new platform, with a new look and feel and— most important— new tools for connecting our members with ongoing conservation efforts.

The new system will make it possible to provide regular up to the

"Visit Our Website" continued on page 3

Redwood Chapter Sierra Club Directory

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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.

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Classified Ads

Women's Trips to the National Parks! 5 days/4 nites-daily guided hikes. Visit sierrasisters.net or Janet 707-874-2126.

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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:

www.facebook.com/SierraClubRedwoodChapter

Redwood Needles

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Redwood Needles Deadlines

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sierraclubredwoodchapter.wordpress.com

Check us out on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/SierraClubRedwoodChapter

November 4, 2014 Election Results

Although the recent election brought profoundly discouraging results for the environment in many places throughout the nation, Redwood Chapter has good reason for restrained optimism. All the Sierra Club's endorsed statewide candidates won their seats, as did incumbent Congressmen Huffman, Garamendi, and Thompson. Both of our endorsed candidates for the state legislature, Mike McGuire for State Senate and Jim Wood for Assembly also won convincingly. We congratulate all these fine candidates and look forward to building our relationship with them in the future. Results in local Sonoma County were divided, as were the two Club-endorsed local ballot measures: Humboldt County Measure P (banning the cultivation of genetically engineered crops) won, but Lake County Measure S (a half cent sales tax to protect and restore Clear Lake) required a two-thirds majority and therefore went down to defeat despite gaining 63 percent of the votes cast.

State:

Attorney General: Kamala Harris won
Secretary of State: Alex Padilla won
State Controller: Betty Yee won
State Treasurer: John Chiang won
Insurance Commissioner: Dave Jones won
Supt. of Public Instruction: Tom Torlakson won

Congress:

District 2: Jared Huffman won
District 3: John Garamendi won
District 5: Mike Thompson won

State Senate, District 2: Mike McGuire won

State Assembly, District 2: Jim Wood won

Sonoma County Supervisor, District 4: Deb Fudge lost

Cloverdale City Council: Carol Russell won

Cotati City Council:
Mark Landman won
John Moore won

Petaluma City Council:
Teresa Barrett won
Janice Cader-Thompson lost

Petaluma Mayor: David Glass lost

Santa Rosa City Council :
Curtis Byrd lost
Chris Coursey won
Lee Pierce lost

Santa Rosa City Junior College Trustee:
Dorothy Battenfield won
Jordan Burns won

Sebastopol City Council:
Sarah Glade Gurney won
Una Glass won
Patrick Slayter won

Sonoma City Council:
Ken Brown lost
Gary Edwards won
Jack Wagner lost

Windsor Town Council: Sam Salmon won

Humboldt County Measure P (Ban on cultivation of genetically engineered crops): Support: won

Lake County Measure S (Half-cent sales tax to protect and restore Clear Lake): Support: lost

—VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER POLITICAL CHAIR



NATIONAL WILDERNESS CONFERENCE INSPIRES

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the beautiful, wild and livable planet that is their birthright." See Scott's remarks from conference: <http://blogs.sierraclub.org/files/david-scott-wilderness-50-speech.pdf>

Wilderness maven Vicky Hoover of San Francisco spent the past four years organizing the conference with legions of volunteers and agency partners. She co-hosted the event and was everywhere! The Rio Grande Chapter brought us all together one night to network and meet national Wild America campaign director David Chiu. I was honored to present Vicky with a check to the Sierra Club for \$1,000 for wilderness protection that I raised during my John Muir Trail hike in July.



Longtime wilderness activist Dave Foreman at the podium during the wilderness conference.

Highlights

One of the most memorable moments was when longtime wilderness activist Dave Foreman told how a musk ox charged and chased him across the Alaskan tundra on a recent expedition. Now that's wild!

Foreman called for protection of 200 million acres of "forgotten" wilderness that remain at risk in places as iconic as the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks. Proposals to protect these cherished national wild lands have languished for more than 30 years. Foreman's activist history is featured in a new must-see documentary about his late mentor Ed Abbey, titled *Wrenched*, that was screened during the conference.

Utah-based author Terry Tempest Williams moved many of us to tears with her powerful testament to wilderness. She asked "How serious are we?" about protecting wilderness as she catalogued the rising threats to wild lands from fracking, mining and oil drilling.

Gwich'in activist Sarah James from the Arctic drummed and sang and chanted. She urged us to help protect the "sacred place where life begins" where porcupine caribous breed in the coastal plains of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The story of the struggle is told in a new film, *Gwich'in Women Speak*.

World famous oceanographer Sylvia Earle wowed the wilderness crowd with her impassioned call for blue wilderness in our oceans. A hero to many and sometimes called "Her Deepness," Earle

showed amazing underwater photos as spoke eloquently and passionately for conservation of sea life and underwater wilderness.

Later a panel discussed marine wilderness and suggested that the Wilderness Act may be a legal mechanism for designating ocean wilderness. I hope that Earle's vision sparked the *beginning of a beautiful friendship* between the land and sea wilderness movements.

Wilderness at Risk

Most wilderness leaders agreed that wilderness is more important than ever, but that wilderness places and the idea of wilderness are more vulnerable than ever. Not only is wilderness threatened by extractive industries and motorized recreation, but many seasoned wilderness warriors warned that the very notion of wilderness is under attack by those who think that the wild has no place in the modern world. Even worse, natural resource agencies are marring wilderness by using heavy equipment and trammeling the landscape.

What next?

Many of us concluded that we need to reignite America's passion for wilderness. And that we need to mobilize young people to watchdog the Wilderness Act for the next 50 years. As a first step, 14 young activists were given full scholarships to attend the conference. And many more participated in the Wilderness Youth Leader Summit.

President Jimmy Carter in a videotaped address reminded us of the important scientific, ecological, educational, recreational, spiritual, cultural and intrinsic values of wilderness to all Americans. He also urged action on the iconic wilderness areas that were proposed but never designated.

To reinvigorate the wilderness idea in America, we must remind our friends, families, allies, and decision makers about the many benefits of wilderness protection. As Ed Abbey said, wilderness needs no defense, only more defenders.

Our region is home to 21 designated state and federal wilderness areas, as Chair Victoria Brandon detailed in the Redwood Chapter Wilderness Guidebook. The Chapter is now working to gain the Berryessa-Snow Mountain National Monument. New California wilderness bills that will protect more lands along the Central Coast and in the desert will provide new opportunities to protect additional wild lands and motivate and inspire wilderness lovers in 2015 and beyond.



Teri Shore on South Sandia Peak in the Sandia Mountains Wilderness on the edge of Albuquerque, which she climbed with a group before the conference.

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minute news and alerts about important environmental issues here on the North Coast much more quickly and easily, with an integral Chapter blog and seamless links to our Facebook page. We're hoping that it will also offer a more personal connection between Chapter leadership and our most important asset— meaning you, our members.

Major transitions are never easy: Redwood Needles editor Mary Davison and webmaster Melanie Matway

have put together a communications team which has invested time and energy in superintending the process but there will probably be a few glitches along the way. In the meantime, we'll spread the word as soon as the new site goes live and invite your feedback.

By the way, both the complete Needles and a full Outings list will continue to be available on line, and our address will remain the same: redwood.sierraclub.org. Please pay a visit.

Outings

Sat. Dec. 6 - Napa Group. Tilden Regional Park Day Hike.

In the hills west of Berkeley, this 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, and there will be lunch at a favorite hilltop with a great view. Towards the end, we'll drop down to the Visitors Center. Trail mostly flat or downhill, with a car shuttle. Bring a spare layer in case the ridge is breezy, lunch and liquids. Class: M-7-A. Please RSVP online, at <http://www.meetup.com/Redwood-Chapter-Sierra-Club-Outings-Group/events/217586362/> or contact the leader. Co-led with Mother Lode Chapter. Leader: Martin Farber 707-253-9606, kowsoi@juno.com. Rain cancels.

Sun. Dec. 7 - Mendo Group. Ridge and Scorpion Trails Hike.

Hiking older trails improved by the Ukiah Valley Trail Group, we will do a moderate loop which ascends to the ridge with great views of the Ukiah Valley looking down to Hopland, and we return via the Scorpion Trail. Class: M-3.5-A. Bring hiking boots, water, lunch, layered clothing, and raingear. Carpools: Meet 10:30 am Orchard Plaza, opposite CVS or 11 am trailhead opposite Valley View Trailhead on Mill Creek Road at east end of Mill Creek Pond. Leader Jonah Freedman jonahfreedman@sbcglobal.net or 467-1877. Rain cancels.



Sat. Dec. 13 - Lake Group. Cowboy Camp Loop in Cache Creek Wilderness Area Hike.

Enjoy rolling oak woodlands, chaparral and beautiful vistas. Bring water & lunch—we'll stop at the infamous Road-kill café (an old hunting shack). This is a gorgeous hike, often along creek beds between gorges, and will be enhanced by some green shoots from rain! Class M-7-B. Carpools: Meet 8:30 am Lower Lake Coffee Co. on Main Street, off junction of Hwy 29 & 53. Cowboy Camp Trail head 9:30; from Clearlake Oaks, go east on State Hwy 20, about 28 miles to Hwy 16 intersection, take a right on 16 and Travel south on Highway 16 for 1 mile. Cowboy Camp parking lot is on the right. By reservation only. Leader Julie Kreis 707-987-9040 or 707-671-5947. Rain cancels.

Sat/Sun. Dec. 20-21 - 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 (\$33 Non Sierra Club members) by Dec 1st 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 19th. 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 co leader Jim Gannon.

Sun. Dec. 28 - Sonoma Group. Johnson Ridge Trail to Gunsight Rock Hike.

We'll hike Johnson Ridge trail to Summit trail, over the top of Hood Mountain and have lunch at Gunsight Rock, overlooking the Sonoma and Santa Rosa Valleys. Steady uphill most of the way to top and steady downhill coming back. Pace will be moderate-slow. Class: M/S-7-B Bring lunch, liquids, good hiking shoes, layered clothing for winter weather. Carpools: Meet 9:30 am Safeway parking lot, corner of Hwy. 12 and Calistoga Road in the corner nearest the intersection or trailhead Hood Mtn. Reg. Park upper parking lot at the end of Pythian Road about 9:50. Leader: Carl Inglin 707 538-8271 or chinglin@sonic.net Rain cancels.

Mon.-Fri. Dec. 29, 2014-Jan. 2, 2015 - Holiday Service in the 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)

Sat. Jan. 3 - Napa Group. Novato Day Hike.

In the hills overlooking Rush Creek Preserve, we'll hike 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. Then we'll return 3 miles along a moderate downgrade through the rolling grasslands and meadows of Mt. Burdell Open Space Preserve. The pace will be just a bit on the slow side of Moderate, and there will be lunch on a mountaintop with a great view. Bring lunch and liquids. Class: M-8-B. Please RSVP online, at <http://www.meetup.com/Redwood-Chapter-Sierra-Club-Outings-Group/events/217586942/> or contact the leader. Co-led with Mother Lode Chapter. Leader: Martin Farber 707-253-9606, kowsoi@juno.com. Rain cancels.



Sat. Jan. 3 - Lynch Canyon Trail to Turtle Pond in Cache Creek Wilderness Area Hike.

Lynch Canyon, marked with oak hills & grasslands, starts out going south and then descends into a broad interior valley, here hawks can be seen feeding, then one comes to the Road-kill Café, an old hunting shack with an entertaining history. We then continue on a short jaunt up out of the valley to Turtle Pond trail - we hike to the pond that often resounds with the croaking of frogs, take a lunch break and then return. Class: M-6.8-A. Carpools: Meet 8:30 am Lower Lake on Main St., in front of the Lower Lake Coffee Company. Trailhead 9:30 am from Clearlake Oaks turnoff from Hwy 53, travel east on Hwy 20 approx. 17 miles (you cross the county line), you see a turn off to the right, after a 180 degree curve to the left in the road, then immediately to your right is a road to the Lynch trailhead-I don't recall a sign. By reservation only-Leader Julie Kreis 707-987-9040 or 707-671-5947. Rain cancels.

Sat. Jan. 10 - Sonoma/Napa Group. Snowshoe Day Hike.

A day trip to the snow for an easy snowshoe hike. Destination and details will depend on the weather and snow

conditions. Please check the posting on the Redwood Chapter Meetup Group for up-to-date information and RSVP. <http://www.meetup.com/Redwood-Chapter-Sierra-Club-Outings-Group/> Leaders: (Sonoma) Carl Inglin 707 538-8271 or chingin@sonic.net and (Napa) Isabelle Saint-Guily napabelle@gmail.com

Sat.-Mon. Jan. 17-29 - 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 (\$58 Non Sierra Club members) by Dec 17th 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 16th. 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

Fri.-Sun. Jan 23 - 25 - Napa Group. Ski Trip-Hutchinson Lodge.

Weather reports are predicting heavy snow this year. Come and join us for our First ski trip of the year at Hutchinson Lodge located in Norden/Soda Springs off of Hwy 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 Claire Tappaan lodge which is located next door. Cost is \$90 members, \$100 non-Sierra Club members, which includes 2 breakfasts & 2 dinners, trip limited to 15 people. Full payment confirms your reservation. Leader Nanette DeDonato-Dover nandedo@netzero.net.

Thur.-Sat. Jan. 29-31 - Death Valley Wilderness Restoration.

Join us in restoring wilderness values in this remote and beautiful National Park. We were not able to access the project area on the last trip, so the project this time is again the cleanup of a marijuana grow site. We will gather early Thursday afternoon and work on an as-yet-undecided project, work on the grow site on Friday, and possibly Saturday. Group size limited. Leader: Kate Allen, kj.allen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056. CNRCC Desert Committee

Fri.-Sun. Feb. 13 - 15 - 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 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 Claire Tappaan lodge which is located next door. Cost is \$90 members, \$100 non-Sierra Club members, which includes 2 breakfasts & 2 dinners, trip limited to 15 people. Full payment confirms your reservation. Leader Nanette DeDonato-Dover nandedo@netzero.net.

Sat. Feb. 14 - Napa Group. Mt. Tamalpais East Peak Valentine's Day Hike.

Loop hike from Mountain Theater to

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.

Ratings for Outings Leaders

How fast or slow do you go?

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

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

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

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

Moderate-pace with few stops:
Don Anderson Tiffany MacNeil Boone Lodge Lorrie Lagasse

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

Slower-pace: Allison Bronkall

Outings

East Peak, 9 miles, 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. Please RSVP online, at <http://www.meetup.com/Redwood-Chapter-Sierra-Club-Outings-Group/events/217587652/> or contact the leader. Co-led with Mother Lode Chapter. Leader: Martin Farber 707.253.9606, kowsoi@juno.com. Rain or shine.

Sun. Feb. 25 - Lake Group. Rabbit Hill, Middletown Stroll.

Join us in a history stroll up Rabbit Hill with some natural history thrown in. Class E-1-A Meet 9 am. Perry's Deli at south end of Middletown. Leader: Pete McGee 942-1373 or montesol@hughes.net

Sat. Feb. 28 - Sonoma/Napa Group. Snowshoe Day Hike.

A day trip to the snow for an easy snowshoe hike. Destination and details will depend on the weather and snow conditions. Please check the posting

on the Redwood Chapter Meetup Group for up-to-date information and RSVP. <http://www.meetup.com/Redwood-Chapter-Sierra-Club-Outings-Group/> Leaders: (Sonoma) Carl Inglin 707 538-8271 or chingin@sonic.net and (Napa) Isabelle Saint-Guily napabelle@gmail.com

Sat.-Sun. March 14-15 - Benson Hut Trip (Adv Intermediate - Advanced).

Snowshoe/Ski 6 miles (2300') to Benson Hut for a Sat. overnight. \$28 (\$33 Non Sierra Club members) by Feb 15th to Jim Gannon; PO Box 1038, Rohnert Park, CA 94927. Checks are non-refundable in case of weather cancellation. Please include email address/phone#. Optional stay at Clair Tappaan lodge Fri 13th. Make reservations early to avoid disappointment. Lodge reservations 530-426-3632 indicate you are with Benson 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

Outings Chair Report

It is time to plan for your winter Sierra Getaway. Outing leaders offer winter backpack trips to the huts. If you don't care for winter snowshoeing or skiing up to the huts then go to our lodges. Consider becoming a leader for winter hut trips. Jim Gannon our long time leader will show you what it takes to keep the group together, the route, safety issues, proper gear etc. while you are on your outing with the group. Jim's work parties have stocked Benson hut with wood for the winter to keep the hut warm and cozy. You could also build a snow cave and sleep outside. Hutchinson Lodge next to Clair Tappaan Lodge is Napa Group's winter getaway. Read a book by the fireplace, having a leisure weekend and relaxing. Want more exercise? Then go skiing on one of the groomed trails or go cross country. Don't like skiing? Put on snowshoes and hike up to a winter wonderland taking photos as you go. Don't have snowshoes? They have them for rent at many places nearby.

Work parties for the Riverkeeper Stewardship Park in Guerneville have been listed in the Needles since 2007. Victoria



Victoria Wikle, Russian Riverkeeper Stewardship Park.

Wikle has volunteered most Wednesdays to coordinate work parties. They have dug up invasive weeds, hauled out trash, cleaned up homeless camps, installed new native plants and transformed the property into a park the community is proud of. The five-acre property used to be called "liquor store beach" and was rife with illegal dumping and overrun by invasive non-native plants. It was also a target for vandals and a hang-out for derelicts. Riverkeeper Stewardship Park will help educate local residents, students, businesses and visitors on how to take care of the river and restore and maintain its health. The park will serve as a living outdoor classroom with 10 interpretive stations on various education topics for ensuring a healthy river.

See the article to the right on new Outings Leader Ned Forsyth, and please go on one of his hikes.

—CAROL VELLUTINI, REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR

Welcome to New Outings Leader Ned Forsyth

Congratulations to Ned Forsyth for leading his first outing. Why did Ned become a leader? Ned states "I am excited to become an Outings Leader for North Group! The Humboldt Bay region is blessed with outstanding outdoor opportunities. I have spent many years hiking and camping with friends and various conservation organizations. I decided to lead Sierra Club hikes for the public in order to share our everyday natural wonders, fulfilling the Club's motto, 'Explore, enjoy, and protect our planet.' I have taken part in North Group activities for over ten years. I spent a large portion of my formative years roaming the hospitable Santa Monica Mountains from my backyard redoubts, where I indulged a strong interest in natural history, mostly rocks, plants, birds and weather. My day jobs have been chiefly in electronics, specializing most recently in field service, which has continually taken me to scenic and enchanting landmarks like Berryessa Peak, Mount Saint Helena, Horse Mountain, and many more. To the heights!"



Redwood Needles February 2015 Deadline: Due Jan. 8

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

odavison@sonic.net

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

Send Meetings to Carl Inglin: chingin@sonic.net



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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/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 \$3.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to: Sierra Club, PO Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32143-1041 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

#942W 0300 1

Sierra Club Volunteer/Activist Opportunities

Group Hike Leaders: Many Redwood Chapter Groups need Outings Chairs. This volunteer position is working with leaders, coordinating with the Chapter Outings Chair, training leaders, keeping records, encouraging new leaders and community outreach. There is Outings Chair training available. Contact Carol 546-6308 or carolvrs@sonic.net for info

Work with the Sonoma Group Water Committee! Help conserve water and develop ideas to best use our scarce water resources. Come to our meetings at the Environmental Center at 7:00 PM on the third Wednesday of most months. The Water Committee develops and promotes measures to conserve, save, and reuse our water resources. Our goal is to preserve and improve the natural water environment, by promoting the responsible use of water and the safe reuse or disposal of our wastewaters. Help protect the quality of our water for people, wild life, fish and other aquatic life. Check for our meeting dates in the Needles. To get on our Water Committee e-mail list, e-mail Len Holt at lholt@sonic.net. If you are not able to attend our meetings, you may e-mail Len Holt with your concerns and ideas.

Get CHARGED by attending the Climate & Energy Committee. Join us on the 1st of the month at 5:00-5:45 p.m. at the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa, learn about what is going on in our community to fight climate change through renewable energy programs. Contact Shirley Johnson-Foell Climate & Energy Committee Forum-Chair. Email: Shirlgirl707@Yahoo.com, home 206-1138, or call office 433-7651.

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Lake Group Report

Special tax to protect and restore Clear Lake fails to pass

Over the past few months Lake Group activists have spent most of their time and energy working on the campaign for Measure S, a third attempt to pass a special half-cent sales tax to benefit Clear Lake and other local waterways. It is hard to overestimate our profound disappointment at the failure of this ballot measure, which was the best investment we could make in our lake, our communities, and our children's future. Without this essential funding, continuing cycles of noxious cyanobacteria, likely infestation of quagga mussels, and weed-choked waterways threaten to destroy Clear Lake's ancient ecosystem and ruin our quality of life. Like Measure E in November 2012 and Measure L in June 2014 Measure S received well over 60 percent of the ballots cast, but was unable to reach the two-thirds threshold required for special taxes.

These figures confirm that most people in Lake County—far more than half—recognize the vital importance of protecting the lake, and were not misled by irresponsible, untruthful assertions that the money would be diverted to other purposes or that alternative sources of funding for these essential programs were available.

On the other hand, we see yet again how

extremely difficult it is for the will of the people to prevail given the crippling supermajority rules that California has adopted. What is needed— not only in Lake County but also statewide— is a change in the law to prevent the will of the majority from being thwarted over and over again. Lake Group plans to do all we can to work with our incoming state legislators to bring this change about.

Movie Night in Time of Drought

At press time Lake Group was planning our next general membership meeting, which will feature a very timely California Water Board film "Slow the Flow, make your landscape act like a sponge," followed by a short subject "Permeable Pavers - Breaking Up is Easy to Do." These films will provide practical information about the impacts of storm water runoff, the benefits of getting rid of your lawn (or alternatively, ways to make it "greener"), and ways to transform soil to make it soak up maximum water and improve carbon sequestration. The showing will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday December 3 in the Round Room at Mendocino College in Lakeport. As always, the meeting is free and the public is invited: for more info contact Chair Ed Robey, edrobey@wildblue.net

—VICTORIA BRANDON,

LAKE GROUP CONSERVATION CHAIR

Napa Group Report

Walt Ranch Project

Grassroots power is burgeoning in response to the Walt Ranch proposal to develop 500 acres on Atlas Peak for new vineyards. This proposal would clearcut over 300 acres of oak woodland, pump 69 million gallons of water annually for irrigation and subject neighbors to 3 – 4 years of noise from blasting and rock crushing, as well as heavy equipment traffic up a steep, narrow, residential road. Generous donors have enabled us to hire an attorney and environmental experts to contest the draft environmental report. Residents have shown up time after time at the Board of Supervisors meetings and at the county public forum to voice their concerns over this destructive project.

Calistoga Sewage Crisis

Calistoga is facing possible sanctions by the San Francisco Bay Area Water Board for excessive dumping of wastewater into the Napa River. Question: since the city can't handle current sewage needs, how will it accommodate the planned Calistoga Hills Resort with its 110-room hotel, restaurant, homes and conference center?

Holiday Get-Together

Join us on Saturday, Dec 6th, 9:30-11:30 for a short walk at Oxbow Preserve in Napa,

followed by refreshments and a discussion of the areas of Napa County that you would like to explore in the coming year. RSVP by December 2nd, to Chris Benz at 707-974-5565 or christinabbenz@gmail.com.

Napa Communications

Keep up with fast-moving events in Napa by signing up for our monthly e-newsletter, at napavalleyclub@gmail.com, and by Liking us on Facebook.

Sierra Club Elections

Please vote in December for Napa Sierra Club Executive Committee candidates so that we may continue our work on behalf of the environment in and around the county.

We would also like to thank outgoing ExCom member Carol Kunze for her long time participation on the ExCom and her ongoing dedication to the club and its causes.

In addition we bid farewell and thanks to outgoing ExCom member Phill Blake who will be missed but not off of our speed dial service. Both Carol and Phill have served the Napa Group and the Sierra Club as professionals and articulate advocates. The ExCom thanks you for the exceptional volunteer service.

—NANCY TAMARISK AND MARC PANDONE,
NAPA GROUP EXCOM

North Group Report

The 2014 Happy Camp Fires

As with many North Coast residents, fires burning on the Klamath National Forest dominated my consciousness this summer. Worry about friends living near the flames, some under evacuation orders, was my prime concern. I was not concerned about the forest. Having walked and studied all the large fires which burned in the Klamath Mountains since 1987, I was confident that the natural wildfire would be beneficial—a mosaic of some hot and mostly cool burns which scientists tell us has been the pattern in these mountains since the retreat of the glaciers.

As the cost of fighting the fires rose, however, so did my concern. Fire maps available on InciWeb (<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4078/>) and reports on the community Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/537554202959342/>) established to share fire information indicated that Forest Service fire managers were constructing many miles of fire line with bulldozers. That meant they were also conducting large burn-outs.

Experience walking and studying past fires had taught me that natural wildfire does little damage to Klamath Mountains forests or their watersheds and are typically beneficial. Discretionary fire suppression actions ordered by fire managers, however, often produce significant watershed degradation and large swaths of 100% dead trees. Furthermore, soil and watershed damaging fire lines and burn-outs have never effectively controlled, much less put out, large fires burning in these mountains. Since 1987, only the coming of fall rain and snow in the high country put out the truly large fires burning in exceedingly rugged Klamath Mountains backcountry.

Then came the blowup: two days of strong canyon winds which drove the flames of wildfire and burn-out into the faces of firefighters who quickly withdrew. As the size of the

Happy Camp Fires doubled in the short span of two days, my concern grew for humans and for the forest. Perhaps it was different this time; perhaps this time I would find miles of devastation from wind driven natural wildfire.

As soon as sustained rain put the fires out I was into the wilderness and driving dirt roads studying the fires and the actions fire managers took in hopes of "suppressing" them.



This large tanasidie in a forest service burn-out in the Trinity Alps Wilderness delivered tons of sediment to the New River, one of the best salmon and steelhead streams remaining in California. The burn-out did lots of damage and created future fire risks but it did not stop the wildfire burning deep in wilderness which never got to this location.

I found miles of black, particularly on the lower Scott River. But I also learned from locals that most large swaths of black and dead vegetation were the result of panicked back-fires lit by fire fighters at the bottom of long, forested slopes. Even the wind driven natural wildfire did not produce that sort of devastation. In fact, the fast moving flames spared or thinned most of the forest; even tree plantations which usually are 100% killed when a fire comes through were thinned by these fast-moving flames.

The industrial fire fighting complex— like modern warfare replete with corporate contractors— was developed with the goal of suppressing every wildfire by 10 a.m. on the following day. We now know that fire is a natural process in most forest ecosystems; forests in the western U.S. must burn if they are to function properly as ecosystems. Forest Service managers are talking the new talk; we must, they say, restore fire to national forest ecosystems.

But while they talk the talk Forest Service managers have trouble walking the walk. The primary tools they have on hand—military-industrial fire suppression and timber sales—are incompatible with restoring fire as a natural ecosystem process in our forests. What they are doing now is akin to placing new wine in old wine skins and the results are not good.

Some local organizations and tribes are working to change that reality. More on that in a future report.

— FELICE PACE, NORTH GROUP WATER CHAIR

Mendocino Group Report

We're working on THP 1-14-080 MEN, Mendocino Redwood Company's plan on the Albion River. It's a large plan, taking a 758-acre bite out of the small (2000 acres) Railroad Gulch subwatershed. It proposes removing 2/3 of the volume of the larger trees, mostly under selection silviculture. There are winter operations proposed on many miles of unrocked roads. The extensive removal of large trees has raised many concerns— these are the trees most valuable to wildlife; they intercept rainfall, holding water in the soils and metering it out slowly, thus keeping sediment out of streams; they keep the soils from drying out and maintain soil micro-organisms and invertebrates; they keep slopes stable. The big trees are also more resistant to fire. In short, they create a micro-climate and maintain ecosystem functions for endangered plant and animal species that will be replaced by small trees, brushier, drier conditions, invasion of exotic plant species and habitat for the more numerous and more common animal species.

In addition, the larger trees are the ones that put on the most volume of wood in the shortest time. The tree volume in the THP now averages over 17,000 board feet per acre. After this cut, it will be less than 6000 board feet per acre. These stands will not produce merchantable wood for many years—bad for the economy, bad for jobs.

On hold is our attempt to place a conservation easement on the county-owned Little River Airport pygmy forest and old forest while the county investigates its own requirements for maintenance of the airport property.

We await the release of the EIR on the Solid Waste Transfer Station proposed for siting in an area of pristine pygmy forest on Highway 20 in Fort Bragg that depends on a convoluted land swap for its realization. An administrative review EIR has been released to higher ups at the Fort Bragg government and the Solid Waste Authority that is not available to members of the public.

We take the opportunity to congratulate our friend and colleague Rixanne Wehren, long active as the executive director of the Coastal Land Trust. Ms. Wehren was the honoree at a fete one Sunday afternoon in October given by the Mendocino Land Trust at Seaside Beach on the occasion of the transfer of trust assets of the Coastal Land Trust to MLT. Ms. Wehren has been long active not only in protecting and preserving open land and easements along the coast but also in educating the public as well as public officials as to the necessity for doing so. We congratulate her and thank her and wish her well in future endeavors.

—MARY WALSH, MENDOCINO GROUP CHAIR

EXCOM Members needed. Join the Sierra Club Solano Group Executive Committee. 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 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.

Recycle.solanocounty.com has been updated for 2014. This downloadable recycle guide has 21 pages of local recycling information. Book mark it or put on your desk top. Jane can also get you a zip file with individual pages so you won't have to send the whole guide out.

Thanks to Adam Mangosing, Justin and Alicia Ashorn, Errol Dempster, Matt Hoffman, and Jane for staffing the October and November paper shredding events.

Sonoma Group Report

At our November meeting, we installed Adrienne Lehighias our newest member of the Executive Committee. Adrienne is a sustainability advocate in the Santa Rosa area, particularly at Santa Rosa Junior College, where she is active as a student.

We are encouraged that pro-sustainability candidates Jordan Burns and Dorothy Battenfeld won seats on the Santa Rosa Junior College Board of Trustees. Carpool parking spaces in the JC's parking garage are full and "excess" carpoolers are being turned away from designated parking. Students have alerted the Board that carpool spaces are a good thing, and more of them need to be assigned.

Members of the Sonoma Group attended public comment sessions to understand and comment on the County's new proposed standards for water well construction. According to staff, the rules for well drilling setbacks from streams will be referred to in the Riparian Ordinance which county supervisors plan to pass this year, although the standards themselves won't be passed until next year. Our comment is that this is a backward way to implement critical stream protection, and we are drafting a letter with our recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. The supervisors put this item on their Nov. 24 agenda.

We have opened a new and active Twitter account: [@sierraclub707](https://twitter.com/sierraclub707). Feel free to follow us for up to the minute notices about recycling & conservation tips, upcoming meetings, and rulings that affect us who live in the Sonoma County habitat.

We voted to contact supervisors in support of an ordinance to ban the propagation of GMOs – genetically modified (i.e. genetically damaged) seeds in Sonoma County. As of press time this item has not reached the supervisors' agenda, despite a request for it by Supervisor Susan Gorin. An ordinance has to be passed before Dec. 31, since the new law AB2470 will ban any regulation of GMOs in California beginning January 1, 2015.

Dan Kerbein, Sonoma Group Chair, supported the Living Wage Coalition in meetings with individual county supervisors, and requested a living wage ordinance that not only raises the base pay level, but includes Responsible Bidder provisions, card check and labor harmony for the county's private contractors. The supervisors put this on their Nov. 24 agenda, with the likelihood of passing a raise in base pay but excluding most contractors from it, and leaving out Responsible Bidder and all other provisions. We have let the supervisors know this is a short-sighted approach, since many contracted county workers will continue making \$9 an hour, and the lack of a Responsible Bidder provision allows bidders with very poor environmental practices to be approved for contracts.

Members attended the Rohnert Park City Council meeting to once again voice our opposition to the massive expansion of WalMart operations, which have taken over 100,000 sf of that city's commercial space, and have been campaigning to take over even more of the city's commerce. This is the last step in a grass-roots process that has spanned nearly a decade, and as of press time the City Council is expected to approve WalMart's request.

We co-sponsored, along with North Bay Organizing Project, a speech and book-signing in Santa Rosa by Naomi Klein, author of the paradigm-shifting books *No Logo*, *Shock Doctrine*, and her newest work, *This Changes Everything – Capitalism vs The Climate*. In her speech at the Santa Rosa Veterans Building, Ms. Klein tackled what she called the "really inconvenient truth" - the economics of global capitalism are at war with our existence on this planet, and that a mass movement could switch our system from extraction, to renewal.

We are still looking for a Sonoma Group Outdoor Chair. Please contact Carol Vellutini, Redwood Chapter Outdoor Chair.

-DAN KERBEIN, SONOMA GROUP CHAIR

Solano Breeze Corner

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

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VALCORE Recycling and Confidential Paper Shredding 2014.

WEEKEND:

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 20, Jan 17, Feb 21). There is a charge of \$10 [CASH or CHECK ONLY] 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.

NEW WEEKDAY SHREDDING:

From 10am to 4 pm – closed 1 pm to 2 pm for lunch, CREDIT or DEBIT ONLY.

We continually work at **Lori's Native Plant Garden** located at 225 Amador St, Vallejo. We also 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

Trecycle: Each city has a program, call your recycling coordinator. Numbers listed on recycle.solanocounty.com

Executive Committee members and Volunteers needed: 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

Solano Group Solano College Scholarship for 2014



Jonathan Alexander-Barkley

Jonathan is a physics major. He says he has not made any lasting impressions on the environment yet other than a few coastal clean ups in the San Francisco area and helping continue a Haiti partnership program to give Haitians environmentally friendly sources of power called solar suitcases, but he "wants to be a part of something that gives our smaller problems permanent solutions, destroying the roots of the larger ones."

Redwood Chapter is saddened to learn of the deaths of notable Sonoma County environmental heroes Leonard Swenson and Helen Libeu. A tribute will appear in the next edition of the Redwood Needles. In the meantime, we extend deepest sympathy to their families.

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.

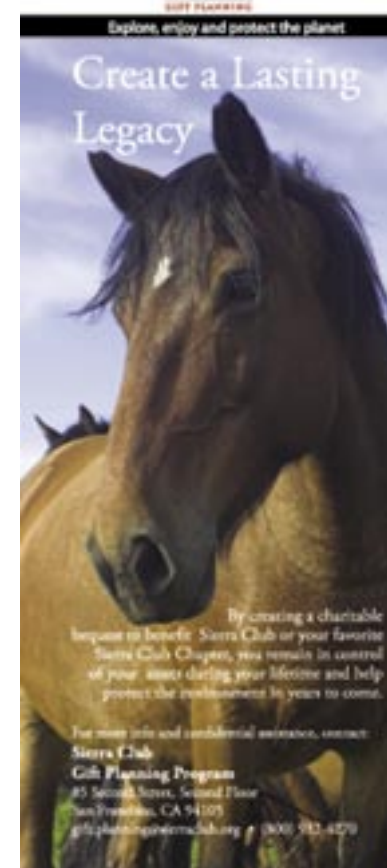
On the day of the project you can call 707-548-4424 for an update or if you get lost coming to the park. Your support and dedication to our County's trails really makes a big difference. To RSVP for any of these projects please call John at 707-565-3356.

ParksVolunteer@sonoma-county.org

Volunteer Days Riverkeeper Stewardship Park in Guerneville, Every Wednesday.

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

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.



Environmental Center Benefit www.envirocentersoco.org

Presented by Sonoma County Conservation Council and the Sierra Club, Sonoma Group

Holiday Networking Party!

For Environmental and Social Justice Groups

Enjoy food, wine, music and hot cider! Mingle with your friends and local movers and shakers!

Thursday, December 4, 2014, 5-8pm

At the Sebastopol Grange
6000 Sebastopol Ave., Hwy. 12, just east of Sebastopol

Suggested Donation: \$25 includes dinner and one drink!!

Open to the public - family and friends welcome! RSVPs requested but not required.

<p>Advance Purchase: www.envirocentersoco.org http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/912180</p> <p>Checks To: SCCC, PO Box 4346, Santa Rosa, CA 95402</p> <p>Volunteers Needed: 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!</p> <p>\$22 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>
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Thank You to our sponsor – Sebastopol Grange!

Save the Date!! The 2015 Environmental Awards Dinner
March 15, 2015, 5:00-9:00 pm, Sebastopol Community Center
Nominations open Dec. 1; envirocentersoco.org/awards

Meetings

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

Mon. Dec. 1 - 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, dkerbein@sonic.net

Thurs. Dec. 4 - Solano Group ExCom.

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

Tues. Dec. 9 - North Group Pizza Party & Presentation.

Humboldt State University professor Steve

Hackett will speak on "Some Economic Perspectives on Climate Change and Clean Energy." He will provide economic perspectives on the benefits and costs of greenhouse gas mitigation and adaptation to climate change, the economics of renewable energy and energy efficiency, and mitigation policies (e.g., cap-and-trade, carbon taxes). This presentation is free and open to the general public. The pizza party will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by the lecture at 7 p.m. The location has been changed from the regular meeting location to the HSU Aquatic Center on the Eureka Waterfront. For more info, call Gregg at 707-826-3740.

No Dec. Meeting - The Sonoma Group Water Committee.

Tues. Dec. 16 - Napa Group ExCom.

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

Mon. Jan. 5 - 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, dkerbein@sonic.net

Tues. Jan. 13 - 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.

Thurs. Jan. 15 - Solano Group ExCom.

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

Sat., Jan 17 - Redwood Chapter ExCom and ConsCom.

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

Wed. Jan. 21 - 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. Feb. 18, Mar. 18, Apr. 15, 2015.

The Sonoma Group Water Committee will meet at 7:00 PM at the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

Why the Climate Movement Cannot Ignore Trade

ILANA SOLOMON

DIRECTOR, RESPONSIBLE TRADE PROGRAM, SIERRA CLUB

On September 21, I joined more than 400,000 community members on the frontlines of climate disruption, environmentalists, workers, students, parents, and others to demand action on climate and to claim our collective rights to clean water, air, and land.

As someone who has spent many years in the halls of Congress and United Nations climate conventions calling for strong climate action, this diverse, public, outspoken, and in-the-streets action was a beautiful, incredible feat that signals a tipping point in the climate movement that policymakers will not be able to ignore.

But there is another tipping point that will affect the success of the climate movement: the free trade tipping point.

The health of our planet depends on our ability to make big changes in our economy. These changes include moving beyond fossil fuels and building local green economies. However, our current model of free trade, which is written into agreements of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and free trade pacts like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), threatens nearly every aspect of this much-needed economic transition. And yet, the U.S. is currently negotiating massive new free trade pacts, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) with 11 Pacific Rim nations and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) with the European Union. These deals would severely restrict the ability of governments to restructure our economy and address the climate crisis.

If these deals are beat-back, we can open up space for governments to embrace a new model of trade that is compatible with—even supports—efforts to combat the climate crisis. If these agreements move forward, they lock in a new set of rules that will further hinder our ability to solve the climate crisis.

Let's take a deeper look at just how our trade rules are getting in the way of climate progress.

Corporate challenges to climate and clean energy policies: In order to combat the climate crisis, we must move beyond fossil fuels and embrace clean energy. However, investment rules in free trade agreements and bilateral investment treaties threaten our ability to do so. The rules actually empower corporations to sue governments, in the secrecy of private trade tribunals, over laws and policies that corporations allege reduce their profits, including protections from dirty fossil fuels. Such rules have allowed corporations including Chevron and ExxonMobil to launch nearly 600 challenges against almost 100 governments. Increasingly, corporations are using these perverse rules in free

trade and investment agreements to challenge energy and climate policies, including a moratorium on fracking in Quebec, a nuclear energy phase-out and new coal-fired power plant standards in Germany, and requirement for a pollution clean-up in Peru. Nearly 60 percent of so-called investor-state cases are decided in favor of the investor (making taxpayers foot the bill to the corporation or investor) or settle (sometimes weakening the policy, as happened in Germany). When governments "win," they just get to keep the policy in place and are often stuck with part of a legal tab averaging \$8 million per case.

Unfettered exports of fossil fuels: The vast majority of fossil fuel reserves must stay in the ground in order to avoid climate catastrophe. We have to move beyond fossil fuels here at home and stop exporting them to other countries. Current free trade rules once again stand in the way. The U.S., for example, is legally bound to automatically approve all exports of natural gas to countries with which it has a free trade pact. (If no free trade pact is in place, the Department of Energy must conduct a public analysis to determine whether exports are inconsistent with the public interest before granting a license.) And there is increased talk of a potential free-trade challenge to current U.S. restrictions on crude oil exports. In fact, the EU is pressuring the U.S. to lift its crude oil export restrictions in the context of its negotiations on TTIP, the U.S. EU trade pact. According to Oil Change International, lifting the crude oil export ban would lead to 9.9 billion barrels of additional crude between 2015 and 2050, which would release as much carbon dioxide as 42 coal-fired power plants.

Restricting local and low-carbon economies: Another part of solving the climate puzzle relates to production and consumption: We need to start producing and using products, from our food to our energy, closer to home. Sadly, the current trend is to produce goods wherever labor is cheapest and environmental protections are lowest and ship them across the world. (This trend, incidentally, was made possible—even encouraged—by free trade rules.) But think about the endless benefits, both for our climate and for the creation of new green jobs, of producing wind turbines and solar panels locally. In fact, strong domestic renewable energy industries may be one of the most powerful tools to combat climate disruption. The transition to a clean energy economy depends on local renewable energy industries that can challenge the power of the fossil fuel industry.

Governments across the world recognize the benefits of renewable energy programs that create green jobs. From Ontario, Canada to India—in addition to a number of U.S. states—governments are increasingly using "local content rules"

that require enterprises to purchase or use locally-manufactured goods in renewable energy programs. But a long-standing tenant of trade law is that governments cannot "privilege" local goods or producers over foreign ones, so there have been a string of cases at the WTO challenging local content rules in renewable energy programs. Japan and the EU have used WTO challenges to strike Ontario, Canada's local content rule out of its clean energy program; the U.S. is challenging local content rules in India's national solar program; India has, in turn, threatened a number of U.S. state-based renewable energy programs; China is threatening local content rules in EU renewable energy programs, and the list goes on.

Unfortunately, the trade rules described above are a small sample of the myriad rules that make it difficult to bring about what the 400,000-plus people marching the streets of New York City want—strong action on climate.

But, all of this is not reason to despair—it's a reason to organize.

Bigger and badder threats from the fossil fuel industry have set a fire under the climate movement. New, dangerous trade deals such as the TPP and TTIP, which threaten health, environmental, and worker protections, have set ablaze another movement of trade justice advocates. If we can combine the force of these movements and continue to strengthen our work, the power of our movements will tip our governments to act on behalf of the people instead of on behalf of the polluters. The climate movement must stand up to the free trade rules and ideology that helped get us into this climate mess and that will thwart our ability to solve it and say, "enough is enough."

TAKE ACTION

The only way the TPP and TTIP can get approved is if the executive branch secures "Fast Track" authority, allowing signed pacts to be rushed through Congress with a guaranteed vote in 90 days, under rules that circumvent ordinary review, amendment and debate. To find out how you can help make sure that doesn't happen, go to sierraclub.org/trade and drop us a note at responsibletrade@sierraclub.org.

This originally appeared on the Sierra Club's national blog, Compass.



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Checks To:

SCCC, PO Box 4346, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

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Dec. 4 : Set-up; food & drink servers

For More Info:

Wendy Krupnick, wlk@sonic.net
544-4582

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