

Redwood Needles



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

December 2017/Jan. 2018



Rebuilding for a Resilient Future

Everyone now has their fire story. Whether it's about their own harrowing escape from the wild blazes that erupted across our region Oct. 8 and 9 or housing fire evacuees, volunteering at shelters or donating goods or money to recovery funds, the wildfires of 2017 have been seared in our collective memory for generations.

Redwood Chapter has joined with community organizations to form the Just and Resilient Futures Fund, to collect donations to help fire victims who are low-income workers and farm workers. While many of those who lost their homes have the means to move on, financially, there are a lot of residents who do not have that security.

Resources from the fund will help those suffering losses not covered by insurance or traditional relief services. Additionally, the fund will support initiatives that build more just, healthy and resilient communities that better prepare us for future catastrophes.

Please donate to the Wildfire Relief Efforts at <http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood>.

Highway 37 Plans Roll Ahead

BY STEVE BIRDLEBOUGH,

REDWOOD CHAPTER TRANSPORTATION CHAIR

For decades, much of the wetland habitat along the northern edge of San Francisco Bay has been deprived of natural tidal flows by the berm under State Route 37. Now it is clear that the present highway will increasingly suffer flooding due to rising sea levels. The Sierra Club is working with other groups to make sure that efforts to maintain the highway also permit restoration of these tidal marshes to a more natural state.

The values of restoring wetlands were detailed at a recent League of Women Voters forum featuring Steven Moore, vice-chair of the

California Water Board, and Jessica Davenport of the California State Coastal Commission. Trail planner Maureen Gaffney also described the San Francisco Trails Project's effort to extend multi-use pathways in the corridor.

In addition to wetland preservation and restoration, Sierra Club has expressed concern about increased greenhouse gas emissions and declining air quality as more vehicles hit the road. A committee comprised of members of Solano, Napa, Sonoma and Marin groups have studied the corridor plan and submitted letters and comments on ways to address these problems. The plan includes

"Highway 37 Plan Rolls" cont. on page 3

Wildfires Spark Attention on Housing and Climate

BY SHOSHANA HEBSHI, REDWOOD CHAPTER COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Since the fires struck, the dominant story has been one of resilience and community support throughout the North Bay. As days passed, deeper stories of causality, urban growth, housing stock and climate change have surfaced, including a few appearing on the Sierra Club's website.

In an Oct. 13 article (<http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/california-s-wildfires-point-new-normal>), writer Jonathan Hahn directs us back to the devastating fires that consumed the Oakland Hills in 1991. That event was catastrophic, destroying more than 2,500 homes. Our fires stretched across four counties and charred more than 200,000 acres and destroyed nearly 8,000 structures and killed at least 42 people, according to the Press Democrat. This one is for the record books, yet is the "new normal," Hahn writes.

Sonoma County took the hardest hit, losing about 5,300 homes, while Napa County lost more than 500. The Redwood Valley fire in Mendocino County destroyed 313 homes, and the Sulphur fire in Lake County razed 136 residences. It's estimated that Sonoma and rural Napa Counties each lost at least 5 percent of its housing stock, including entire neighborhoods in Santa Rosa.

Hahn goes on to state, "The breadth and intensity of the disaster caught many people by surprise. But to fire ecologists, conservationists, and policy experts,

there's nothing surprising about it. This is the New Normal, it's been here for years, and we're badly in need of leadership and a national dialogue on what to do about it."

Is this new normal something we can attribute to climate change? It's not as simple an answer as expected. This fire event, which was massive, had all the perfect ingredients: a hot, dry summer (normal for the area, but hotter than normal), increased dried-out vegetation from excessive winter and spring rains (not normal), incredible gusts of hot, dry winds that were clocked up to 96 miles per hour (normal enough to be dubbed El Diablo winds but still not ordinary).

This new normal, writes Heather Smith on Oct. 11 (<http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/california-flames-again>), is the instability of our changing climate.

"We shouldn't be surprised about anything burning anymore, especially with the National Climate Assessment predicting that by 2080, wildfires will consume four times as much of the Northwest each year than what has burned over the last decade."

The calamitous Tubbs Fire, which started on the night of Oct. 8 in Calistoga, spread so fast it had first responders dumbfounded. Part of its severe devastation came from the fact that it destroyed so many homes and businesses in Santa Rosa and threatened two hospitals. Yet, this fire followed nearly the same path as the 1964 Hanly fire, which only destroyed about 100 homes.

Santa Rosa's population has grown to about 175,000 from about 30,000 in 1960, and that means more people living in areas once uninhabited, like in the path of the Tubbs fire.

"What makes this fire different is the scope of it and the fact that the ensuing half-century has placed so much development in its path," wrote local columnist Gaye LeBaron on Oct. 18 in the Washington Post. "In 1964, there were very few houses in the area that burned. As the city limits extended and the population increased by 135,000, the open land in that earlier fire corridor became a destination for developers."

Sierra Club has long been an advocate for smart, sustainable growth, protecting open space, promoting

"Wildfires Spark Attention" cont. on page 6

Napa Wildfire Experience: Rising to the Challenge

BY NANCY TAMARISK, NAPA GROUP VICE CHAIR

When we were evacuated out of Circle Oaks after midnight on the morning of October 9th, we were unaware that just over our ridge the fast-moving Atlas Peak fire had already killed 6 people and destroyed hundreds of homes. Escaping north and west to our friend's house in Yountville we were transfixed by the eerie vision of orange flame serpents snaking up the hillsides.

Within hours of the breakout of the fire, Napa Valley College, my employer, opened up an evacuation shelter. That first night we hosted 80 evacuees. When the city of Calistoga was evacuated, the number quickly surged to almost 800, housed in 3 separate buildings. Perhaps a dozen organizations including the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Napa Health and Human Services supported shelter operations.

As a nurse, and head of College Student Health, I donned a bright yellow vest and threw myself into the operation, helping to coordinate round-the-clock medical teams. Over the next



Night Shift Medical Staff at the Napa Valley College Shelter: Red Cross volunteer nurse Else, Nancy Tamarisk and Kaiser MD Tessa.

8 days, this challenge evolved into an intense and inspiring experience.

That first day we scrambled to assemble medical supplies and to meet the health needs of the residents. In the early evening, the

medical teams left, and finding myself the only remaining health professional, I settled in for the night.

The generosity of the community, the ingenuity and selflessness of workers and volunteers, and the spirit of the evacuees were overwhelming. A Kaiser medical team appeared each morning, and, after that first night, volunteer Emergency Medical Response teams from other counties, as well as individual volunteer nurses, physicians, and EMT's showed up for each graveyard shift. Counselors from various

agencies were posted to the shelter. We tended to acute illnesses and injuries, ordered medications for those who had left them at home, sent a few people off to the ER, calmed the anxious, and oriented confused elders. The question of

health insurance never arose. All who needed treatment got it.

The chow line featured great food donated by Napa restaurants. By the weekend, masseuses, a country music band, and costumed action heroes showed up. Food trucks from as far away as San Francisco distributed free food.

Over a hundred people camped out in the parking lots, preferring to sleep in their vehicles. Sadly, many of those car campers were undocumented residents, who, despite assurances, could not bring themselves to trust the shelter organization to protect them from ICE. Volunteers worked the parking lot, carrying out blankets and food.

Amid acres of devastation and blasted homes, I saw the best of humanity. Must it take a disaster to remind us of our kinship and shared humanity? Can we carry this feeling forward?

As for my home, the Circle Oaks neighborhood was spared by the valiant efforts of firefighters. Each day I drive to work past the homes of those who were not so fortunate.

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

Redwood Chapter Sierra Club Directory

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Redwood Needles Deadlines

Issue	Deadline
Feb/March	Jan. 8
April/May	March 8
June/July	May 8

Tell Congress Now: No Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge!

Big Oil has been fighting to open Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling for decades, and every step of the way the American people have stood up and said NO. Now the Trump administration and Republican leaders in Congress are poised to hand this incredible place over to the fossil fuel industry. This would destroy one of the world's most iconic and vital landscapes – critical for the survival of many Alaska Native people, including the Gwich'in Nation, and home to migratory birds from six continents and the porcupine caribou herd.

With climate change already threatening the fragile refuge, it's unacceptable that the administration and congress are putting the needs of Big Business and Big Oil before

our planet and ecosystems. Activists and environmentalists have been fighting against dangerous drilling here for decades – and we can't give up. We need to demand that Congress act now to protect America's last unspoiled wilderness from oil drilling.

Visit <https://www.sierraclub.org/> to sign the petition.

Editor's Note: According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "The Arctic Refuge is the only national conservation area where polar bears regularly den and the most consistently used polar bear land denning area in Alaska. These are just two of many reasons the Refuge is such an incredible natural area."



Redwood Chapter & Sonoma Group Office

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

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

Redwood Chapter Online

Redwood Chapter Website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood>

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

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

Recovering from Wildfire, Healing the Land

While our communities rebuild from the devastating wildfires that began Oct. 8 and 9 and swept across our region, we are heartened by the outpouring of support and community-building efforts that have helped us heal and get back on our feet.

When we look around at the charred landscape that surrounds our neighborhoods, we are reminded daily of the immense power of the firestorm that took 42 lives and burned nearly 8,000 structures and over 200,000 acres across four counties.

There's a human impulse to rebuild, to resume life as it was. In nature, there is the cycle of regeneration that comes after a fire. While our instinct tells us to help and our hearts are in the right place, in most cases, it's best to let nature heal itself.

Vegetation

Most immediately spotted are the blackened hills, the brown trees and patches of nothing where trees, brush or grass once grew. In our minds, when we see charred landscape we assume it's dead. But California plants have adapted to fire, and some even require fire to grow and spread. It is an essential part of the ecosystem. According to CalFire, native plants like ceanothus and lodgepole pine need fire

to germinate, and some faunal species such as black-backed woodpeckers can reproduce only in trees that have been killed by fire. Oaks and redwood are especially fire adapted. After a fire, if the cambium just under the bark is white or pink, the tree will most likely revive. It is recommended that property owners wait a year before cutting down a burned native tree unless it presents a danger, and pruning of dead limbs is advised.

The spring following the 2015 Valley fire in Lake County that destroyed much of the community of Middletown saw an abundance of wildflowers blooming over the once-charred landscape. The blooms were so intense, it drew gawkers from all around. Botanist Karen Sullivan said some of the native wildflowers called "fire followers" need the fire to sprout and bloom.

Hot fires crack the hard coats of seeds, which may have been dormant for decades, and facilitate germination when rain arrives, according to Greg Giusti, a forest and wildland ecology advisor with the University of California Extension. He told the Press Democrat in 2016 that fire is an "integral part of California landscape."

Animal life will also rebound in its own

time. Pamela Jackson of Redwood Chapter's Napa Group writes "lichens and fungi (morels!) will blow in with nature's greatest pollinator, the wind. Insects will find the snags, set up house, and pollinate pioneer plants. Wood burrowing beetles with infrared receptors quickly lay larvae that sustain woodpeckers. Those woodpeckers provide cavity nesting sites for swallows, bluebirds, and wrens."

Plant and animal life will recover after a fire as long as we let it run its natural course and resist knee-jerk reactions to repopulate the land with imported seeds or vegetation. "This is a resilient landscape, if we give it a chance," said Redwood Chapter Chair Victoria Brandon, a Lake County resident.

Waterways

Following fire, waterways can be impacted in a number of ways. According to CalFire, the decreased vegetation means more water will run into streams and lakes as it is not being soaked up by roots. After a fire that burns as many homes and structures as the Tubbs and Nuns fire burned in Santa Rosa, Sonoma and Kenwood, watershed managers are nervous about incoming rain washing toxic ash into the waterways.

According to the Press Democrat, there are 617 streams in fire-affected areas that could have an impact on aquatic life and drinking water. City and county workers are working to offset the runoff by placing gravel bags and straw wattles around storm drains to divert and absorb runoff.

Rebuilding

California is the most populous state

in the nation and the third-largest by area. While most of the population is concentrated in cities, the state has had a general expansion of suburban communities moving outward from city centers for decades. Housing density generally loses to the sprawl of single-family homes and the strip-malls that accompany them in outer-lying subdivisions. As homes are built farther out into fire-prone wildland areas, property loss and death resulting from wildfires has increased.

CalFire says the housing incursion into wildland areas "makes it difficult to maintain the natural role of fire and to protect human lives and property." According to Jon Keeley, a research ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, about one-third of Californians live in fire-prone areas encroaching on wildlands. "We need to respect the fact that these are going to happen in the future and that what we need to do is we need to have communities adapt to the fires," he said on NPR on Oct. 25.

While Northern California works to rebuild from the October fires, there is work and soul searching to do about what kind of communities we want to live in.

Sierra Club has long advocated for growth and development that takes ecosystems, transit and affordability into account. Rushing to rebuild without taking into consideration these ideas to make a community more livable and equitable could hurt the area more than help it recover. In other words, this is an opportunity to repudiate urban sprawl and concentrate new housing in areas where employment, public services and public transportation already exist.

On a personal level, residents can evaluate their individual fire risk and maintain properties to lessen risk by installing fire-resistant landscaping, mowing regularly, trimming trees and removing flammable debris.

—SHOSHANA HEBSHI, REDWOOD CHAPTER COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR



Plant and animal life rebound after fires, as seen here in Lake County following the 2015 Valley Fire. We must be patient to allow nature to heal itself.

Benefit for the Environmental Center of Sonoma County

Holiday Networking Dinner Party

Monday, December 11, 2016, 5 – 8 pm

Location: Sebastopol Grange Hall,

6000 Sebastopol Ave/Hwy 12, (approx. 2.5 miles west of Fulton Rd.)

Join members of many local environmental groups for good food, wine, hot cider and music with the NewGrange Jam Band – Bluegrass with a holiday theme!

Hosted by the Sonoma County Conservation Council, the Sierra Club Sonoma Group and the Sebastopol Grange.

\$30 per person includes dinner and one drink! RSVP optional but appreciated.

Get tickets online at envirocentersoco.org,

mail a check to SCCC: PO Box 4346, Santa Rosa, CA 95402 or buy at the door.

Volunteers needed to bake or cook, set up, clean up and drink service.

To help or for more information, contact Wendy Krupnick, 544-4582, wlk@sonic.net

“Highway 37 Plan Rolls”

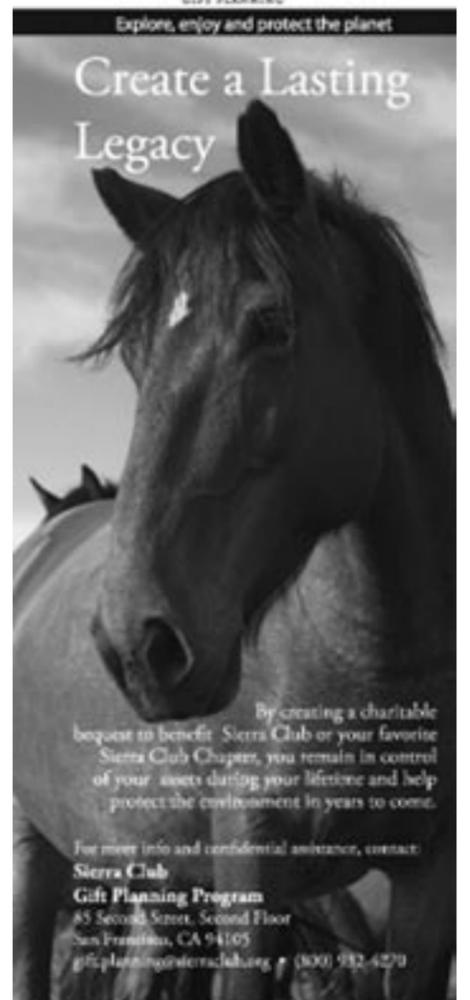
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inexpensive modifications to existing traffic lanes and intersections that could make carpooling an attractive way to ease to traffic congestion. Ferry and passenger rail service should also be in the corridor plan.

Other groups, including the Sonoma County Transportation and Land-Use Coalition, Land Paths, Audubon Society and Greenbelt Alliance are also sharing concerns and suggestions with the Policy Committee focus on wetland preservation. Public meetings are scheduled every other month at rotating sites around the region.



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.



Sonoma Group Report

Special Firestorm Report

As I write this, the ground is wet and the clouds dispersing after the first rains. A few short weeks ago, the landscape was on fire and smoke was everywhere. Now Sonoma County is recovering, rebuilding and restoring our communities and landscape.

The Sierra Club Sonoma Group Executive Committee offers heartfelt condolences to everyone who has lost their homes, jobs or a loved one from the fire. Everyone in Sonoma County has been affected, and we will be forever changed. Several of the ExCom members evacuated during the fires, and we are all fortunate to be safe. We thank the firefighters, emergency responders, county and city staff and elected officials for their heroic actions.

Our world has shifted again. We are helping where we can and sharing our stories. Sierra Club is looking ahead to find ways to help lead a resilient, environmentally sound and just recovery.

In immediate response to the fires, the Redwood Chapter took the lead on establishing the North Bay Just and Resilient Futures Fund to help with immediate fire relief assistance. You can donate here: <http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood>.

The Land

Treasured open space, such as Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, Hood Mountain Regional Park and Annadel State Park, were burned by the fires. In Sonoma Valley, the golden light of late October revealed a mosaic of charcoal, yellow and deep green.



Mayacamas after the wildfires, October 2017.

While the burned areas were extensive, from the valley floor you could hardly tell. To be honest, the landscape was gorgeous. It will survive and thrive in most places. After all, the California landscape evolved with wildfires, though not necessarily at this level intensity.

Already, green shoots are popping through the charred surface at Pepperwood Preserve, where deer and coyote were spotted by returning staff members. Some naturalists are predicting an unprecedented wildflower display in the spring.

The biggest challenge will be soil erosion from the rains and coming storms. Sonoma County land protection agencies and organizations are already at work. You can help with erosion control and prevent contamination of our water through the new Friends of Sonoma County Parks Watershed Taskforce. Simply register as a volunteer on sonomacounty.recovers.org and add the label "watershed." <https://sonomacounty.recovers.org/>

Among the many coalitions now working to address fire recovery and rebuilding, Sonoma County Rises (SOCORises.org) is an emerging grassroots action network of people with the common goal to rebuild Sonoma County with full community involvement as decisions are made. Express your views and engage by going to SOCORises.org.

The Built Environment

The fire blasted through the Mark West Springs area, over Fountaingrove, down through the community separator at Larkfield-Wikiup, and into the Coffey Park neighborhood inside the Urban Growth Boundary. The losses may have been worse if not for these longstanding growth policies that have prevented sprawl into the green buffers separating our towns and cities. We need them more than ever.

Our challenge now is how to rebuild in a way that allows people to quickly rebuild their homes while reducing fire risk. The risk of fire in wildlands-urban interface areas such as Fountaingrove is widely recognized. The eerily overlapping maps of the Tubbs Fire and the 1964 Hanly Fire are eye-opening.

The housing crisis facing Sonoma County before the firestorm is now exacerbated by the loss of about 5,300 homes, nearly 3,000 in Santa Rosa alone, representing about 5 percent of the housing stock. The City of Santa Rosa and the County



After the wildfire, Sonoma Valley Regional Park.

are already passing urgency ordinances to get people back into their homes and provide new temporary housing, such as RVs and trailers. The plan is for 5,000 temporary housing units in the short term. Vacation rentals and farmworker housing are being opened up temporarily for displaced fire survivors. Granny units and junior units are getting streamlined permits and fees waived. These are important actions.

In addition, the City of Santa Rosa has already passed an urgency housing ordinance that allows for quick permitting for rebuilding the same or larger home or structure with simply a sign off by the planning department without the usual public review. The new homes generally must be built to current fire and building code. The question is, how can we incentivize ways to build better, fire resistant, green buildings without pricing out homeowners?

Over the next few weeks and months, the County of Sonoma and all its cities will be proposing new urgency ordinances for replacement and new housing and construction.

Sierra Club needs you to help watchdog these policies and ensure that they benefit people of all incomes, protect the environment, incentivize green building and don't allow development to encroach on our important open space, natural areas and farms and ranchland. Join us for our monthly meetings the first Monday of each month, or contact us at songrp@sonic.net to find out how you can help.

—TERI SHORE, SONOMA GROUP CHAIR

North Group Report

North Group Water Chair Felice Pace has been in the field checking to see if Chinook salmon ascending

the Scott River, a major Klamath River tributary, will be able to make it to their natal streams to spawn this year.



The mouth of Shackleford Creek in Scott River Valley. Chinook salmon are once again not able to access many of their natal spawning streams in the Scott River Watershed.

In early November Felice found that major spawning streams were still not accessible due to stream dewatering at the tail end of the Chinook Salmon run. He also found that water was being diverted and pastures were being irrigated even though the irrigation season was supposed to have ended pursuant to the Scott River and Shackleford Water Rights Adjudications. The Forest Service has a right to flows for fish in Scott River but that right is regularly not met in late summer and fall which negatively impacts salmon and steelhead. In November Scott River flows are supposed to be 200 cubic feet per second but, as measured at the USGS river flow gauge, flows in early November this year were less than half that amount. Felice has asked the State Water Board's Public Trust and Enforcement divisions to look into the situation and to end out-of-season pasture irrigation.

Mendocino Group Report

Frenetic Times

Mendocino County survived an intensely chaotic week of fires, death and disruption with millions of acts of compassion and heroism. Post-fire recovery efforts are being implemented with dazzling speed, often with little regard for long-term ecological effects - sweeping aside long-term planning regulations in the rush to act now.

At this point there are many more questions than experienced answers. Where will we dispose of tons of toxic debris? Can we afford to allow rebuilding in steep canyons above waterways? Does hydro-seeding suppress native plant recolonization? Is there any evidence that the clay/cement slurry in use actually helps mitigate erosion? This landscape, after all, evolved with fire for thousands of years. Are we capable of learning to work with nature? We have entered the rainy season and as it is said about the best laid plans...they gang off aglay.

In October, Mendocino group members began building alliances with First American communities, attending an Acorn Celebration in Manchester/Pt. Arena, and participating in a Forest Health roundtable and Salmon Fest in Round Valley. A lively discussion ensued over whether "wilderness" means "untouched by humans", or whether we might have a role to play in sustaining and shepherding a healthier home.

—ROBIN LELER, MENDOCINO GROUP

Non-Sierra Club Outings & Events

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

Sonoma County Regional Parks trail work days.

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

Garden Volunteer Days: First Friday of the Month, 9am - noon. Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa. Enjoy our native plant garden! Volunteers are essential in beautifying our site. Share your expertise or

learn new skills by getting involved today! http://lagunafoundation.org/volunteer_garden.html

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

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

http://lagunafoundation.org/volunteer_lagunastewards.html

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★ where the stars
put on a grand performance ★
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Solano Breeze Corner

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

Every city in Solano County has Christmas tree recycling programs.

Check with your Recycling Coordinator for details. The Boy Scouts also have a tree recycling program in many areas, for a donation. You will receive a flyer if your neighborhood is covered.

Solano Group Meetings

Please attend Solano Group meetings, usually on the first Monday of each month. Our next dates are: December 4, 2017, January 8, 2018 (likely), February 5, 2018. To confirm, call Jane at 707-319-6398

VALCORE Recycling and Paper Shredding Updates

Solano Group helps out with paper shredding every 3rd Saturday each month at 38 Sheridan Street, Vallejo from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There is a charge of \$.50 per pound (CASH or CHECK ONLY) of paper shredded. (Maximum: 100 pounds)

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

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

Solano Group Awards Annual Scholarship

Congratulations to this year's recipient of the \$600 Sierra Club Solano Group scholarship, Lawrence Antonio. Lawrence is a business major who has completed 46 units at Solano College, with a 3.78 GPA. Lawrence has loved the outdoors since he was a child. He played soccer and tennis in high school, and spent many hours outside skateboarding and running. He is an avid hiker (at Sugarloaf State Park, Pena Adobe and Rockville Park) and snowboarder. He enjoys nature and all of its beauty. Says Antonio, "The award of six hundred dollars may not mean much to some, but to me, it meant the world. I have not won much in my life, but winning a scholarship amongst such fierce and hard working individuals blows my mind. This scholarship is very important to me, because this is the first time in a long time that I have ever felt that my hard work has ever been recognized, and for that, I am very thankful and appreciative to the Club. Earning this scholarship tells me that my work is not done, and it has given me the motivation to work even harder. The scholarship money has helped my life tremendously. I have paid for all my books, access codes, parking passes and other fees, with a little bit of money left over to help pay for next semester. Again, I am so very grateful for the Sierra Club and I've never been so honored to win such an amazing scholarship."



CONTRIBUTOR: JANE BOGNER,
EDITOR: GREG PETERSON

Napa Group Report

Napa Group to Oppose Limited Winery Ordinance.

This ordinance allows fast-tracking of "small winery" approvals, avoiding public hearings. Its definition of "small wineries" – up to 30,000 gal. would include over 50% of winery applications, and avoid public scrutiny of concerns such as water, traffic, and infrastructure.

The Oak Woodland-Watershed Protection Ordinance

The Oak Woodland-Watershed Protection Ordinance, which was kept off the Ballot in 2016 due to legal technicalities has been revised with input from the Napa Valley Vintners. Napa Group is applying to National for support for this ordinance prior to its getting the requisite signatures to be placed on the ballot.

Palmaz Heliport Application Update

Palmaz Heliport application, turned down by the planning commission, has been appealed to the BOS. Meanwhile, an initiative to prevent more private heliports is being prepared for the ballot.

Climate Change Film and Discussion

Environmental Education Coalition of Napa County and Napa Climate Now are sponsoring a film on Climate Change "Before the Flood" for Dec 14th. It will include a discussion of local responses to climate change.

–NANCY TAMARISK, NAPA GROUP VICE CHAIR

Lake Group Report

Wild and Scenic Film Festival a Great Success

After nearly a year of planning, Lake Group recently hosted its first-ever Wild and Scenic Film Festival. The event was held on Saturday October 28, at the Soper Reese Community Theatre in Lakeport; besides a series of prize winning films from last January's acclaimed Wild and Scenic Festival in Nevada City, it featured some local films and a live presentation with musical accompaniment by Lake County's own ecology professor Dr. Harry Lyons about the Middle Creek Marsh Wetlands Restoration Project. Festival proceeds have been earmarked to benefit the project.

In the words of Vice Chair Cheri Kessner, who proposed this idea in the first place and who did the lion's share of the work: "People had a very good time—good Harry, good films, good food, good people!" ExCom member Debi Sally added, "All the feedback I've gotten has been positive and hopes of making it an annual event were voiced. Cheri did a great job of organizing and running the show! Maybe next year, some of us can help take some of the work."

What's up with Walmart?

For nearly ten years now the Clearlake Walmart has been intermittently proposing to expand the store to include full service groceries and hard liquor sales. The concerns are obvious—more crime, fewer full time jobs with benefits, more empty storefronts. The draft Environmental Impact Report issued last summer didn't lessen these anxieties; in fact, its deficiencies were so comprehensive that Lake Group expected it to be substantially revised

and recirculated for another round of comments. Then in mid-October the city posted a "final" EIR on its website, and scheduled a Planning Commission hearing for November 14.

We were getting ready to beat the drums to urge strong attendance at this meeting, but then received news that Walmart's Public Affairs office had sent a "verbal notice" that they "will not be going forward with the expansion at this point" due to unspecified "business reasons" and that the hearing had been cancelled. Although it's tempting to rejoice at this turn of events, it may be premature to conclude that the expansion proposal has been permanently abandoned.

Several scenarios have been rumored, including the possibility that WalMart may acquire the old Ray's Market and reopen it as a grocery/liquor store—something that would be nearly impossible to prevent.

We're keeping our ears close to the ground.

Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry tours project site

On October 8, a dozen members of the Middle Creek Marsh Restoration Coalition that included strong Sierra Club representation had a brief but cordial and highly productive meeting with Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry. They thanked her for sponsoring legislation establishing the Blue Ribbon Panel for Clear Lake, gave her a close up view of the Middle Creek project site, and asked for her assistance in bringing the project—widely acknowledged to be the keystone for restoring the long term health of the lake—to fruition.

–VICTORIA BRANDON,
LAKE GROUP CONSERVATION CHAIR

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

Redwood Needles

February 2018 Deadline: Due Jan. 8th

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

odavison@sonic.net

Send Outings and Meetings to Carl Inglin: chinglin@sonic.net

Meetings

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

Mon. 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.

Mon. Dec. 4 - Sonoma Group.

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

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

Tues. Dec. 12 - North Group ExCom.

North Group is holding its monthly Executive Committee meeting. All are welcome to discuss local conservation issues between 7:45 and 8:45 p.m. or come for the business meeting starting at 6:45 p.m. Meet at the Adorni Center Conference Room on the Eureka Waterfront. For more information, contact Gregg at (707) 826-3740.

Sat., Jan. 6 - Redwood Chapter ExCom. And ConsCom.

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

Mon., Jan. 8 - Sonoma Group.

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

Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m.

Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

Mon. Jan. 8 (likely) - 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. Jan. 9 - North Group ExCom.

North Group is holding its monthly Executive Committee meeting. All are welcome to discuss local conservation issues between 7:45 and 8:45 p.m. or come for the business meeting starting at 6:45 p.m. Meet at the Adorni Center Conference Room on the Eureka Waterfront. For more information, contact Gregg at (707) 826-3740.

Tues. Jan. 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 napaquail@gmail.com

Thurs. Jan. 18 - 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.



With your help we can protect the wolf

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

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club
Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX
Cardholder Name _____
Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____
Signature _____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15	N/A
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 30	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1200
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



Sun. Dec. 17 – Sonoma Group. Lake Ilsanjo Hike.

A moderately strenuous 4 mile hike to Lake Ilsanjo in Annadel State Park. From the trail head we'll go up to the lake by Spring Creek trail, stopping at the gazebo for lunch. Bring holiday treats to share if you wish. After lunch we'll continue around the lake and return by Canyon trail. Dress for the weather, wear good hiking shoes. Bring lunch, water and optional treats. Class M-4-A. Meet: 10:30 am at trailhead on Park Trail Drive, off Summerfield, Santa Rosa. Leader: Carl Inglin 538-8271, chinglin@sonic.net, leader-in-training Louis Vas. Rain cancels.

Sat. Jan. 6 – Sonoma Group. North Sonoma Mountain Ridge Trail

We'll follow the North Sonoma

Mountain Ridge trail to the boundary with Jack London State Park and return, about an 8 mile walk with some uphill on the way out. Excellent views of Bennett Valley and Annadel State Park on the far side. Dress for the weather. Layers are recommended. Wear good hiking shoes. Bring lunch and water. Hiking poles recommended. Class M-8-B. Carpool: Meet 10 am, SE corner of the Safeway parking lot, Yulupa and Bethards or Trailhead North Sonoma Mountain Regional Park, 5297 Sonoma Mountain Road at 10:30 am. Leader: Carl Inglin 538-8271, chinglin@sonic.net, leader-in-training Louis Vas. Rain cancels.



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.

Outings Chair Report

Our recent fires are the most devastating in California history. The Tubbs fire started at Oct 8th Sunday just before 10 p.m. miles away by Calistoga. By 1:12 am firefighters warned that the fire would reach eastern Santa Rosa within the hour. There was total chaos in Sonoma County from then until Tuesday. The Pocket fire threatened Geyserville, the Nuns fire that started in Napa County spread to Annadel Park and began to threaten southeastern Sonoma County and Kenwood. By Tuesday some firefighters had been working more than 24 hours without food or rest and the fires were 0% contained. We all knew we had to have N95 respirator masks to be outside, even in the Bay Area. A NASA satellite image showed the wildfire smoke had traveled all the way to San Diego. Sonoma County's representatives in Congress, our state and local level politicians made plans. By Wednesday we had 574 engines from all over the country, 95 dozers, 58 water tenders, 33 helicopters, 106 hand crews and a 747 jet water tanker. Our local radio stations were on the air to give us hour by hour details of the fire. The Press Democrat photographers did an amazing job of documenting the fires. Sonoma County Proud rose from the ashes. Millions of dollars were raised to help fire victims as it will cost billions to re-build.

Meanwhile I was set to step down as Chapter Outing chair. I was going to start leading hikes again. However, most of our parks were closed to the public and I couldn't scout my hikes. Sierra Club hikes are limited right now due to the disruptions for leaders throughout much of the Redwood Chapter. Jim Gannon is taking well deserved time off and will not lead any winter backpacking trips to our Sierra huts this season. The record snow in the Sierra last winter did damage to some of the huts and made summer work parties challenging. Jim deserves a break.

Memories and Highlights

I will say I am fortunate to have had great outings leaders to offer outings during my time as chair. I joined Sierra Club in 1982. In 1984 Clark Nattkemper talked me into becoming the Sonoma Group Outings Chair. There weren't manuals or guidelines. I took training from other Chapters and quickly helped out with our newsletter. I

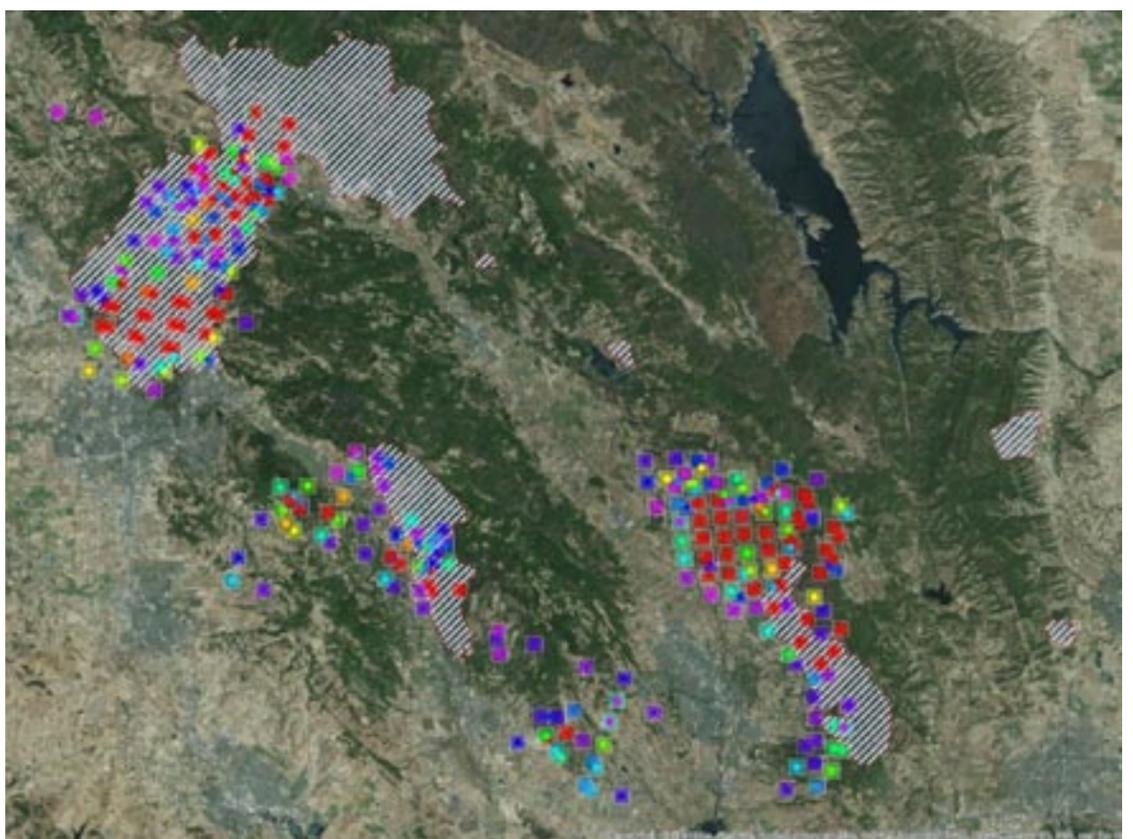
helped build what is now called the Nattkemper trail from 1982-1985. I became the 1st Redwood Chapter Outings Chair in 1985. I formed a Parks & Trails committee for the Sonoma Group, started having an evening Valentine's potluck with a slide show (remember those) of the highlights of the year. In the Fall, I had a Sonoma Group members meeting and members were asked to bring their favorite vacation slides. This was very popular and well attended. I started a Sierra Singles Group in 1985. I volunteered for our Sierrafest and in 1987 moved the annual dinner over to the Junior College, asked local merchants to put up displays, reserved the pool for the Paddler's Section, and had daylong lectures with slide shows on conservation topics. There were awards for 25 year members. It was discontinued when I couldn't keep up with all my volunteer responsibilities. In 1985 I initiated Sierra Club Insurance meetings so outings leaders could come up to speed on new liability issues. I led trips to areas being considered for landfill sites, wastewater-holding pond sites, invasive plant sites, future housing development sites, future resort sites, proposed park additions, and areas of concern to me. In 1986 I started a Hazardous Waste Committee. In 1988 I started the Chapter Backpack Section. In 1989 I put together the 1st Redwood Chapter Backpack Workshop. I organized the 1st Redwood Chapter Outing Leader's retreat at Jughandle Farm and continued them for many years. I was awarded the Sierra Club Oliver Kehrlein Award in 2000 and received many other awards for my volunteer environmental work. Assembly member Pat Wiggins named me Woman of the Year in 2001 for my outstanding service & dedication to the people of California. Now on January 1st 2018 I will be stepping down as Chapter Outings chair. I will continue to be inspired by John Muir and his message "Going to the mountains is going home."

—CAROL VELLUTINI,
REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR

"Wildfires Spark Attention" cont. from page 1

urban boundaries with greenbelts and advocating for affordable housing. While no area on Earth is completely safe from natural disasters, urban planning can take into account known hazards and build accordingly.

In an NPR interview Oct. 25, Sonoma Group Chair Teri Shore, speaking on behalf of Greenbelt Alliance, said this is an opportunity when "we can think about doing things a little bit differently."



The map above shows in cross hatch the Hanly 1964 fire footprint along with the 1964 Nuns fire and the 1981 Atlas fire in Napa. Colored dots are the Tubbs fire footprint as well as the fire footprints for the Nuns and Atlas fires. The Hanly fire took several days to make it to Santa Rosa, and 111 or so homes were lost. The Tubbs fire took just over 4 hours to reach Santa Rosa and destroyed several thousand homes.

REDWOOD CHAPTER

Keith Kaulum

I have been an activist Sierra Club leader in Sonoma County since 1998; serving on the Sonoma Group ExCom and as Chair, and as an at-large member of the Redwood Chapter ExCom since 2002. Presently I am active on several Chapter committees including; Water, Forest Conversion, Legal (Chair), Finance, and the Sonoma Group Political Comm.

With the election of Donald Trump, the Sierra Club and the Redwood Chapter faces a daunting task to resist needless destruction of our natural environment. I am dedicated to continue working on the above issue, and I would appreciate your vote to continue as a member of our Chapter ExCom.

Victoria Brandon

These are extraordinarily challenging times, with a hostile administration in Washington that rejects both science and common sense in favor of crony capitalism even while the effects of climate disruption become more obvious all the time. And of course we are still trying to come to terms with the wildfires that have caused varying levels of devastation in five of the chapter's nine counties. Recovery will be an ongoing task for years to come, and Redwood Chapter has every intention of playing a positive role.

We're also looking ahead to making the exciting new Mountains and Rivers wilderness proposal

a reality, participating in the stakeholder discussion that will set the management framework for the Berryessa Snow Mountain national monument, and bringing our transportation infrastructure into the 21st century. At the same time we're trying to modernize and expand our communications strategies and seizing every opportunity to connect with you, our members.

I'm currently attempting to guide Redwood Chapter through these tricky times as Chapter Chair- and asking for your vote for another two-year term on the Executive Committee. Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions, suggestions, concerns.

NORTH GROUP

(Humboldt, Del Norte, Trinity, and W. Siskiyou Counties)

Ned Forsyth

I have served on the North Group Executive Committee since 2001, because I believe strongly in the Sierra Club's mission to "Explore, Enjoy and Protect" our planet. North Group continues to advocate for wild things and smart growth and to support our political allies. Today, our public lands are under serious threat. Now is a good time to influence decisions that will have a lasting effect on our wild heritage and on the quality of life for future generations. I have been serving as North Group Vice Chair and delegate to Redwood Chapter ExCom, and as an outings leader since 2014. These duties empower me to help both experienced activists and newcomers to take advantage of Sierra Club's institutional resources.

The Club's democratic ideals and national reach give members political strength to take action that will benefit not only the natural environment, but humanity too.

North Group and Redwood Chapter are dedicated to openness, and to working with allied groups. Sierra Club maintains a worthy tradition of grassroots citizen science. We care about the future of Humboldt Bay, climate science, and local land use and transportation projects. Do come and help us be heard in national and local conservation debates.

Felice Pace

I am a candidate for the North Group Sierra Club Executive Committee because I think the North Group can continue to make a critical, positive contribution on North Coast environmental issues if it has a strong and active Executive Committee and membership. I want to help with that essential work, lending my 35 years of experience as an environmental activist and environmental professional to the North Group and to the issues our members think are important.

My environmental work includes 15 years as conservation director and executive director of the Klamath Forest Alliance and 10 years as conservation chair of Marble Mountain Audubon. I am very active in the

Ancient Forest campaign - including helping to create the Jobs-in-the-Woods program to put loggers to work restoring forests. During that period I also coordinated several legislative campaigns for American Lands designed to secure funding for forest and watershed restoration.

I was one of the organizers and the first chair of the Klamath Basin Coalition - conservation and fishing groups working to protect and restore

the Klamath River Basin. Currently I work to reform grazing in Klamath Mountains wilderness areas, write a blog about Klamath issues at www.KlamBlog.blogspot.com and work professionally as a contract employee for environmental and Native American non-profit organizations.

I served on the North Group Executive Committee since 2008 and I would like to continue serving the members and the environment.

Gregg Gold

I am running for a position on the North Group Sierra Club Executive Committee because I believe that the environment is the North Coast's most valuable asset. I also believe that the Sierra Club is the organization that has historically provided the best means of preserving the beauty that surrounds us, and that will continue to do so in the future. Particularly at this time, I wish to continue to be part of the effort, and would welcome the opportunity to do so. My qualifications include the experience I have gained as a member of the committee over the last 16 years, and Chair for the last 11. I would appreciate your vote.

LAKE COUNTY GROUP

Victoria Brandon

These are crucial times for the environment in Lake County: even though the imminent threat to the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument seems to have receded, our public lands everywhere remain in the crosshairs of the administration in Washington, dubious development proposals proliferate, and the task of recovering from wildfire and strengthening the resilience of our communities is ongoing. At the same time, we have a unique opportunity to work for the long term health of Clear Lake and its watershed by bringing the Middle Creek Wetlands Restoration Project to fruition. Decisions made in the next few years will determine our future for a long time to come. Please give me the opportunity to continue working for conservation in our community by electing me to another two-year term on the Lake Group executive committee.

Debi Sally

I have a great love of the natural beauty of Lake County and the planet. Having taken a few years off of serving on the ExCom, I am ready to get back into a more active role in protecting and enjoying these beauties. I am also active in the Citizen's Climate Lobby and Pachamama Alliance which add knowledge and resources to my activism. I have been filling an interim position on the board and feeling inspired by my fellow members to continue in this service.

Denise Rushing

My philosophy is best expressed by permaculture farmer Masonobu Fukuoka: "We must find our

way back to true nature. We must set ourselves to the task of revitalizing the earth." I humbly ask for your vote for a term on the Sierra Club Lake Group Executive Committee.

Addressing climate change has been central to my work for the whole of my adult life. Education: bachelors degree in environmental engineering from Stanford University, Masters in Culture and Spirituality (studying the work of Thomas Berry) from Holy Names. My 30 year career in the energy industry included the launch of disruptive renewable and energy efficiency technologies.

Called to a deeper response, I left corporate work to co-found an eco-spiritual/earth literacy center, and later served two terms on the Lake County Board of Supervisors where I advocated for environmental stewardship, responsible land use planning, and encouraged the Board to approve two of the largest public solar energy installations in the Western United States.

Today I live, work and write at Dancing Tree People Organic Farm in Upper Lake, CA and am passionate about transforming hearts and minds through Pachamama's "Awakening the Dreamer: Changing the Dream" and permaculture. More here: www.deniserushing.net

Tricia Evans

I am an enthusiastic lover of the great outdoors who is passionate about exploring and protecting the earth. Lake County has so much natural beauty to offer - from Clear Lake and Mt. Konociti to the vast National Forest. I am proud to be part of this community and want to serve the people and land of Lake County in whatever way possible.

All members who receive the e-newsletter should receive a ballot post card in the mail by December 10th.

Ballots have instructions, and need to be returned to the Environmental Office in Santa Rosa, via mail or in person, by December 30, 2017. If you are a member and do not receive either a print copy of the Redwood Needles, or a ballot post card by December 10th, please call 707-544-7651 and leave a message, including your name, address and request for a ballot.

SOLANO COUNTY GROUP

Joe Feller

I have been a member of the Executive Committee for the past 6 years. I hope to continue representing the membership for the next 2 years.

Greg Peterson

I have been a member of Sierra Club since the early 80's, and Solano Group since the early 2000's. Currently, I am editor of the Solano Breeze section of *Redwood Needles*. I feel the need to redouble our efforts at the local and state level to make positive environmental change, as the current administration and EPA fail to protect the environment.

Amy Yockus Hartman

As a resident of the city of Vallejo in Solano County, I have been attending

the Solano Sierra Club meetings since February 2017. I have helped with tabling at Earth Day at Solano College and at the Visions of the Wild Festival in Vallejo. I have also provided regular monthly updates on the status of creating a countywide park and open space district in Solano County. In the coming months, I will be serving as a mentor for a Solano Community College student who will be planning and executing a cleanup day in Solano County.

In my professional capacity, I serve as the Solano County Regional Representative for Greenbelt Alliance. Through this role, I have been working on the creation of the countywide park district and on the renewal of the Fairfield UGB by informing Solano County residents about the

effort and garnering their support for upcoming ballot measures to both create and fund a district. I also work closely with county and city elected officials and staff to move forward both aforementioned efforts.

I hope to bring my passion for environmental justice, my belief in the inherent healing properties of the outdoors, and my background in community organizing to benefit the Solano Sierra Club group.

Joe Green-Heffern

Since the beginning of 2017 I have been a regular attendee at the Solano Group's ExCom meetings and participated in a number of Sierra Club activities. This has included Valcore recycling, Earth Day at Solano College, a Mare Island hike, and most significantly- regular participation

in a collaborative effort with other Groups to monitor the SR37 corridor project and support the Redwood & Bay Area Chapter's role as a key environmental stakeholder in the project. My 40-years civil engineering experience on major infrastructure projects, and my 3 years of service as a sustainability commissioner for the City of Sunnyvale, has instilled in me a deep understanding of the need for and realities of implementing more sustainable infrastructure. I have a long-running affair with the natural world and wilderness that was deepened when I lead a high school group hike of the John Muir Trail as an 18-year old. While knee problems may now limit my outdoor activities, my recent retirement and relatively new residency in Fairfield provides a

new opportunity to contribute my unique balance of infrastructure engineering and environmental sensitivities to help the Sierra Club Redwood Chapter/Solano Group continue stewardship of our North Bay Area environment.

Ballot Post Cards will Arrive in the Mail

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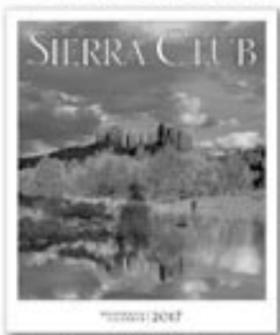
Calendars for Sale

Calendars are available for purchase at the Environmental Center at 55 Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Call for hours: 707-544-7651. If ordering by mail, shipping is \$2 per calendar and sales tax is included. The mailing address is Sierra Club, PO Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95402. If you would like to pay by credit card, please order from the general Sierra Club website: <https://store.sierraclub.org/sierra-club-store-c27.aspx> Your purchase directly benefits Sierra Club's conservation work.

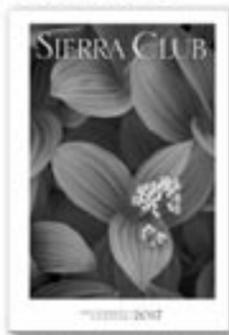


Enjoy, explore and protect the planet

2017 Sierra Club Calendars



Wilderness Wall Calendar



Engagement Calendar

Item	Cost	Qty	Total	Ship To:
Engagement	\$14.95			<small>Please make checks payable to "Sierra Club" and mail to the return address shown on your newsletter</small>
Wilderness	\$14.95			Name _____
				Address _____
				City _____ State _____ Zip _____
				Phone (____) _____
				Email _____
Subtotal				
Shipping				
GRAND TOTAL:				

NAPA COUNTY GROUP

Tony Norris

As Chair of the Napa Group of the Sierra Club I once had the privilege to actively participate in the Napa Community Flood Control Coalition process which resulted in a funded match to a superior plan for the Flood Control Project based upon Living River Guidelines. This has had measured success in partnership with federal and State agencies.

Since then I remain on the executive committee of Friends of the Napa River and represent Environmental Sciences & Natural Resource Management on the Technical Advisory Panel for the Flood Control District. I have also served in other public capacities including election to the founding Board of the Napa Open Space District.

Now, we environmentalist are keenly aware of pressing needs to correct global warming, urban sprawl, diminished watersheds, loss of oak woodlands, environmental inequity and so much more.

Federal administration may seem backwards in seeking corrections for the moment; but locally I foresee measured success in coalitions coming where the Sierra Club rightfully deserves a seat at the table. If you will have me on the Executive Committee

again, perhaps we can still see to needed corrections in our lifetimes.

Diane Shepp

I am a lifelong environmentalist and a "life member" of the Sierra Club. My interests and values are closely aligned with the mission/activities of the Sierra Club Napa Group: promotion of Climate Action Plan; against the development of Walt Ranch, and the proposed Cement Plant in Vallejo, among others. My personal areas of interest include the long-term sustainability and protections in Napa County regarding: watersheds, wildlife habitat, open space, clean air/water and quality of life issues. As a recent candidate for County Supervisor [June primary 2016], I advocated for responsible planning to ensure sustainability of the finite resources of Napa County; the promotion of the Berryessa region as a premiere Family Destination that could include more hiking and biking trails, camping, eco-tourism, sailing, kayaking and other outdoor sports; and long range planning for light rail on the SP tracks, among others.

I am a coalition builder and have worked with many nonprofit organizations over the past 40+ years as an executive administrator, fund developer, board member and

community organizer. As a member of the Napa Group I would work to build stronger relationships with other environmental groups specifically Protect Rural Napa and Napa Vision 2050. I have a long track record of getting the job done.

On a personal level I am a charter member of the Golden West Women Flyfishers. I enjoy fly-fishing and travel when not in my art studio.

Chris Benz

I have served on the Napa Group Executive Committee since 2014 and currently serve as the Chair and Treasurer.

Working on local issues of growth, tourism, and Napa County's response to climate change as a Sierra Club activist lets me speak out about the environmental impacts of new developments and policies.

In the past two years, the Napa Group has been working in partnership with local groups on developing an effective Napa County Climate Action Plan, actions to preserve wild lands, litigation against the Walt Ranch Vineyard EIR, and educating our community about climate change.

I hope to continue to serve on the Executive Committee and work on these projects.

SONOMA COUNTY GROUP

Tom Conlon

As a demand-side energy management consultant, I have worked on energy efficiency and climate issues for electric and gas utilities and governmental agencies for over 25 years. In addition, I have served locally as an appointee to the Sonoma County Economic Development Board's Business Environmental Alliance (developers of the Green Business Program) and the Stakeholder Advisory Group for the Sonoma County Climate Action 2020 Plan. I currently sit on the Sonoma County Transportation Authority / Regional Climate Protection Authority's Citizens Advisory Group (representing Sonoma County Conservation Coalition) and the Climate Action Advisory Committee. As co-chair of Sierra Club's new Climate Protectors project, and a weekly contributor to the CCNRC Sierra Club California Energy Climate Committee Conference Call, I am well known for my advocacy in support of local climate action literacy and policy results.

We are now at a critical juncture as our species comes to terms with the biosphere's limited capacity to support our collective needs and wants. The high-level policy framework for dealing with GHG emissions is finally in place. Now it is time to design, negotiate, perfect, and scale the market-actor-targeted implementation and verification details, without which these high-level policies will fail.

Teri Shore

Over the past year as Sonoma Group Chair, I've been inspired by the vision and action of our leadership team and members to run for re-election to the Executive

Committee. We've been working together successfully as a collective of passionate people with a variety of skills and expertise. Our Climate Protectors engaged us on climate policy and the screening of An Inconvenient Truth. We forwarded Zero Waste policies and events. We kept watch on our parks and open space. We spurred action with our website, Facebook page and the Needles. The next year will be even more exciting with critical elections ahead and important parks and housing measures going to the voters. I'm committed to continuing on Sierra Club's leadership team to forward our mission and make a difference. So I ask for your vote to serve on the Executive Committee for another term.

Suzanne Doyle

I've volunteered for the Sierra Club Sonoma Group for many years, serving first as a committee member, then as Conservation Chair and on the Executive Committee. It's been interesting and fulfilling work and a constant

education - from learning about the ecology of our local landscapes to urban planning and political lobbying.

For much of this time, we have not had enough activists to do the work that needs to be done. The Sierra Club relies on grassroots volunteer activists at the Group and Chapter levels to work on local and regional issues and to be the Club's moral compass, keeping the national organization pointed in the right direction. In addition, we need an environmental perspective to guide rebuilding after the fires.

I am honored to serve on the Sonoma Group Executive Committee and ask, not only for your vote to keep doing the work that I do, but for you to join us and become active Sierra Club members. Come to our meetings on the first Monday of every month. Help advocate to reduce our county's greenhouse gas emissions, build affordable and sustainable housing and public transit, and protect our water, wildlife, and forests.

MENDOCINO COUNTY GROUP

Mary Walsh

Hello Mendocino County. I am again asking for your vote for the Executive Committee of Mendocino County Group. I have served on this Executive Committee for over twenty years and in this time of heartache and turmoil would posit that consistency in some measure is a necessary feature of recovery. All of us have been traumatized by the recent fires. The Mendocino Group Executive Committee wishes to acknowledge pain and suffering as well as courage and heroism. Thank you for your vote if it should be mine. I shall do my best to advocate for environmental consciousness. I hope the embrace of the natural world will give us perspective and solace.