



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 59 Number 6

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

Dec. 2018/Jan. 2019

November 6, 2018 Election Results:

The Resistance is Working

Starting the day after the 2016 election, the Sierra Club has participated in record marches and civic resistance with record growth for the movement to resist the Trump administration resulting in record midterm voter participation. Two years of relentless, strategic pressure built the momentum for Democrats to take control of the U.S. House of Representatives and win several strategic statehouses in advance of the next round of redistricting.

In California all our endorsed statewide candidates won except Ricardo Lara and Tony Thurmond, whose races were still too close to call at press time; we also prevailed in four out of five statewide Propositions.

Here in Redwood Chapter all our federal and state legislative candidates won, as did 16 out of 23 local candidates, and Sonoma County Measure M. Details below, but all in all a very good night.

Federal:

CD 02: Jared Huffman - won

CD 03: John Garamendi - won

CD 05: Mike Thompson - won

Statewide:

Governor: Gavin Newsom -- won

Attorney General: Xavier Becerra - won

Secretary of State: Alex Padilla - won

State Controller: Betty Yee - won

Insurance Commissioner: Ricardo Lara - won

Superintendent of Public Instruction: Tony Thurmond - won

State Legislature

SD 02: Mike McGuire - won

AD 02: Jim Wood - won

AD 10: Marc Levine - won

Statewide Propositions

Proposition 1: Affordable housing bond measure: Support won

Proposition 3: Flawed water bond: Oppose - lost

Proposition 6: Gas tax repeal: Oppose - lost

Proposition 10: Rent control: Support - lost

Proposition 12:

Humane treatment for farm animals: Support - won

Local candidates:

Humboldt County

Humboldt Bay Harbor Commission, Div. 4:

Richard Marks won

Arcata City Council: Sofia Pereira won and Brett Watson won

Lake County

Clearlake City Council:

Russell Perdock - lost & Dirk Slooten - won

Napa County

Napa Valley Community College Trustee:

Mary Ann Mancuso lost & Xulio Soriano Mishteko lost

Solano County

Benicia City Council:

Kari Birdseye lost & Christina Strawbridge won

Suisun City Council: Jane Day won

Vacaville Mayor: Michael Kitzes lost

Vacaville City Council: Nolan Sullivan won

Vallejo City Council: Hakeem Brown won

& Katy Miessner won

Sonoma County

Healdsburg City Council: Leah Gold won

Petaluma Mayor: Teresa Barrett won

Petaluma City Council: D'Lynda Fischer won,

Kevin McDonnell won, and Denis Pocekay lost

Santa Rosa City Council, District 2: Lee Pierce lost

Santa Rosa City Council, District 4: Victoria Fleming won

Sonoma City Council: Logan Harvey won,

Rachel Hundley won, and Chris Petlock lost

Sonoma County Measure M:

Sales Tax to Support Parks: support won

Fighting Against Coal in Vallejo

The controversial Orcem cement plant and VMT deep water port that is proposed in South Vallejo has Solano Group members worried—and some are convinced—that if allowed to go forward, it could be the site of shipping and processing coal.

Solano Group Chair Joe Feller, in response, has worked to organize a new local group called No Coal in Vallejo to encourage the city council to adopt an ordinance to ban coal. The group first met Oct. 6 and is currently working on building public awareness and engagement in the issue.

No Coal in Vallejo has read the tea leaves, so to speak, after a marine terminal development approved in Oakland was linked to coal interests in Utah. Though the developer's CEO, Phil Tagami, had promised the City of Oakland that no coal would be shipped from the new terminal, community members learned that a secret funding deal of \$53 million was exchanged for shipping rights to at least 49 percent of

the terminal's capacity for four Utah counties to ship coal to overseas markets.

Feller said he is hoping Vallejo's pre-emptive campaign for a coal ban will thwart any similar attempts by the Orcem/VMT project developers. Following a press conference in June, Solano Group members delivered a letter to the city council urging for the ban and have met with city council members individually.

"Sierra Club requests the City Council take up this issue and update the municipal code to ban coal, coal pozzolans, fly ash, pet coke and all coal byproducts from Vallejo city limits," Feller said. "We strongly feel that it is necessary to take steps to protect the citizens of Vallejo and the environmental future of the city."

No Coal in Vallejo will hold organizing meetings Thursday, Nov. 1 and Dec. 6.

To get involved, contact curatorvallejo@gmail.com or visit nocoalinvallejo.com

'Dogwood' Timber Harvest Plan Rejected for Gualala River Floodplain

Sonoma County Superior Court sided with the Friends of Gualala River on Oct. 16 in its fight against logging hundreds of acres of the Wild and Scenic Gualala River floodplain. Sierra Club Redwood Chapter contributed financially to the successful lawsuit. The controversial "Dogwood" timber harvest plan has been the subject of public protests and litigation since 2015.

This ruling may put the issue to rest, as Judge René Chouteau concluded that the timber harvest plan failed to meet California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for evaluating project alternatives with less environmental impact, and for assessing cumulative environmental impacts to the river, forest and floodplain.

This is the second lawsuit on the "Dogwood" plan. In 2017, Friends of Gualala River, Forest Unlimited, and California Native Plant Society successfully sued CAL FIRE, which approved the timber harvest plan, over similar environmental review flaws. CAL FIRE was required to revoke the permit to log "Dogwood," but the applicant, Gualala Redwoods Timber, resubmitted the logging plan with minimal corrections. On March 30, 2018, CAL FIRE again approved the logging plan, despite major public opposition. FoGR again sued over the same basic flaws in CAL FIRE's environmental review process.

In this decision, the court agreed with legal precedents and stated it is "absolutely clear" that timber harvest plans must be functionally equivalent to Environmental Impact

Reports and meet the same fundamental standards of CEQA with regard to evaluation of alternatives that reduce impacts to the environment, "one of the most important functions of an EIR." The court also ruled that CAL FIRE failed to assess cumulative environmental impacts to the Gualala River and its watershed in accordance CEQA, and the agency jumped to conclusions of "no impact" without evidence or accounting for other impacts from past or future logging and land and water uses.

FoGR is seeking reform of CAL FIRE's timber harvest plan procedures and documents so that they actually function as efficient equivalents of CEQA Environmental Impact Reports that focus on significant environmental impacts and solutions in the public interest, not just private interests of the timber industry applicants. FoGR and its broad coalition of public citizens and organizations will continue to pursue conservation of the unique Gualala Redwood Floodplain Forest, including full consideration of alternatives that protect the most sensitive extensive wetland and floodplain habitats.

— FROM FRIENDS OF GUALALA RIVER



Sebastopol passes Zero Waste Resolution: Ambitious goal of Zero Waste by 2030

The following is a press release Leslie Lukacs, chair of the Zero Waste North Bay group, prepared for the Press Democrat. It is an update on the Sebastopol City Council adoption of the Zero Waste Resolution accepted by the Sonoma County Waste Management Association. Lukacs summarizes the steps the city council is taking to begin to put the resolution into action. If any Sierra Club members in Sebastopol want to become involved with the city council's zero waste efforts, contact Theresa Ryan at theresa411@comcast.net. Windsor is the next city council the Zero Waste North Bay group will approach about

adopting a Zero Waste Resolution.

—THERESA M. RYAN, SONOMA GROUP EXCOM

During the October 16th Sebastopol City Council meeting, the passing of the Zero Waste Resolution was moved to vote by Councilwoman Una Glass, seconded by Councilwoman Sarah Glade Gurney and passed unanimously.

This pragmatic yet visionary goal sets the stage for a more sustainable Sebastopol that returns valuable carbon and

"Zero Waste Goal by 2030" continued on page 3

Redwood Chapter Sierra Club Directory

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Redwood Needles

February 2019 Deadline: Due Jan. 8th

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

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Send Outings to Louis Vas: lvas75@sonic.net and Meetings to Carl Inglin: chinglin@sonic.net

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The office is usually staffed Monday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.. Call ahead to confirm, 544-7651. The Office is also open during evening meetings (see listings on last page) and at other times when volunteers are present.

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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/

Climate call to action

Following the release of a United Nations report that poses climate change will reach hazardous levels within the next 20 years, Saturday Night Live's Michael Che commented during his Weekend Update segment that the whole episode "should be a telethon or something, but it's not."

"We're all gonna lose the planet! We should be sad, right?" Che said. "I think it's because they keep telling us we're gonna lose everything, and nobody cares about everything, people only care about some things."

Che went on to list examples of specific things certain demographics would lose that would make them take action, for example white women losing knitting, or black people losing Atlanta. Funny, sure, but the grim forecast is anything but a joke.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a group of scientists convened by the United Nations to guide world leaders, describes a world of worsening food shortages and wildfires, and a mass die-off of coral reefs as soon as 2040 — a period well within the lifetime of much of the global population.

The report's authors stated that if the current rate of greenhouse gas emissions continue, the atmosphere will warm by as much as 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit. This shift will intensify the ongoing effects of climate change around the globe, such as stronger storms, fiercer droughts and rising sea level.

To stave off this dire projection, humans would have to reduce GHG emissions by staggering amounts—essentially going carbon neutral.

Yet the Trump administration, and the president himself, denies climate change is a threat, continues to bolster the fossil fuel industry by reversing conservation initiatives and weakening environmental regulations. Therefore, it is even more crucial individuals take drastic steps to reduce their emissions.

Redwood Chapter's climate committee chair Randy MacDonald said there's no time or room to despair about the outlook. It is time for action.

"Each of us can do something tangible in our own lives to make a difference," he said. "We can't just say, 'be alarmed.' We need to provide ways for people to take action."

Some of these actions, he said, include working with Sierra Club in our communities, collaborating in the political process by advocating to our elected officials, talking to schoolchildren and taking steps to reduce our individual carbon footprint.

"Unfortunately, the worst impacts of climate change are yet ahead of us and it will be particularly severe if we don't take sustained action and focused action now," he said.

Regionally, MacDonald said we will feel a worsening in the drought conditions, which will impact agriculture and water availability, as well as make land more susceptible to destructive wildfires. The kelp forests off the region's coastline are suffering an ecological collapse, which is altering the entire food chain and the fishing industry that has sustained North Coast communities.

"This situation isn't normal," he said. "Climate change is already here and we need to take action now."

During an Oct. 24 talk in Sebastopol, author Barbara Kingsolver was asked whether she had hope about our dire predicament. She responded by saying not taking action on climate change is "institutionalized child abuse." The younger generations, she said, will be the ones dealing with the worst effects of climate change, and the lack of action by political leadership is akin to child abuse. There's no other choice but to have hope, she added.

MacDonald is optimistic. He sees our region reducing its fossil fuel production and use, but also sees a potential to improve

removal of carbon from the atmosphere through our forests and regenerative agriculture.

Yet, we can all do more. MacDonald suggests assessing our individual carbon footprint by looking at the products and services we consume and by making our homes more energy efficient. Solar panels and driving a used electric vehicle are worthwhile investments. Moving to a plant-based diet will also help, as will reducing vehicle trips and carpooling. We can also explore alternatives in our stock portfolios and invest in companies that promote climate friendly business models while divesting in those that support fossil fuels.

We can also take more political action, he said. While Sierra Club at the state level is making a real difference advocating for policy changes in California, the chapters and the local groups can do more with cities and counties.

"We should be reaching out to our schools, and we should be recruiting the next generation of Sierra Clubbers and promoting energy efficiency in the private sector," he said. "We've got local leadership in all our groups, but we don't have many people stepping up. All you need to do is reach out to your group and say: 'I want to help address climate change at the local and regional level,' and the group will plug you in."

With more involvement at the local level, he said, we can achieve the drastic shift needed to keep our planet hospitable.

"It's a matter of personal commitment and political will," he said. "With Sierra Club's proven track record over the decades, we can make change happen."

Please get involved, and contact Randy MacDonald at randal@whatcanbedone.com to get hooked up with others in your area wanting to take action on climate change.

—SHOSHANA HEBSHI,

REDWOOD CHAPTER COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

"Zero Waste Goal by 2030"

continued from page 1

nutrients to our soils, supports green job creation and economic development while protecting our groundwater and climate.

Council also moved to support the County proposed model language for a polystyrene foam ban yet to come.

Michael Carnacchi suggested formation of a zero waste subcommittee. Mayor Patrick Slayter described the steps needed to create such a committee that could look at other ordinances and actions that would further us toward Zero Waste, such as a green event policy that sets waste diversion requirements for events while helping to educate the community on proper separation of food waste/organics and other recyclable materials.

In January the council will be setting priorities for the upcoming year when a zero waste subcommittee could be formed to continue to develop policies to meet the challenge of achieving zero waste by 2030.

Food and Construction and Demolition (C&D) material are the two most prevalent material classes found in Sonoma County's overall waste stream, according to a 2014 Study, making easy targets for increased recycling and progress toward zero waste.

Food waste is the single largest component of Sonoma County's waste stream, making up 17.3% of what is sent to landfill, or 45,500 annual tons.

Raising Construction and Demolition (C&D) recycling targets were also discussed at the meeting. Combined, C&D materials make up 19.2% of what Sonoma County landfills, or 50,400 annual tons.

Sonoma County is meanwhile in the process of siting a new compost facility in the County that can properly handle the food and organic waste generated here while Recology, the new franchise waste hauler in town, is rolling out new waste diversion programs including improving recycling and organic waste separation to keep these resources out of our landfills.

—LESLIE LUKACS, DIRECTOR OF ZERO WASTE

Volunteers Needed

Holiday Networking Party & Environmental Awards

Thursday, December 6, 2018, 5 – 8 pm

Benefit for the Environmental Center of Sonoma County

\$30 per person includes dinner and one drink!

Tickets online at <https://envirocentersoco.org/holiday-networking-party/> or mail a check to SCCC,

PO Box 4346, Santa Rosa, CA 95402, or at the door.

Volunteers needed to bake, set up, clean up and drink service. To help or for more information, contact Wendy Krupnick, 544-4582, wlk@sonic.net

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

Awards for Leadership in Post-fire Ecosystem Regeneration will be presented to Caitlin Cornwall and Betty Young

Enjoy food, wine, hot cider and music – *NewGrange Jam Band; Bluegrass with a holiday theme!*

Mingle with your friends and local movers and shakers!

Thursday, December 6, 2018, 5-8pm

At the Sebastopol Grange

6000 Sebastopol Ave., on Hwy. 12, just east of Sebastopol

Suggested Donation: \$30 includes dinner and one drink!!

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

Advance Purchase http://www.envirocentersoco.org	Make This Your Group's Holiday Party
Checks To SCCC, PO Box 4346, Santa Rosa, CA 95402	Sonoma County Conservation Council
For More Info Wendy Krupnick, wlk@sonic.net 544-4582	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 adhoc collaborations.

Thanks to our sponsor – Sebastopol Grange!
Benefits the Environmental Center of Sonoma County

Outings

Sat. Dec. 8 – North Group. Humboldt Redwoods State Park Centennial Hike.

Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of Save the Redwoods League and Humboldt Redwoods State Park as we hike Dyerville and Bull Creek flats. See the historic Women's Federation Grove up close. Walk among the giants,

and reflect on the achievements of early-day conservationists, many of them local women's club members. Bring lunch and water. No dogs. Class M-8-A. Carpools: Meet 8 AM at Herrick Ave. Park and Ride on Highway 101. Leader Ned (707) 825-3652, nedforsyth48@gmail.com. Heavy rain may cancel.

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

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

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

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

Moderate-pace with few stops: Lorrie Lagasse Julie Kreis Paul Farley

Moderate-pace with more frequent stops: Carol Vellutini Yvonne Kramer Brian Collett Pete McGee Jonah Freedman Steve Devoto Ned Forsyth

Slower-pace: Allison Bronkall Carl Inglin

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 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: Louis Vas, Outings Chair, (lvas75@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.

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Sonoma County Regional Parks Matter

Nattkemper Trail History

I volunteered in Hood Mountain Regional Park for over 30 years. I joined the Sierra Club in 1982. That coincided with the Sierra Club building the Nattkemper Trail because there wasn't a connection between Sugarloaf State Park and Hood Mountain Regional Park. Clark Nattkemper decided to build the trail. I am blessed to have known Clark Nattkemper and his group of volunteers. Clark was a professor at Santa Rosa Junior College. He was a founding member of the Redwood Chapter in 1957, an Outing leader for 33 years, and an Outing Chair for 27 years. It took many weekends to build the trail. We worked from 1982 until late 1985 when the two trail work parties met (one working from the top of the mountain and another from Sugarloaf) In 1986 we drove a gold spike behind a tree as part of a celebration to commemorate the success. Clark was the moving force behind

assembled them on the trail in 2003. After the 2017 firestorm burned across Hood Mountain many of us were asking if the bench burned.

However, no one was allowed into the park. At last the good news came—the bench &



The poem to Clark Nattkemper was written by SRJC English Department professor Don Emblen. Sugarloaf Ridge Park Manager John Roney took the poem down after the fire as the heat had destroyed it. John created a replica of the original poem placard for Clark, using redwood gleaned from Sugarloaf post fire.

poem were saved. Elisa Stancil hiked in, sanded and sealed the bench. John Roney, Sugarloaf State Park manager with a team effort, had removed the stand, replaced the graffiti, replaced the poem, stained the wood and reinstalled the sign. We are all very grateful to volunteers.

Tolay Regional Park Now Open!

Tolay Regional Park is now open to visitors after more than a decade in the making. The former Cardoza Ranch was 1,737 acres. Now with additions it is 3,400 acres making Tolay the largest of the County Parks. The Fall Harvest Festival



A miracle that our beloved Nattkemper bench did not burn down as most everything around it did. SRJC Professor Bob Rubin had made carvings on the bench to represent Clark's life.

trails in those days. After his passing I decided that a bench overlooking the beautiful valley would be a fitting memorial. I visited the trail many times before selecting just the right spot. On warm sunny days hiking the Nattkemper Trail is a challenge.

After a hot steep area there is a forest. Right before the trail goes into the forest is the bench. Professor Don Emblen, the first Sonoma County Poet Laureate, wrote a poem



Park Staff Melissa, Jose and Jose install the sign with Don Emblen's poem.

about Clark. Professor Bob Rubin mounted the poem on a redwood stand and also did carvings on the bench before it was assembled. A group of volunteers carried the parts to the bench and

is a fun place to bring families or to volunteer. The park is known for the significant Native American and ranching histories. I led walks on Rita Cordoza's Ranch years ago before it was a park to show participants the spring flowers

and the magnificent views from the ridges. At one point there was talk about using the ranch as a storage for wastewater. There used to be a huge lake there, but farmers long ago drained it for agriculture. A variety of wildlife roams the park. For birders, the park provides a great habitat for viewing burrowing owls, golden eagles, and many other birds of prey. Congratulations to park staff on the completion of years of work on the Master Plan. I urge you to visit this fantastic Regional Park.

—CAROL VELLUTINI,

SONOMA GROUP PARKS & TRAILS

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



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).

Sun. Dec. 2 - Redwood Chapter ExCom. And ConsCom.

Location: Willits, Super 8 Motel, 1119 S. Main St. Conservation Committee meets at 10 a.m., ExCom meets 1-3 p.m. Info: Victoria vbrandon@lifelive.info Mon.

Mon. Dec. 3 - 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. 3 - 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. 11 - North Group ExCom.

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.

Mon. Jan. 7 - 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. 7 - Solano Group ExCom.

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

Tues. Jan. 8 - North Group ExCom.

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. 12 - Redwood Chapter ExCom. And ConsCom.

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

Tues. Jan. 15 - Napa Group ExCom.

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

Mon. Feb. 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.

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.

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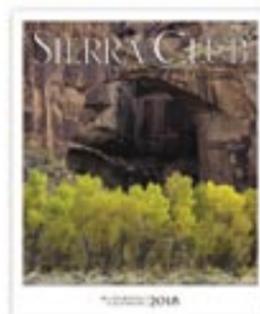


Calendars are available for purchase at the Environmental Center at 55 Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Call for hours: 707-544-7651. If ordering by mail, shipping is \$2 per calendar and sales tax is included. The mailing address is Sierra Club, PO Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95402. If you would like to pay by credit 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.

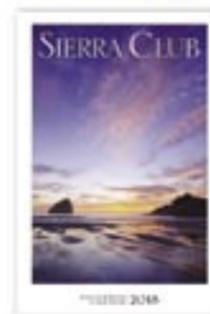


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2018 Sierra Club Calendars



Wilderness Wall Calendar



Engagement Calendar

Item	Code	Qty	Total	Ship To:
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North Group Report

Capitalizing on Disaster: Why Recent State Legislation and Subsidies for Biomass Electric Generation are Very Bad Ideas

In the wake of wildfires that caused terrible devastation when they entered Northern California towns, politicians are ignoring the facts and using the disasters to push "solutions" that will only increase fire risks. While some communities are bordered by forests, most fires which threaten western towns and cities come from shrublands and woodlands with few trees, not from forests. But that has not stopped President Trump from blaming "poor forest management" for the devastation communities have experienced, even as his administration pushes the Forest Service to convert more natural forest to highly flammable tree plantations.

Trump is not the only politician using the fire disasters to push logging-related agendas. Northcoast state representatives Mike McGuire and Jim Wood helped get AB 901 passed by the California legislature. Signed into law by Governor Brown, AB 901 allows some landowners to log and construct logging roads without notice or review by Regional Water Boards and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Because younger forests and tree plantations burn hotter as compared to older and natural forests, AB 901 will actually lead to more fire risk as older forests are replaced by younger, more flammable forests and tree plantations.



Green Diamond Resources (formerly Simpson Timber) is converting the Northcoast forests it controls (This one is in Redwood Creek) into tree plantations. That increases the fire risk to nearby towns, including Hoopa, Weitchpec, Klamath and Trinidad.

Another industry capitalizing on the public's fear of wildfire is the Biomass Industry. Biomass electricity generation cannot compete with cleaner forms of electric generation like natural gas, solar and wind. In order to survive, the Biomass Industry requires government subsidies paid for by taxpayers. Unfortunately, California politicians appear eager to subsidize this dirty form of electricity generation. Both AB 901, and the earlier SB 859, mandate taxpayer-financed subsidies to the Biomass Industry.

Why Biomass is the wrong choice

Biomass is the wrong choice for California for two reasons: First, in California's interior valleys, winter inversions trap air near the ground. When biomass plants are located in these valleys, and many are, already poor winter air quality is rendered much worse. The resulting health impacts are significant. In addition, home woodstove use is curtailed during bad air days in

order to allow biomass generation to continue. Curtailing home wood burning more heavily impacts low income residents who rely on wood heat.

When used for biomass electric generation, tree plantations are typically harvested every 30 to 50 years, guaranteeing that enhanced fire risk is sustained over time. And because biomass plants pull fuel only from nearby forests, the enhanced risk is located where it can do the most damage, that is, close to rural towns and cities.

Sierra Club California is looking out for the health of rural residents

While some major environmental organizations support subsidies for the Biomass Industry, Sierra Club California opposes them and is working to educate state lawmakers and others about the problems biomass electricity generation create and why it is not a good, sustainable solution for electricity generation. You can learn more from Sierra Club California's fact sheets at <https://www.sierraclub.org/california/biomass-dirty-energy-source>. Sierra Club California Director Kathryn Phillips "Letter from Sacramento" (<https://www.sierraclub.org/california/letter-sacramento-step-away-from-the-incinerator>) is about attempts by the Biomass Industry and California politicians to use the recent fires to leverage more subsidies for biomass electricity generation.

Because Northcoast Senator Mike McGuire and Northcoast Assemblymember Jim Wood supported logging without review and biomass subsidies, they need to hear from constituents who object to unregulated logging and dirty power. Please tell McGuire and Wood that AB 901 will increase fire risk and damage our watersheds. Remind them that biomass creates massive greenhouse gas emissions, threatens the health of residents living near the plants and increases fire risk by encouraging conversion of naturally diverse forests to single-tree plantations managed on short rotations.

Let these politicians know that you do not want them to promote plantation forestry which poses the greatest risk for forest catastrophic fire effects. Here's how to contact them:

Contact Senator McGuire via email at this address: senator.mcguire@senate.ca.gov, or by calling his Sacramento office: 916-651-4002

Contact Assembly Member Wood via his website or by calling his office: 916 319-2002.

—FELICE PACE, NORTH GROUP NEWSLETTER CHAIR

Editor's Note: It's also disappointing that Redwood Chapter legislators District 4 Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry, District 11 Assemblymember Jim Frazier, and District 3 State Senator Bill Dodd (author of the legislation) all voted for AB901. If you encounter any of them at events during the holiday season it wouldn't hurt to ask them why they supported this legislation.



Sonoma Group Report

Elections Update

Several key Sierra Club endorsed candidates won their races! In Petaluma, City Council member Teresa Barrett was voted in as mayor. As a longtime City Council member, Barrett has a proven track record putting the environment and community first.

Endorsed candidate Kevin McDonnell was elected to the Petaluma City Council on an urbanist platform that aligns with Sierra Club's support of city-centered growth. He has served on the city's parks and recreation commission and organizes the Know Before You Grow public forum. D'Lynda Fischer, also endorsed, was ahead in the last vote count to win a seat on the city council. A newcomer to local politics, her expertise is in urban planning.

The third candidate we endorsed, Dennis Pocekey, did not get elected but we look forward to supporting his progressive policies on affordable housing at the City Council.

In Santa Rosa, endorsed candidate Victoria Fleming won the 4th District seat. We look forward to partnering with Fleming and

other pro-environment council members to push forward implementation of the city's Climate Action Plan and a new electric-ready ordinance for all new homes. The city is poised to take up a number of sustainability initiatives and to update the General Plan and Downtown Station Area Plan to advance downtown housing that is affordable.

Unfortunately, our endorsed candidate Lee Pierce did not win his race against longtime council member John Sawyer, but he ran a strong race.

In Sonoma, two of the three candidates we endorsed won victories: Rachel Hundley was re-elected and newcomer Logan Harvey also won. Together with City Council member Amy Harrington, the city has a progressive majority that will have the votes to advance affordable housing and climate-smart policies and push back against inappropriate development. Endorsed candidate Chris Petlock did not win a seat on the Council. Instead, Madolyn Agrimonti, who we didn't endorse, won re-election, and is expected to be a swing vote.

—TERI SHORE, SONOMA GROUP CO-CHAIR

Napa Group Report

Measure C Lives On!

In June, Measure C, the Oak Woodland Protection Act, lost by a slim margin of under 700 votes with over 35,000 cast. And yet, we, the losers, Sierra Club and other Measure C supporters, find ourselves courted by political heavyweights as never before. This tells us that the message has been heard by our public officials. Napa voters care about the environment, the watershed, and our wild spaces. Now is the time to press for effective protections of our precious natural resources – the land which gives us life. The outcome of the Napa County Strategic Planning process can be an empty exercise, or a pressure point toward a sustainable future for Napa County.

Walt Ranch Update

Sierra Club, Center for Biological Diversity, Living Rivers Council, and Circle Oaks Homes Association and Water District are submitting legal briefs for the appeal process for the Walt Ranch project.

Northeast Napa County

The Angwin area is a hotspot for vineyard

development— and challenges to such development. The Center for Biological Diversity—Sierra Club's partner in the Walt Ranch opposition— is litigating the Davis vineyard development on similar grounds to Walt Ranch, including endangered species protections and loss of greenhouse gas sequestration (forest destruction).

Soda Canyon

Who thinks that building a winery visitation center on a narrow, winding, dead-end road, located in the heart of last fall's fire storm is a great idea? January 11th is the scheduled hearing date for Protect Rural Napa's suit against Napa County's approval of Mountain Peak Winery. May good sense prevail.

Keep Informed on Napa Environmental Activities!

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

—NANCY TAMARISK, NAPA GROUP VICE 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



With your help we can protect the wolf

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

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Solano Breeze Corner

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

sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com

707-319-6398

Please attend the Solano Group meetings, usually on the first Monday of each month. Our next dates are Jan 7, Feb 4, March 4, 2019, at 6.30 p.m. To confirm location, call/text 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 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. for lunch

Solano Group Awards Annual Scholarship

Madeline Matsumoto-Elliott is this year's recipient of the Sierra Club scholarship of \$580. Madeline will earn her Associate degree in general science and complete all of the nursing prerequisites this fall. She is applying to nursing programs for spring admission, planning to become a nurse practitioner or certified registered nurse anesthetologist. Madeline has maintained a 4.0 GPA at Solano while being active in school activities, volunteering at David Grant Hospital and working part-time.



Here's what Madeline wrote about her interest in the environment:

"I've been fascinated with wildlife and nature ever since I was a child. When I was little my mom would take me and my siblings on walks around the neighborhood. We live next to a creek in a quieter part of town so we would see deer, quails, lizards, and the occasional snake on our

(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!

TREECYCLING: Contact your city recycling coordinator for details. Your local Boy Scout troop also picks up trees in most areas.

Flyway Festival

The 23rd Annual Flyway Festival on Mare Island in Vallejo is set for Feb 8, 9, & 10, 2019.

—JANE BOGNER, CONTRIBUTOR

GREG PETERSON, EDITOR

Our walks could last hours and we would pick up any recyclables we saw. For as long as I

can remember my family has recycled, collected rainwater to water plants, and have just had a wonderful relationship with nature. My love for nature and conservation has grown since then and I continue to try to reduce my carbon footprint and protect the environment and all of its inhabitants. One of my favorite pastimes is hiking. Yosemite National Park has a special place in my heart and I could spend weeks there hiking and taking in

the scenery. Locally, I enjoy hiking at Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve (Winters, CA) and Lynch Canyon (Fairfield, CA). I recycle, try to limit my electricity, fossil fuel, and water consumption and participate in a monthly clean up to help preserve the environment."

Lake Group Report

Boggs Forest Back from the Ashes

Lake Group's November 13 general membership meeting again focused on recovery from wildfire. We welcomed Friends of Boggs Mountain Treasurer Debbie Bloomquist, who discussed the group's ongoing efforts to restore multiuse trails and other recreational facilities that were heavily damaged or destroyed in the October 2015 Valley Fire. The extensive trail network at Boggs State Forest has long been an important resource for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians, and the Sierra Club is eager to encourage its restoration.

We also collaborated with FOBM to lead a hike there on November 10, not only to see trailwork possibilities but also to check out the extensive conifer reforestation that has occurred on the site— of particular interest since reforestation is one of the top goals of the climate action strategy plan Lake Group adopted in August.

Blue Ribbon Committee Update

As previously reported, in 2017 the State Legislature established a special "Blue Ribbon Committee" to oversee proposals promoting the long term health of Clear Lake, with involvement of state and local government, local tribes and other stakeholders, and \$2 million in initial funding. Facilitated by the UC Davis Center for Regional Change and chaired by Natural Resources Secretary John Laird, the committee held its first meeting in Upper Lake on October 10, followed by a series of three stakeholder meetings on October 24.

To the surprise of many participants, the focus of the group appears to be as much on the economic revitalization of Lake County as on the ecological well-being of the lake— two subjects which are admittedly very closely connected. At the October stakeholder meeting the Davis

facilitators acknowledged that the first task was to assemble and coordinate the numerous studies that have been conducted on the lake in the past and that are continuing on an ongoing basis and to use this data set to create a model of what a healthy lake looks like, while avoiding any temptation to base that model on deep, cold bodies of water such as Lake Tahoe. More later!

Dollar General Update

Concerned citizens of Middletown have started a new organization called Middletown Neighbors to focus concerns about the Dollar General outlet proposed in that community. They have held a series of well-attended public meetings to spread word about the proposal (especially its glaring inconsistencies with the Middletown Area Plan,) started an email list and Facebook page, and are circulating a petition. The objective is to be able to present well-organized, fact-based testimony when the project comes before the Planning Commission, at a date that has not yet been set but is expected to be in November or December.

Party Time!

As the Redwood Needles was going to press, Lake Group was making plans for its 15th annual holiday party, to be held on December 14 at the Lower Lake Methodist Church Community room. This event always provides a festive opportunity to bring the environmental community of Lake County together, meet new friends and reconnect with old ones, and reaffirm our commitment to enjoying, exploring and protecting the wonders of our region. We usually sell a lot of calendars too!

—VICTORIA BRANDON,

LAKE GROUP CONSERVATION CHAIR

2018 Redwood Chapter and Group Executive Committee Election

REDWOOD CHAPTER

Rue Furch

My children and grandchildren live in this very special place, and it is my goal to preserve it for all generations. In the 1990's, I helped establish the Stakeholders Consensus on Reuse to promote clean water. I also co-founded Citizens for Responsible Water Use, and the Russian River Watershed Council. I have supported local agriculture through Farmlands Group, helped craft Santa Rosa and Sebastopol's Urban Growth Boundary initiatives, plus the countywide Community Separators. I serve on the Policy Committee for the Community Alliance for Family Farms, and on the Santa Rosa Groundwater Sustainability Advisory Committee. I am also on the Board of the Latino Democratic Club and am on the Committee for Immigrants' Rights. As a county planning commissioner for 18 years, and President of the California County Planning Commissioners Association (CCPCA) I produced a statewide conference on land use and water. I was also instrumental in prioritizing water resources in the Sonoma County's General Plan which addresses water quality, quantity and sustainability. I've been honored to be named the California Assembly Woman of the Year, the Upstream Swimmer by Sonoma County Conservation Action, Environmentalist of the Year by the Sonoma County Conservation Council, County Planning Commissioner of the Year by the CCPCA, and received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Russian Riverkeeper. I hope you will support my continuing work with the Sierra Club, and that you'll be involved.

Tom Roth

Running for re-election as an at-large member of the ExCom, I bring with me years of experience gained working for two Members of Congress and for a state legislator. I played major roles in expanding two National Marine Sanctuaries; cleaning up and transferring two former military bases to create wildlife preserves; protecting the endangered tiger salamander; ensuring the sustainability of California's crab fishery; and keeping our state parks open.

During the last two years, I spearheaded the Chapter's response to the Trump Administration's attempts to open our coast to offshore drilling. I worked with local elected officials to oppose pro-drilling executive orders, testified at hearings, and organized transportation to a Sacramento rally. When catastrophic wildfires burned through the North Bay, I represented the Chapter in the Just and Resilient Future Fund which has funneled more than \$280,000 to non-profits providing assistance to the most marginal survivors and grants to build community resiliency.

I am the Chapter's Conservation Chair and Council of Club Leaders delegate, sit on the Advisory Committee of Sonoma County Conservation Action and teach environmental policy at SRJC. I look forward to working with a re-energized ExCom on initiatives for climate action, forest protection, transportation and environmental justice.

Members should receive their ballots in the mail, if they do not receive a copy of the newsletter in the mail. If you are a member who receives the e-newsletter, and haven't received a ballot in the mail by December 5th, please call the Sierra Club office at 544-7651 and leave a message with your name, phone number and address to request one. Your ballot will include information about how to vote.

MENDOCINO COUNTY GROUP

Randal Stuart MacDonald

It's an honor and a pleasure to serve on the Executive Committee of the Mendocino Group. I'm currently an appointed member of the committee, I humbly ask for your vote to be elected to the Mendocino Group's Executive Committee.

During my service on the committee so far, I have helped improve our Group's e-mail outreach to hundreds of Club members in our county. I hope to encourage more members to be active in our Group, particularly young people. There are important local issues we need help working on and lots of wonderful locations in Mendocino County to explore and enjoy through Club outings.

I also serve on the Redwood Chapter's Executive Committee as an appointed member, and I chair the chapter's Climate and Energy Committee. Working with my Group and our Chapter has been very fulfilling, and I look forward to becoming even more effective in my Club work at both levels.

I hope you'll vote to elect me to the Mendocino Group's Executive Committee. Thank you!

Robin Leler

I would welcome the opportunity to serve with the Mendocino Group of the Sierra Club. I live in Willits and have been attending regular meetings of the Mendocino Group and the Redwood Chapter ExCom

for over a year. Mendocino Group is currently most active on the coast, working on coastal protections from oil drilling and conservation of the mature pygmy cypress forestlands. There is a need for a more active voice for inland Mendocino County. I would like to see two inland subgroups, one for Willits/Laytonville/Covelo and one for Ukiah/Hopland/Potter Valley.

My interest in environmental issues dates back to the 1970's when I started work with Ecology Action in Palo Alto, an organization known for establishing one of the first recycling centers, advocating for bicycle lanes, exploring and encouraging good solar home design, and researching sustainable organic food production. Forty-six years later my core values still revolve around healthy soil, clean water, gardening, passive home design for heating and cooling, and pollution-free transportation. I've added a passion for outdoor education and learning all I can about the Wild and Scenic Eel River, and the majestic redwood forests, the great gems that define the region I've called home since 1982, when I moved here to help establish Ecology Action's biointensive research mini-farm.

I am now a retired educator with over 25 years experience teaching high school English Language Arts, Spanish and mathematics in Mendocino County.

I look forward to a new chapter of my life with more involvement in the Sierra Club, the organization that I believe has the best chance of slowing, mitigating, and reversing the self-destructive course we seem to be on.

SOLANO COUNTY GROUP

Greg Peterson

I have served on the Solano Group ExCom for many years, and I'm editor of the Solano Breeze Corner of the Redwood Needles. I've been a member of Sierra Club since the 1970's. I would like to continue to serve.

Amy Hartman

I am excited for the opportunity to again run for the Executive Committee of the Solano Co. Sierra Club. The group has done tremendous work over the past year on opposing a toxic cement factory in Vallejo, supporting our regional park district effort, and encouraging

open space protection and smart growth in Solano Co. I am looking forward to continuing to be a part of that work.

Joe Feller

I have served on the Excom for 6 years and have been chair for the last 2 years. I would be honored to serve again.

NORTH GROUP

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

Richard Kreis

It has been my pleasure to serve this group since I arrived on the stage from LA in 2011. In that time, I have served as SCNG representative to the Northcoast Environmental Center. I have also served as Climate & Energy chair, and as part of that responsibility I have been involved in significant ways in developing the public programs presented by this group.

It would be my pleasure to continue to serve Sierra Club North Group in these ways. I respectfully seek your vote of support.

