

Redwood Needles

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 53 Number 1

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

February/March 2012

Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area:

A Great Idea Whose Time has Come

By VICTORIA BRANDON, LAKE GROUP

Northern California's Berryessa Snow Mountain region is one of the most biologically diverse yet least known parts of the state. Encompassing nearly 500,000 acres and stretching over 100 miles from the sub-alpine habitat of Snow Mountain Wilderness to the blue oak woodland surrounding Lake Berryessa, it is rich in significant natural features and exciting recreational opportunities. Visitors can view California's second-largest population of wintering bald eagles, run the white water rapids of wild and scenic Cache Creek, observe herds of wild tule elk, and catch a glimpse of black bears. Opportunities for hiking, camping, botanizing, birding, hunting, and horseback riding are unsurpassed.

The sprawling region includes parts of seven counties, with by far the largest portion being herein Redwood Chapter, in Lake, Napa, Solano, and Mendocino Groups. Three different federal agencies have management responsibilities, as do several state and local agencies. Permanent preservation of this intact ecological treasure requires a collaborative management plan, rather than fragmented efforts from multiple jurisdictions. By designating the region as a

National Conservation Area, Congress will enable the unified management needed for long term protection, and also provide additional funding possibilities by including the region in the National Landscape Conservation System, with the mission of conserving and restoring nationally significant landscapes recognized for their cultural, ecological and scientific values.

Action is needed now even though most of this region remains unspoiled, because it faces a number of threats, such as industrial-scale criminal marijuana production, unmanaged recreation, invasive species, water pollution, and wildfire. In the future, when climate change is expected to shrink the available habitat for plants and animals, maintenance of intact north-south corridors will be vital for maintaining the connectivity needed to protect biodiversity and reduce extinctions.

Goals for the NCA include:

- long term protection of biological diversity
- better management of recreational assets, including trails, campsites, and signage
- improvement of sustainable economic opportunities for neighboring farmers and gateway communities

The BSMNCA campaign has been gradually gaining momentum over the past several years, and local support has now built to critical mass, with endorsers that include several governmental entities, dozens of elected officials, and thousands of individuals. On January 24 Lake Group hosted a general membership meeting in the city of Clearlake,

featuring a presentation on this exciting area, the benefits that designation will provide both ecologically and economically, and the next steps towards making it a reality.

Now it's time to look towards the future, with the introduction of enabling legislation



Cold Canyon above Lake Berryessa.

Photo by Bob Schneider.

by Congressman Mike Thompson and Senator Barbara Boxer.

Watch for future articles in the Redwood Needles for information about how you can help the effort to permanently protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain region.

The Political Landscape: Big Changes and Early Endorsements

By VICTORIA BRANDON,
REDWOOD CHAPTER POLITICAL CHAIR

The redistricting process has made some profound alterations in the structure of the Redwood Chapter political landscape. Perhaps the most dramatic change has been the creation of a brand new "coastal" Congressional District 2, running from the Golden Gate clear to the Oregon border: expect to hear more about the race for this open seat later on. Most of the rest of the Chapter remains in Mike Thompson's district (CD5), with portions of Solano and Lake Counties being in John Garamendi's CD3.

The Chapter's State Senate representation is now divided between SD2 (Noreen Evans, who is not up for re-election this year), and SD3 (Lois Wolk), which now includes all of Napa and Solano Counties and a chunk of southeastern Sonoma County.

The new Assembly District 2 (Wes

Chesbro) consists of Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity, Mendocino, and northern Sonoma Counties. The rest of Sonoma shares AD10 (another open seat) with Marin County in the Bay Chapter, and the Chapter shares AD4 (including all of Lake and Napa Counties and portions of Solano and Sonoma as well; Mariko Yamada is the incumbent) with Mother Lode Chapter.

Redwood Chapter is very fortunate in the stellar environmental records of our state and federal representatives, as witnessed by the (very!) early Sierra Club endorsements recently received by Congressman Garamendi, Senator Wolk, and Assembly member Yamada. Additional endorsements are expected as the electoral season progresses. To see the full list as it evolves throughout the election season (including local endorsements and state and local ballot issues), visit redwood.sierraclub.org and follow the links for "2012 endorsements."

"Full Steam Ahead" for Sonoma Clean Power

By WOODY HASTINGS,

SONOMA GROUP CLIMATE & ENERGY COMMITTEE

"Full steam ahead," declared one of the Sonoma County Supervisors at an October Board meeting, capturing the spirit of the Supervisors' consideration of a feasibility study for a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program for Sonoma County. The program has officially been dubbed Sonoma Clean Power and its next decision point will come in May when the Board meets to take further steps toward implementation.

The Climate & Energy Committee of the Sonoma Group worked to oppose Prop 16 in 2010, which was ultimately defeated, paving the way for CCAs throughout California. The Climate & Energy Committee brought this promising clean energy policy to the Sonoma Group ExCom last summer, which resulted in unanimous support to become a "Friend" of Sonoma Clean Power; this is a growing list of Sonoma County leaders in support of the program.

Community Choice Aggregation is a program, enabled by state law, that allows communities to pool the electric load of their residents, businesses and other institutions in order to purchase and generate electricity on their behalf. The primary driver is the desire to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity sector in Sonoma County. PG&E has still not met its 2010 state mandate of 20% renewable energy and a CCA has the potential to offer more than 50% renewable power upon launch.

"This is something that has the potential to bring substantial long term economic benefit to the County. A CCA in Sonoma County would bring in revenue in excess of \$200 million dollars per year that can, over time, be leveraged to build several billion dollars' worth of clean energy infrastructure.

And that translates to jobs and a generally stronger economy," according to Geof Syphers, the Chief Sustainability Officer at Coddling Enterprises.

The study, performed by Dalessi Management Consulting, concludes that implementation of a CCA program in Sonoma County is feasible, and that CCA implementation would "significantly reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, create local jobs, and have a substantial positive effect on the local economy." The study can be found at: <http://climateprotection.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/Final-CCA-Feasibility-Report-101211.pdf>

The only similar program of its kind is next door in Marin County. Known as Marin Clean Energy, that program launched in May 2010 and offers 27% renewable power in its mix as a basic service at rates competitive with PG&E's, and an option for 100% clean power at a small premium. Over 80% of the ratepayers in Marin have stayed with the program.

In its vote, the Water Agency Board took action to further investigate various power mixes to find ways to reduce cost; look at including expanded energy efficiency programs to reduce rates; evaluate governance structures for the program; and study the option of joining, at least temporarily, with the Marin Energy Authority.

For more info about the program and how to get involved, visit www.sonomacleanpower.org or call Woody Hastings, Renewable Energy Implementation Manager at the Climate Protection Campaign and Sonoma Group Climate/Energy Committee Member at 707-525-1665 x117.

The Climate & Energy Committee meets the 1st Monday of each month at 4:30 p.m., Environmental Center. The next meeting is Monday, February 6th.

Join 270 Local Sierra Clubbers and Go Green!

To receive future copies of the *Redwood Needles* via email send an email to RedwoodNeedles@gmail.com with your name and address, and "newsletter by email" in the subject line; or to receive notification that the current newsletter is available online and a link to it, please specify: "Notification newsletter is online".

Redwood Chapter Sierra Club Directory

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

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

Redwood Chapter

The Redwood Chapter is governed by an executive committee, with one (1) member delegated by each of six (6) regional groups and six (6) members elected at large. Each group elects its own executive committee.

Chair • At Large • Forest Protection

Jay Halcomb* 869-3302 halcomb@sonic.net

Vice Chair • At Large • Political Chair • RCC Delegate Alternate • Wilderness Chair

Victoria Brandon* 994-1931 vbrandon@lifelive.info

Secretary

Jill Hunter redwoodjill@comcast.net

Treasurer

Tom Davis 963-4466 tom@napavalleycpas.com

At Large • Legal Chair • Council of Club Leaders Delegate

Keith Kaulum* 538-5569 kkaulum@sonic.net

At Large • Conservation Committee Chair • Public Land • North Group Delegate Alternate

Diane Beck* 445-2690 dfbeck@northcoast.com

At Large • Water Chair • CCL Alternate

Daniel Myers* 895-3887 dmyers@pacific.net

Lake Group Delegate to Chapter

Monica Rosenthal* 987-2760 viognier@sonic.net

Lake Group Delegate Alternate

Paul Marchand 279-1903 paulmarchand@gotmsky.com

Mendocino Group Delegate to Chapter

Mary Walsh* 937-0572 bella@mcn.org

Mendocino Group Delegate Alternate

Lorrie Lagasse 964-3011 lorrielas@yahoo.com

Napa Group Delegate to Chapter

Nancy Tamarisk* 257-3121 nancy@aya.yale.edu

Napa Group Delegate Alternate

Marc Pandone 966-1902 mpandone@attwb.net

Regional Conservation Committee Delegate

John Stephens 251-0106 johnnithin@aol.com

Regional Conservation Committee Delegate

Steve Birdlebough 576-6632 affirm@friendshouse.org

North Group Delegate to Chapter • Climate Change Chair

Gregg Gold* 826-3740 gregggold@netscape.net

Sonoma Group Delegate to Chapter

Steve Birdlebough 576-6632 affirm@friendshouse.org

Sonoma Group Delegate Alternate

Veronica (Roni) Jacobi 575-5594 vjacobi@sonic.net

Solano Group Delegate to Chapter

Patricia Gatz 644-2943 pgatz@scronline.com

Administrative Staff • Publication Rep • Volunteer Coordinator

Tom Devlin 544-7651 tdevlin@sonic.net

Finance Committee

Jana Selph 829-5356 jselph@sonic.net

Fundraising Chair • Deferred Gift Rep • Volunteer Coordinator • Environmental Education Leader

Vacant Positions

Outings Chair • Outings Leadership Training

Carol Vellutini 546-6308 carolvsr@sonic.net

Redwood Needles Editor

Mary Davison 874-3704 odavison@comcast.net

Chapter Webmaster

Melanie Matway 765-6829 adastra7@hotmail.com

Lake County Group

P.O. Box 27 263-5787

Lakeport CA 95453

Chair

Cheri Holden* 263-5787

cherisieraclub@gmail.com

Vice Chair

Tom Gilliam* 263-1231

tgilliam3@yahoo.com

Secretary

Win Stiles* 262-1242

win@w-s.com

Treasurer

Debra Sally 994-9100

saldeb1@mchsi.com

Conservation Chair • Chapter Delegate

Monica Rosenthal* 987-2760

viognier@sonic.net

ExCom • Chapter Delegate Alt

Paul Marchand* 279-1903

paulmarchand@gotmsky.com

Outings Chair

Steve Devoto 279-8308

sdevoto@mchsi.com

Political Chair • Newsletter Editor • Webmaster

Victoria Brandon 994-1931

vbrandon@lifelive.info

ExCom

Jim Steele* 998-1302

konocti-view@hughes.net

ExCom

Ed Robey* 994-8304

edrobey@wildblue.net

Mendocino County Group

P.O. Box 522 937-0903

Mendocino 95460

Chair • Treasurer • Newsletter Editor • Membership • Chapter Delegate

Mary Walsh* 937-0572

bella@mcn.org

Vice Chair • Coastal Trails • Coastal Committee

Rixanne Wehren* 937-2709

rixanne@mcn.org

Secretary • Conservation Chair • State Forests

Linda Perkins* 937-0903

lperkins@mcn.org

Environmental Education • Endangered Species/Wildlife • Chapter Delegate

Lorrie Lagasse* 964-3011

lorrielas@yahoo.com

Corp. Accountability • Energy • Global Warming • Toxics Committee

Bernie Macdonald* 937-4352

omni@mcn.org

Political • Water Quality/Habitats

Daniel Myers* 895-3887

dmyers@pacific.net

Outings Chair

Lorraine Buranzon* 937-3799

lorraine@mcn.org

Webmaster

Dave Jordan 884-3426

scmendoweb@gmail.com

Napa County Group

Box 644, Napa 94559

Chair • Conservation Chair • Secretary • Chapter Delegate

Nancy Tamarisk* 257-3121

ntamarisk@earthlink.net

Vice Chair • Chapter Delegate Alternate

Marc Pandone * 966-1902

mpandone@attwb.net

Treasurer

Tom Davis 963-4466

tom@napavalleycpas.com

Membership Chair • Secretary

Linda Gail Brown*

Web Master

Nancy Tracy ntracy@sbcglobal.net

ExCom

Carol Kunze*

Paula Fields*

Marilee Talley*

John Stephens*

Roger Hartwell*

com

Outings Chair

Gina Hitchcock

iamginah@sbcglobal.net

North Group

Box 238, Arcata 95518

(Del Norte, Humboldt, W. Siskiyou, and parts of Trinity County)

Chair • Membership Co-Chair • Chapter Delegate

Gregg Gold* 826-3740

gregggold@netscape.net

ExCom • Political Co-Chair

Ned Forsyth* 826-2417

eaf7@humboldt.edu

Conservation Chair • Chapter Delegate Alt • Grazing • Mining • National Forests • Wilderness

Diane Beck* 445-2690

dfbeck@northcoast.com

Wetlands • Political Co-Chair

Melvin McKinney* 443-9538

mmckinney1@suddenlink.net

Secretary-Treasurer • Publicity • Newsletter • Education Chair

Sue Leskiw 442-5444

sueleskiw@suddenlink.net

Agriculture • Water

Felice Pace* 954-6588

unofelice@gmail.com

Outings Co-Chairs

Bill Knight

bill.knight.email@gmail.com

Allison Bronkall 268-8767

abronkall@yahoo.com

Marine • Transportation

Lucille Vinyard* 677-3497

Membership Co-Chair • Social Media

Nick Vogel* 502-7847

nicholasvogel@gmail.com

Solano Group

Box 4717, Vallejo 94590 553-1653

sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com

Chair • Wild Lands • Genetic Engineering

Jim Dekloe 864-3123

JIMDEKLOE@aol.com

Outings

Brian Collett* 530-220-3121

brcollett@gmail.com

Co-Membership

Kitty Powell* 642-3477

kitmom@pacbell.net

ExCom

Duane Kromm* 434-0316

dkkromm@gmail.com

ExCom

Greg Peterson* 415-902-3395

gspeterson1@gmail.com

ExCom

Joe Feller* 415-902-3395

joe@americantelecomwest.com

Treasurer • Fundraising • Recycling • Newsletter

Jane Bogner 644-9183

jabogner@juno.com

Secretary • Agriculture • Urban Sprawl

Patricia Gatz* 644-2943

pgatz@scronline.com

Political • Corporate Accountability

Katy Miessner* 642-2100

katym@mindspring.com

Sonoma County Group

Box 466, SR 95402 544-7651

55A Ridgway Ave., Santa Rosa

Executive Committee Members*

Steve Birdlebough* 576-6632

affirm@friendshouse.org

Annabel Ascher* 508-9645

annabelascher@yahoo.com

Veronica (Roni) Jacobi* 575-5594

vjacobi@sonic.net

Jay Halcomb* 869-3302

rrraul@sonic.net

Dan Kerbein* 535-0326

dkerbein@sonic.net

Joni Goshorn* 480-1055

jonsikay@yahoo.com

Chair

Steve Birdlebough* 576-6632

affirm@friendshouse.org

Administrative Chair

Dan Kerbein* 535-0326

dkerbein@sonic.net

Conservation Chair

Suzanne Doyle carsort@sbcglobal.net

Office Coordinator • ExCom Secretary

Tom Devlin 544-7651

tdevlin@sonic.net

Outings • Parks & Trails • Backpacking

Carol Vellutini 546-6308

carolvsr@sonic.net

Political Chair

Keith Kaulum 538-5569

kkaulum@sonic.net

Sierra Singles Coordinator

Karin Liedtke 539-7855

waterfal@sonic.net

Membership Chair

Annabel Ascher* 508-9645

annabelascher@yahoo.com

Sierra Student Coalition: Chair position open

Treasurer

Jana Selph 829-5356

jselph@sonic.net

Webmaster

Melanie Matway 765-6829

adastra7@hotmail.com

Volunteer Coordinator

Diana Nasser 823-4293

diananas@sonic.net

Water Committee Chair

Leonard L. Holt 527-7516

lholt@sonic.net

Climate & Energy Committee

Shirley Johnson-Foell 206-1138

shirlygirl707@yahoo.com

Sequoia Paddlers

POB 42, Forestville 95436

Chair

Tom Meldau 887-7416

Klamath dam removal.

The draft EIR/EIS on the Klamath dam removals has been released and comments were made by the Sierra Club to the Bureau of Reclamation on the draft. The Sierra Club maintains a clear position in support of dam removal, and has consistently held the position that the main-stem dams of the Klamath River must be removed in order to reopen historic salmon spawning grounds and, subsequently, to restore native Chinook salmon, Coho salmon, and steelhead runs. The Sierra Club accordingly strongly favors full decommissioning of the lower four dams of the Klamath Hydroelectric Project (KHP). In addition, the Sierra Club does not believe that dam removal should necessarily be tied to implementation of the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (KBRA) and the current Klamath Basin Economic Restoration Act of 2011 (HR 3398, S 1851). The S.C summary of the DEIS/DEIR is that, overall, the alternatives offered by the DEIS/DEIR are insufficient. Those provided do not offer alternatives that significantly address water quality improvements, nor is there an alternative to fully consider dam removal on the Klamath River without implementation of the KBRA.

Chapter Chair Report

In 2007, the Sierra Club helped fund scientific review of the effects of potentially unnaturally low Klamath River flows associated with the KBRA (Trush 2007, Kamman 2007). This review concluded that flows during particular times of year and types of water years (dry vs. normal vs. wet) would be insufficient to protect and restore salmon populations. Furthermore, the National Research Council (NRC 2004) report on recovering endangered fishes of the Klamath River recommended expanding marshes in Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and refilling Lower Klamath Lake in order to increase water storage and re-establish natural flow regimes in the Klamath's upper basin.

Much effort on this contentious issue, which involves three Sierra Club Chapters, was expended by Diane Beck, our Conservation Chair - thank you, Diane!

Berryessa/Snow Mountain.

Redwood Chapter continues to promote a Berryessa/Snow

Mountain National Conservation Area. Funding has been established to support the campaign, in part because there has been a lot of outreach done in Lake and Napa counties. It seems that there is a lot of political support for doing this. Please read the article on page one about the project by our Vice-Chair, Victoria Brandon.

State of the Chapters assessment.

In the last issue I mentioned that National Sierra Club conducted an assessment of the nearly 70 Sierra Club chapters; this meant collecting data from each chapter. As a result of our assessment the Redwood Chapter has decided to put renewed focus on outreach and fund-raising this year. These are lean times but we don't want that to lessen our important work.

Chapter and Group Elections.

Please see the results of the Chapter and Group Elections elsewhere in this issue. The Chapter Nominations Chair was Diana Nasser. Thanks, Diana, for seeing that the voting went smoothly.

—JAY HALCOMB, REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

Save the Date!

Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference

On March 15 and 16, the western edition of the 2012 Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference will be held at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles. For the past five years, the Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conferences have brought together a diverse group of attendees from labor, environmental, and industry to discuss solutions for a green economy that will create good green jobs. It's important that we, the environmental community, be well-represented to give environmental perspectives on global problems.

The Good Jobs, Green Jobs conferences, usually held in Washington, DC, are sponsored by the BlueGreen Alliance Foundation. This year, to attract wider audiences, the conferences will be offered in four separate locations: Atlanta, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Detroit.

The BlueGreen Alliance was launched in 2006 by the United Steelworkers and the Sierra Club. Today, the BlueGreen Alliance has increased its membership uniting nearly 15 million people from organized labor, environmental, faith and human rights groups—all who understand the necessity for good jobs, a clean environment and a green economy. The BlueGreen Alliance is focusing on the passage of comprehensive clean energy and climate change legislation, restoring the rights of workers in the United States to organize and bargain collectively, and toward establishing new trade policies that promote growth and prosperity across all sectors of global societies while protecting public health and safety.

Those wanting to attend the Los Angeles conference are encouraged to apply for scholarships to cover transportation, hotel, and registration fees. For more information; contact Joan Jones Holtz (626-443-0706; jholtzhl@aol.com) or visit the website: www.greenjobsconference.org

Non-Sierra Club Outings

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

Saturday Saunters for Santa Rosa Area.

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

Sonoma County Regional Parks trail work days.

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

1st Saturdays of the month (Feb. 4, Mar. 3): 9 am – 12 noon. Meet at Gravenstein Way, near Falletti Park. Help plant native trees and shrubs alongside the Laguna de Santa Rosa channel in Cotati. We'll be planting redtwig dogwood, alders, and other water-loving plants at the toe of the bank. Dress for work and weather. Tools and gloves provided. See www.CotatiCreekCritters.info for Creek Stewardship Day guidelines, directions and maps. Contact: jenny@creeks.cotati.info or 707 792 4422.

3rd Sundays of the month (Feb. 19, Mar. 18): 9 am – 12 noon. Meet at Cotati City well lot # 2 on Lakewood Ave. Help take care of native trees and shrubs by pruning, mulching, weeding etc. Dress for work and weather. Tools and gloves provided. See www.CotatiCreekCritters.info for Creek Stewardship Day guidelines, directions and maps. Contact: jenny@creeks.cotati.info or 792-4422.

Thurs. Feb. 9 - 7 pm Cotati Creek Critters Inside/Outside Nature Education series:

Walter Early of Mostly Natives plant nursery will give a presentation on native plants suitable for creek restoration and backyard plantings in the Cotati/Rohnert Park area. Ray Miller Community Center, 216. E. School St., Cotati. For details see

www.CotatiCreekCritters.info or email jenny@creeks.cotati.info or 707 792 4422.

Sat. Feb. 5; Mar. 3 - 9am – 1pm Hike at the King-Swett Ranches.

Come explore the hills between Fairfield, Benicia, and Vallejo with naturalist Jim Walsh. He will share insights about the birds and other wildlife that call this area home. The King-Swett Ranches are currently open to the public for staff- or docent-led activities only. This rigorous hike requires the ability to trek several miles off the trail, through high grasses and thistle, on uneven ground and up and down steep hills. Meet at the park-and-ride lot at I-80 and Hiddenbrooke Parkway/American Canyon Road. Long pants, water, snacks, and good boots are recommended. Heavy rain cancels. Info: 707/432-0150 x200

Sat. Feb. 18; Mar. 17 - 9am – 1pm Get the Rush at Rush Ranch.

Get the Rush is a series of fun and free activities designed for families—all ages are welcome! Activities may include a guided tour of the tidal marsh and upland grasses, a traditional blacksmith shop in action, and an opportunity to visit Little Bear at his table full of Native American tools and decorations. Rush Ranch is located at 3521 Grizzly Island Road, Suisun City, CA. Info: 707/432-0150 x200

Sat Mar. 17: 10am– 2pm Eagles, Hawks & Other Birds of Prey Hike at Lynch Canyon.

Join raptor enthusiast Larry Broderick to discover and learn about eagles, hawks, and other majestic birds of prey. Take advantage of this special opportunity because Lynch Canyon is otherwise closed for the fall and winter months. Lynch Canyon is located at the intersection of Lynch Road & McGary Road, Vallejo. Donations suggested but not required. RSVP to Natalie at (707) 432-0150 ex 200



Buy a Green Convertible and Help the Environment

1995 Chrysler Lebaron Spruce Green Convertible - 14k original miles, one owner, Sierra Club member. \$20k dealer price when new, Buy today \$8500 and all proceeds go to the Sonoma Group Sierra Club.

3.0L V6 Engine; 4 speed Automatic Transmission

Front Wheel Drive, disc brakes, airbags

Electric Power convertible top with glass rear window with defogger

Power Windows and Locks

Stainless steel exhaust system (will never rust)

14 gallon fuel tank / 20-29mpg

Spruce Green metallic paint color with tan convertible top and matching tan/champagne color cloth interior with bucket seats.

This Lebaron really does have only 14k original miles and it is basically New like the day it was purchased by the one and only owner!! The tan interior is in excellent condition with no rips, tears, stains or odors as you would expect with only one non-smoking owner. The exterior is just as nice, showing no dents, dings or scratches. The paint is in excellent condition and shiny all around. Naturally it runs and drives as good as it looks and everything works as it should. You won't be disappointed!

Buy this convertible and Explore, Enjoy and Protect the environment at the same time. Contact Tom at tdevlin@sonic.net for more details and a test drive. Again, all proceeds from the sale of this car go to the Sierra Club Sonoma Group for its work to protect the environment.

Save on Electricity While You Save the Earth!

Solar electricity is truly one of the best ways to combat rising costs of energy. And when you go solar with Real Goods, we'll make a \$250 donation to the Sierra Club. Good for you, good for the earth.



REALGOODS | SOLAR
solar living since 1978

FREE SITE EVALUATION

1.888.56.SOLAR

www.RealGoodsSolar.com



Outings

Sequoia Paddlers - Canoe and kayak roll practice.

Ridgway Swim Center in Santa Rosa Thurs. 7:15 pm - 8:45 pm. The pool is located on Ridgway Ave off Mendocino right next to Santa Rosa High School. The water is warm but the air is often cold, so wet suits are recommended as well as PFD's and helmets. Paddlers must bring their own clean boats and gear. Instruction is not provided although advice and tips are available for the asking. Showers are available. Cost \$5. Co-sponsored by the Sequoia Paddlers and the Santa Rosa Parks & Rec. Dept. Info: Sig.poolcoord@sequoiapc.org or 292-4947

Sequoia Paddlers Section.

The canoe, kayak and rafting section of the Redwood Chapter. Outings are often dependent on river conditions and do not have long lead times. Please check the Activities Page of our website, www.sequoiapc.org, for upcoming trips.

Sat. Feb. 4 - Sonoma Group. Snowshoe Day Trip.

A low key excursion for those wanting to try snowshoeing. We'll drive up Hwy 50 to an area east of Placerville and hike 2-3 miles over rolling terrain. Carpool details TBD. RSVP Jan. 31. Bring layered clothing, spare dry clothing, lunch, liquids, rent snowshoes locally. Class: M-2-3-A. Leader Carl Inglin 538-8271 or chinglin@sonic.net Maybe cancelled if weather/driving conditions are bad.

Fri.-Sun. Feb. 10-12 - Napa Group. Hutchinson Lodge Ski Weekend Soda Springs.

Join us for a fun-filled snow adventure! Cross country skiing, snowshoeing, down hill skiing or just playing in the snow all are available. Weekend

includes 2 nights, with 2 dinners & 2 breakfasts. Cross country skis or snow shoes are available for rental at nearby Claire Tappaan Lodge. Sugar Bowl, Donner Ski Ranch, Royal Gorge, and Soda Springs are nearby and accessible by car or shuttle bus. By reservation only. Leader Nanette Dedonato 707-645-8953 or nandedo@netzero.net. Cost \$78 for the weekend.

Sat. Feb. 11 - Napa Group. Mt. Tamalpais East Peak Day Hike.

Loop hike from Mountain Theater to East Peak, 9 miles, 700 ft gain, enjoy outstanding panoramic views, well-maintained trails. The pace will be just a bit on the slow side of Moderate. Bring lunch and liquids. Class: M-9-A. Please RSVP online, at <http://www.meetup.com/Sacramento-Sierra-Club/events/38991962/> or contact the leader. Co-led with Mother Lode Chapter. Leader: Martin Farber 707-253-9606 kowsoi@juno.com co-leader Doug Condrotte. Rain or shine.

Sat. Feb. 11 - Sonoma Group. Mare Island Flyway Festival.

The San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival is based on the former Mare Island Naval Shipyard, the U.S. Navy's oldest installation in the Pacific and a National Historic Landmark, the highest ranking National Park Service gives an historic site in America. We will hopefully join Solano leader Brian Collett 530-220-3121 on his 9:30 walk. See his walk write up. Then we will celebrate the festival. The new schedule is not out at this time, but if you Goggle the flyway festival, last years program will come up. Bring lunch, liquids, binoculars & layered clothing. Carpools: Meet 8:15

leave 8:30 Park & Ride south west corner under Hwy 12 by fairgrounds. By reservation only. Leader Carol 546-6308 carolvrs@sonic.net Heavy rain cancels.

Sat. Feb. 11 - Lake Group. Long Valley. Located on the Knoxville Preserve, we will hike up Long Valley Creek at the base of the Blue Ridge. Return hike will be along a ridge giving spectacular views of Mt. St. Helena, Cobb Mt. and much of eastern Lake County. Class M-8-A. Carpools: Meet 8:30 am .Lower Lake Coffee Company, Main Street Lower Lake Trailhead by 9:15. By reservation only. Tom McFarling (707) 994-5490 tmcfarling@callatg.com Rain cancels.

Sat. Feb. 11 - Solano Group. Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve Hike.

Hike along Historic Southshore of Mare Island to southern most point of island at Pier 35 for unique views of Carquinez Strait and opportunity to view various wildlife and historic relics along the way (a level 4 mile round trip walk on paved and gravel roads) 9:30 -11:00. Take U.S. 101, I-80 or Hwy 29 to Highway 37 and take Mare Island exit just west of Vallejo. Follow Walnut Ave south to 'G' St. (1st stop sign) and turn left. Take the 2nd right at Nimitz and go to 15th St. stop sign and turn right. Go to Railroad Ave. and turn left. Follow Railroad through the South Gate to the Park kiosk and park along road. Leader Brian Collett 530-220-3121.

Sat. Feb. 18 - Sonoma Group. Post-Valentine's Day Petaluma River Shoreline Walk.

Discover a paradise for waterfowl. We will walk the nature trail that links the Marina to Shollenberger Park and the 4 million-dollar addition of the Gray Ranch. Alman Marsh, home of the endangered salt harvest mouse, is across the new bridge over Adobe Creek. See where the proposed Dutra Asphalt Plant will be built. Walk is flat, about 4 miles going to the river and back. The views are different, with Sonoma Mountain as a backdrop and the wetlands reflecting the sun. Bring layered clothing, binoculars, lunch, liquids. I will bring Valentine's Day cookies. By reservation only. Carpools: Meet 11 am Santa Rosa Park N Ride under freeway and across from fairgrounds; or 11:35 am trailhead off Lakeville Hwy. in the Marina by the Sheraton Hotel (in the back) Leader Carol 546-6308. carolvrs@sonic.net Canceled if raining.

Sat. Feb. 18 - Lake Group (with Friends of Boggs Mountain). Boggs Mountain State Forest Hike.

Hike various trails. Appropriate footwear required, water/snack advised. Neutered/Spayed dogs on leash welcome. Class M-4.5-A. Meet 9 am-kiosk-main parking area. Entrance at Forestry Road 1.3 miles north of Cobb Village on Hwy 175. Leader Boone Lodge fobm@mediacombb.net (707) 928-5819 Bad weather cancels.

Sat-Mon. Feb. 18-20-Explore and Serve in the Grass Valley Wilderness.

Slightly east and south of Ridgecrest, CA, the Grass Valley Wilderness was created in 1994. It features rolling hills and a few higher rock outcroppings. As it is no longer available for grazing, we will join a group of college age SCA interns in removing old fence poles and disguising an illegal road. Sat. and Sunday are for work, and Monday, President's Day, will be reserved to hike and explore the Wilderness. This is an opportunity to combine car-camping, day-hiking, exploring, and service in a relatively unknown wilderness. Leader: Craig Deutsche, (310-477-6670), craig.deutsche@gmail.com, CNRCC Desert Committee

Sat.-Mon. Feb. 18-20- Ludlow Hut Trip (Intermediate - Adv Intermediate).

Snowshoe/Ski 6.5 miles (1200') to Ludlow Hut for Presidents weekend Sat. /Sun. overnight and back out on

Mon. midday. \$38 (\$40 Non Sierra Club members) by Feb 4th to Jim Gannon; PO Box 1038, Rohnert Park, CA 94927. Non-refundable reservations. Please include email address/phone#. Optional stay at Clair Tappaan lodge Fri 11th. Make reservations early to avoid disappointment. Lodge reservations 530-426-3632 indicate you are with Ludlow trip-Redwood Chapter. Central commissary is planned. Meeting time/locations provided with trip sign up. Contact leader Jim Gannon (707)-525-1052 jgannon99@sbcglobal.net.

Sun. Feb. 26 - North Group. Clam Beach to Mouth of Mad River, McKinleyville.

Walk south along Clam Beach to the mouth of the Mad River, along a route that visits streams and wetlands, with occasional wildlife that might include seals in the river mouth. Return along the Hammond Trail. Bring water and snacks. Fit, well-socialized dogs with leash are welcome. Two shallow stream crossings are necessary. Class M-6-A. Meet: 12:30 pm southern, unpaved Clam Beach parking lot. Leader Bill 707-839-5971. Heavy rain cancels.

Sat., Mar. 3 - Sonoma Group. Zim Falls Hike.

If it ever rains, we'll see a nice waterfall in the hills north of Lake Berryessa. Most of the 7 mile round trip trail is fairly level, with a climb at the end to an overlook. There are a number of stream crossings; difficulty depends on how much rain there's been. Dress in layers for the weather, wear appropriate footwear, be prepared to get wet feet. Bring lunch, liquids. Class E-7-A. Carpools: Meet at River Road Park-n-Ride just west of Hwy 101, next to the PG&E substation at 9 am. By reservation only. RSVP Leader; Carl Inglin, 707-538-8271 or chinglin@sonic.net. Rain cancels. Heavy rains the day before that affect the creek crossings will also cancel.

Sat.-Mon. Mar. 3-4 - Death Valley Area Tour.

Meet in Shoshone, south of Death Valley at 8:00 am Sat. morning, or camp overnight nearby. Tour will take us to stops at Badwater, Natural Bridge, Golden Canyon, and Artists Palette. Short hikes and lunch stop along the way. Camp Sat. night at Texas Springs (fee). Sunday morning, visit Zabriskie Point, then drive through 20 Mule Team Canyon. Continue to Death Valley Junction, then to Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. If time allows, we will go south to Amargosa Canyon and China Ranch for a hike and date shakes. For those wanting to stay over Sunday night there will be primitive camping in the area and we could do more hiking in Amargosa Canyon. Contact leader for reservations and trip details. Carol Wiley, desertlily1@verizon.net or 760-245-8734. CNRCC Desert Committee

Sat. Mar. 10 - Solano Group. Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Hike.

Hike along Historic Southshore of Mare Island to southern most point of island at Pier 35 for unique views of Carquinez Strait and opportunity to view various wildlife and historic relics along the way (a level 4 mile round trip walk on paved and gravel roads) 9:30-11:00. Take U.S. 101, I-80

or Hwy 29 to Highway 37 and take Mare Island exit just west of Vallejo.



Peter Grubb Winter Hut Backpack Trip. Leaders: Jim Gannon/Don Anderson.

Follow Walnut Ave south to 'G' St. (1st stop sign) and turn left. Take the 2nd right at Nimitz and go to 15th St. stop sign and turn right. Go to Railroad Ave. and turn left. Follow Railroad through the South Gate to the Park kiosk and park along road. Leader Brian Collett 530-220-3121.

Sat. Mar. 10 - Lake Group. Red Bud Trail to Wilson Valley in Cache Creek Wilderness Hike.

This very enjoyable but long hike follows the Redbud trail climbing some 420 feet over the ridge to Baton Flat where it crosses Cache Creek, water level permitting. It continues on the other side, climbing about 300 feet before descending into Wilson Valley. We will return via the lower trail along Cache Creek. The round trip distance is 9 miles but if the water level is too high, we will only go to Baton Flat. Bring lunch, binoculars, water and shoes suitable for wading across Cache Creek. Class H-9-A. Carpools: 8:00 am parking lot Live Oak and Hwy 29 in Kelseyville. Trail head: 9 a.m. off Highway 20 just west of the bridge over the North Fork of Cache Creek and eight miles east of Clearlake Oaks. By reservation only. Leader Steve Devoto sdevoto@mchsi.com

Sun. Mar. 11 - Sonoma Group. Sonoma Valley Regional Park hello daylight savings time Hike.

This is a peaceful walk around the park. We will hike through oak woodlands and past a lake on some moderately steep hills and rocky trails with uneven surfaces. Hopefully early spring flowers will be blooming. Class: E-4-A Bring layered clothing, lunch, and liquids. By reservation only. Carpools: Meet 11 am Safeway shopping center on Calistoga Rd & Hwy. 12 in southwest corner of parking lot or 11:20 am Sonoma Valley Regional Park - off Hwy. 12 east of Santa Rosa. There is a parking fee. Leader Carol Vellutini 546-6308 carolvrs@sonic.net Rain cancels.

Fri.-Sun. Mar. 16-18 - Whipple Mts Desert Service.

Join CA/NV wilderness committee and Mojave Group's annual service trip with the Needles office of BLM; for this patrician greening of the desert, we'll return to the Whipple Mts, home of elusive saguaro cactus. Actual work project details still a secret, to be revealed to those who sign up with leader Vicky Hoover, 415-977-5527, or Vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org. Central commissary, usual exorbitant fee. CNRCC Wilderness Committee

Sat.-Sun. Mar. 17-18- Benson Hut Trip (Adv Intermediate - Advanced).

Snowshoe/Ski 6 miles (2300') to Benson Hut for a Sat. overnight. \$23 (\$25 Non Sierra Club members) by Mar 4th to Jim Gannon; PO Box 1038, Rohnert Park, CA 94927. Checks are non-refundable in case of weather cancellation. Please include email address/phone#. Optional stay at Clair Tappaan lodge Fri 9th. Make reservations early to avoid disappointment. Lodge reservations

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, (carolvrs@sonic.net) by the 8th of the month. All leaders must coordinate their outings with their Group Outings Chair.



Quality folding bicycle rentals delivered to you

855-483-3732 toll-free | rentabike@bikepartners.net
Geoffrey D. Smith, Owner

FREE DELIVERY IN SANTA ROSA AREA
UPS SHIPPING ELSEWHERE

Authorized dealer for Bike Friday® folding bicycles, hand-made in Oregon

Outings

530-426-3632 indicate you are with Benson trip-Redwood Chapter. Central commissary is planned. Meeting time/locations provided with trip sign up. Contact leader Jim Gannon (707)-525-1052 jgannon99@sbcglobal.net

Sat. Mar. 17 - Lake Group. Payne Ranch Hike.

BLM property in eastern Lake County along Hwys 20 & 16. We will hike to the Road Kill Cafe, then up onto gentle ridges and ranch pond for lunch. End of hike descends through beautiful Blue Oak forest and crosses Bear Creek to cars. Be prepared to get your feet wet at trail's end. Class M-7-A. Carpools: Meet 8:30. Lower Lake Coffee Company, Main Street in Lower Lake. Requires shuttle, hike starts 10 am trailhead Hwy 20. Leader Tom McFarling (707)994-5490 tmcfarling@callatg.com. Rain cancels.

Sun. Mar. 18 - North Group. Hidden Beach Section of Coastal Trail, Redwood National Park.

Hike follows wooded bluffs south 4 miles from Lagoon Creek to Klamath River Overlook, and returns by same route. Wear hiking footgear and layered garments; bring liquids and lunch. No dogs. Class: M-8-A. Carpools: meet 9 a.m. southwest corner Valley West Shopping Center, or 10:15 a.m. Lagoon Creek Picnic Area trailhead, off Hwy 101. Leader Melinda 707-668-4275 or mgroomster@gmail.com. Rain cancels.

Thurs-Sun. Mar. 22-25 - Hutchinson Lodge Backcountry Weekend (Beginner to Intermediate).

Stay at spacious Hutchinson Lodge located at Donner Pass next door to Clair Tappaan Lodge. Share and explore winter backcountry skills March 22 to 25, 2012 (Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights). The weekend will

be aimed at creating an environment of sharing information and skills for exploring the Sierra backcountry. Depending on interest, weather and conditions we will organize activities around backcountry gear, navigation tips, where to go, safety, conservation and skills. We'll plan to organize short day tours from the lodge or consider a day at one of the nearby resorts to work on skiing skills. Clair Tappaan Lodge staff will provide an update or conservation issues facing Donner Summit Saturday night at 8pm. This lodge is accessible from Donner Pass Road and offers a great Sierra winter experience. Come for two or all three days. Backcountry advocates of all skill levels using skis, snowboards or snowshoes are welcome. Warm sleeping bag, pad, winter clothing (think layering) and your skis or snowshoes along with a sense of adventure are what you bring. Cost is \$58 for a minimum two nights of lodging. Additional night is \$25. Fees may not be fully refundable due to road closure, weather or you cancel and we can't fill your spot. Breakfast and Dinner will be a commissary which will be \$12 per day per person. You will be on your own for lunches. Accompanied minors who can actively participate in the weekend are ok. No pets. Send \$\$ and dates to Jim Gannon PO Box 1038, Rohnert Park, CA 94927 to hold your reservation. Jim Gannon 707-525-1052 or e-mail: jgannon99@earthlink.net

Sat. Mar. 24 - Lake Group (with Friends of Boggs Mountain). Boggs Mountain State Forest Hike.

Hike various trails. Appropriate footwear required, water/snack advised. Neutered/Spayed dogs on leash welcome. Class M-3.8-A. Meet

9 am-kiosk-main parking area. Entrance Forestry Road 1.3 miles north of Cobb Village on Hwy 175. Leader Boone Lodge fobm@mediacommb.net (707) 928-5819 Bad weather cancels.

Sat. Mar. 24 - North Group. Ma-le'l Dunes Parent & Child Walk, Arcata.

Come with your kids and explore this BLM and Fish & Wildlife Service Cooperative Management Area and experience a biologically diverse dune community, the most pristine in the Pacific Northwest. We will follow Ledik Trail to Du'k Loop Trail and see a coastal forest, sand dunes and the beach. Wear sturdy shoes and bring liquids and lunch. No strollers. Heavy rain cancels. Class: E-1.5-A. Meet: 10:00 a.m. Ma-le'l Dunes South parking area: Take Samoa Blvd (Hwy 255), turn onto Young Lane, follow sign left to parking. Leader Allison 707-268-8767.

Sat. Mar. 31 - Lake Group. Mt. Konocti from Gate Hike.

We will hike from the gate and back. Bring binoculars, lunch, water and enjoy the spectacular views over Big Valley and Clear Lake. Carpools: Meet 8:30 a.m. Park & Drive Live Oak Drive and Highway 29 in Kelseyville. By reservation only. Class S-8-B Leader Steve Devoto sdevoto@mchsi.com

Sat.-Sun. Apr. 7-8 - Mojave National Preserve Tour.

Saturday morning we will meet at Teutonia Peak trailhead on Cima Road for a hike to Teutonia Peak and out onto Cima Dome and then camp at Sunrise Rocks, which is primitive camping. Sunday we will hike from Midhills to Hole-in-the-Wall. This is an 8 mile, downhill hike and if the timing is right could have wonderful windflowers. For those wanting to arrive on Friday we can go out to the Rock Springs Loop Trail. For those wanting to stay over night on Sunday we can primitive camp near the Kelso Dunes and hike the dunes on Monday morning. For reservations, contact Carol Wiley at desertlily1@verizon.net or at 760-245-8734 CNRCC Desert Committee

Thurs. April 12 - Hiddenbrooke Hike.

Join me on this 5 mile r/t hike along the Bay Area Ridge Trail near Vallejo. Meet at the Park and Ride on the east frontage road after exiting American Canyon Rd. on to Hiddenbrooke Parkway. Meet: 8:15 am. Class E-5-A. RSVP to leader: Jean Crossley 530-400-074 or jcrossley1@peoplepc.com. I encourage bringing short chopping hoes for occasional removal of invasive starthistle.

Sun.-Sat. Apr. 29-May 5 - Escalante River Canyon - Service Trip/Backpack.

We will work with National Park Service Ranger Bill Wolverton on this ongoing Russian olive eradication program. 40.5 miles of the Escalante River have been cleared. This project will clear more, using loppers, small handsaws, and herbicide. Meet in Escalante Sunday morning, caravan to the trailhead and hike in about 7 miles. Expect knee to thigh deep river crossings, and some bushwhacking. We work 4 days, dayhike 1 day and hike out Sat. morning. Participants must follow work-clothing requirements, provide their own food and gear on the trail, and travel expenses to the trailhead. Info: contact leader, Paul Plathe at 209-476-1498. Delta-Sierra Group/Mother Lode Chapter

A Brief History of the Wednesday Hiking Group

By DAVID WIGGINTON

The Wednesday Hiking Group was founded by John Muir in 1892, shortly after he founded the Sierra Club. He was hiking through Santa Rosa one Wednesday on his way to visit Luther Burbank at the botanist's Sebastopol farm when he...

No, wait. John Muir didn't really start the Wednesday Hiking Group. At least, not directly. But the group has its roots in the Sierra Club. The founding members of the Wednesday hikers were members of the Sierra Club. Bob Whiting, Otis Moorhouse, Kay Seidell, Frank and Francis Eliggi, and Edith Newsome were among the original Wednesday hikers who started the group circa 1968, according to Edith.

Why did they start a group separate from the Sierra Club? Jane Danner, a Wednesday hiker from 1984 to 2009, says that they wanted to escape Sierra Club rules and regulations caused by insurance liability issues. She added that they also wanted to have a hiking alternative to the Sierra Club's emphasis on environmental politics. John Danner and Jane Sims suggested that the genesis of the group was the retirement of its founders, who now had time to hike during the week.

The group was originally called the Bob Whiting Hikers, in part because they used to meet in front of Bob's home on Spencer Avenue in Santa Rosa. But Bob, an active outings leader for, and life member of, the Sierra Club, was also instrumental in getting permission from local farmers, ranchers, and other property owners for the group to hike on their land. He was a very popular and highly regarded leader, so much so that for the last several years of his life the Wednesday hikers honored him by giving him an annual birthday party at Armstrong Woods or Spring Lake. He died at age 90 in 1987. There is a Bob Whiting Trail at Howarth Park in Santa Rosa, in honor of the Wednesday Hiking Group founder and Sierra Club leader. His ashes were scattered either there or at Annadel.

Edith Newsome told me that after Bob died, she stepped in to help keep the group going. "We were very selective (from the beginning) - we wanted to have a smaller group." You had to know someone in the group to be invited to join it. I should mention that when I joined the Sierra Club in 1968, it was not open to the public in the way it is now; I had to have a sponsor and submit an application to be admitted to the Club. So both the Wednesday hikers and the Sierra Club have loosened their admission policies over time.

Candi Dahlstet says that there was a core group that were diehards; they would hike rain or shine every week, and they were hardier hikers than we are today. Carol Vellutini, a longtime Sierra Club outings leader, validated Candi's observation about the hardiness of earlier hikers by saying that in the 1940's and '50's the Sierra Club hikers were generally more athletic and adventurous than most hikers today. She laughed when told that the Wednesday hikers have ongoing differences about whether the group hikes too slow or too fast; "All hiking groups have that issue, and always have." Older hikers slow down, and younger ones want to go faster. Thus it has always been.

Partly in response to the longer drive times to Marin and the greater difficulty of some of those hikes, this year Ellie Trussell started "splinter hikes" that are closer to home and less rigorous than some of the regularly scheduled hikes. Many of the "old guard" hikers choose to go on those hikes, which, if and when they occur, also happen on Wednesdays. Occasionally there are even "sliver" hikes that offer a third alternative for Wednesday hiking.

With the growth of the Wednesday Hiking Group in the last 40 plus years, some people think it has gotten too big, and others disagree. But the consensus is that it is still an interesting collection of nature lovers, exercise enthusiasts, and world travelers, and it's still a fun group to hike with.

Even if John Muir only founded the group indirectly.

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park, 2012

3-Day, Live-Aboard, Multi-Island Cruises: May 6-8; July 8-10; September 9-11

Explore the wild, windswept islands of Channel Island National Park. Enjoy the frolicking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on rare sea and land birds. Hike trails bordered by blankets of wildflowers and plants found in no other place on earth. Kayak or snorkel the pristine waters—or just relax at sea. All tours depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68' twin diesel Truth. Fee for all tours, \$590, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes, call attention to items of interest and present evening programs. Proceeds from this fundraiser benefit Angeles Chapter Political Committee. To make a reservation mail a \$100 check, payable to Sierra Club to leader: Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. Contact leader for more information (626-443-0706; jholtzhln@aol.com)

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.

Fast-pace with few or no stops:

Jim Gannon Paul Bozzo Carol Magill

Moderate-pace with few stops:

Carl Inglin Penny Proteau Don Anderson Steve Devoto
Isabelle Saint-Guily Lorrie Lagasse Boone Lodge Val Nordeman
Chip Bouril Doug Condrotte Xandra Manns Jackie Farley

Moderate-pace with more frequent stops:

Bill Arenander Pete McGee Tim Bartice Bill Knight Susan Whiteside
Carol Vellutini Yvonne Kramer Martin Farber Brian Collett
Jean Crossley Ken Roberts Melinda Groom Tom McFarling
Nanette DeDonato

Slower-pace: Gina Hitchcock Allison Bronkall Jim Carr

Sierra Club Volunteer/Activist Opportunities

Sonoma Group Hike Leaders: Sonoma Group outings leaders training. Always a need for more leaders for outings. If you would like a training, please email Carol carolvsr@sonic.net or call 546-6308 for info. People are requesting families with children, camping and easy hikes.

North Group Hike Leaders: North Group is desperately seeking hike leaders. Please contact Bill Knight, the Outings Chair, at bill.knight.email@gmail.com.

Help the Sonoma Group Water Committee! Come to our meetings at 7:00 PM at the Environmental Center on the third Wednesdays of most months. The Water Committee is working on issues related to measures to conserve, save, and reuse this valuable resource. Our goal is to preserve and improve the natural water environment, the responsible use of water by people, and the safe reuse or disposal of our wastewaters. Come to our meetings with your suggestions and to help in this enterprise. If you are not able to attend our meetings, you may e-mail Len Holt at lholt@sonic.net. Help protect the quality of our water for people, wild life, fish and other aquatic life, promote water conservation and intelligent reuse.

The Climate & Energy Committee is getting Amped up! Join our discussion on the 1st Monday/Month at 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa, get Charged about community renewable energy programs. Contact Shirley Johnson-Foell Climate & Energy Committee Forum-Chair. The next meetings are Feb. 6th and March 5th at 4:30. Email: shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, home 206-1138, or call the office 544-7651.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

All Creatures Great and Small



"Every good thing, great and small, needs defense"

- John Muir

Join Sierra Club and help protect all creatures, great and small.

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

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

or visit our website www.sierraclub.org P94Q W 0300 1



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Create an Environmental Legacy.



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

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

For more info and confidential assistance, contact:
 Sierra Club
 Gift Planning Program
 85 Second Street, Second Floor
 San Francisco, CA 94105
gift.planning@sierraclub.org • (800) 932-4270

Napa Group Report

Water and climate change issues are dominating our current conservation efforts.

Groundwater, being virtually unregulated in California, is "the last frontier" for management of our state water resources. Napa County has at last launched a study group, the Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee (GRAC), to plan for studying the status of our aquifers. Napa Sierra Club, represented by ExCom member Marilee Talley, has a seat at the table, and will be pushing for a comprehensive effort, which will eventually help us to understand how much agricultural and population growth our county water supplies can support.

Hope for re-establishing Napa River steelhead and salmon runs depends in large part on control of sediment dumped into the water. The river's state-mandated sediment TMDL plan has been years in the making, and its now receiving its final touches with the development of farm plans for sediment control. Roger Hartwell of our ExCom is Sierra Club's voice in this process. The success of this effort will take decades to judge.

The second draft of Napa County's Climate Action Plan, which aims to reduce our production of greenhouse gases, is up for review. We have been pushing for prominent recognition of the valuable role of our forests and woodlands as "carbon sinks", which soak up fossil fuel emissions. The major development threat to our Napa County oaks and conifers is new vineyard creation.

Our commitment to protection of open spaces extends beyond the borders of our County. We're lobbying the cities of American Canyon and Napa to withdraw from support for studies to build the "Garden Bar Dam" in the Sierra foothills. The dam would flood thousands of acres of ranches and oak woodlands to create a water-supply reservoir. The cost would be huge—an estimated \$40 million for studies and legal clearances alone, and the reliability of the water delivery would be uncertain. Overall it looks to us like a bad deal, both environmentally and for local ratepayers.

Help us go green! Send your e-mail addresses to nancy@aya.yale.edu to receive Napa Group bulletins electronically.

—NANCY TAMARISK, NAPA GROUP CHAIR

North Group Report

Pizza Party Scheduled for March 13

Members and supporters are welcome to attend a pizza party starting at 6 p.m. at the Adorni Center on the Eureka Waterfront. Speakers on climate change and possibly wilderness grazing are expected. The regular ExCom business meeting and discussion of conservation issues will follow between 7 and 8:45 p.m. Info: Gregg, 707-826-3740.

Election Results

Ned Forsyth, Gregg Gold, Felice Pace, and Nick Vogel were elected to 2-year terms on the North Group Executive Committee. Richard Kreis has been appointed to serve as NG representative on the Northcoast Environmental Center board of directors.

Comments Submitted on Klamath

National Sierra Club (SC) submitted comments to the Bureau of Reclamation on December 30 on the Klamath Hydroelectric Project Facilities Removal DEIS/DEIR. The comments were the work of three Chapters— Redwood, Mother Lode, and Oregon—and National staff. Highlights of the comments: 1) SC supports dam removal and strongly favors full decommissioning of the lower four dams; 2) SC does not believe that dam removal should necessarily be tied to implementation of the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (KBRA) and current legislation (HR3398, S1851) that has been introduced in Congress; 3) SC believes the DEIS/DEIR offers insufficient alternatives (does not consider dam removal without KBRA implementation). The letter concludes by encouraging the Bureau of Reclamation and the Interior secretary to "expeditiously make a determination that dam removal will advance restoration of salmonid fisheries in the Basin and is in the public interest."

Great Year for Outings

Outings Chair Bill Knight reports that during 2011, 26 outings were completed, involving 150 participants. Four volunteers led hikes: Xandra Manns, Melinda Groom, Allison Bronkall, and Bill Knight. Special thanks to Xandra, who led 11 hikes, and Allison, who led the largest outing (14 participants on a parent/child visit to Trillium Falls in Redwood National Park). There is always a need for more leaders, so if you would like to help people explore our beautiful North Coast, contact Bill at bill.knight.email@gmail.com.

North Group to Sponsor Science Fair Award

For the sixth year, NG will be sponsoring an award at the annual Humboldt County Science Fair held in mid-March at Humboldt State. Fifty dollars will be given to the best project dealing with environmental issues.

—SUE LESKI, NORTH GROUP SECRETARY

Sonoma Group Report

Airport:

Sonoma Group drafted a position letter to the Sonoma County Supervisors. Leading concerns are about noise and large increases in greenhouse gas emissions. Our letter went with a detailed analysis of our issues.

Carneros Ranch/Port Sonoma Fill Project:

We appealed to the Board of Supervisors to overturn the zoning board's approval of the project, and require an EIR. Our Chair, Steve Birdleough, and Water Committee Chair Len Holt have provided the Supervisors with a detailed list of concerns about the project.

Among the issues not addressed by the county include: water pollution; air quality; impacts of turning Port Sonoma into an industrial off-loading site for barges; effects of predicted sea level rise; leaching of contaminants.

The wording of the above document, plus the letter regarding airport expansion, can be found on the Sonoma Group's Facebook Page.

Much of the opposition to this project comes from the Marin side of the bay: Marin Conservation League, Marin Audubon, and Black Point Homeowners Association. The Sonoma Group has also contributed to the costs of filing an appeal, and is in support of the effort.

March Awards Dinner:

Please reserve Saturday evening, March 3 for the annual Environmental Awards Dinner at Sebastopol Veterans Auditorium. This event highlights the wide range of environmental activities in Sonoma County and benefits our Environmental Center.

Committee Updates:

We congratulate the new members of our Executive Committee. Please go to the Sierra Club Redwood Chapter web site, and look under Sonoma Group, to find our committees, and when they meet. All Sierra Club members are welcome to attend.

Political Committee:

Do you follow your local city council meetings? It is important for the Sonoma Group Political Committee to have local assistance with interviews of candidates for Sierra Club endorsement in city council elections. Most city council endorsement interviews will take place this summer - contact Suzanne Doyle at carsort@sbcglobal.net if you'd like to help.

—DAN KERBEIN, SONOMA GROUP ADMINISTRATIVE CHAIR

Lake Group Report

Permanent protection for Berryessa Snow Mountain region

As this edition of the Needles was going to press, Lake Group was busy planning our first general membership meeting of 2012, to be held in the city of Clearlake on January 24 and featuring a campaign update on the proposed Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area. For more information on this exciting conservation initiative, see the article on page one of this issue.

Lakeport annexation update

As discussed a few months ago the city of Lakeport has been considering annexing a tract of land that includes both prime agricultural soils and sensitive wetlands close to Clear Lake. The Sierra Club predicts that inclusion of these areas in the city would lead to their development at typical urban densities, with inevitable negative environmental impacts. Nonetheless, the Planning Commission recommended that the City Council approve the environmental review of the project in its entirety—without an Environmental Impact Report. Lake Group believes that if these sensitive areas are not removed from the annexation proposal a full EIR must be prepared.

Apparently the Club's and County's most recent comments on this subject have proved persuasive, because when certification of the Negative Declaration came up at the December 6 City Council meeting staff recommended that it be "postponed indefinitely," and that in the meantime the city sit down with the county and Club to resolve our differences—a very encouraging outcome. Lake Group representatives look forward to participating in this discussion, which we think very likely to lead to a positive result for all concerned. For more information, including an aerial photo of the region and the two comment letters the Club has submitted so far, visit redwood.sierraclub.org/lake

Rattlesnake Island: the Lawsuit

Rattlesnake Island, the largest island in Clear Lake, is listed on the National Historic Register because of the richness and antiquity of its cultural resources, and is also regarded as a sacred site by the native peoples of the Clear Lake basin and beyond. The island's owner, a businessman from the Bay Area, wants to grade part of the site in order build a vacation house, disturbance which Lake Group has consistently maintained should not take place without the safeguards provided by an Environmental Impact Report. Well over a year ago the Planning Commission unanimously supported this position, but when the owner appealed this decision to the Board of Supervisors in September, the BOS overturned it on a 3-2 vote. Although the legal grounds for their ruling seemed quite questionable, at the time it also seemed unlikely that the county would be held to account by litigation—so it is heartening to be able to report that in November a local group called the Friends of Rattlesnake Island filed suit in Lake County Superior Court.

Although the issues surrounding the island's ownership are complex, the suit revolves around the simple question of whether "substantial evidence" has been presented that the project could have environmental impacts (disturbance of significant archeological remains) that have been either unidentified or insufficiently mitigated—an argument Lake Group thinks has a lot of merit.

—VICTORIA BRANDON, LAKE GROUP

Thank You to Our November Volunteers: Marie Okun, Christa Foerchgott, Marlies Lenigk, Jane and Nancy.

VALCORE Recycling and Confidential Paper Shredding in 2012

Solano Group will be working every 3rd Saturday at 38 Sheridan Street, Vallejo from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Jan 21, Feb 18, April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, Sept 15, Oct 20, and Dec 15). There is a charge of \$10 per twenty pounds of paper shredded. (maximum: 100 pounds). We need help tending the money and directing traffic.

We are also scheduled to work the Flyway Festival on Friday evening, Feb. 10.

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

We need Sierra Club supervisors to help other groups tend the garden on March 24, August 25 and October 27.

There is a possibility that we will be part of the Vallejo Museum Garden Tour that is held on Sunday, May 20 from 10 to 3. Contact Jane at 707 319-6398

Solano Breeze Corner

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

sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com 707-319-6398

Solano Group Volunteer Opportunities:

Membership Co-Chair: about 4 hours a month. It's mostly computer work.

Web Page Master: We need someone who knows front page to update the Solano Page (about 2 hours every other month).

VALCORE Recycling Board Alternate: May need to attend one meeting per year.

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.

HELP PAY FOR OUR LANDFILL LAWSUIT.

(Our attorney's fees are 3000 cans per hour)

Please bring your CRV – CA Cash Refund containers down to VALCORE (38 Sheridan St. Vallejo, Mon - Sat, 10am to 1

pm and 2 pm to 4:30pm.

OR Cash them in at your local recycle center and send us a check for the refund amount.

2011 Sierra Club Scholarship Award:

Gregory Maring is the 2011 recipient of the Sierra Club scholarship at Solano College. This is our 17th annual scholarship for environmental students. He lives in Fairfield and is currently majoring in Biology. He is entering his final semester at Solano College, then transferring to UC Davis in the fall as a Microbiology major. His long term goal is as a pathologist, or to work for a biotech company such as Genentech. He was recently diagnosed with a chronic autoimmune disease that left him bedbound without a biologic drug, therefore he chose research to help those like him.

Gregory is active in hiking, snowboarding, kayaking, and camping. Most of his hobbies are outdoors so protecting the environment is so important to him. He is also a great photographer and you can see some of his awesome pix on <http://www.flickr.com/photos/g707unit/>.

Congratulations Gregory.

—GREG PETERSON AND JANE BOGNER, SOLANO GROUP

Redwood Chapter Election Results

Redwood Chapter	North Group	Napa Group
Keith Kaulum	Ned Forsyth	Roger Hartwell
Leonard Holt	Gregg Gold	Marilee Talley
Victoria Brandon	Felice Pace	Marc Pandone
	Nick Vogel	
Solano Group	Sonoma Group	Lake Group
Jim Kekloe	Len Greenwood	Cheri Holden
Duane Kromm	Suzanne Doyle	Tom Gilliam
Joe Feller	Dan Kerbin	Sarah Scott
Mendocino Group	Jessica Jones	
Mary Walsh		
Carrie Durkey		
Bernie Macdonald		
Rixanne Wehren		

Special Request

If you have unneeded clean cloth napkins of any color or pattern, we would love to receive them at the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgeway Ave, Santa Rosa. These would be used at the fundraising dinner on March 3rd. If no one is at the EC they can be left in a bag by the door marked, "For Environmental Dinner". I doubt anyone will take them. Thank you!



Kit Carson Lodge

Are You Looking For Winter Lodging Away From The Maddening Crowds of Lake Tahoe and Ski Resorts?

Come to Polar Bear Cottage. The back country and Silver Lake are right outside your front door where you can play in the snow, cross-country ski or snowshoe.

You are at the edge of the wilderness, isolated from the highway, yet minutes away from Kirkwood ski resort and 45 minutes away from South Lake Tahoe.

Polar Bear Cottage, Rustic elegance for up to 6 persons

phone: (209) 258-8500 • www.KitCarsonLodge.com



★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆

★ where the stars
put on a grand performance ★
★ every night ☆

★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆

Sorensen's Resort ★
in beautiful Hope Valley, California ★
1-800-423-9949 www.sorensensresort.com

Mendocino Group Report

A new member of the Mendocino Group Executive Committee sends the following information.

Fellow concerned citizens:

I'm sure you are all aware of the existence of genetically modified food that is bought every day at the local grocery store in all our communities. It is time to exercise our right to know, to know what is in our food. There is currently NO required labeling of genetically engineered food. There will be an initiative on the November, 2012 ballot that will require the labeling of GMO foods in the retail market. The signature gathering for the initiative will begin mid-February. Contact Carrie Durkee at cdurkee@mcn.org if you would like to help with the signature collection.

For more on the campaign and genetically engineered food:

www.ResponsibleTechnology.org

www.labelgmos.org

www.organicconsumers.org

Hope to hear from you if you want to help.

The signature collection phase: mid-February to mid-April.

Rixanne Wehren reports that the Coastal Committee joined with the California Native Plant Society to review a proposal to use part of the Regional Park land near Fort Bragg for Off-Highway Vehicle trails. The Mendocino Coast Recreation District was hopeful that an ORV facility would bring in much-needed funds for the Park. However, much of the land is covered with Pygmy Forest, a very rare and unique habitat type that appears along the Mendocino coast. The park land is already being abused daily by ORV riders, and the Recreation District has no staff to protect it. Sierra Club and CNPS wrote letters describing the rare habitat and opposing Off-Highway Vehicle use. While the park land is still not protected, the Board decided to table any discussion of ORV use at this time.

Mendocino Group has made a donation to Coast Action Group in support of the Storm Water suit. Tom Wodetzki has come aboard to be the Political Chair. Thanks to everyone who voted in the election.

—MARY WALSH, MENDOCINO GROUP CHAIR



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

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

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

See you on Donner Summit...



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

Nominations and Votes Please!
2012 SONOMA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

Sponsored by Sonoma County Conservation Council
 Nomination form and list of previous awardees and nominees: www.envirocentersoco.org/awards

Nominations: Here is your chance to pay homage to the Sonoma County environmentalists and environmental programs whose work you most respect – especially those that are not well known. Just being nominated is an honor and a chance to get broader attention for a specific group or issue.

The nomination form is available via email and regular mail. We request you submit your nominations via the web site listed above. Please read the instructions carefully. The nominations deadline is 2/6/12 at midnight.

Votes: Sierra Club members are eligible cast votes in this award program. Please visit www.envirocentersoco.org/awards after 2/6 and before 2/20 at midnight.

The three awards for this year:
 Sonoma County Environmentalist of the Year
 Ernestine I. Smith Lifetime Environmental Commitment Award
 Outstanding Environmental Educator/Project/Program

Redwood Needles

**April Deadline:
 Due March 8th**

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

odavison@comcast.net

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

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

Meetings

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

Thurs. Feb. 2 - Solano Group ExCom.
 Come join us for our monthly meetings which rotate between Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville. We are making a positive impact on our county and need a few more people to help carry the load. Call Jane for information. (707)319-6398.

Mon. Feb. 6 - Sonoma Group.
 Santa Rosa Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway is the site of three related meetings:

- The Climate & Energy Committee meets at 4:30. Info: contact Woody Hastings, 525-1665 x117

- Sonoma Group Conservation Committee at 5:30 p.m. Info: Steve Birdlebough affirm@friendshouse.org

- Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Steve Birdlebough affirm@friendshouse.org

Sat. Feb. 11 - North group.
 There will be no Executive Committee meeting on Valentine's Day. The February ExCom meeting will be folded into the group's retreat on Saturday, February 11.

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

7:00 PM in the back room of the

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

Tues. Feb. 21 - 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 Tamaris: nancy@aya.yale.edu

Thurs. Mar. 1 - 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. Mar. 5 - Sonoma Group.
 Santa Rosa Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway is the site of three related meetings:

- The Climate & Energy Committee meets at 4:30. Info: contact Woody Hastings, 525-1665 x117

- Sonoma Group Conservation Committee at 5:30 p.m. Info: Steve Birdlebough affirm@friendshouse.org

- Sonoma Group Executive Committee

at 6:30 p.m. Info: Steve Birdlebough affirm@friendshouse.org

Sat., March 10, Redwood Chapter ExCom.

Location: Willits. Conservation Committee meets at 10 a.m., ExCom meets 1-5 p.m. Info: Jay, halcomb@sonic.net

Tues., Mar. 13 - North Group Pizza Party & Executive Committee Meeting.

All are welcome to attend a Pizza Party starting at 6 p.m. at the Adorni Center on the Eureka Waterfront. Speakers on climate change and possibly wilderness grazing are expected. The regular ExCom business meeting and discussion of conservation issues will follow between 7 and 8:45 p.m. Info: Gregg, (707) 826-3740.

Wed., Mar. 21 - The Sonoma Group Water Committee

7:00 PM in the back room of the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net. **Please Note: The Sonoma Group Water Committee will not meet on April 18th.**

Sonoma County Conservation Council and Sierra Club Sonoma Group's
36th Annual Sonoma County Environmental Awards Dinner

Building Healthy, Just & Sustainable Communities

IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Paloma Pavel, PhD,

President of Earth House Center and Executive Director of Breakthrough Communities

Saturday, March 3, 2012

Sebastopol Veterans' Auditorium, 5:30 - 9:00pm

282 South High Street, Sebastopol

MC: Leticia Romero,

Vice-President, North Bay Organizing Project and

Community Organizer, Committee for Immigrant Rights Sonoma County

2012 Environmental Awards

Nominations open until 2/6 midnight: www.envirocentersoco.org/awards

Silent Auction and Raffle

Gourmet Dinner: A La Heart Catering

Tickets: \$40, after 2/20: \$50 Students with ID: **\$25**, after 2/20: \$30

Non-Profit Group Discount: 5 tickets for the price of 4, **\$160** until 2/20

Tickets for sale at: www.envirocentersoco.org

or send a check payable to SCCC to: PO Box 4346, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Volunteers Needed - wlk@sonic.net Limited work trades available

A zero-waste and low impact event! Please Carpool!

Sponsors Welcome!

Subsidize student/activist tickets and support year round SCCC operations.

Golden Legends \$1,000, 10 tickets

Glory Years \$720, 6 tickets

Green Warriors \$360, 4 tickets

Roaring 20's \$240, 3 tickets

Young Heroes \$120, 2 tickets

Benefits the Environmental Center of Sonoma County

Produced by **Green Synergy:** Portia Sinnott, Wendy Krupnick and Associates

Nonprofit
 PRST STD
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 363
 Petaluma, CA



Redwood Needles

Sierra Club

Redwood Chapter
 P.O. Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95402