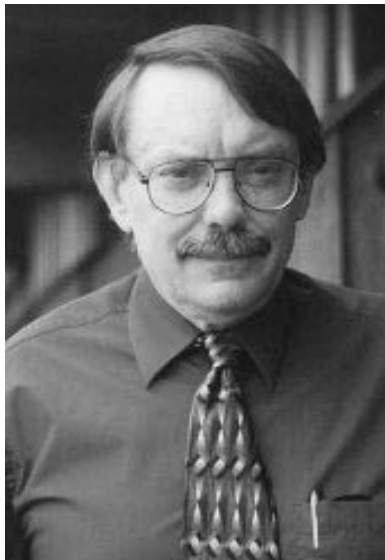


Jay Robert Halcomb, 1946-2012 Sierra Club Forest Champion Mourned



By VICTORIA BRANDON

As 2012 drew to a close, the Redwood Chapter was mourning the loss of its longtime Chair, who died on December 1, 2012 at his home in Guerneville, after a long struggle with cancer. He was 66.

Born in Santa Monica on September 25, 1946, Jay Halcomb received a BA from Sonoma State University in 1978 and an MA from Arizona State in 1987, both in philosophy. His major areas of study included mathematical logic, theoretical linguistics, philosophy of language, computer science, and the philosophy and foundations of mathematics; he subsequently taught logic at the university level and contributed technical articles to a number of journals and symposia on subjects related to formal logic, linguistics, and the interface of these subjects with computer science. From

2002 until his death he was a partner with Randall Schulz of Mountain View in H&S Information Systems, a consulting firm in logic and computer systems.

Jay was a strong individualist, passionate about literature, philosophy, music, and above

all passionate about protecting the environment, especially the magnificent forests of the North Coast of California. As such he was a co-founder of the forestry watchdog group Russian River Residents Against Unsafe Logging and served on the Steering Committee of the Russian River Watershed Council. He was elected to the Executive Committee of the Sonoma Group in 2005 and also served on the Redwood Chapter Executive Committee since 2006. As Chair of the Chapter's Forest Protection Committee, Jay led its efforts to preserve forests from unsustainable logging and from forest to vineyard conversion projects such as the proposed "Preservation Ranch" on the Sonoma Coast. Most recently, his astute advocacy was instrumental in the Chapter's negotiation of a successful settlement with the Bohemian Club that preserved the remaining stand of Bohemian Grove old growth redwoods from logging.

He also served the Club with great distinction as Redwood Chapter Chair from 2008 until his

death, a role in which he demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities. Napa Group Chair and Chapter ExCom member Nancy Tamarisk speaks for us all in saying "to have the zeal and determination of the activist, coupled with a cool head, strategic thinking, and ability to work with a motley cast of characters—rare combination! We need more Jays!"

A respected colleague and cherished friend, Jay is going to be very badly missed by Chapter leaders who have depended on his guidance for these many years. We extend profound condolences to his wife Françoise and the rest of his family. For an extended pictorial reflection on his life and work that includes personal tributes by local environmentalists, visit <http://sierraclub.typepad.com/scrapbook/2012/12/farewell-to-a-friend-of-the-forest.html>.

By his request, no memorial services will be held, but a tribute is planned for the Environmental Awards dinner to be held in Santa Rosa on March 10.

Upcoming Meetings to Protect Sonoma and Mendocino Coastal Waters

You will soon have the opportunity to attend a meeting and comment on a plan to protect permanently our spectacular coastline between Bodega Bay and Pt. Arena.

Protecting the coast and regional coastal economy based on clean ocean waters and the rich marine foodweb has resulted previously in the designation of the present Gulf of the Farallones, Cordell Bank, and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries. In a December 2012 announcement, the Obama Administration is proposing a significant expansion of these Marine Sanctuaries by extending their collective northern boundary northward from Bodega Bay to Point Arena.

This long-sought protection has been previously passed by the U.S. House of Representatives and remained in play during the 2012 session of the U.S. Senate. Protection for these coastal waters has been pursued for many years by local elected officials and our Congressional Representatives and Senators.

The National Marine Sanctuary designation will permanently prohibit offshore oil and gas drilling and establish rules for sewage dumping from cruise ships on the entire Sonoma coast and on the southern Mendocino coast.

In this marine sanctuary region, one of the four most productive ocean upwelling systems on the planet brings nutrient-rich waters from the depths. Seasonal surface currents and prevailing winds carry this rich foodsource southward to provide the base of the marine food chain for an abundance of aquatic and

avian life extending at least as far south as the Monterey Canyon. More than half of California's nesting seabirds around the Farallon Islands, a multitude of productive fisheries, prolific marine mammal populations, several species of endangered whales, and white sharks each ultimately rely on this ocean upwelling for survival.

The Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (1981) and the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (1989) both contribute greatly to ocean and coastal management by engaging in public outreach and education to promote stewardship, conducting scientific and applied research initiatives, and developing and supporting programs that strengthen resource protection for the long-term health of the region. Your participation in extending this protection to key new coastal waters is vital at this time.

Three scoping meetings will be held for the public to learn more about this plan and submit comments:

- Bodega Bay Grange Hall, Bodega Bay, Thursday, Jan. 24, 6PM
- Point Arena High School, Point Arena, Tuesday, Feb. 12, 6PM
- Gualala Community Center, Gualala, Wednesday, Feb. 13 6PM

Written comments on the proposed boundary expansion plan may also be submitted

"Coastal Protection Meetings" cont. on page 3

Club Lifetime Achievement Award for John Stephens

At the Sierra Club California Convention held in San Luis Obispo in November, Redwood Chapter representatives were delighted to have the opportunity to applaud ExCom member John Stephens as he received a special Lifetime Achievement Award. A resident of Napa and a Club member for nearly 30 years, John has ably represented the Chapter on the California-Nevada Regional Conservation Committee since 2003, and among many other leadership roles has served as Napa Group Chair and Membership Chair.

His passionate advocacy for our land, air, wildlife, and water has produced some notable triumphs and—perhaps even more important—has helped create the kind of robust dialogue that sorts out the trees from the forest. Above all, John always approaches contentious issues with civility and a touch of humor. His rare combination of zealotry and lightness has enriched the discussion of many environmental issues on both the Group and Chapter levels over the years, and has made his many letters to the editor on subjects ranging from bears to solar panels arguably the Napa County citizenry's single most important source of environmental enlightenment. Congratulations John: you earned it!



Redwood Needles

February 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

Redwood Chapter Sierra Club Directory

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Redwood Chapter

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

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Redwood Needles

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club of California

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Address Corrections:		Issue	Deadline
address.changes@sierraclub.org		Feb./March	Jan. 8
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 (415) 977-5653		April/May	March 8
		June/July	May 8

Redwood Chapter & Sonoma Group Office

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

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

Redwood Chapter Online

Redwood Chapter Website: <http://www.redwood.sierraclub.org>
 for Group Websites, add: /napa, /north, /sonoma, /lake, /mendocino, or /solano
 Sequoia Paddlers: www.sequoiapc.org
 Redwood-Sonoma-Alerts Listserve: Instructions at Sonoma Group Website

Big News for the California Coast

A few days before Christmas no less than two major coastal conservation headlines hit the news simultaneously. First, the creation of nineteen North Coast Marine Protected Areas from Point Arena to the Oregon line was announced, thus completing this network throughout California's coastal waters—a first for the nation. With fishermen, tribes, and others, Chapter activists have been participating for several years in the dialog that led to this result, which we're all hoping will prove to be a significant step in protecting our diminishing coastal fisheries. Second, the White House instructed the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to protect the spectacular Sonoma and part of the Mendocino coastlines (to Pt. Arena) from oil and gas drilling by expanding the Farallones and Cordell Banks marine sanctuaries. As stated by retiring Representative Lynn Woolsey, who worked for eight years to make this happen, "This isn't just an environmental imperative, not just about a romantic notion of conservation and protecting precious natural resources (though I passionately believe in all that). For the part of the country I've represented for 20 years, this is a matter of economic common sense. Jobs and livelihoods hang in the balance. Our commercial fishing industry depends on a thriving marine ecosystem. And our tourism-based businesses have an enormous stake." For more details see the article on page one.

As the year drew to an end a number of us were hoping that President Obama would mark the season by permanently protecting the Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands by adding it to the California Coast National Monument. Managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Stornetta is a breathtaking landscape of steep cliffs and jagged rocks that shelters threatened

Chapter Chair Report

wildlife and provides pristine recreational opportunities while supporting the local rural economy. Since this presidential designation did not occur, the Sierra Club has organized a petition to the president, and is asking all members to sign on. To participate, follow the link on the Chapter home page, redwood.sierraclub.org

California Environmental Protections Under Attack

The jubilant mood at the Sierra Club California Convention in November (which took place just a few days after the November 6 election) was tempered by a presentation on anticipated threats to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This landmark legislation provides the basis for environmental protection throughout the state, and has been the foundation of many successful campaigns here on the North Coast. Based on the principles of transparency and inclusiveness, its provisions open the door to effective grassroots action in a way that is possible in few other states.

Unfortunately CEQA's strengths have created some powerful enmities, not only among thwarted developers but also among California's elected leaders. Formidable Senators Marco Rubio and Darrell Steinberg have both declared their intention to propose significant revisions to CEQA that would restrict the ability of public interest organizations such as the Sierra Club

to litigate, and Governor Jerry Brown has repeatedly indicated his interest in streamlining the CEQA process and limiting CEQA lawsuits: "I have never seen any CEQA exemptions I didn't like," he declared last July.

Legislation to revise CEQA is expected to be introduced very soon. Sierra Club California expects to watch very closely, and to take an active part in the debate. As Executive Director Kathryn Phillips has already pointed out, only a tiny minority of projects that undergo full Environmental Impact Reports are challenged in court: "the rhetoric we hear about the lawsuit element is exaggerated." Expect updates on this situation as it evolves throughout the year: support from our own state representatives may be key to a positive result for the Club and the environment, so local activists should be prepared for calls for action. Please stay tuned.

Berryessa Snow Mountain Update

Creation of the proposed Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area, which would permanently protect more than 300,000 acres of magnificent public lands in four Redwood Chapter Groups, has been a top priority for several years. It's therefore a great pleasure to be able to announce that on January 4 National Sierra Club Executive Michael Brune and his family were able to enjoy a hike at Cold Canyon, in the southern portion of the proposed NCA. Several Club volunteer leaders and staff were able to participate in the outing; the group had a wonderful day and made it to the top of the West Ridge to enjoy the view across the central valley. For more information on the Berryessa Snow Mountain region and the campaign (with lots of spectacular photos) please visit www.berryessasnowmountain.org

—VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

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

Sat. Feb. 2 - Hike at the King-Swett Ranches.

Come explore the hills between Fairfield, Benicia, and Vallejo! You'll be led by Jim Walsh and/or James Chang, both expert Solano Land Trust guides. They'll share insights about the birds and other wildlife that call this area home, and give you a great workout! 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. 9am – 1pm Meet 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 or www.solanolandtrust.org.

Mon. Feb. 4 - Deadline to apply for Jepson Prairie Preserve Docent Training.

5 PM. Solano Land Trust is recruiting new guides (docents), to lead tours at Jepson Prairie Preserve in Dixon. Anyone age 18 or older is invited to apply. New docents will learn about the ecology and seasonality of claypan vernal pools, including plant identification, rare aquatic animals, geology, and human influences. They will lead walks at Jepson Prairie each year, March through May. Info: www.solanolandtrust.org/Volunteer.aspx.

Sat. Feb. 9 & Sun. Mar. 3 - Eagles, Hawks & Other Birds of Prey Hike at Lynch Canyon.

10-2. Join raptor enthusiast Larry Broderick to discover and learn about eagles, hawks, and other majestic birds of prey. Lynch Canyon is located at the intersection of Lynch Road & McGary Road, Vallejo. Donations suggested but not required. Heavy rain cancels. RSVP to MaryBeth at (707) 685-5908 or mbrcrittendon@comcast.net. Info: www.solanolandtrust.org.

Sat. Feb. 16 & Sat. Mar. 16 - Get the Rush at Rush Ranch.

10am – 1pm. Get the Rush is a series of fun and free activities designed for families—all ages are welcome! Activities vary month to month and 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 or www.solanolandtrust.org.

Sat. Mar. 16 - Opening Day at Lynch Canyon.

9 a.m. Weather-permitting, there will be family-friendly activities offered throughout opening day. Lynch Canyon is a natural park with numerous picnic tables and 10 miles of multi-use trails. Come on foot, mountain bike or horse. No dogs allowed. Parking is \$5 per motorized-vehicle. Lynch Canyon is located at the intersection of Lynch Road & McGary Road, Vallejo. Info: www.solanolandtrust.org.

Sat. Mar. 16 - Wildflowers and Aquatic Critters Walk at Jepson Prairie.

10am – 2pm. Jepson Prairie Preserve is one of California's best remaining examples of vernal pools and native grasslands. Enjoy an easy walk in a portion of the Preserve only accessible with a Jepson Prairie docent. The Preserve explodes into color during its spring wildflower display. Dry and dormant most of the year, the prairie is transformed by winter rains into a tapestry of stunning colors, and its vernal pools host a rich diversity of rare aquatic life. Jepson Prairie is located at the intersection of Highway 113 & Cook Lane, 10 miles south of Dixon. Info: www.solanolandtrust.org.

Sun., Mar. 17 - Eagles, Hawks & Other Birds of Prey Identification Workshop, Hike and Season Wrap-up.

11am – 2pm. The winter migration season for birds of prey is coming to a close. Join Larry Broderick and the Solano Land Trust Raptor Team to celebrate the amazing birds we've seen this fall and winter in Solano County and beyond. The program begins with an interactive presentation recapping raptor natural history and threats, the importance of habitat conservation, acquisition and restoration, identification methods, and a book review. Following a brief social break, test your new identification skills on a short but steep hike up Suisun Hill to observe eagles, falcons and hawks. Rush Ranch is located at 3521 Grizzly Island Road, Suisun City, CA. Space is limited. RSVP to Mary Beth at (707) 685-5908 or mbrcrittendon@comcast.net. Info: www.solanolandtrust.org.

Sat. Apr. 27 South Fork Trinity River Wildflower Hike.

This is a popular hike for wildflower viewing, and while there is little elevation gain, the trail is narrow and steep in places. Meet 9:00 A.M. Willow Creek Post Office parking lot. Trailhead end of South Fork Road, 11 miles from Hwy. 299. By reservation only Rick Tolley 707-498-5528 rtolley@humboldt1.net for painters and photographers or Emelia Berol, ema.berol@yahoo.com

"Coastal Protection Meetings" continued from page 1

by March 1, 2013:

By U.S. Mail: Ms. Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, 991 Marine Dr., The Presidio, San Francisco, CA 94129

Online: <http://www.regulations.gov/>
#submitComment;D=NOAA-NOS-2012-0228-0001

This article was adapted with permission from <http://SanctuaryExpansion.org>



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

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

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

See you on Donner Summit...



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

Outings

Fri.-Sun. Feb. 1 - 3 - Napa Group. Hutchinson Ski Trip.

Spend three days enjoying X-country skiing, snow shoeing, down hill skiing, or just playing in the snow. Hutchinson Lodge is located in Soda Springs, next to the Sierra Club's Claire Tappaan Lodge and between Sugar Bowl and Royal Gorge resorts.

X-country skis & snow shoes are available for rental at CTL Lodge. Cost for the trip is \$78 for 2 nights, including 2 dinners & 2 breakfasts. Leader: Nanette DeDonato-Dover. Reservations are confirmed by payment. nandedo@netzero.net 707-645-8953.

Sat. Feb. 9 - Solano Group. Annual Flyway Festival Hike.

Hike through the Western Magazine Area of the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve on level 4.5 mile gravel and dirt roads through

pickleweed and saltmarshes, prime salt marsh harvest mouse and clapper rail habitat, out to the southwest perimeter of Mare Island. Always lots of waterfowl in San Pablo Bay. Bring drinking water, snacks and raingear. No facilities. Group must stay together; locked gate, so no early departures. Meet at corner of Nereus and Flagship Drive. Class E-4-A. 9:30-11:00. Leader Brian Collett 530-220-3121 Directions: From I-80 take Tennessee St. exit west towards Mare Island. Continue on Mare Island to Azuar Dr. (at the end of G St.). Turn left. Follow Azuar to light at Flagship Dr. Turn right. Go to Nereus. along east side of Flagship Dr. From Marin, Sonoma and Napa Counties take the Mare Island exit off of Hwy 37; turn right onto Walnut Ave. to G. St. Turn right, Turn left on Azuar Dr. Follow directions above. Carpools: 8:30 from Santa Rosa by reservation only Carol 546-6308 carolvsr@sonic.net

net We will stay all day to visit the Flyway exhibits.

Sat.-Mon. Feb. 16-18-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 Jan 15th 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 15th. 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. 17. Lawndale Trail and Ledson Marsh Loop Hike.

Come look for newts as we hike up to Ledson Marsh at the far eastern edge of Annadel State Park. Start in the forest with eucalyptus giving way to redwoods, pines and oaks, emerging at the top in an open clearing for views of Bennett Valley. Bring water and lunch. Class M-7-A. Carpools: meet 9:15am Sonoma County Fairgrounds Park & Ride south-west corner, (Leaderless) carpools leave shortly after or meet trailhead 10am. Hwy 12 to Lawndale Rd. in Kenwood. There is a parking fee at the trailhead. Leader Tiffany MacNeil (707) 696-3387 asmtif@sonic.net.

Feb. 18-20, Mon.-Wed. Gold Butte, Nevada, Car Camp.

Join Vicky Hoover in exploring this beautiful and remote area in SE Nevada (about 3 hours NE of Las Vegas). Contact vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org, or (415)977-5527. CNRCC Wilderness Committee

Sat. Feb. 23 - Lake Group. Knoxville Preserve Hike.

(Knoxville 7.5' quad.) Hike DFG property, old ranch corrals & windmill, winter creeks, Blue Oak woodlands, open meadows. Visit Knoxville pioneer grave, moderate climb to ridge top, dramatic views of Blue Ridge, Mt. St. Helena and Mt. Konocti. Bring water, lunch & hiking boots. Class: M 8 A Carpools: 8:30 am. Lower Lake Coffee Co. shop on Main St., Lower Lake trailhead 9:30 am, Knoxville-Berryessa Rd. By reservation only. Leader Tom McFarling, (707) 994-5490, tmcfarling@callatg.com. Rain cancels.

Sun. Feb. 24 - Sonoma Group. Annadel State Park Two Quarry and South Burma Hike.

A moderately strenuous loop through Annadel State Park, starting on Richardson trail, continuing on Two Quarry, Marsh, South Burma and Steve's S trail. Bring lunch, water, layered clothing for the weather, good

hiking boots. Class: M-7.5-B. Carpools: Meet: Cobblestone trailhead 9:50 to consolidate in fewer cars or 10 am trailhead end of Channel Drive. There is a parking fee. By reservation only. Leader Carl Inglin, 707-538-8271 or chinglin@sonic.net. Rain cancels.

Sat-Sun. Mar. 2-3 (with Fri. & Mon. options) - Death Valley Tour.

Meet in Shoshone, south of Death Valley at 8:00 am Saturday morning. Tour will take us to Badwater, Natural Bridge, Golden Canyon, and Artists Drive. Short hikes and lunch stop along the way. Camp Saturday night at Texas Springs (fee). Sunday drive to Zabriskie Point, then stop at the newly renovated visitors center before heading on to Salt Creek, home of the rare Salt Creek Pupfish. Then on to hike the Mesquite Flats Sand Dunes. Monday option includes camping in the park and a morning hike up Mosaic Canyon. The Friday option includes camping near Tecopa and an afternoon hike at China Ranch. Trip details available at desertreport.com.

through the South Gate to the Park kiosk and park along the road. Leader Brian Collett 530-220-3121

Fri-Sun. Mar. 15-17 - (with Mon. option) Mojave National Preserve Outing.

Meet Friday, 1:00 pm at Sunrise Rock primitive campground. Hike that afternoon to Teutonia Peak (4 mi rt). Saturday includes a trip to the Hole in the Wall Visitors Center and a 6 mile hike on the Barber Peak Loop Trail. Potluck dinner Sat. night. Sunday enjoy hiking the Kelso Dunes. For those wanting to stay another night we will camp at Granite Pass (primitive) and visit Amboy Crater on Monday morning. For details or to sign up contact Carol Wiley at desertlily1@verizon.net or 760-245-8734. Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

Sat.-Sun. March 16-17 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 Feb 15th to Jim Gannon; PO

Instructions to hikers

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

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

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

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

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

Visitors are welcome

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

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

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

To submit outings write-ups

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



Peter Grubb hut trip. Leaders Jim Gannon and Don Anderson

org (outings), or contact leader for questions and to reserve a space. Carol Wiley, desertlily1@verizon.net or 760-245-8734. Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

Sat. Mar. 09 - A walk at Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve in Vallejo.

Our walk takes along a historic road to the highest point on Mare Island with spectacular views towards the Carquinez Strait, San Pablo and San Francisco Bays. The nesting Ospreys should be back and possibly great blue herons as well along the way. There are also various historical features to be seen including the oldest Navy cemetery on the west coast, bomb bunkers and the partially restored gardens of a caretaker's home. This walk is a fairly easy 3.0 mile r/t walk on a gradually inclined paved road. Class E-4-A. 9:30-11:00. Directions: Take U.S. 101, I-80 or Hwy 29 to Highway 37 and take the 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 S. stop sign and turn right. Go to Railroad Ave. and turn left. Follow Railroad

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 15th. Make reservations early to avoid disappointment. Lodge reservations 530-426-3632 indicate you are with Benson trip-Redwood Chapter. Central commissary is planned. Meeting time/locations provided with trip sign up. Contact leader Jim Gannon (707)-525-1052 jgannon99@sbcglobal.net

Sat. Mar. 16 - Lake Group. Fiske Peak. Hike BLM land on lower Cache Creek.

Start at Low Water Bridge Hwy 16, hike to top of Fiske Peak. Views of Mt. Lassen, Sierra Nevadas, northern Sac. Valley, Capay Valley, Mt. St. Helena, Cobb Mt., Mt. Konocti, Walker Ridge, Snow Mt. and half the world. 2200 ft. elevation gain. Bring water & lunch. We will sign the peak diary, lunch on top of the world, and then return to the world. Class: H-8-C. Carpools: 8:30 am. Lower Lake Coffee Co., Main Street, Lower Lake. By reservation only. Leader Tom McFarling 994-5490 tmcfarling@callatg.com. Rain cancels.

Sat-Sun. Mar. 16-17 - Ghost Town Extravaganza.

Spend St. Patrick's Day weekend in this beautiful desert landscape near Death Valley visiting the ghosts and leprechauns of California's colorful past. Camp at the historic ghost town of O'Ballarat (flush toilets). On Sat, do a challenging hike to ghost town Lookout City with historian Hal O'Fowler who will regale us with tales of this wild west town. Afterwards,

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Interested in Becoming an Outings Leader?

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

Outings

a special St. Patty's Day Happy Hour and potluck, followed by a midnight visit to Ballarat's graveyard where we'll hope we don't get pinched by a fairy. On Sun, a quick visit to the infamous O'Riley townsite before heading home. Group size strictly limited. Send \$8 per person (Lygeia Gerard), 2 large SASE, H&W photos, email, rideshare info to Ldr: Lygeia Gerard, P.O. Box 721039, Pinon Hills, CA 92372; 760-868-2179. CNRCC Desert Committee

Wed-Sun. Mar. 20-24 - Death Valley National Park - Spring Weekend.

Visit Death Valley National Park when temperatures are cooler and wild flowers may be blooming. We will explore areas both outside and inside the park with hikes to visit water falls and stunning desert canyons. We will also tour Scotty's Castle. Hiking may be over rough ground and rocks. High clearance vehicles are recommended, but there will be car pooling options. Camping is in a developed private campground which includes flush toilets, showers, camp fire rings and picnic tables. Cost is \$60 per person and includes 4 nights of camping and tour of Scotty's Castle. \$25 deposit required. Group size limited to 19 people. Contact leader for reservation information. Leader: Rich Jurich, raj082806@pacbell.net, 916-492-2181. Delta Sierra Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

Sat. Mar. 23 - Lake Group. Glen Eden Trail to newly opened Ridge Trail Hike.

Fairly steep trail rewarded with great views including Clear Lake, Snow Mountain, Hull Mountain, Goat Rock area, and Spring recovery of the areas affected by the Summer 2012 fire. Bring water and lunch. Class: H-10-B. Meet: 10 am trailhead on Scott's Valley Rd. (approx. 2 miles from Hwy 20 at Blue Lakes). By reservation only. Leader Paul Farley 263-9320. Heavy rain cancels (call).

Mar. 29 - 31, Fri.-Sun. Wilderness Characteristics Inventory With Needles BLM.

Join our annual Sierra Club service trip

with the Needles BLM Field Office to help wilderness. This season's task will be to document the wilderness characteristics of an area adjacent to wilderness that has not been recently studied--exact location still to be determined. We enjoyed similar work last spring just west of the Old Woman Mountains. Car camping with optional central commissary, usual exorbitant fee. Contact Vicky Hoover, vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org, or 415-977-5527. CNRCC Wilderness Committee

Sat-Sun. Apr. 13-14 - (Fri. Option) Juniper Flats Area Tour (San Bernardino Mts).

Come explore this beautiful area in the San Bernardino Mnts. Camp at Rock Springs Ranch (private). On Friday (optional) there is a 3 mi rt. hike to the boulder gardens. Saturday, a driving and hiking tour of the area (4-WD or high clearance vehicle recommended), including springs, waterfall, Cottonwood Spring ACEC and an oak glen area. Saturday evening campfire and dinner provided by the Friends of Juniper Flats. Sunday, a 6 mi hike to Deep Creek a proposed Wild & Scenic River. Contact Carol Wiley for reservations at: desertylily1@verizon.net or 760-245-8734. For more details of the area contact co-leader Jenny Wilder at: JensOasis@aol.com or 760-220-0730. Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

Sat., April 20 - Lake Group. Thompson Canyon Trail.

Hike BLM Payne Ranch/Bear Creek Unit. This hike starts by fording Bear Creek. We'll hike up Thompson Canyon; have lunch at the Road Kill Cafe. Then onto old ranch ponds, high ridges and blue oak forests. We'll descend back down to Thompson canyon and cross back over Bear Creek to our cars. Bring river shoes and the willingness to strip down to underwear to cross the creek. Bring a towel, water and lunch. Class: M-7-A. Carpools: 8:30 am Lower Lake Coffee Co., Main Street, Lower Lake. By reservation only. Leader Tom McFarling 994-

Outings Chair Report

I am saddened by the death of Jay Halcomb our wonderful Redwood Chapter Chair and leader. I would call Jay whenever I had a Sierra Club related problem. Jay leaves a tremendous hole in our leadership. Please attend the Environmental Dinner on March 10th as it will be a tribute to Jay.

Redwood Chapter has some new leaders, and we still need more. Call your Group outings chair for training. Some of our long time leaders are having problems with knees or other body ailments and can't lead right now, but I am hoping that soon they will be back on the trail. Then there is leader Bill Arenander who is hiking in Guatemala. So he missed our Needles deadline. Since his retirement he is having a bucket's list of adventures from sky diving to zip lines to bagging high peaks of the world. We miss him, but I imagine our Regional Parks seem tame now.

Please keep in mind that next year is the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Our leaders are fortunate to have many wild places to backpack or hike to and these are a tribute to those who made it possible. Redwood Chapter will have a huge celebration and will need volunteers to help make it happen. Call or email Victoria vbrandon@lakelive.info or 994-1931 to volunteer. The celebration will



Peter Grubb hut trip. Leaders Jim Gannon and Don Anderson.

be sometime in the spring of 2014.

Sierra Club winter huts and the Clair Tappaan Lodge are a fantastic place to bring your family in the winter. The food is wonderful and the people are friendly. There are snowshoe or ski trails right out the back door of the lodge. If you don't want to go to a hut by yourself, join our winter leaders and be guided to a backcountry hut. Another choice is right next door to Clair Tappaan Lodge but you have to reserve the entire lodge. So join leader Nanette, who reserved Hutchinson Lodge just for you. Get outdoors!! Great exercise. So much better than taking pills for your problems.

See you on the trail!!

—CAROL VELLUTINI, REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR

5490 tmcFarling@callatg.com. Rain cancels.

Fri-Thurs. June 21-27 - Coyote Gulch Backpack.

This trip heads into some of the best of red rock in Utah, with sheer high-walled canyons and cathedral-like camping areas. Meet around noon at the Escalante visitor center where we will obtain our permits. Hike 4-5

miles a day, possible lay-over day. Most of hike is fairly easy, but requires wading back and forth across the creek. This is definitely the summer warm season, but I have generally found it

quite pleasant in the canyon this time of year. Limit 12. David Hardy, 702 875-4826, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com. S. Nevada Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

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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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
Chip Bouril Doug Condrotte Tiffany MacNeil Paul Farley

Moderate-pace with more frequent stops:

Bill Arenander Pete McGee Tim Bartice Bill Knight
Val Nordeman Carol Vellutini Yvonne Kramer Martin Farber
Brian Collett Jean Crossley Melinda Groom Tom McFarling
Nanette DeDonato Joanh Freedman

Slower-pace: Allison Bronkall

Lake Group Report

Endangered Species Act Petition for the Clear Lake Hitch

As reported in the previous issue of the Needles, last fall the Center for Biological Diversity petitioned to extend the protections of the state and federal Endangered Species Acts to the hitch (*Lavinia exilicauda* chi), a fish endemic to Clear Lake. Preliminary findings from the US Fish & Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife are still pending, but in the meantime local understanding was greatly improved by an informative public workshop held in Lakeport on December 3. The meeting featured authoritative presentations on the hitch and their ecosystem, on preservation efforts to date, and on the federal listing process. Several points were made very clear. First, the ecology of the lake is extremely complex, and effects on the hitch (which are also impacted by conditions in the tributary streams where their annual spawning runs take place) are neither linear nor obvious. Second, the responsible agencies are overworked, understaffed, and underfunded, so nothing is going to happen quickly. Third, although the consequences of listing are impossible to predict at this point, opportunities exist to use this process not only to benefit a single species but also to create conditions that will encourage the recovery of the entire ecosystem of Clear Lake and its watershed. It's up to the community: we have a chance to pull together to create a mutually beneficial result, and in the process to keep this iconic species from spiraling down the dark one way slide to extinction. For additional information about the hitch and the listing process, visit www.lakelive.info.

Walmart Update

For most of the past year Lake Group has been expecting an application from Walmart to construct a superstore on the outskirts of the city of Lakeport. This proposal was recently dropped, at least for the time being, and the mega-retailer has instead re-activated an earlier application to expand its existing store in Clearlake to include a full-service grocery. Environmental review was in progress at the time the Clearlake application was put on hold in 2010, so it's not yet possible to evaluate the effects of this proposal in detail—but general impacts on traffic, air quality, and the existing local economy are fairly obvious. Lake Group is looking forward to reviewing the draft EIR when it is released—stay tuned!

Using Sound Science to Restore Clear Lake

On January 8 the county BOS unanimously approved an exciting proposal to pinpoint the sources of the excessive nutrients that are throwing Clear Lake's ecosystem out of balance. This proven technology would apply detailed analysis to satellite photographs of the lake and its watershed, and by providing clear, authoritative information about the extent and distribution of substances including phosphorus, cyanobacteria and chlorophyll-a offer the tools needed to combat impaired water quality throughout the watershed. The Sierra Club was proud to support this proposal not only by submitting a letter from Chair Ed Robey, but also by organizing calls and letters from Club members to their Supervisors.

—VICTORIA BRANDON, LAKE GROUP

Sonoma Group Report

Two new members have joined our Sonoma Group Executive Committee: Shirley Johnson, and Wendy Cromwell. Steve Birdleough and Annabel Ascher continue into new terms. We have scheduled an Executive Committee retreat for Feb. 9 at Friend's House in Santa Rosa.

We greatly miss Jay Halcomb, our expert on Sierra Club policies and procedures, our lead forest protection advocate, and all-around guiding light. We are grateful to the contribution of time and dedication he gave to the Sonoma Group, and our life-giving woodlands.

The November Environmental Forum at the Environmental Center to discuss election results was very informative and provided a great networking opportunity. We held a New Members Forum in December and the January Environmental Forum was planned to educate the public about the SMART Train and Station-Oriented Development. We have another New Members Forum scheduled for February, and plan to hold them every other month. The Environmental Forum in March will be on water issues.

Forestry Issues: We are discussing ways to assist in raising funds for the Artesa winery litigation, and to educate the public about "chainsaw wine"—clearcutting forested hillsides to replace them with vineyards. We are considering staging or partnering on an Earth Day event, to educate and gain support for the Artesa litigation. We hope to expand the membership on the Sierra Club Forestry Committee.

Climate and Energy Committee: We are also working to give the Climate and Energy Committee a stronger role.

Port Sonoma-Carneros Fill project: Located on Hwy 37 near Petaluma, this project would bring millions of cubic yards of dredge fill into a 528-acre parcel. Berg Holdings applied for a use permit, and was at first granted a "Mitigated Negative Declaration". After public protest and pressure from the Sierra Club and other conservation and business entities, Sonoma County Supervisors voted to require an EIR. The comment period for that EIR is now closed; an Administrative Draft EIR is to be ready for review in February, with hearings in March and May 2013.

Water issues: Sonoma County Groundwater Committee is meeting in February, seeking consensus on a comprehensive model for monitoring underground water supplies for the Santa Rosa Plain and elsewhere.

Transportation: Efforts are being made to compensate for the possible loss of 5 million in redevelopment funds for transit oriented housing in Santa Rosa's Railroad Square. Funding is also needed to improve bus service in Sonoma County, and it is possible that local sources of revenue will need to be developed.

SRJC Student Programs: SRJC Farm staff have met with Food Services staff to explore possibilities of a direct link between the farm and the SRJC Culinary program.

—DAN KERBEIN, SONOMA GROUP CHAIR

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park, 2013

April 7-9; May 5-7; June 2-4; July 21-23; August 25-27; September 15-17

Join us for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard cruise to Channel Island National Park. All cruises depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68' twin diesel Truth. The cost is \$590. For more information call or e-mail leader (626-443-0706; jholtzhl@aol.com).

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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 held on the third Wednesday 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. Help protect the quality of our water for people, wildlife, fish and other aquatic life, promote water conservation and intelligent reuse. Check for our meeting dates in the Needles. To get on our Water Committee e-mail list, ask Len Holt at lholt@sonic.net. Come to our meetings with your suggestions and to help in this enterprise. To confirm meeting dates or if you are not able to attend our meetings, you may e-mail Len Holt at lholt@sonic.net

The Climate & Energy Committee is getting Amped up! Join us 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. Email: shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, home 206-1138, or call the office 544-7651.



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San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival

Feb 8,9,10 on Mare Island in Vallejo.

Check out www.sfbayflywayfestival.com for information. Sponsors, volunteers and nonprofit environmental groups are invited to register for free space to put up a table and display. Contact: 707-557-9816 or 707-249-9633.

Solano Group will have a table and needs volunteers to come out and staff the table as well as set up and takedown. Please call 707 319-6398 to help.

Our Volunteers:

Thanks to Nancy McCoy, Brian Hoffman, Matt Hoffman, Ray Anderson and Jane Bogner for staffing the November and December paper shredding.

VALCORE Recycling and Confidential Paper Shredding 2013.

Solano Group will be working every 3rd Saturday at 38 Sheridan Street, Vallejo from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Feb. 16, Mar. 16, April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, Aug 17, Sep. 21, Oct 19, Nov 16, Dec 21). There is a charge of \$10 per twenty pounds of paper shredded. (maximum: 100 pounds). Sierra Club

Solano Breeze Corner

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volunteers help tend the money and direct traffic. Once a year is all we ask and you only need work an hour or so.

VALCORE has \$40 composting bins for sale to Vallejo residents (\$75 for others). It's a great green gift. Call (707) 645-8258

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

Solano Group Volunteer Opportunities:

Membership Co-Chair: About 4 hours a month, 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: You may need to attend one meeting per year.

EXCOM: Come join us for our monthly meetings which rotate between Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville. We meet on the first Thursday of the month and are making a positive impact on our county and need a few more members to help carry the load. Call Jane (707)319-6398 or Greg (707)864- 8573 for current meeting info.

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.

We recently received donations from Marion Conning, John Kolarik, Phil McCullough, and Ray Anderson.

CONTRIBUTOR: JANE BOGNER

EDITOR: GREG PETERSON

Redwood Chapter and Group Election Results

Redwood Chapter

Daniel Myers

Jay Halcomb

Diane Fairchild Beck

Solano Group

Ray Anderson

Greg Peterson

Kitty Powell

Ellen Fawls

Napa Group

Carol Kunze

Linda Brown

Phill Blake

NancyTamarisk

Mendocino Group

Linda Perkins

Lake Group

Ed Robey

North Group

Joyce Yowell

Richard Kreis

Diane Fairchild Beck

Sonoma Group

Shirley Johnson Foell

Annabel Ascher

Wendy Cromwell

Steve Birdlebough

Classified Ads

WOMEN'S TRIPS - Yosemite, Pt. Reyes, Sequoia! Visit sierrasisters.net or call Janet at (707)874-2126

Napa Group Report

Napa Pipe Board of Supervisors Decision Time

By the time your read this, the Napa BOS will have decided to accept or reject the Napa Pipe site developers' application to rezone the site for housing and big-box retail. It is our hope that the Board will have rejected the proposal, and instead committed the County to working with the City of Napa on creating a new vision for the site, one which meshes with our widely-shared city-centered and slow-growth vision for Napa.

The Napa Pipe has huge potential for serving our County. With 150+ acres there is room for multiple uses, including industry, solar power generation, Napa Valley College training facility, and municipal maintenance yards. By placing these non-residential uses outside our urban cores, we dedicate space within the towns for residential development. Keeping housing close to urban amenities—stores, churches, schools, libraries, restaurants—builds the foundation for walkable, vibrant, close-knit neighborhoods with individual character. These are the types of communities increasingly sought after by young singles, families, and retirees. They are the places that tourists seek out for their warmth and liveliness. The urban sprawl of the late 20th century has failed us, environmentally and socially. Its time is past.

Climate Action Plan: Back to the Drawing Board

The Board of Supervisors, responding to cost-concerns of winery interests, has sent the Climate Action Plan back to the Planning Department for re-working. The CAP would require new or expanded projects (business and vineyards) to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) production by 38% over "business as usual". The biggest hurdle would be for venues such as tasting rooms, which, in attracting more tourists, would be accountable for the GHG produced by the visitors' automobiles. This dilemma reflects Napa County's increasing economic reliance on tourist spending vs. grape and wine production, a shift that affects almost all aspects of Napa County life.

Napa Executive Committee Welcomes New Member

We welcome Phil Blake as our newest ExCom member. Phil's experience as a conservationist for the Napa County Natural Resources Conservation District will bring welcome expertise to the group. He replaces John Stephens, who decided not to seek re-election for health reasons. John is well-known for decades of environmental and peace and social justice activism in Napa County. In the Sierra Club, he has focused mainly on issues of vineyard ecological effects, and watershed health. John has been a mainstay of the Club, and though he's felt the need to cut back on involvement, we hope and expect to continue to work with him to protect Napa's precious environment.

Send your e-mail address to nancy@aya.yale.edu to receive updates of local activities.

—NANCY TAMARISK, NAPA GROUP CHAIR

North Group Report

The North Group is pleased to call your attention to an excellent profile of long-time North Group and Redwood Chapter Leader Lucille Vinyard which appeared in the December-January issue of ECONews. Lucille – who recently turned 94 – still regularly attends North Group Executive Committee meetings where she shares a wealth of knowledge and regularly provides historical context to the Group's discussion of current issues. You can read the tribute on line at this link: <http://yournec.org/content/kin-earth-lucille-vinyard-mother-redwood-national-park>

The North Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:45 PM at the Adorni Center on the Eureka Waterfront. Come by and get involved. You can view the current issue of North Group News as well as listings of upcoming outings and meetings on the Chapter website at www.redwood.sierraclub.org/north.

Outings Chair Bill Knight reports that during 2012, North Group Sierra Club members led 10 trips in Humboldt and Del Norte counties, involving 62 participants. Three volunteers led hikes:



False Klamath Cove, Leader Melinda Groom.

Melinda Groom, Allison Bronkall, and Bill Knight. The photo shows participants in front of the roaring surf at False Klamath Cove during our most recent trip, led by Melinda Groom. 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 seventh year, North Group 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.

Mendocino Group Report

The Mendocino Group is reviewing the Mendocino Redwood Company Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Communities Conservation Plan (MRCHCP/NCCP) which landed with little fanfare or advance warning the week before Christmas, with an end to public comment happening on the last day of January. The thing is prodigious. It took several years (some say 12, some say 20) to put together. Mendocino Group asked for an extension of public comment as did several other interested parties. It was extended to February 21, 2013. Comments can be sent to mrc.hcpitp@noaa.gov. Copies of all email comments will be routed to the various agencies. The plan can be found online at www.fws.gov/arcata. Hard copies are available at the libraries in Fort Bragg and Willits. It is daunting. Linda Perkins is working on it. Andrew Orashke at EPIC is coordinating the response effort, www.wildcalifornia.org, 707-822-7711.

The Willits Bypass lawsuit is wending its way through the courts. We were denied the preliminary injunction. Next is a court-ordered mediation.

The reopening and expansion of a concrete batch plant and gravel processing facility on Outlet Creek has come to our attention. There has been a terrific salmon return in northern streams this year and this processing facility right on the banks of the creek threatens what gains have been made. Public comment has been extended on this one too due to the diligence of the neighbors who discovered a level of review that the County, in its haste to issue a negative declaration, had missed. The proposed facility is to be open Monday through Sunday from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. There are question regarding noise and water and air pollution. The project relates to the Willits Bypass and the further development of the railroad. We will be following this very closely.

—MARY WALSH, MENDOCINO GROUP CHAIR

Sonoma County Environmental Awards Dinner

Climate Solutions: Storing Carbon in Sonoma County's Agricultural Lands & Forests

Sunday, March 10, 2013

Santa Rosa Veterans' Auditorium, 5:00 - 9:00pm
1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa

Speakers:

Justin Augustine, Center for Biological Diversity
Renata Brillinger, California Climate & Agriculture Network
MC: Ann Hancock, Climate Protection Campaign

2013 Environmental Awards

Nominations open until 2/25 midnight: www.envirocentersoco.org/awards

Silent Auction
Gourmet Dinner: A La Heart Catering
Live Jazz: Keith Edwards duo

Tickets: \$40, after 2/25: \$60 Students with ID: **\$25**, after 2/25: \$35
Non-Profit Group Discount: 5 tickets for the price of 4, **\$160** until 2/25

Tickets: www.envirocentersoco.org
or send a check payable to SCCC to: PO Box 4346, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Volunteers Needed contact Wendy at 544-4582 or wlk@sonic.net Limited work trades.

Please Consider Being A Sponsor!

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

Golden Legends \$1,000, 10 tickets **Roaring 20's** \$240, 3 tickets
Glory Years \$720, 6 tickets **Young Heroes** \$120, 2 tickets
Green Warriors \$360, 4 tickets

Benefits the Environmental Center of Sonoma County

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



Wilderness 50- Coming Soon!

The year 2014 will mark the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, that was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on September 3, 1964. This historic legislation established the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS), and initially protected 9.1 million acres of wildlands for the enjoyment of the American people. Over the years Congress has added more than 100 million additional acres to the NWPS system, in 757 separately named Wilderness Areas managed by four different federal agencies. These very special public lands provide many direct and indirect benefits- ecological, scientific, educational, recreational, economic, and spiritual.

The Sierra Club is taking a leading role in organizing a nationwide celebration of this remarkable achievement, with every Chapter taking part. Here on the North Coast the Redwood Chapter is particularly rich in Wilderness, with 15 designated Wilderness Areas in four of the

Chapter's six local Groups. As our contribution to Wilderness 50, we are proposing to prepare a guidebook to these areas that will make basic information about each of our 15 Wilderness Areas- where is it? why is it special? how to get there? what to do there? -readily available to Club members and the general public.

We also want to include a broad selection of photographs and personal stories of hikes and other wilderness adventures, and for that we're appealing to you- our members- for help. Please send photos and written accounts to Victoria Brandon by email to vbrandon@lakelive.info (preferred) or mail them to the Redwood Chapter office, P.O. Box 466, Santa Rosa CA 95402. For more information, and to arrange to submit an oral account of your special experience, call Victoria at 707 994 1931.

Sonoma Group New Members Forum

Monday, February 11, 6:30 p.m. Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa

Join us as members of the Sonoma Group ExCom and the Outdoor Committee, plus general club members, will attend this forum to offer a full picture of the activities that your membership supports, and the many ways that members can stretch your activism or outdoor enjoyment by jumping in and getting involved with Sierra Club Redwood Chapter and Sonoma Group.

Sonoma Group Environmental Forum

Monday, March 11, 6:30 p.m. Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa

Sonoma County Water: Issues and Solutions

Meetings

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

Mon. Feb. 4 - 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 Shirley, shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, 206-1138.
- Sonoma Group Conservation Committee at 5:30 p.m. Info: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net
- Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Info: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net

Thurs. Feb. 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. Feb. 12 - North Group ExCom.

the public is invited to attend the monthly meeting of the North Group Sierra Club's governing committee. Join us for a discussion of local conservation issues between 7:45 and 8:45 p.m., following the Executive Committee business meeting from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. Meet at Adorni Center Conference Room on Eureka Waterfront. For more information, call Gregg at 707-826-3740.

Tues. Feb. 19 - Napa Group ExCom.

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

Wed. Feb. 20 - The Sonoma Group Water Committee.

7:00 PM at the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Contact Len Holt: 707-

527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

Mon. Mar. 4 - Sonoma Group.

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Tues. Mar. 12 - North Group ExCom.

Monthly North Group Sierra Club Executive Committee meeting. See Feb. 12 for details.

Sat., Mar. 16 - Redwood Chapter ExCom.

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

Wed. Mar. 20 - The Sonoma Group Water Committee.

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

Wed. Apr. 17 and May 16 - The Sonoma Group Water Committee.

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