

Redwood Needles

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 56 Number 1

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

February/March 2015

Berryessa Snow Mountain Town Hall: A Step on the Road to Monument

BY VICTORIA BRANDON,
REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

On Friday, December 19, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Undersecretary of Agriculture Robert Bonnie joined Congressman Mike Thompson, Congressman John Garamendi, and other community leaders in a Town Hall meeting at the



Napa Community College to gather public input on the proposal for the permanent protection of the 350,000-acre Berryessa Snow Mountain region as a national monument.

As has been discussed many times in this newsletter, the region is characterized by outstanding conservation values and a wealth of recreational opportunities.

An economic report recently commissioned by the Winters Chamber of Commerce indicates that special designation is also likely to result in increased tourism, providing economic benefits to surrounding communities estimated at \$50 million over five years. Legislation introduced by Congressman Thompson and Senator Barbara Boxer to designate the area as a National Conservation Area appears to be hopelessly stalled in Congress,



Berryessa Snow Mountain Town Hall meeting.

but President Obama can sidestep congressional deadlock by using his powers under the Antiquities Act to create a national monument.

Even though the Town Hall meeting took place on a rainy Friday less than a week before Christmas and with only a few days advance notice, a near-capacity crowd was in attendance, with the vast majority expressing support for permanent protection as either an NCA or a national monument. The Sierra Club was well represented, with a delegation that included national Deputy Director Bruce Hamilton, Sierra Club California Director Kathryn Phillips, the chairs of both Redwood and Mother Lode chapters, national Wilderness chair Vicky Hoover, and Redwood Chapter executive committee members Ed Robey and Nancy Tamarisk along with many other Club leaders from throughout the region. Several of us were fortunate enough to have our cards drawn for a chance to speak at the meeting.

What next? First, let's thank our visitors from Washington for making the time in their busy schedules to see this special place with their own eyes and to hear our voices: please take a moment to visit berryessasnowmountain.org to add your name to a card of appreciation. Second, let's make sure the president knows about our support for national monument designation: please sign the petition at the Redwood Chapter home page, redwood.sierraclub.org, or call him at (202) 456-1111.

Third, stay tuned for an exciting announcement!



Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell at the Berryessa Snow Mountain Town Hall meeting.

"The Russian River: All Rivers" Screening Feb. 12

Redwood Chapter is delighted to be able to announce that at 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 12, we will sponsor a free showing of the exciting new documentary "The Russian River: All Rivers - the Value of an American Watershed" at Summerfield Cinemas, 551 Summerfield Road in Santa Rosa. A brief Q&A session with the filmmakers will follow the screening.

"The Russian River: All Rivers" explores the diverse forces influencing the health of California's Russian River watershed, along with the conflicts and challenges to restoring and retaining the health of this legendary river. It is also a call to action, bringing together information and commentary that can be an invaluable tool for further environmental action, especially during this time of drought.

Expressing the profound beauty of the river and ecosystem, the feature-length documentary brings together live action footage and numerous compelling interviews to stimulate interest in, and motivate action about water use, water quality and the loss of irreplaceable biodiversity. The film also covers the river's history, as a geological, biological and social entity, as well as the problems it currently faces— problems shared widely in our region and elsewhere. To learn more about the film and to see a trailer, visit russianriverallrivers.com.

Created as a non-profit project led by writer/director William Sorensen, the film is fiscally sponsored by the International Documentary Association (IDA), a 501c3 arts organization and has also benefited from a Redwood Chapter financial subsidy.

Most showings to date have been packed, so while the event is free reservations are very strongly encouraged. To reserve one or more seats, send an email to reservations@russianriverallrivers.com. See you there!

Remembering a Trio of Environmental Heroes

Three long-time Sierra Club members have passed away since early October 2014. We salute their visions for a greener Sonoma County and the work they accomplished while with us. The Sonoma County Conservation Council (of which Sonoma Group is a member) honored each of them with its top award. Initiated in 1975, this award recognizes people who have recently made outstanding efforts to protect regional resources, directly or indirectly, or advanced their better stewardship.

Sonoma County Environmentalist of the Year Award Winners:

Len Swenson - 1985

Dr. Leonard Swenson passed away on Saturday, October 4, 2014. Within the Sierra Club, Swenson held several positions at both the Sonoma Group and Redwood Chapter levels, including chairing each, as well as holding the offices of Conservation Chair, Political Chair, and Transportation Chair at various times in the 1980's - 2000's. While holding these offices he was a consistently regular contributor to the Redwood Needles, keeping our membership abreast of the environmental challenges the local Sierra Club faced and often leading the way to rectify them. He

worked tirelessly to protect open space and the California coast, as well as protecting access to the coast, attending countless meetings in the



Bill Kortum - 1986

Bill Kortum, a Sierra Club member for more than forty-five years, passed away December 20, 2014. Kortum was instrumental in preserving open space in Sonoma County, protecting the California coast and ensuring coastal access for everyone.

A Petaluma native, his environmental activism began in the successful fight to stop the PG&E nuclear power plant at Bodega Head. He helped form Californians Organized to Acquire Access to State Tidelands (COAAST) and worked to maintain coastal access at Sea Ranch. This effort led directly to Proposition 20 which created the California Coastal Commission and guarantees the public's right to access state tidelands.

Kortum helped establish Sonoma County Conservation Action (SCCA) in 1991 to educate and mobilize voters. He envisioned and helped attain community separators, urban growth boundaries and the Sonoma County Open Space District. He supported Sonoma Land Trust, SMART, and Lafferty Ranch access. In the 1990s, Kortum Trail, extending from Wrights Beach to Goat Rock, was named in his honor.

Helen Libeu - 1988

Helen Libeu passed away on October 31, 2014, aged 95 years old. Libeu was a local Sierra Club member for almost thirty years. She served as Redwood Chapter Legal Chair for a number of years in the late 1980's - 1990's. Libeu was a champion of forest protection, and mentored others in the Sierra Club. Libeu's wit and knowledge are fondly remembered by local environmental activists.

Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee, and former Redwood Chapter Chair, writes: "I knew her many years ago and was always extremely impressed with her knowledge and her willingness to call a spade, a spade. It was always great entertainment, but also great information when she got up to speak. She got many cheers over the years. She skewered many a politician (in her raspy and authoritarian voice), deservedly, for some of their stupid decisions. Oh, where have those days gone? She was always smarter than everyone in the room."

Dave Bannister, Executive Director Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation adds: "She was a force to reckon with

"Remembering Environmental Heroes" continued on page 3

Redwood Chapter Sierra Club Directory

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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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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.

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http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood
for Group Websites, use www.redwood.

sierraclub.org and add: /napa, /north, /sonoma,
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Sierra Club Volunteer/Activist Opportunities

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

Work with the Sonoma Group Water Committee! NOTICE: The Water Committee is now meeting at 5:30 PM on the first Mondays of most months in conjunction with the Conservation and Energy Committee meetings. You may also wish to come to our previously scheduled meeting at the Environmental Center at 7:00 PM on February 18, 2015. The Water Committee develops and promotes measures to conserve, save, and reuse our water resources. Our goal is to preserve and improve the natural water environment, by promoting the responsible use of water and the safe reuse or disposal of our wastewaters. Help protect the quality of our water for people, wild life, fish and other aquatic life. Check for our meeting dates in the Needles. To get on our Water Committee e-mail list, e-mail Len Holt at lholt@sonic.net. If you are not able to attend our meetings; you may e-mail Len Holt with your concerns and ideas.

Get CHARGED by attending the Climate & Energy Committee. Join us on the 1st of the month at 5:00-5:30 p.m. at the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa, learn about what is going on in our community to fight climate change through renewable energy programs. Contact Chair Shirley Johnson-Foell: Email: Shirlgirl707@Yahoo.com, home 206-1138, or call office 433-7651.

Redwood Needles

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“State of Jefferson”: Worst Idea of 2014

Proposals to carve up California along various lines have been around for a long time, as has the “State of Jefferson” idea, which in its original formulation (dating back to the 1940s) would combine portions of southern Oregon with a dozen or so northern California counties. As an expression of regional identity this idea has seemed harmless (the Klamath Falls NPR station calls itself “Jefferson Public Radio”) but recently a group of well-funded far-right extremists has started actively promoting a split.

Formation of this new state would be disastrous for its residents, who receive far more in state services than they pay in taxes. It would instantly become the most impoverished state in the United States. Bankrupt at birth, and without the infrastructure of a modern economy—no east-west interstate highway or railroad, no deep water port, no significant airport, no major medical center or university (and next to no opportunities for higher education at all,) and nothing remotely resembling a metropolitan area, its prospects would be most unlikely to get better anytime soon. After secession, the new state would continue to be geographically isolated, sparsely populated and economically disadvantaged, lacking the

resources to fund public education, highways, parks, or law enforcement to anything approaching an acceptable modern standard.

Without the protections provided by California’s strict environmental regulations, the region’s abundant natural resources would be ripe for the plucking. Although proponents claim to favor environment protection, they explicitly oppose existing environmental laws such as carbon reduction rules, cap and trade, the Endangered Species Act and pesticide regulations.

The primary motivation for this campaign is obvious: two US Senate seats and three Electoral College votes that would reliably fall to the most reactionary wing of American politics.

As stated in Article 4 of the Constitution, requirements for the formation of a new state are simple, consisting merely of simple majority approval by the legislature of the existing state and by Congress. Neither a popular vote nor Presidential concurrence is needed. Proponents have begun approaching Boards of Supervisors in the region, arguing that California is dominated by urban majorities that do not share their values and railing against environmental

rules that they claim stifle economic growth. They then intend to tell legislators from the rest of California that “The northern counties want to govern themselves, and their departure will save the rest of California’s taxpayers a great deal of money, so please let them depart in peace.” This argument could have considerable traction with many legislators of both parties. In the meantime, few opponents have been paying much attention, on the dangerous assumption that the idea is too ridiculous to take seriously.

The success of this cynical campaign would bring catastrophic consequences ranging from the abolition of CEQA to the selloff of state parks. The Sierra Club needs to speak out strongly in opposition to political restructuring that would create a regional environmental disaster of major proportions and weaken our influence on the federal level. Redwood Chapter intends to propose that Sierra Club California take an official position in opposition to the creation of a “State of Jefferson,” and use our substantial Sacramento lobbying clout to keep it from gaining any more traction.

—VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

“Remembering Environmental Heroes” continued from page 1

Len Swenson

process. He was, more recently, focused on transportation issues and represented the Sonoma County Conservation Council (SCCC) on the Citizen’s Advisory Council to the Sonoma County Transportation Authority. Swenson was a Sierra Club member for over forty-five years.

Swenson was also active in many other local organizations, including the SCCC. Swenson won the SCCC’s Ernestine (“Ernie”) I. Smith Award in 1997, which recognizes an individual for his or her long-term commitment to environmental protection and enhancement. Swenson was one of the first men to become a member of League of Women Voters of Sonoma County.

Current Redwood Chapter ExCom member Keith Kaulum remembers Len Swenson fondly:

“My best memory of Len occurred when I went to my first large public meeting on Santa Rosa city water issues shortly after I arrived in Sonoma County. Len sat in the front row patiently until the public comment period, and then immediately jumped up to read a lengthy statement for the Sierra Club Group. He then sat back down and resumed reading his book, which I now noticed was a thick novel. It struck me that this was a guy who had been at this sort of thing for a long time.”

Current Sonoma Group ExCom member Steve Birdlebough adds:

“When I arrived in Sonoma County (in 2003) Len was an important Sierra Club voice on the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Sonoma County Transportation Authority. I regularly attended the committee’s meetings as an observer, and once I joined the Sonoma Group Executive Committee Len retired so that I could succeed to his seat.

“He and his wife Adrienne regularly brought conservation leaders together to socialize at the Friends House

gazebo. Those gatherings often led to strategic partnerships on environmental issues.”

Environmental Activist Bill Kortum (who passed away later in 2014) recalled Swenson’s activism, which he believed began locally in the 1960’s:

“Len and Adrienne (his late wife) joined COAAST (Californians Organized to Acquire Access to State Tidelands) almost at the very beginning. Later Len was president of COAAST for several years. He was on the early organizing committee for Coastwalk, and Len and Adrienne brought their granddaughter on several COAAST hikes.

“Len helped Virginia Hechtman organize a successful protest group over the dredging of the Russian River at Jenner for gravel and a 1500 home subdivision at Jenner.

“He organized a Tahoe trip of about twelve environmentalists to see me (Bill Kortum) receive the Golden Bear Award from the State Park Commission in recognition of the effort to pass Prop 20 that led to the formation of the California Coastal Commission.

“He headed a committee to ask State Parks to okay the site of the Kortum coastal trail.”

Carol Vellutini reports that despite being gravely ill at the time, “Bill Kortum spoke and paid tribute to another great environmentalist,” at Len’s memorial service.

Carol captures Len’s humorous side with this memory:

“Len always teased me about the Sierra Singles. I told him it was for potlucks and socializing and that it was not a pick up venue.”

We warmly remember Len Swenson, dedicated environmental activist, and we are grateful for the legacy he leaves Sonoma County and the Redwood Chapter.

Helen Libeu

when it came to forestry issues. Her sharp intellect and bulldog mentality plus personal experience with forestry (if I remember correctly she owned property that was sustainably logged) made her someone that you would not want opposing your project.”

Mary Walsh, North Group Chair, recalls: “I knew Helen well years ago. One could not know her without laughing as the men of CDF twisted in embarrassment at her pointed and educated remarks. She was a Registered Professional Forester and sat in on whatever meetings they held to keep them as honest as ever anyone could.”

Francoise Fleuriiau-Halcomb, Sierra Club, remembers: “Jay* took me to see Helen during our dating period, in the early 2000’s. He had created RRAUL (Russian River Residents Against Unsafe Logging) and was mentored by Helen from the beginning of his activities with the Sierra Club. I joined them in their meetings with local authorities concerning water or forestry problems. Although she owned a respectable piece of land, she was of the opinion that trees needed protection from greed. Jay had a tremendous respect for her abilities, her pugnacity and admired her dedication, her knowledge of forestry laws. He worked with her on all sorts of problems and he learned a lot from her. He thought she was exceptional...and fierce in the defense of what she believed was right. She never lost her independence. She was also very witty and pleasant. We had numerous



Helen Libeu hard at work with the late Redwood Chapter Chair Jay Halcomb, whom she mentored on forestry issues.

lunches at the Willow Wood restaurant in Graton where the problems were discussed; she loved good food. Their major victory was the preservation of a piece of land covered with old growth redwoods you can see from Highway 116 on the hills between Guerneville and Old Monte Rio; their height makes them prominent. I think of both Jay and Helen every time I see the trees whose life they have preserved. I miss them both very much. Their lives haven’t been in vain.”

*Francois’s late husband, former Redwood Chapter Chair Jay Halcomb.

Helen Libeu has earned our gratitude by being a leader in forest preservation in the Redwood Chapter.

Bill Kortum

Redwood Chapter Outings Leader Carol Vellutini remembers Bill Kortum: “I was fortunate to be on the COAAST board and hosted many dinners. I will never forget the dinner one year as I was sitting at the greeting table. I was trying to get new members to join COAAST. I was not familiar with the movers and shakers back then. I signed up Michael Fischer. Bill came over to me after as I was bragging to him how many people I had signed up for membership. He reads the list. He said you signed up Michael Fischer? I said yes. He said do you know who he is? I said no. Bill said he was the head of the California Coastal Commission and famous throughout California for coastal protection. (This was before Michael was executive director of the Sierra Club.) Of course, now I know who all these people are and Bill was my mentor.”

Kortum won the Sonoma County Conservation Council’s Ernestine (“Ernie”) I. Smith Award in



Bill and Lucy Kortum on the Kortum Trail.

1999, recognizing his long-term commitment to environmental protection and enhancement. Many consider Kortum to be the dean of environmental activism in Sonoma County and his unparalleled contributions to preserving the local environment shall long be treasured.

Outings

Sun. Feb. 8 - Mendo Group. Valley View Trail Hike.

Come hike one of the Ukiah Valley's most scenic and easily accessed trails in the Cow Mtn. BLM Recreation Area. The trail climbs from the parking area on Mill Creek Road just at the eastern end of the last of the Mill Creek ponds. Within a few minutes, the views of the Ukiah Valley begin and only improve as the hike proceeds toward the bench at the top for a sweeping panorama and then descends along Mayacama Creek to the waterfall, which if there has been recent rain, could be running at full capacity. We will lunch here, rest, and then return on the same route. This hike is fairly strenuous and requires good conditioning, hiking boots, layered clothing per season, raingear, water, and lunch. Poles recommended. Class: S-8-A. Carpools: Meet 9:30 Orchard Plaza opposite Star Restaurant or 10:00 trailhead. Leader: Jonah Freedman 4671877 or jonahfreedman@sbcglobal.net Rain cancels.

Fri.-Sun. Feb. 13 - 15 - Napa Group. Ski Trip-Hutchinson Lodge.

All are welcome to join us for our second ski tip of the year at Hutchinson Lodge located in Norden/Soda Springs off of Hwy 80, south of Truckee. There are many ski resorts located down the road or around the area for X-country skiing, down hill skiing, snow shoeing, or just for fun in the snow. X-country ski or snow shoe rentals are available at Claire Tappaan lodge which is located next door. Cost is \$90 members, \$100 non-Sierra Club members,

which includes 2 breakfasts & 2 dinners, trip limited to 15 people. Full payment confirms your reservation. Leader Nanette DeDonato-Dover nandedo@netzero.net.

Fri.-Sat. Feb. 13-14 - Southern Nevada Valentine's Day Service Trip.

Give our public lands a valentine by helping on a Feb 14 service project with the CA/NV Wilderness Committee. We will be working together with the BLM Las Vegas office and Friends of Nevada Wilderness to enhance wilderness characteristics in one of the southern Nevada BLM wildernesses. Sociable campout Friday night. More details & sign up: Vicky Hoover, 415-977-5527 or vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org. CA/NV Wilderness Committee

Sat. Feb. 14 - Lake Group. Pope to Putah trail Hike.

Hike a new trail still in the making. The P2P trail connects the two upper arms of Lake Berryessa. Tuleyome (see tuleyome.org) is pioneering a new connector trail between these two arms. We'll hike as far as the trail goes; overlook the secluded Putah Creek arm, then hike back, getting wonderful views of Pope Valley and Pope Canyon. Bring water, lunch and hiking boots. Class: M-9-A. Carpool: 8:30 am. Store 24, north end of Middletown across Hwy 29 from high school. Leader Tom McFarling (707) 994-5490. Rain cancels

Sat. Feb. 14 - Napa Group. Mt. Tamalpais East Peak Valentine's 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/Redwood-Chapter-Sierra-Club-Outings-Group/events/217587652/> or contact the leader. Co-led with Mother Lode Chapter. Leader: Martin Farber 707.253.9606, kowsoi@juno.com. Rain or shine.

Sun. Feb. 15 - Lake Group. Robert Louis Stevenson State Park Table Rock Hike.

Enjoy gorgeous rolling hills, wooded forests, interesting volcanic rock formations and stunning views of Napa Valley! Bring lunch, snack, water, hat and treaded shoes. Class: M-4-A Meet 8:30 am in front of Middletown Mugshots coffee shop on corner of Hwy 29 & 175 or 9:00 am in RLS State Park lot on Hwy. 29 6.1 south of Twin Pines Casino in Middletown. By reservation only. Leader Julie Kreis 707-987-9040 or tikaljak@yahoo.com Rain cancels.

Sun. Feb. 22 - North Group. Dry Lagoon-Stone Lagoon Hike.

We will hike north along the beach, then turn inland past a variety of dense vegetation to the Stone Lagoon boat-in State Park campground, and return. Bring lunch. No dogs. Optional side trip to Sharp Point, by consensus. Andamos de la playa al bosque y volver. Bienvenidos todos! Class M-5-A. Carpools: Meet 9 am Ray's shopping center in Valley West, trailhead 10 am Dry Lagoon Day Use Area on Highway 101. Leader Ned, nedforsyth48@gmail.com, 825-3652. Heavy rain cancels.

Sun. Feb. 22 - Lake Group. Rabbit Hill, Middletown Stroll.

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

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

A day trip to the snow for an easy

snowshoe hike. Destination and details will depend on the weather and snow conditions. Please check the posting on the Redwood Chapter Meetup Group for up-to-date information and RSVP. www.meetup.com/Redwood-Chapter-Sierra-Club-Outings-Group/ Leaders: (Sonoma) Carl Inglin 707 538-8271 or chingin@sonic.net & (Napa) Isabelle Saint-Guily napabelle@gmail.com

Fri.-Mon. Mar. 6-9 - Death Valley Exploration.

Four days of hiking and touring. Hikes include Golden Canyon, Amargosa Canyon, Mosaic Canyon, Natural Bridge and the Mesquite Sand Dunes, all 4 miles or under. Visits to China Ranch, Salt Creek, Zabriskie Point, the Artist Palette and Badwater. Two nights of primitive camping, one night at a developed campground. Potluck on Saturday night. Contact leader Carol Wiley at desertily1@verizon.net or (760) 245-8734. Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

Sat. Mar. 7 - Lake Group. Knoxville Wildlife Area Hike.

This 20 thousand acre CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife preserve is little used by hikers. We'll hike up a secluded valley, discover an old gravesite above Knoxville, pass an old windmill along a beautiful meadow and creek and cross a 600 ft. high ridge getting excellent views of Mt. St. Helena to the west we look up at Blue Ridge to the east. We end by hiking down into Long Canyon and back to the cars. Bring lunch, water and hiking boots. Class: M-8-A. Carpool: 8:30 am. Lower Lake Coffee Company, main street Lower Lake. Leader: Tom McFarling (707) 994-5490. Rain cancels.

Sat. Mar. 14 - North Group. Arcata Community Forest Fickle Hill-Diamond Dr. Hike.

Join us for a spring stroll through the redwoods. Thrushes, trilliums, milkmaids and more. No dogs. Se habla poco Espanol. Class E-5-A. Meet 9 am at Arcata Safeway parking lot, or Fickle Hill parking area 9:20. Leader Ned, nedforsyth48@gmail.com, 825-3652.

Sat.-Sun. Mar. 14-15 - Serve And Discover The Carrizo Plains.

We pray for winter rains, and if they arrive we can look forward to spring wildflowers in the Carrizo Plain National Monument. Our service on Saturday will either remove or modify sections of fence to facilitate the mobility of pronghorn antelope. These residents prefer to crawl under rather than jump fences to escape predators. Sunday will be, at the choice of the group, either a hike in the Caliente Range or else a tour of popular viewing areas in the plains. Leader: Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670. CNRCC Desert Committee

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

Snowshoe/Ski 6 miles (2300') to Benson Hut for a Sat. overnight. \$28 (\$33 Non Sierra Club members) by Feb 15th to Jim Gannon; PO Box 1038, Rohnert Park, CA 94927. Checks are non-refundable in case of weather cancellation. Please include email address/phone#. Optional stay at Clair Tappaan lodge Fri 13th. Make reservations early to avoid disappointment. Lodge reservations 530-426-3632 indicate you are with Benson trip-Redwood Chapter. Central commissary is planned. Meeting time/locations provided with trip sign up. Contact leader Jim Gannon (707)-525-1052 jgannon99@sbcglobal.net

Sat.-Sun. Mar. 14-15 - Ghost Town Extravaganza.

Explore the ruins of California's colorful past in this spectacular desert landscape near Death Valley. Camp near the historic ghost town of Ballarat (flush toilets). Sat. a challenging hike to ghost town Lookout City with expert Hal Fowler who will regale us with tales of this Wild West town. Return to camp for Happy Hour and a special St. Patty's Day potluck and campfire. Sun. a.m. a quick visit to the infamous Riley townsite. Group size strictly limited. Send \$8/person (Lygeia Gerard), 2 sase, H&W phones, email address, rideshare info to Ldr: Lygeia Gerard, P.O. Box 721039, Pinon Hills, CA 92372, 760-868-2179. CNRCC Desert Committee

Sun. Mar. 15 - Lake Group. Mt. St. Helena Hike.

Hike switchbacks about 20 minutes through fir woods up to a dirt road which leads to the top of Mt. St. Helena. We will go to the lower peak which looks out over Napa Valley. On a clear day see spectacular views, including much of the San Francisco Bay area. Bring water, lunch, binoculars & snacks. Class: M-7-C. Carpool: 8:30 am in front of Middletown Mugshots coffee shop on corner of Hwy 29 & 175 or 9 am. Robert Louis Stevenson Park - parking lot. By reservation only. Leader Julie 707-987-9040 or 707-671-5947 or tikaljak@yahoo.com. Rain cancels.

Wed.-Sun. Mar. 18-22 - Death Valley National Park - Spring Weekend.

Our car-camping trip is planned when temperatures are mild and wild flowers may be blooming. We'll hike to waterfalls including oasis-like Darwin Falls, through stunning desert canyons including Titus Canyon, visit ghost towns and mining areas, and explore some lesser known but truly fantastic areas outside of the Park. We will also tour Scotty's Castle. The hikes are rated moderate to strenuous with several hikes off maintained trails. Strenuous hikes to the most interesting

Instructions to hikers

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

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

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

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

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

Visitors are welcome

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

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

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

To submit outings write-ups

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

CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

Ratings for Outings Leaders

How fast or slow do you go?

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

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

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

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

Moderate-pace with few stops:

Don Anderson Tiffany MacNeil Boone Lodge Lorrie Lagasse

Moderate-pace with more frequent stops:

Pete McGee Tim Bartice Melinda Groom Val Nordeman
Carol Vellutini Yvonne Kramer Martin Farber Brian Collett
Carl Inglin Tom McFarling Nanette DeDonato Jonah Freedman
Steve Devoto Julie Kreis Ned Forsyth

Slower-pace: Allison Bronkall

Outings

locations require short sections of rock scrambling and minor exposure to heights. The hikes range from five to ten miles, with elevation gains up to 500 feet. Cost is \$60 per person and includes 4 nights of camping and tour of Scotty's Castle. Group size limited to 15 people. Email or call leader for reservation information. Leader: Rich Juricich, rich.sierraclub@pacbell.net, 916-492-2181. Sacramento Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

Fri.-Sun. Mar. 27-29 - Old Woman Mountains Service Trip.

Join Mojave Group and the CA/NV Wilderness Committee for our annual desert wilderness service project with the Needles office of BLM. This year's is in the Old Woman Mountains—we'll work on restoring a 5 mile stretch of Sunflower Spring Road or development of an interpretative trail of the area. BLM is partnering with Native American Lands Conservancy here, and we'll enjoy a joint campfire and stories with their tribal elders Saturday night. Central commissary, contact Vicky Hoover 415-977-5527 or vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org. CA/NV Wilderness Committee

Sun. Mar. 29 - North Group. Redwood National Park Flint Ridge Section Coastal Trail Hike.

Starting near site of former Douglas Memorial Bridge, we skirt an old log pond and ascend through magnificent redwood forest to ridge, then gradually drop to meet spur to backcountry campground, our lunch spot, with views through redwoods of coast below. Return by same route. Wear layers, hiking footwear; bring water and lunch. No dogs. M-9-B Carpools: Meet 8:30 am Ray's, Valley West, 10 am trailhead parking area off Alder Camp Rd. near junction with Klamath Beach Rd. Leader Melinda 668-4275 <mgroomster@gmail.com> Rain cancels.

Sun. Apr. 12 - North Group. South Fork Trinity River (off Highway 299) Hike.

Much to see and hear on this perennial favorite National Forest trail. Redbud, Baby Blue Eyes, Black-headed Grosbeak. Breathtaking vistas of the river's gorge below, and trekking poles will be a plus. A profusion of wildflowers, especially since the 2008 Hell's Half mosaic burn. No dogs. Dress for the day's weather. Hikers must have water, lunch, sun/cold protection, good footwear, and some agility to cross a couple of small tributaries. Class M-6.5-B. Carpools: Meet 8:30 am at Ray's shopping center in Valley West. Leader Ned, nedforsyth48@gmail.com, 825-3652. Heavy rain cancels.

Sat. Apr. 25 - Lake Group. Glen Eden Trail to Goat Rock Hike.

Time to view wildflowers in the North Cow Mountain Recreation Area. It consists of grasslands, chaparral-covered slopes with scattered stand of

fir, pine and oak. Trail head on Scotts Valley Road 8 miles from Hwy 29. Bring lots of water, lunch & sturdy shoes. Class: H-8-B. Carpools: meet 8:30 am Lower Lake Coffee Co. on Main Street, off junction of Hwy 29 & 53 or 9:30 am Glen Eden Trail head. By reservation only. Leader Julie Kreis 707-987-9040 or 707-671-5947 or tikaljak@yahoo.com. Rain cancels.

Fri.-Mon. Apr. 10-13 - Mojave National Preserve Outing.

Meet on Friday April 10 at Amboy Crater at noon and hike up the crater for lunch. Primitive camping Friday night near Granite Pass. Saturday head to Kelso Dunes for a hike up the dunes. Sunday visit the Kelso Depot and then the lava tube with camping at Midhills Campground. Monday we can hike to Cima Dome on the way out. All hikes are moderate (easy to some). Saturday night we will have a potluck (optional). There are no services in the preserve. Contact leader Carol Wiley at desertlily1@verizon.net or 760-245-8734. Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

Sat. Apr. 25 - Mendocino Group. Seal Rookery and Sand Dunes.

Come for a day to observe, count, and enjoy the newborn seal pups at Mackerricher State Park. We will walk along the old Haul Road to the Ten Mile Dunes. Bring lunch, water and binoculars. Dress in layers. Class E-4-A. Meet at Lake Cleone parking lot in Mackerricher State Park 10:30. By reservation only. Leader Lorrie Lagasse lorrielas@yahoo.com

Sat.-Sun. Apr. 25-26 - Service in the Carrizo Plains National Monument.

This trip is scheduled late in the wildflower season, and we pray that rains have produced a wonderful and long-lasting display. Our service on Saturday will remove or modify sections of fence to facilitate the mobility of pronghorn antelope. Sunday will be, at the choice of the group, either a hike in the Caliente Range or a tour of popular viewing areas in the plains. This is an opportunity to combine car camping, day-hiking, exploring, and service in a relatively unknown wilderness. Contact leader for details: Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670. CNRCC Desert Committee

Fri.-Wed. June 19-24 - Coyote Gulch Backpack.

Backpack 30 miles through some of the best of Utah's red rock, with sheer high-walled canyons and cathedral-like campsites. Trip

Outings Chair Report

The year 2014 was a pivotal year. Many leaders in environmental activism, conservation, and preservation of open space have passed on. See this Redwood Needles for articles. I am hoping to have Memorial hikes and walks to honor outings leaders who have passed on. These will be held in the North Group, Mendo Group and Sonoma Group.

Many of you are backpackers and have backpacked at least one of the sections of the Pacific Crest trail. If you haven't seen the movie Wild, it is a must see. You will re-live trying to pack your backpack for the first time, although I know none of you had a pack like Reese Witherspoon. I am sure that all of you would have the correct fuel for cooking. I cringed when I saw her toenails—she was wearing boots that were too small. Trying to put up a tent, crossing a stream, going across the hot desert and the deep snow are all situations you might identify with. Wild was primarily filmed in Oregon—and only two scenes were actually on the Pacific Crest Trail as the movie crew couldn't film in inaccessible places. The crew needed locations that were accessible, and could serve several purposes so the crew didn't have to pack up each day. Don't miss this movie.

Some of you might be interested in two backpacking classes at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park in Sonoma County. One is a two-hour class that will be offered on a Saturday, in April or May. Introductory information will be for the first hour and the second hour participants will look at some examples of backpacking gear. The instructors will bring a fully packed backpack, then unpack it so you can see what's in it. (\$10 fee) Separately, the next class will be overnight. Guides with extensive backpacking experience will lead a small group into a backcountry camp



Carol Vellutini (bottom right) joins other volunteers to put up the Kortum Trail sign in the 1990's. Bill Kortum is in the middle of the back row.

at Sugarloaf on a weekend. The mileage will be less than five miles but it will be a wilderness experience designed to give you the skills you need to start backpacking on your own. You may bring your own gear or rent. One instructor is Inga Aksamit. Go to her website to view her trips and suggestions. Inga is an outdoor enthusiast and California State Park volunteer who is passionate about exploring backcountry trails safely. She's done the John Muir Trail, High Sierra Trail, Chilkoot Trail (Alaska), many trails in the Tahoe Sierra and has paddled 450 miles of the Yukon River (Canada) in a canoe. She discovered backpacking in middle-age. For info call her 415-470-1812 or John Rooney 707-833-5712.

This has been an excellent mushroom season. Hikers have photographed so many beautiful mushrooms. Those who know how to select edible mushrooms have also been delighted at the amount. The wildflower season should be interesting. Plants and trees are confused because of the strange weather.

Congratulations are in order for Kevin Jorgeson (from Santa Rosa) and Tommy Caldwell as they achieved the unprecedented accomplishment of free climbing the world's largest granite monolith El Capitan. Wow!!!!!! A world record. The Dawn Wall climb will go down in history.

A big thanks to all the Sierra Club leaders in our chapter. Solano Group will have a new leader this year. See you on the trail,

—CAROL VELLUTINI, REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR

starts with obtaining permits at the Escalante visitor center. 4-5 miles of travel each day. Most of the hiking is moderate, but requires wading back and forth across the creek. One steep trail to bypass waterfalls. There are side trips so bring a small day pack. This is the warm season, but usually quite pleasant. Trip details and agenda available on sign-up. Limit 12. Leader: David Hardy, email preferred, hardyhikers@

embarqmail.com, 702-875-4826. S. Nevada Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

Redwood Needles

April Deadline: Due March 8

Submit Articles/Reports/Ad Copy via e-mail to: odavison@sonic.net

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

Send Meetings to Carl Inglin: chinglin@sonic.net



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Lake Group Report

Berryessa Snow Mountain Town Hall

Lake Group was thrilled to be able to send a substantial delegation led by Chair Ed Robey to the Town Hall meeting on the proposed Berryessa Snow Mountain national monument held in Napa on December 19. (See the article on page one in this edition of the *Redwood Needles* for details.)

By far the largest portion of the 350,000 acres proposed for permanent protection is in Lake County, and during the five or more years that the campaign has been a top Lake Group priority the Group has hosted a series of informational meetings on the proposal, led numerous hikes into the region, and done a great deal to encourage support in the community. Three executive committee members and at least a dozen other local residents attended the forum with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, and two were fortunate enough to have an opportunity to speak, while Supervisor Denise Rushing—a Sierra Club life member who served on the executive committee before taking office—represented local government on the panel.

All About Development

At press time, Lake Group was planning our first general membership meeting of 2015, to be held on January 21 in Lower Lake. We have invited county Community Development Director Rick Coel to talk about how the development application process works: what are the steps needed to get grading, building or use permits, or subdivisions, rezones, and general plan amendments? How long does it take, and what does it cost? What kinds of conditions must developers meet, what levels of

environmental review are required and how can the public get involved? These are very important topics with profound implications for the future of the community, that don't appear to be very well understood, so we are delighted to be able to provide this rare opportunity to spread the word about how the system really works.

A Party and a Movie

Lake Group held our tenth (or was it the eleventh?) annual holiday party on December 12. This free semi-potluck event always provides a great opportunity to discuss the environmental issues affecting the community in a convivial informal atmosphere and this year was no exception. We also sell a lot of calendars. Now that the holiday is over, we're looking forward to hosting a screening of *The Russian River: All Rivers*; it will be shown at 7PM on Wednesday March 25, in the Board of Supervisors Chamber in the Courthouse, 255 N. Forbes in Lakeport.

—VICTORIA BRANDON,
LAKE GROUP CONSERVATION CHAIR



Supervisor-elect Jim Steele, Board Chair Denise Rushing, and former Supervisor Ed Robey enjoying wine and conversation at the holiday party. All three have also served on the Lake Group executive committee at one time or another.

Redwood Chapter and Group Election Results

Redwood Chapter

Rue Furch
Diane Fairchild Beck

North Group

Diane Fairchild Beck
Joyce Yowell
Richard Kreis

Napa Group

Lisa Godfrey
Bill Dyer
Nancy Tamarisk

Lake Group

Ed Robey
Win Stiles
Julie Kreis

Mendocino Group

Linda Perkins
Sue Boeker

Solano Group

Erin Tator
Doug Darling
Quinton Crawford
Kathy Pettibone

Sonoma Group

Shirley Johnson
Richard Sachen

North Group Report

Amid a season of high river flows and nine-foot king tides, North Group and Humboldt Bay were treated to at least two public events on the topic of sea-level rise and climate change. Richardson Grove was in the news again in December.

On November 12 there was a public presentation of the ongoing Humboldt Bay Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Project. The major players in this effort, termed "a collaborative," are the County of Humboldt, the State Coastal Conservancy, and the Humboldt Bay and Harbor District, the cities of Arcata and Eureka, and others. Well over 100 citizens attended.

Most or all of the material presented is on the Bay District's website. See <http://humboldtbay.org/humboldt-bay-sea-level-rise-adaptation-planning-project>.

Included was a CalTrans District One presentation of a wide-ranging report focusing on additional sites, as well as Humboldt Bay: Del Norte's Last Chance Creek, Mendocino's mouth of the Garcia River, and Lake County's Rodman Slough/Middle Creek. Scenarios of drought and wildfire as well as increased precipitation were presented. See elements of the "D1CCPS" report at <http://www.northcoastclimatechange.com/>

Humboldt Bay's net sea-level rise is among the state's highest, when the regional Cascadia tectonic deformation and the oxidation and subsidence of bay mud are added to the ocean-level change. Locally there is an exceptional level of collaboration and interest to make for a very viable and successful pilot project for State Coastal Conservancy.

North Group held a member meeting December 9 featuring Steven Hackett, HSU professor of economics, drawing about 35 attendees to his lecture on economic aspects of climate change.

CalTrans and EPIC announced on December 5 that the plaintiffs in the Richardson Grove federal court lawsuit were voluntarily dropping their case, after CalTrans announced its intention to withdraw its original FONSI and re-do the environmental study, specifically of the potential impact to redwood tree roots of the project, as mandated by a state appeals court ruling in October.

—NED FORSYTH, NORTH GROUP VICE CHAIR

Napa Group Report

Napa Group was both busy and successful on many fronts this past year, 2014. Thanks to the dynamic efforts of ExCom member Isabelle Saint-Guily, the group's general membership has been re-vitalized and engaged in many club activities. Regularly scheduled public talks ranging from Climate Change to hikes on the Pacific Crest Trail have been very well attended. In addition, a regular monthly Constant Contact e-newsletter to a mailing list of nearly 1000 has become a rich resource for staying connected with our community and members. The past year also saw our participation in many of the regular community events, such as Earth Day and county-wide trail maintenance. In addition, our group and many Napa members contributed to the regional 50 year anniversary of the Wilderness Act, sponsored by the Forest Service and held in Vallejo.

I want to thank all members and non-members in Napa for their generous and continuing support in our advocacy roll to protect the environment. Our efforts to raise funds to battle the extensive Walt Ranch Vineyard proposal have been very successful.

This campaign is not finished, but along with the campaign's coalition of which we are a part, we will continue to be vigilant on this and other environmental abuses. As we start the New Year, the ExCom is saying good bye to Phill Blake and long-time ExCom member, Carol Kunze. We thank them for their dedicated service to the Club and its goals. We will miss their regular participation, but know that they are just a speed-dial away from a consult. In their place we now welcome new ExCom members Bill Dyer and Lisa Godfrey. We look forward to further contacts and outreach to the Napa Community as many issues of land use and development continue to ferment. Issues including the Climate Action Plan and Wine Definition Ordinance are significant ones which we will continue to track. Lastly, continued outreach to engage a more diverse Napa Community, which will include youth members, will be a priority of the upcoming year.

—MARC PANDONE, NAPA GROUP CHAIR

Sonoma Group Report

WalMart Decision Looms

Sonoma Group members attended the Rohnert Park City Council meeting in January, to once again voice our opposition to the massive expansion of operations requested by WalMart, which already operates over 100,000 sf of Rohnert Park's commercial space and wants to add a 40,000 section to their empire in that city— which also hosts a WalMart grocery store on the other side of the freeway. The Council had moved its decision forward to January 13. This is the last step in a grass-roots process that has spanned nearly a decade. We are advocating for the city to reject the fossil fuel mentality of the Super Store, and encourage walkable local commerce we need in the 21st century. As of press time we've met with most members of the City Council and are unsure what action they will take.

Riparian Protection

Sonoma County Supervisors unanimously passed a Riparian Ordinance, with terms recommended by a mixed stakeholder's group. In most respects, the ordinance is a major improvement over the previous lack of protections for our watersheds. However we will seek to amend weaknesses in the new law such as its permission for uncultivated "turnaround" as close as 25 feet from streams. It grandfathered in all currently cultivated areas, even those which have endured illegal "taking" of public riparian zone land by farmers. An upcoming Groundwater Management Plan later this year is expected to deal with well drilling in the protected areas.

Clean Energy Powering Sonoma County

Climate Chair Woody Hastings' tireless advocacy of Sonoma Clean Power paid off in December, when the city councils of both Rohnert Park and Petaluma came onboard with the program. Community choice power now has a home all over Sonoma County, and we appreciate Woody for the part he played in it, along with our county

supervisors and numerous others who can see that giving consumers a choice is the new way of doing electrical power.

No GMOs

We contacted the Supervisors to request an ordinance to prohibit the cultivation, propagation, raising, and growing of genetically engineered organisms in our county. Action was recommended by Supervisor Susan Gorin, but at this time there is not enough support.

Supervisors have taken no action to date toward passing a Living Wage Ordinance for Sonoma County. Please see our previous (Oct/Nov 2014) Group Report to find a review of the issues involved.

Environmental Book Featured on Local Radio

KBBF-FM 89.1 has broadcast a speech recorded during Naomi Klein's October visit to Santa Rosa to discuss her new book *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate*. The speech and book signing were co-sponsored by the Sonoma Group and North Bay Organizing Project. Group Chair Dan Kerbein recorded Ms. Klein's speech.

Website Update

Conservation Chair Suzanne Doyle has nearly completed the process of developing a new Sonoma Group web page. We will be using that website, plus Facebook, Twitter and Mail Chimp to distribute our alerts.

Water Committee Changes Time

The Water Committee is now meeting at 5:30 PM on the first Mondays of most months in conjunction with the Conservation and Energy Committee meetings. However, in February our Water Chair, Len Holt, will also be at the Environmental Center to preside over the previously scheduled meeting at 7:00 PM on February 18, 2015.

—DAN KERBEIN, SONOMA GROUP CHAIR

Join us for first meeting of 2015, where we review local issues and come up with plans to protect our local environment. It will be on February 5 at 6 pm at Round Table Pizza in Cordelia at 5085 Business Center Dr. #102, near Costco, our treat. All current Sierra Club Members invited! For more information, email sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com or leave a message at 707 319-6398.

Recycle.solanocounty.com has been updated. This downloadable recycle guide has 21 pages of local recycling information. Book mark it or put on your desktop.

Jane can also get you a zip file with individual pages so you won't have to send the whole guide out.

Volunteer Opportunities!

Thanks to Adam Mangosing, Justin Ratliff and Alicia Ashorn, Camelo, and Jane for staffing the December, and January paper shredding events.

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sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com 707-319-6398

VALCORE Recycling and Confidential Paper Shredding 2015:

Solano Group will be working every 3rd Saturday of the month at 38 Sheridan Street, Vallejo from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Jan 17, Feb 21) There is a charge of \$10 (CASH or CHECK ONLY) per twenty pounds of paper shredded. (Maximum: 100 pounds). Sierra Club volunteers help tend the money and direct traffic. Once a year is all we ask and you only need work an hour or so. Volunteers get free shredding.

NEWWEEKDAY SHREDDING From 10am to 4 pm – closed

1 pm to 2 pm for lunch, CREDIT or DEBIT ONLY.

We continually work at Lori's Native Plant Garden located at 225 Amador St, Vallejo. NEXT WORKDAYS: 2/21, 2/28, 5/2, (9 TO 11 am). We also weed, plant, prune and mulch year-round. If you have an hour, call Jane and she'll work with you to get you started. 707-319-6398

There are two new projects at VALCORE: recycling clothes/linens, and recycling ink cartridges.

Goto <http://www.gofundme.com/VALCORErecycling> to contribute and help us fix our shed and truck bed.

The annual Flyway Festival returns to Mare Island, Feb 13, 14, and 15.

<http://www.sfbayflywayfestival.com> Watch their website for details and volunteer opportunities.

CONTRIBUTOR: JANE BOGNER, EDITOR: GREG PETERSON

Water Board Begins National Forest Clean Water Review

Most *Redwood Needles'* readers are aware that Northwest California contains an abundance of national forest land. In Humboldt County 34% of the land base is public land, with most being national forest administered by the US Forest Service. For Mendocino County the figure is 20%; it's 64% for Siskiyou County. Over seventy-five percent of Trinity and Del Norte County land is public. On the North Coast national forests occupy the headwaters of our rivers; this makes them critical to maintaining the high quality cold water on which salmon and steelhead, as well as our river and tribal economies, depend.

The presence of public lands, much of it protected as wilderness, at our rivers' headwaters should provide a guarantee of high water quality. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Water quality tests of headwaters wilderness streams conducted in recent years by the Quartz Valley Tribe have documented high levels of fecal coliform bacteria in streams flowing from wilderness lands which are grazed by cattle. At times water quality standards have been violated; unnaturally high levels of nutrient pollution have also been documented.

The pollution of wilderness headwater streams by grazing livestock is one reason a review of North Coast national forests' Clean Water Act permit just getting underway is important. The Clean Water Act should prevent the fouling of wilderness springs as shown in the photo to the right.

The Clean Water Act should also prevent the Forest Service from logging and hauling logs during wet weather. Logging - and especially hauling logs on dirt or gravel roads - delivers fine sediment to stream courses which are already listed as having water quality "impaired" by excessive amounts of sediment. Fine sediment fills the deep pools migrating salmon love and can render spawning gravel unsuitable for salmon and steelhead spawning. The photo below shows wet



Logging in the mud on the Klamath National Forest. Logging and log hauling after heavy rain delivers salmon-harming fine sediment to streams and rivers. (Photo by Kimberly Baker.)

weather logging on the Klamath National Forest this past fall after heavy rain.

In California, as in most states, the Clean Water Act is administered by the state. Here in Northwest California the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

is responsible for assuring that Forest Service management of national forest lands does not result in violation of established water quality standards. The permit governing clean water oversight by the state must be renewed every five years. The latest renewal process is just getting under way.

Along with tribal and environmental allies, the North Group of the Redwood Chapter Sierra Club will be closely monitoring the permit renewal process and working to strengthen permit provisions so that the high quality water which should be flowing into our rivers from national forest streams is not polluted before it leaves the forest. We'll keep *Redwood Needles'* readers informed along the way and provide you with opportunities to "weigh in" for clean water when the appropriate times come.

Those who want to learn more now can begin by reading the current CWA permit (euphemistically termed a "waiver") on the North Coast Water Board's web site at : http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/timber_operations/timber_waiver/100616/100617_10_0029_Waiver_USFS.pdf; a Q&A document useful for understanding the permit can be accessed here: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/

[timber_operations/timber_waiver/120809/120809_USFS_Waiver_Questions_and_Answers.pdf](#)).

What You Can Do: Please also take a few moments to tell North Coast Water Board officials you want them to adopt a national forest permit that will restore the high quality water you expect to flow from public lands. Contact Fred Blatt, the official responsible for assuring that the Forest Service complies with the Clean Water Act, via e-mail to fred.blatt@waterboards.ca.gov or by phone: (707) 576-2800.

—FELICE PACE, NORTH GROUP WATER CHAIR



A cattle-trashed spring in the Marble Mountain Wilderness. Virtually every spring and wetland grazed by livestock within Northwest California wilderness areas is trampled and polluted. (Photo by Felice Pace.)

New Redwood Chapter Website Goes Live

Please visit www.sierraclub.org/redwood to keep up to date on the latest news and alerts in the Redwood Chapter with our integrated blog feature and link to our Facebook page. The easily accessible calendar allows you to see what's happening weekly or monthly. Our issues pages will detail the major issues the Chapter is addressing, and what you can do to help. Each issue of the newsletter and the outings will continue to be posted. National Sierra Club news items are also easy to find. Thanks to our Webmaster, Melanie Matway, for ushering us into the 21st century, and to the Chapter Communications Committee for their input during the process. We hope you enjoy your new experience of the Redwood Chapter website!

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

Sonoma County Regional Parks trail work days.

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

Volunteer Days Riverkeeper Stewardship Park in Guerneville, Every Wednesday.

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

If you wish your request to be used locally, be sure to specify "Sierra Club Redwood Chapter" or the name of your local Group in your request.

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WILDERNESS: THE BEAT GOES ON

Although the special 50th anniversary year is over, Sierra Club efforts to protect and celebrate wild lands here on the North Coast and elsewhere will continue. Specifically, we're expecting to roll out some exciting new proposals for wilderness and wild and scenic river preservation very soon, probably in the next issue of the Redwood Needles. Please stay tuned for more!

National Sierra Club Elections Coming Soon

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is coming soon. Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club's web site.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation.

If you want to request an electronic ballot, which will save the Club money and paper, please sign up at https://secure.sierraclub.org/site/SPageNavigator/Membership/EBallot_Information.html

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. Visit the Club's election web site: <http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/people/committees/board/board-election-2015.aspx>

This site provides links to additional information about candidates and their views on a variety of issues facing the Club and the environment.

You should use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate. Then make your choice and cast your vote. Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, please go to the user-friendly Internet voting site to save time and postage. If necessary, you will find the ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark and mail.

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. 2 - Sonoma Group.

Santa Rosa Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway is the site of related meetings:

Conservation Consortium (3 Committees) meets 5:00- 6:30 p.m.

- The Climate & Energy Committee meets at 5:00 p.m. Info: contact Shirley, shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, 707-206-1138.

- The Sonoma Group Water Committee will meet at 5:30 PM Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

- Sonoma Group Conservation Committee at 6:00 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle: carsort@gmail.com

- Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net

Thurs. Feb. 5 - 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. 10 - North Group ExCom.

The public is invited to attend the monthly meeting of our governing committee. Join us for a discussion of

local conservation issues between 7:45 and 8:45 p.m., following the ExCom business meeting from 6:45-7:45 p.m. Meet at Adorni Center Conference Room on Eureka Waterfront. For more info, call Gregg at 707-826-3740.

Tues. Feb. 17 - 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. 18 - 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
Please Note: this is the last Wednesday meeting of the Water Committee, future meetings will take place at 5:30 on the first Monday of the month.

Mon. March 2 - Sonoma Group.

Santa Rosa Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway is the site of related meetings:

Conservation Consortium (3 Committees) meets 5:00- 6:30 p.m.

- The Climate & Energy Committee meets at 5:00 p.m. Info: contact Shirley, shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, 707-206-1138.

- The Sonoma Group Water Committee

will meet at 5:30 PM Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

- Sonoma Group Conservation Committee at 6:00 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle: carsort@gmail.com

- Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net

Tues. March 10 - North Group ExCom. See Feb. 10.

Sat., March 14 - Redwood Chapter ExCom and ConsCom.

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

Thurs. March 19 - 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. April 6, Mon. May 4 - The Sonoma Group Water Committee.

5:30 PM in conjunction with the Conservation & Energy Committees at the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

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Sierra Club
Redwood Chapter
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Sonoma County Conservation Council & Sierra Club Sonoma Group
present the 39th Annual
Sonoma County Environmental Awards Dinner 2015

Restoration: Helping Nature Heal
Experience a virtual tour of the student-run hatchery and watershed restoration work by the student members of United Anglers of Casa Grande High School.

MC: Supervisor Susan Gorin

Sunday, March 15, 2015
5:00 to 8:30pm
Sebastopol Community Center
390 Morris St., Sebastopol

2015 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS
Awards Nominations open Dec. 23 until Jan. 24
www.envirocentersoco.org/awards
NEW! View posters of many outstanding restoration projects in Sonoma County.

TICKETS
\$40, after 2/14: \$60 Students with ID: \$25, after 3/10: \$35

Purchase online at 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 for limited work trades.

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Golden Legends \$1,000, 10 tickets	Roaring 20's \$240, 3 tickets
Glory Years \$720, 6 tickets	Young Heroes \$150, 2 tickets
Green Warriors \$360, 4 tickets	