

Redwood Needles

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 57 Number 1

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

February/March 2016

Vinyard's Legacy Lives On

By VICTORIA BRANDON,
REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

The North Coast lost a legendary conservation giant on December 30, with the death of Humboldt County resident Lucille Vinyard, known to many as "the mother of Redwood National Park." North Group Chair Gregg Gold remembers: "Lucille was a force for good in so many ways, and she touched the hearts of everyone who was privileged to know her. I doubt I will ever meet another person like her in my lifetime."

As a newly recruited Sierra Club activist, Lucille was instrumental in the formation of the Redwood Chapter's North Group in 1964, the year the Club began a campaign to preserve the remaining ancient redwood forests in the region. For the next four years she led the battle to establish a national redwood park, an effort that included leading hikes and float trips, taking still photographs and movie footage, promoting the park proposal both inside and outside the Club, and testifying at government hearings in Eureka, Sacramento, and Washington, DC. In 1965, her 12-minute presentation to the Senate Natural Resources Committee in Sacramento received a rare standing ovation from the audience of 300.

In 1971, Lucille began working for passage of the California Coastal Zone Protection Act, then spent the next nine years monitoring coastal development permits in Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte counties. As Sierra Club watchdog at regional Coastal



Lucille Vinyard, 1918-2015

Commission meetings from 1973 to 1981, she attended every meeting but three; from 1985 to 1990, she coordinated the annual Coastal Clean-up Day for Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.

Starting in 1974, she became actively involved in the formulation of management plans for the BLM's King Range National Conservation Area, serving on the agency's Ukiah District Resource Advisory Council for two years. She worked—successfully!—for both the Wild and Scenic Smith River and the passage of the California Wilderness Act, was a founding member of the North Coast Environmental Center and the Redwood Natural History Association. Last summer despite serious illness she eagerly signed a

letter to Congressman Jared Huffman urging him to introduce legislation protecting new Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Besides serving as a North Group executive committee member almost continuously from the Group's founding in 1964 until 2012, Lucille chaired the Group from 1970-1978, chaired the Redwood Chapter from 1976-1978, and spent more than ten years as the secretary of one or both. Awards included a Special Service Award from the national Sierra Club in 1999, a Resolution of Appreciation from Assemblymember Virginia Strom-Martin the same year, Woman of the Year award from Assemblymember Patty Berg in 2003, and a Certificate of Recognition from State Senator Pat Wiggins in 2008, "celebrating 90 years of life and insatiable efforts to keep the planet safe for future generations."

That's the kind of insatiability the planet needs more of, as do we all.

At press time no memorial services had been planned, but a celebration of Lucille's life is expected in the spring, probably at an appropriate location such as Lady Bird Johnson Grove. In the meantime donations may be made in her honor to the North Group's Lucille Vinyard/Susie Van Kirk Environmental Education Fund (which has been providing camping experiences for children for the past 20 years) by sending a check payable to "North Group Environmental Education Fund" to: North Group at PO Box 238, Arcata CA 95518.

The SMART Train and its Neighbors

By STEVE BIRDLEBOUGH,
SONOMA GROUP TRANSPORTATION CHAIR

Can the SMART Train be a good neighbor? The residents of a working class neighborhood in Santa Rosa are about to find out. Many of them are Spanish speaking and living in low income or senior housing close to the tracks near the proposed Jennings Avenue Bicycle Boulevard and the Coddington Mall. For decades they have used an "informal" crossing of the tracks at Jennings Avenue to go shopping, board a bus, or visit friends on the other side of the tracks.

Recently this neighborhood witnessed their crossing being fenced-off. Signs were posted, and notices were published stating that the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) had ordered the city and SMART to close the crossing due to increased train activity that posed a risk to pedestrians and bicyclists.

The importance of this crossing was recognized in Santa Rosa's General Plan, and the Station Area Plan for lands within half mile of the Guerneville Rd. Station. The city had conducted an environmental study and held a lengthy public hearing that concluded with a unanimous decision that the level crossing would be convenient, safe, and preferable to either a tunnel under, or a bridge over the tracks. SMART agreed that a level crossing would be appropriate.

During discussions with city staff members the

"SMART Train & Neighbors"

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Keep Dangerous Crude-by-Rail Out of Benicia

By ANDRÉS SOTO,
STEERING COMMITTEE, BENICIANS FOR A SAFE
AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Just as Lac Megantic, Quebec was destroyed by a derailed train hauling dangerously explosive fracked Bakken crude oil, we in Benicia learned that Valero Benicia had applied for a conditional use permit to build out a rail expansion facility at the refinery to bring in both Bakken crude and Alberta Tar Sands.

We formed a group called Benicians for a Safe and Healthy Community (BSHC), to fight this project. We were appalled when we learned the city staff was recommending that the project be approved with a Mitigated Negative Declaration ("Neg Dec"), on the grounds that environmental impacts were so minor that there was no need for a Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)!

BSHC organized a series of community forums and mobilized residents and allies up and down the rail lines first to advocate, and then to achieve a thorough CEQA review process for the project. This process continued at subsequent Benicia Planning

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Marching for Action on Climate Change

By SHIRLEY JOHNSON-FOELL, SONOMA GROUP
CLIMATE AND ENERGY CHAIR AND
TOM ROTH, REDWOOD CHAPTER EXCOM

When our planet's diplomats at the 21st U.N. Conference of the Parties in Paris put the final touches on an agreement to combat climate change on December 11th, some in Sonoma County proudly recalled the small part they played to bring us to that historic point. Symbolically as well as in actual fact, they "got on the bus" to demand strong,

significant climate policies.

On Saturday, November 21st, three charter buses pulled up to the green shoreline of Oakland's Lake Merritt to unload those county residents who had come to march in the NorCal Climate Mobilization March. This strong showing from Sonoma County demonstrated our sense of urgency to get the governments to act before we were overwhelmed with one catastrophe after another.

The buses were a collaborative effort of three

organizations, the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club, Sonoma County Conservation Action and Sonoma County 350.org. One bus was paid for by the Redwood Chapter, along with a special offer for Santa Rosa Junior College Students and Sonoma State University Students to ride it for a discounted \$5 fare, which about two dozen students purchased. Riders on the Sierra Club bus received a copy of the Redwood Needles, and information about the Sierra Club Student Coalition. The buses rolled out

"Marching for Action" cont. on page 3



Save the Date:

TPP Rally in Santa Rosa January 27

By VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

As has been discussed in previous editions of the Redwood Needles, the Sierra Club thinks the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) mega-trade deal risks unacceptable environmental impacts both in this country and abroad. The more we learn about the details of this treaty, the graver those concerns become.

A very recent development has ratcheted up the anxiety level still higher.

TransCanada, the notorious fossil fuel corporation behind the dirty and dangerous Keystone XL tar

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

Redwood Chapter Sierra Club Directory

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Newsletter Coordinator: Pamela Nelson	April/May March 8
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Non-member Subscriptions: \$6.00 per year.	Aug/Sept. July 8

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National Club Election Coming This Spring

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway. 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 website.

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. Your Board of Directors is required to stand for election by the membership. This Board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the Executive Director and staff to operate the Club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and

responsibility of membership.

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 website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/board/election>. 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.

Get the latest updates on environmental activities in the Redwood Chapter!

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

Southeast Greenway 2016– The Time is Now!

In October, the Santa Rosa City Council took a big step forward to realize the vision of a Greenway to Spring Lake. The City Council voted unanimously to begin a General Plan amendment process for the Caltrans right-of-way property—the future Southeast Greenway. This process will launch in 2016 and there will be many opportunities for the community to participate and provide comments and ideas.

One of these opportunities will be on Saturday, February 20, 2016, when everyone is invited to attend a free two-hour public meeting at Montgomery High School to find out how to participate in the City's General Plan amendment process.

At the meeting, there will be a chance to meet the members of the Southeast Greenway Community Partnership, which includes the City of Santa Rosa, Sonoma County Water Agency, Sonoma County Regional Parks, LandPaths, the Sonoma Land Trust and the Southeast Greenway Campaign itself. You will hear from:

Dave Koehler, Sonoma Land Trust's new Executive

Director and keynote speaker, who will describe his role in the creation of the San Joaquin River Parkway. His colleagues will explain how the Sonoma Land Trust is playing a leadership role in our negotiations with Caltrans, and coordinating fund-raising to purchase the property from Caltrans. City staff will explain the steps in the City's process which includes hiring consultants to develop a land use concept plan, preparing a General Plan amendment, zoning designation and an Environmental Impact Report for the Greenway. City staff will also describe the many opportunities for public input and comments.

Based on this meeting and a series of public meetings to be held in 2016, the Southeast Greenway will become what



Southeast Greenway Campaign Biologists on a Survey. Photo by Grace Cheung-Schulman.

our community imagines. The vision may include:

- Walking trails and bike paths with connections east to Spring Lake Regional Park and the future Sonoma Valley Trail and west to the Joe Rodota Trail and the SMART Trail and stations
- Safe routes to all the schools in the area
- Neighborhood parks and meeting places
- Community gardens and restored walnut groves
- Restored oak woodland, creeks, wetlands and Sumner Marsh
- Opportunities for outdoor education
- Economic stimulus of the surrounding area.

2016 is a pivotal year for the Southeast Greenway. Come find out how you can play a role in creating a vibrant Greenway in Santa Rosa and share in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for community imagining during the coming year. For more information, visit <http://www.SoutheastGreenway.org> or call 707-703-1922.

—STEPHEN FULLER-ROWELL

Southeast Greenway 2016 – The Time Is Now!

Where: Montgomery High School Cafeteria, 1250 Hahman Drive, Santa Rosa

When: Saturday, February 20, from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Child Care: Provided by licensed bonded childcare providers (drop off at 9:45 am) **Translation:** Spanish language translation service available • **Refreshments:** Free coffee, tea and light refreshments • **Bike**

Parking: Free and secure bike parking by Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition • **Auto Parking:** Available in the Montgomery High School parking lot

For more information, visit <http://www.SoutheastGreenway.org> or call 707-703-1922

“SMART Train & Neighbors” continued from page 1

CPUC staff did not suggest that the level crossing would be unsafe, but they pointed out that unless the Commissioners made an exception to the rules, some nearby crossings of the SMART tracks would need to be closed before a crossing at Jennings could be opened. The CPUC staff is now asserting that a level crossing shouldn't be used by school-age children! Yet there are numerous other crossings along the SMART line that are closer to a school than Jennings.

From its inception, the restoration of train service in the North Bay—both passenger and freight—has been seen by visionaries like architect Peter Calthorpe and the late environmentalist Bill Kortum as a way to revitalize neighborhoods near train stations. Months before the crossing was ordered to be closed, Santa Rosa officials had submitted the required application for authorization to build a level crossing at Jennings, with all recommended warning lights and gates. Until the grade crossing can be built, residents are being forced to walk an extra half mile to cross 30 feet of railway, the dream of walkable communities is being delayed, and SMART trains have yet to carry their first paying passenger.

You can help the Jennings Avenue

neighborhood by letting the California Public Utilities Commission know of the importance of keeping this neighborhood intact, and of the burden that the order to close the crossing has placed on neighbors.

What You Can Do: Join us at the California Public Utilities Commission public hearing:

Monday, Feb. 1 at 7:00pm

Helen Lehman School in Santa Rosa, 1700 Jennings Avenue (between Guerneville Rd. & College Ave. west of Dutton Ave) or

Send an email to:

public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov

or post a letter to:

**CPUC Public Advisor
505 Van Ness Avenue,
Room 2103
San Francisco, CA 94102**

Indicate that your message supports:

Application 15-05-014 by the City of Santa Rosa for an At-Grade Crossing of the SMART Tracks at Jennings Ave.

For more information contact Steve Birdleough affirm@friendshouse.org 707-576-6632



West side of the Jennings fenced-off Crossing 1/10/16

“TPP Rally Jan. 27” continued from page 1

sands pipeline, issuing the Obama administration for rejecting the pipeline proposal. The company intends to ask a private tribunal to order the U.S. government to hand more than \$15 billion of our tax dollars over to the corporation as “compensation” for the Keystone XL decision that spared us the threat of increased climate disruption and spills of dirty tar sands oil. TransCanada is taking advantage of the “investor-state dispute settlement” provision of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which gives foreign corporations the right to challenge U.S. environmental protections in unaccountable trade tribunals.

The TPP would extend these corporate privileges to more than 9,000 additional foreign-owned firms, including Australian and Japanese fossil fuel corporations that are currently drilling for oil in the Gulf of Mexico and fracking for natural gas on U.S. public lands. If it passes, it would roughly double the number of foreign companies that could challenge U.S. climate and environmental safeguards in private tribunals.

At 6PM on Wednesday January 27, Redwood Chapter is partnering with Food and Water Watch, Sonoma County Conservation Action, and the Citizens Trade Campaign to host an informational rally about the threats the TPP poses

to our food safety, jobs, and the environment. Everyone is welcome at this FREE event, which will be held at the Odd Fellows Hall, 545 Pacific Avenue in Santa Rosa; speakers include Food and Water Watch California Director Adam Scow and Citizens Trade Campaign Northern California Organizer Xiomara Castro. This is your chance to have your questions answered— refreshments served too! For more information about the event, contact xiomara@citizenstrade.org.

The ultimate decision on the TPP is in the hands of Congress, which can vote it up or down, but not propose amendments. All three members of Redwood Chapter's Congressional delegation— Representatives Jared Huffman, John Garamendi and Mike Thompson— are expected to vote “no,” but they need to know that their grassroots constituents are behind them.

Please take a moment to contact your Congressman to thank him for his vote against Fast Tracking the TPP, and to encourage him to oppose the treaty itself. They all accept emails through their Congressional websites, or you can call 415 258-9657 (Huffman); 530 753-5301 (Garamendi); and 707 226-9898 (Thompson). Please tell the aide who answers (or the message machine) that you are calling at the request of the Sierra Club.

“Dangerous Crude”

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Commission hearings. The Draft Environmental Impact Report and the Revised Environmental Impact Report also generated thousand of comments. Our partners at Forest Ethics, the Center for Biological Diversity and CREDO assisted by creating online petitions.

BSHC continued by collecting signatures at the weekly Benicia farmers market obtaining over 1500 signatures. We mounted a yard sign campaign distributing more than 500 yard signs all around town.

The Sierra Club, Communities for a Better Environment and the Sunflower Alliance also helped mobilize people to attend hearings and comment against the project. This has built community momentum to oppose the project. Comments have been received from outside entities as diverse as the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, Yolo County Board of Supervisors, the City of Davis and California Attorney General Kamala Harris.

Now the Final Environmental Impact Report has been issued. The good news is the FEIR has identified the “No Project Alternative” as the most “Environmentally Sound Alternative”. The Benicia Planning Commission Public Hearing has been set for Monday, February 8, with a possible continuation on the 9th and 10th if necessary to receive all of the comments.

The community of Benicia understands that we are on the front line of fighting against global climate disruption. We also need people from elsewhere in the region and the state to stand together with us to oppose this dangerous and unnecessary project. Global climate, regional air quality and the health of the local community are at stake. Please join us on February 8. For more information visit SafeBenicia.org.

“Marching for Action”

continued from page 1

of Santa Rosa at 9:00 am, and made a pickup at Sonoma State before arriving in Oakland.

Prior to the bus trip, the Sierra Club and Conservation Action assisted Sonoma County 350.org in an art project—the creation of redwood tree shaped signs— which was brought to the Santa Rosa Junior College campus by the college's Sustainability Committee. A small forest of signs were carried by Sonoma County activists at the march and rally, marking our presence.

The Sierra Club banner was proudly paraded from Lake Merritt to downtown Oakland, only stopping for the occasional group dance that led the cadence, followed by a marching band. Music and good cheer filled the air for the participants of many colors, backgrounds, and physical ability. To look around and see the many faces of kind determination was heart- warming. This is what community is about, getting together and acknowledging humanity—we need to protect the planet! The march concluded at the Frank Ogawa Plaza where the chanting and drumming continued through lunch.

Weary, but uplifted passengers disembarked the buses at SSU and downtown Santa Rosa as daylight began to ebb. In our small way a message was sent to Paris. Perhaps just as important, that message is embedded in the hearts and minds of those who rode the bus to Oakland, who sent their hopes to Paris, and committed themselves to the long road to climate stability and to sustainable and just ways of living together on this Earth.

Outings

Sat. Feb. 13 - Lake Group, Bald Eagle Hike to Baton Flat Hike.

This hike is held in conjunction with the Ukiah office of BLM. We will hike approximately three miles to Cache Creek at Baton Flat looking for winter nesting bald eagles. The trail passes through the recent burn of the Rocky Fire and new plants are beginning to sprout. Class: M-6-A Carpools: Meet 9:15 am Lower Lake Coffee Company or 10 am Red Bud trail head at the Hwy 20 bridge over the north fork of Cache Creek. By Reservation only call BLM 707-468-4000. Leader Tom McFarling 707-994-5490. Rain Cancels

Sat. Feb. 20 - North Group, Del Norte Redwoods State Park Last Chance Coastal Trail Hike.

Join us for this easy going ramble through lush old-growth upon a stretch of Redwood Highway replaced in the 1930's by the present 101 route, itself soon to be abandoned for more stable inland terrain. As our way approaches coastal bluffs, we may glimpse waters below while we pause before returning as we came. Bring water and lunch. No dogs. Class: M-8-A. Carpools: Meet 9 a.m. Valley West (Ray's) Shopping Center, 10:30 a.m. Damnation Creek trailhead (3.3 mi. north of Wilson Creek bridge, west

side Hwy. 101). Leader Ned, (707) 825-3652. Heavy rain cancels.

Wed.-Sun. Mar. 2-6 - Anza Borrego State Park Spring Weekend.

Visit this amazing California desert state park east of San Diego when temperatures are cooler and wild flowers may be blooming. Our space in a developed group campground is reserved from 2pm Wed. to noon on Sunday. Arrive anytime on Wednesday and explore the park on your own. An optional half-day off-road adventure with a commercial outfitter (\$135) on Thur. or Fri. Day hikes may require walking over rocky trails and some areas of rock scrambling off trail. Deposit required by February 1st to confirm participation. Limited to 18 people. For more information contact leader: Rich Juricich, rich.sierraclub@pacbell.net, 916-492-2181. Sacramento Group/CNRCC Desert Com

Sat.-Sun. Mar. 5-6 - Explore Afton Canyon.

Afton Canyon Natural Area is 37 miles N/E of Barstow off the I-15. This is an area where the Mojave River runs above ground and the Mojave Road goes through the canyon. Afton Canyon is known for the outstanding scenery and riparian habitat. We will camp at the campground and hike

into the canyon on both days to see the interesting sites. Hikes are rated moderate. For those who wish to get there early, camping will be available on Friday night also. Leader: Carol Wiley desertylly1@verizon.net or 760-245-8734. Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

Thu.-Sat. Mar. 10-12 - Death Valley Wilderness Restoration.

Come help restore wilderness values in this remote and beautiful desert park. It may be a spectacular wildflower year, and we will have time to stop and admire the flowers. Project has not yet been determined, but may be working on the Cottonwood Canyon trail. Possibility that it will change before March. Leader: Kate Allen, kj.allen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056. CNRCC Desert Committee

Sat. Mar. 12 - Lake Group, Six Sigma Ranch Hike.

We will hike the historic old stagecoach route from Lower Lake to Knoxville, following the ranch road through Six Sigma ranch heading east toward Morgan Valley road. We will stop by the Ranch tasting room on the way, so bring along cash or credit card if so inclined. Much of the hike will follow Asbill Creek and canyon to the confluence with Soda Creek. We will return aboard the ranch's Pinzgauer, a vintage European military 6X6, making the hike approximately 6 miles one

way. Class E-6-A. Carpools: Meet: 8:30 am Lower Lake Coffee Company, Main St. Lower Lake. By reservation only. Leader Tom McFarling (707) 994-5490. Rain cancels

Sat. Mar. 12 - North Group, Prairie Creek State Park Ossagon Trail Hike.

We will take an old overgrown road from Elk Prairie Parkway through majestic redwoods, spruce and alder to Ossagon Rocks on a remote part of Gold Beach. We will explore the beach, tides permitting, before returning. Bring water and lunch. No dogs. Class: M-5-A. Carpools: Meet 9 a.m. Valley West (Ray's) Shopping Center, 10:30 a.m. Ossagon trailhead, or by prior arrangement. Leader Ned, (707) 825-3652. Heavy rain cancels.

Fri.-Mon. Mar. 18-21 - Hike and Tour in Mojave Preserve.

Meet at Sunrise Campground on Friday at noon and then visit the historic "rock house" and hike the loop. Camping at Sunrise is primitive. Saturday will be a longer hike from Mid Hills down the canyon towards Hole-in-the-Wall and hopefully we'll see wildflowers. Camp at Mid Hills Campground. Sunday we can hike to Teutonia Peak and view Cima Dome and camp again at Sunrise Rock for those who would like to stay over another night. Monday we can tour through the Preserve to Amboy Crater, where we can finish

the tour with a hike up the crater. All hikes will be moderate to easy. Leader: Carol Wiley desertylly1@verizon.net or (760) 245-8734. Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

Fri.-Sun. Mar. 25-27 - California Desert Wilderness Service.

Join Mojave Group and the CA/NV Wilderness Committee for our annual desert wilderness service project with wilderness staff Needles office of BLM. This year's destination is still top-secret at press time, but Turtle Mountains, Dead Mountains or Clipper Mts are all potential choices for some fun and useful restoration work, wilderness enhancement, and spring desert enjoyment. Central commissary, contact Vicky Hoover 415-977-5527 or vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org. CNRCC Wilderness Committee

Sun Mar, 27 - Lake Group, Turk's Head on Mt. St. Helena Hike.

Moderate two-mile hike on Mt. St. Helena to the ridge that separates the Napa and Russian River watersheds to a beautiful rock formation called the Turk's Head. Great views of Knight's Valley. Pass through the site of the town of Silverado. Class: M-4-A. Meet in the west parking lot of RLS State Park 9:00 am Bring snacks and water. By reservation only. Leader Pete McGee 942-1373 or montesol@hughes.net Rain Cancels

Instructions to hikers

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

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

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

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

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

Visitors are welcome

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

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

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

To submit outings write-ups

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

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

Green Light for Greenbelts in Sonoma County

In a big year-end win for greenbelts, all five Sonoma County supervisors came out strongly in favor of extending voter protections for community separators and adding to them in 2016! Community separators are one of the important tools protecting the greenbelt lands between Sonoma's cities and towns from sprawl development.

In a room filled with about 50 supporters wearing "Strengthen Community Separators" stickers, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to develop a ballot measure for November 2016 to renew county community separators. See the front page Press Democrat article for more. <http://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/4929665-181/sonoma-county-supervisors-endorse-voter?ref=newsletter&artslide=1>

All five supervisors also made a commitment to consider adding as many as 22,000 acres of priority greenbelts to community separators in a parallel public process through the General Plan. Hear it in their own words in this short KRCB radio interview. <http://radio.krcb.org/post/community-separators-going-back-sonoma-county-voters#stream/0>

This is a big win for greenbelts, no doubt about it! Yes, we still have work to do, but now we have a clear path forward to renewing, strengthening, and expanding community separators. Thank the Sonoma County supervisors for giving the green light to greenbelts in Sonoma County and let them know we look forward to moving forward together. <http://www.greenbelt.org/actions/renew-sonoma-county-greenbelt-protections/>

What The Supervisors Agreed To Do Next Year

Ballot Measure: The Sonoma County supervisors voted

unanimously to develop a ballot measure to extend voter protections for the county's eight community separators for the November 2016 general election.

The supervisors agreed to extend voter protections to existing and future community separators between unincorporated communities for 30 years, a strong new policy that opens the door to community separators between places like Forestville and Graton.

They decided to keep the voter protections linked to urban growth boundaries. The revised policy maintains voter protections for community separators in perpetuity – as long as a city maintains voter protections for its Urban Growth Boundary. A uniform long-term expiry date for all community separators are more protective by preventing lapses in voter protections.

They did not agree to add any new designations through the ballot measure.

General Plan Amendment: The supervisors voted to designate priority greenbelts and consider designating other at-risk county lands by amending the General Plan in a parallel public process in 2016 for adoption no later than January 2017.

Please note that they will consider adding more than 22,000 acres of Sonoma County lands that qualify as priority greenbelts by the Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District. The final acreage will be determined through the public process. Lands around Penngrove and Cloverdale will also be considered.

The supervisors agreed to modify some of the policies including the "commercial development" loophole that has allowed several community separators to shrink.

—TERI SHORE, SONOMA GROUP EXCOM

Sierra Club Volunteer/Activist Opportunities

"A year from now you may wish you had started today." —Karen Lamb

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; Outings Chair training is 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 5:00 p.m. at the Environmental Center on the first Mondays of most months in conjunction with the Conservation and Energy Committee meetings. 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, wildlife, fish and other aquatic life. Check for our meeting dates in the *Redwood 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 544-7651.

Seeking Solano Group Outings Leaders

The Solano Group is working to develop a new outings program. Solano County has many rich open space areas that Sierra Club members and residents would like to visit if given the chance. People with an interest in and knowledge of Grizzly Island, Green Valley Lakes, Mare Island open space, Cullinan Ranch and other similar places are encouraged to volunteer to become a hike leader. If you have an interest in becoming a trained hike leader – and specific hikes you would like to lead – please contact Marilyn Farley at 707-434-0316 or email mjfarley01@gmail.com

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

Outings Chair Report

The recent storms in the Sierra have produced the first good snowpack in years. The hut trips have been full. Clair Tappaan Lodge is a great place to stay if you don't want to backpack into the huts.

Thank you Solano Group. The ExCom has committed to revive their outing program. Brian Collett, who led for years, is still in Kuwait and when he returns home (hopefully at the end of this year) will resume leading at Mare Island. For now, Marilyn Farley will be the Outings coordinator (see article to the left) with help from Phil Kohlmetz. Isabelle Saint-Guilly and I will also be available to help. We are excited as Solano needs new leaders and an Outings Chair. This is a fantastic start.

The Sonoma Group will have a new leader-in-training as of the end of January. Her name is Tiffany Hoang. Tiffany moved to Santa Rosa from Albuquerque NM 4 months ago for a full time job with USDA. Tiffany is originally from Austin, TX. Tiffany is an avid day hiker and enjoys longer hikes, averaging around 7 miles. Tiffany is a beginner backpacker. She was an in AmeriCorps VISTA with DOI/USDA last year in Albuquerque and volunteered for 3 months in Iceland with



Leader Jim Gannon. Snowshoeing into Sierra Club's Peter Grub Hut.

The Environmental Agency of Iceland working on various conservation management tasks, mostly involving trail repair. I am hoping she will also want to do trail work on the Nattkemper Trail.

On a sad note Johnny Yu passed on Dec. 11. Johnny had gone on many backpack trips with us and was a great adventurer. Johnny and his wife loved to travel all around the world and to our National Parks. Johnny had a unique personality that will never be replaced. His celebration of life was Jan 23 and many of us in Sierra Club attended. Johnny will have a memorial bench in a Regional Park.

I drove to Lake County last month

to visit my son in Hidden Valley. I saw for the 1st time the damage the wildfire caused. It is very different to walk down streets and see the damage than to see the photos in the newspaper or on TV. No comparison. Many huge trees are still standing, but are deep black skeletons with the green grass starting to grow. The fire burnt as far as you can see. It will be years before the area is restored. The fire went so fast it hopped and skipped over some houses but burned others to the ground. Lake leaders will resume their outings this month.

Have a wonderful winter.

—CAROL VELLUTINI,
REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS 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 bmphoto@comcast.net.

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.

River Otters Themed Open House, Saturday, February 13, 10:00am-3:00pm

Free! No RSVP necessary. Our Open House in February is going to be all about River Otters! Our friends from the River Otter Ecology Project (ROEP) will be joining us and will have educational displays and fun, hands-on activities for all ages. Displays will include current maps of river otter sightings; information on the ROEP's Education, Research, and Citizen Science programs; River Otter v. Sea Otter display and skull models for comparison; and children's coloring activities. Heron Hall, Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 VISIT: www.lagunafoundation.org

Laguna Keepers Workdays: February 20, March 12, April 16 and May 14: Saturday mornings from 9am - noon

Contact Maggie Hart for location details/directions (707) 527-9277 x.100 or maggiehart@lagunafoundation.org Volunteers assist in exotic plant removal, native plant and tree planting, and restoration project maintenance. Little or no experience is needed! Only heavy rain cancels. Dress for dirt. Snacks are provided but please bring water, gloves and friends!

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-Guilly Jim Gannon Phil Kohlmetz

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

Moderate-pace with few stops: Don Anderson Lorrie Lagasse Julie Kreis

Moderate-pace with more frequent stops: Pete McGee Tim Bartice Melinda Groom Carl Inglin Val Nordeman Carol Vellutini Yvonne Kramer Martin Farber Brian Collett Tom McFarling Nanette DeDonato Jonah Freedman Steve Devoto Ned Forsyth Nick Caston

Slower-pace: Allison Bronkall



With your help we can protect the wolf

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

Lead the pack & JOIN Sierra Club.

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Cardholder Name _____
Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____
Signature _____

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Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15	N/A
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Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35



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North Group Report

2016

Redwood Chapter and Group Election Results

Redwood Chapter

Victoria Brandon

Keith Kaulum

Solano County Group

Greg Peterson

Joseph Feller

Amynoel Coughran

Lake County Group

Tricia Evans

Victoria Bandon

Sonoma County Group

Adrienne Leihy

Suzanne Doyle

Teri Shore

North Group

Ned Forsyth

Felice Pace

Gregg Gold

Mendocino County Group

Mary Walsh

Rixanne Wehren

Napa County Group

Karen Culler

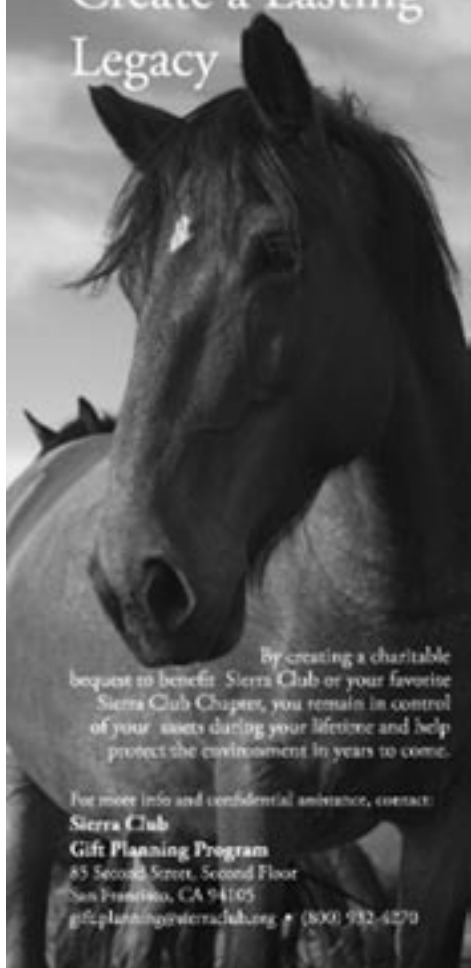
Christina Benz

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.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Create a Lasting Legacy



California Forestry Reform Moves Forward

California's new Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration (TRFR) Program is continuing to be implemented, following the enactment of AB 1492 in 2012. State officials and other interested parties met in Ukiah on December 15 for the latest in a series of public hearings to collaborate on "Planning Watershed Pilot Projects" and other aspects of the TRFR Program. I participated as a representative of the North Group, Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Now, in the early stages of the Program, there is a real opportunity for citizen environmentalists, scientists, restoration practitioners, and other stakeholders including large and small landowners and the timber industry, to take advantage of this new publicly-funded, science-based approach to conserving the public's shared natural heritage of our magnificent productive forests. Detailed information and public comments are available at <http://resources.ca.gov/forestry>.

The watershed pilot projects will assess cumulative effects of past and present logging practices toward identifying specific restoration needs, and the projects will serve as a "laboratory" for increasing efficiencies and effectiveness in gathering actionable data and developing a set of best practices to best serve all stakeholders. A "planning watershed" is a discrete landscape of three to ten thousand acres in size.

In addition to the Pilot Project Working Group (PPWG,) TRFR provides working groups for the Leadership Team, for Data and Monitoring, and for developing Ecological Performance Measures, for example analysis of limiting factors on anadromous salmonids. Overall leadership will be provided by the California Natural Resources Agency Assistant Secretary of Forest Resources Management, with guidance from the TRFR Program Advisory Committee. As before, review of individual Timber Harvest Plans (THPs) will be done by the State's inter-agency review teams, staff members of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Regional Water Quality Control Boards and California Geological Survey.

The December meeting was attended by over fifty people, mostly in person and also via WebEx and conference call. Early comments, both oral and written, emphasized their vision of the role of the PPWG as active participants, not just as advisors. Other remarks pointed to the key importance of describing watershed conditions at the outset, to include original conditions as well as subsequent forest damage: in order to chart a realistic pathway to an optimally functioning ecosystem, all participants should have a common understanding of the starting point.

It was pointed out that THP's, while a potential source of historical watershed health data, may be subject to bias inasmuch as the reported data may arise from a narrow set of legal permit requirements on an hourly-paid basis, rather than from true scientific inquiry. Procedural questions were



Watershed-wide logging in the 1980s devastated water quality and wildlife habitat. This is Terwer Creek on the Lower Klamath River, controlled and logged by Simpson Timber Co, now GDR. Photo courtesy of Patrick Higgins.

addressed, along with "substantive and critical" elements addressed in the draft Public Review Concept Paper available at CNRA's website.

A "short list" of ten candidate watersheds has been made available also, with most locations in coastal Mendocino County. Speakers made recommendations for particular "science-rich" watersheds, including Usal Creek and Elk River. An initial concern was that the Ecological Performance Measures and other scientific review processes would be handled by the Board of Forestry's in-house Effectiveness Monitoring Committee for the forest practice rules, but attendees were assured that the EMC would play "no direct role." Much appreciation was expressed for the Resources Agency's commitment to openness and transparency, and for its stated commitment to a "...focused, direct, and simple approach for the first pilot project in particular."

In the early stages of the legislative process, skeptics decried AB 1492 as a "backroom deal" and a "taxpayer subsidy" of some of California's largest landowners and timber operators. In addition to the 1% tax on retail lumber sales, the bill also provides an extension of time limits for individual THP's and sets some liability limits for parties responsible for wildland fire damage to public resources. Under the TRFR program, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's administrative responsibility for logging regulation on private lands is now formally shared with the departments of Environmental Protection and Conservation and the State and Regional Water Quality Boards. An annual report to the Legislature is mandated.

Funding from the TRFR Program also goes to the Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program. Urgency for these reforms

was added by the budget problems of 2009-2010 that led to appalling staff shortages and inability to carry out THP reviews as intended by the original Forest Practice Act of 1973.

Judging from the form and content of these initial public meetings for the pilot projects, there is hope for some improvement in outcomes for our imperiled wildlife. With the State's increased commitment to gathering scientific data, and to increased funding to restore damaged watersheds, and more opportunities for input from us, the public, we should expect to make some headway against the serious losses our forests and rivers have suffered from industrialized forestry, road-building and other impacts. I do have some faith in mitigating these problems with more people and more knowledge of what we need to do. It's said that money doesn't grow on trees, but I say that science and restoration are a wise investment on behalf of our future and our natural surroundings.

All of us who feel a personal or professional commitment to protecting and restoring the natural world should at least take a look at these new opportunities, at this timely moment afforded by California's elected stewards and public servants.

—NED FORSYTH, NORTH GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR

Napa Group Report

New Faces in Leadership

Napa Executive Committee welcomes Karen Culler as our newest member, while honoring the long service of resigning members, Marc Pandone and Isabelle Saint-Guily. Marc's many years of service have focused on water and land use issues, while Isabelle has revitalized our member outreach, especially with her professionalization of our newsletter. Isabelle will continue as chair of our Outings Committee, and we hope to continue to access Marc's store of wisdom as issues arise. We also welcome Pam Jackson, who is taking over our e-newsletter.

Open Volunteer Opportunities

For the first time in many years, we are one person short on the executive committee. This is a great opportunity to influence the future

of Napa County. For the social-minded, we need a volunteer to coordinate our Membership Outreach, while a policy wonk might find a happy niche representing us on the Sierra Club's ad hoc Bay Area Transportation Committee (work done by e-mail and phone conference.) Please contact me, Nancy Tamarisk nancy@aya.yale.edu, if you would like more information about these positions.

Events

Climate Change takes Center Stage: Sierra Club at the Library "Time to take Decisive Action"

Monday, Feb 8, 6:30 – 8:30 pm,

Napa Library – Free

Let's Make this Fun, and Make a Difference!

Napa County Supervisor Candidate Forum

Monday, April 4, 6:30 – 8:30pm,

Napa Library – Free

Co-sponsored by Napa Sierra Club, Friends of the Napa River, Get a Grip on Growth, and Napa Valley Can Do

2016: Expect Napa to be a Hotbed of Environmental Activism

Napa Supervisor Alfredo Pedroza finds himself challenged by two candidates with backgrounds in environmental and growth issues: Diane Shepp and Chris Malan.

Solutions to the explosion in winery growth and to protection of natural habitat and watershed remain controversial and local front-page news. And will the County take desperately needed action on groundwater management?

The long-awaited Climate Action Plan is being crafted, with Sierra Club input, Climate change will be a central concern of our local activism.

Keep Abreast of Napa Events and Issues

Contact us at napavalleyclub@gmail.com to receive our monthly e-mail newsletter. We promise not to bombard you with messages, or share your address with other organizations.

—NANCY TAMARISK, NAPA GROUP CHAIR

Napa Group Members

Our e-newsletter arrives in your mailbox on the 3rd of every month. If you are not seeing it: check your spam folder or send us an e-mail so that we can add you to our list:
napavalleyclub@gmail.com

Solano Breeze Corner

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

20th Flyway Festival February 19 - 22

SAVE THE DATE!

Mare Island, Vallejo, CA

Solano Group needs volunteers to set up on Friday afternoon, staff a table on Saturday and take the booth down on Sunday. Contact Jane @ 707 319-6398

www.San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival.com

Thanks for the help!

Thanks to Nancy, Jane, Justin, Alisa, Errol, Beverly and friends for staffing the VALCORE Recycling and Confidential Paper Shredding event.

VALCORE Recycling and Paper Shredding updates:

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

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

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

CONTRIBUTOR: JANE BOGNER EDITOR: GREG PETERSON

Sonoma Group Report

Forum on Roundup 1/28

In 2015, the World Health Organization determined that glyphosate (active ingredient of Roundup), the most-used herbicide in the world and in Sonoma County, is a probable human carcinogen. What has happened since this finding and how is the California EPA responding? The Sierra Club Sonoma Group and Watertrough Children's Alliance are co-sponsoring an update forum. The event is also a fundraiser for our legal actions against the county to require thorough environmental review for new vineyards.

January 28, 2016 @6:00pm

Sebastopol Grange, 6000 Sebastopol Ave. (on Hwy 12)

\$20 per person includes dinner catered by Seed

For more information, go to the Sonoma Group website at <http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/sonoma>.

Hearing on Jennings Avenue SMART pedestrian crossing on February 1st

The California Public Utilities Commission will have a public hearing at:

Monday, Feb. 1 at 7:00pm

Helen Lehman School in Santa Rosa, 1700 Jennings Avenue (between Guerneville Rd. & College Ave. west of Dutton Ave)

The Sierra Club and other citizen groups are joining the City of Santa Rosa in an urgent call to approve an at-grade crossing with warning bells and gates so that pedestrians and bicycles can safely cross the SMART train tracks at Jennings Avenue near Coddingtontown. We need your help to convince the California Public Utilities Commission to allow the at-grade crossing to be built as soon as possible, and to take down the fences that now block the crossing.

Please join us at the public hearing, or send a comment to the

CPUC. For more information, see the article on page one.

Become engaged with local environmental issues!

Come to one of our Conservation issues meetings to learn about some of the issues that the Sonoma Group is working on, such as:

Community Separators: The county supervisors have agreed to put a measure on the ballot to renew the county's community separators, the greenbelts separating our urban areas. Help to pass the measure and to expand and strengthen the greenbelts.

Living Wage Coalition: The Sonoma Group supports the work of the Living Wage Coalition to increase minimum wage – we can't have a healthy environment when people don't have enough to live on in this very expensive county.

Keep Composting in Sonoma County: We are shipping our yard waste out to other counties and no longer have the supply of local compost that we need. Help us convince the county supervisors to take action on a new local composting facility.

Local Coastal Plan: The special plan for the Sonoma Coast is being updated. Help to strengthen this plan to keep the coast the undeveloped and natural treasure that it is.

Political Year 2016: Interested in working on political endorsements with the Sonoma Group? Help us interview local candidates about their environmental positions. Email Suzanne at carsort@gmail.com if you would like to join the committee.

Next Sonoma Group meetings:

Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway in Santa Rosa, west of 101

February 1: Conservation issues from 5:00 to 6:30pm,

Executive Committee meeting from 6:30 to 7:00pm.

March 7: Conservation issues from 5:00 to 6:30pm,

Executive Committee meeting from 6:30 to 8:00pm.

–SUZANNE DOYLE, SONOMA GROUP VICE CHAIR

Lake Group Report

Lake BOS says no to "Jefferson"

With strong support from Lake Group, on December 15 the Lake County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to rescind a March 3 resolution that would have placed an advisory measure on the November 2016 ballot asking if the county should adopt a declaration of support for seceding from California in order to participate in the formation of a new state.

The proposal to rescind was brought forward by Board Chair Anthony Farrington at the request of community residents.

Farrington questioned the "Jefferson" movement's financial analysis, which fails to take into account many sources of state funding received by the county as well as direct support from state agencies, access to California's higher education system, and branding for agricultural products. The importance of this support was particularly evident during the wildland fires that devastated the county during the past summer.

After discussion and public comment (almost entirely opposed to the secession proposal) the board agreed that state support is essential to the future of the county, and that the community needs to pull together to concentrate on recovery rather than squabbling over a divisive political ploy.

Local "State of Jefferson" proponents still retain the option of



gathering signatures to place the matter on the ballot by petition, but it seems most unlikely that they will attempt to do so, or that the requisite number of verified signatures could be obtained.

It should be noted that this is not the first time Lake County has delivered a sharp rebuke to this divisive far-right scheme. When proponents made their first local presentation about a year ago, there was almost no vocal opposition and three Supervisors declared their intention to approve a "Declaration of Separation" from California. By the time the proposal came to a vote on March 3 they all recognized the inappropriateness of taking such

a step without authorization from the people, and decided to place an advisory vote on the November 2016 ballot instead.

Since then not a single county Board has expressed support for secession. Several have avoided the issue entirely, Lassen and Plumas followed Lake's lead in putting it on the ballot, and both Trinity and Sierra have made pro-active declarations in favor of remaining in California. For more information visit KeepItCalifornia.org.



Clear Lake: getting the facts about water quality

The January 21 Lake Group general meeting, held at the Round Room at Mendocino College in Lakeport, and will focus on cyanobacteria ("blue green algae") in Clear Lake. Since the fall of 2014 Big Valley Rancheria and Elem Indian Colony have been conducting regular testing for cyanotoxins produced by the "algae" blooms that have plagued the lake annually since 2009. Environmental Directors Sarah Ryan and Karola Kennedy will present the results of the Tribes' Cyanotoxin Monitoring Program and the ways it affects both recreational use of the lake and our drinking water. The meeting is free and open to the public as always.

–VICTORIA BRANDON, LAKE GROUP CONSERVATION CHAIR

Mendocino Group Report

A very joyous New Year's wish to all. The Mendo Group Executive Committee is holding up against the welcome wet, with an ear open to the release of the new Environmental Impact Report for the Mendocino Coast Transfer Station rumored to be appearing in January. We are planning a General Membership Meeting in March. Stay warm and dry and watch for falling trees.

–MARY WALSH, MENDOCINO GROUP CHAIR



Berryessa Snow Mountain: Time for Celebration!

Redwood Chapter looks forward to celebrating with Mother Lode Chapter activists and other conservation partners at a dedication event for California's newest national monument to be held on March 19. Please join us. If you'd like to help staff our booth, contact Victoria Brandon at 707 994 1931 or vbrandon@lakelive.info.





Save the Date!

Please join us...
for a local dedication event celebrating California's newest national monument

Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument

Saturday, March 19, 2016
10:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Cowboy Camp (20 minutes west of Williams off Hwy 20 & Hwy 16)

Featuring Special Guest Speakers
Food Trucks Interpretive Booths
Demonstrations and Activities Live Music

See what kind of *Fun* awaits in the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument!

For more information, please contact Elizabeth Sousa (530-934-1137) or Rich Burns (707-468-4070)
Or email us at bsmnm15@gmail.com

U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management USDA U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service

More details to follow...

Seeking Young Activists

Redwood Chapter is proud to announce that for the second year in a row we plan to sponsor a participant in SPROG (short for "Summer Program"), the Sierra Student Coalition's cutting-edge training program for youthful grassroots environmental activists.

An environmental and social justice leadership training program for young people (ages 14-28) across the country, SPROG is an intensive week-long training program run by young people, for young people. It provides the knowledge and skills needed to succeed as a grassroots organizer and make a substantial difference in the future of the community and the planet, and also connects participants with a supportive network of young activists who fight similar battles and share similar passions. Past SPROG participants have described it as one of the most inspiring and fulfilling weeks of their life.

Interested? More information about the program is available at <http://www.sierraclub.org/youth/summer-sprog-training>. To apply for the Chapter's sponsorship— which covers the full cost of the weeklong program plus travel expenses— contact Victoria Brandon at vbrandon@lakelive.info.

Watertrough Children's Alliance and Sierra Club Sonoma Group present a Special Event

ROUNDUP: Updates on recent WHO findings and California EPA's stance on glyphosate

January 28, 2016 @6:00pm

Sebastopol Grange, 6000 Sebastopol Ave. (on Hwy 12)

In 2015, the World Health Organization determined that glyphosate (active ingredient of Roundup), the most-used herbicide in the world and in Sonoma County, is a probable human carcinogen. What has happened since this finding and how is the California EPA responding?

Moderator: Sarah Glade Gurney, mayor of Sebastopol

Speaker: Jonathan Evan, attorney, Center for Biological Diversity

Speaker: Ella Teevan, organizer, Food & Water Watch

\$20 per person, includes dinner catered by Seed and presentation.

Registration: <http://wcaroundupevent.brownpapertickets.com/>

Further information: info@wchildren.org or

<http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/sonoma>

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Sierra Club

Redwood Chapter

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

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. 1 - Sonoma Group.

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

Water Committee meets 5:00 - 5:30 p.m. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

Climate&EnergyCommitteeat5:30p.m, Contact Shirley, shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, 707-206-1138.

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

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

Thurs. Feb. 4 - Solano Group ExCom.

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

Tues. Feb. 9 - North Group.

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.

Mon. Mar. 7 - Sonoma Group.

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

Water Committee meets 5:00 - 5:30 p.m. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

Climate&EnergyCommitteeat5:30p.m, Contact Shirley, shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, 707-206-1138.

ConservationCommitteeat6:00p.m.Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

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

Tues. Mar. 8 - 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. Mar. 15 - Napa Group ExCom.

7 p.m. Our location varies; it is generally at a member's home. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting should

contact the chair, Nancy Tamarisk at nancy@aya.yale.edu

Thurs. Mar. 17 - 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.

Sun., Mar. 20 - Redwood Chapter ExCom. And ConsCom.

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

Mon. Apr. 4 - Sonoma Group.

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

Water Committee meets 5:00 - 5:30 p.m. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

Climate&EnergyCommitteeat5:30p.m, Contact Shirley, shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, 707-206-1138.

ConservationCommitteeat6:00p.m.Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

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