

# Redwood Needles



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 56 Number 3

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

June/July 2015

## Why Environmentalists Support a Living Wage Ordinance

By DAN KERBEIN AND JANIS WATKINS

A coalition of labor, faith, environmental, and community organizations has unveiled a proposed Living Wage Ordinance for the County of Sonoma. The proposed legislation requires that the County, County contractors, and firms receiving public subsidies pay their employees \$15 an hour. The Sierra Club Sonoma Group and Sonoma County Conservation Action (SCCA) support this campaign.

A living wage is the right thing to do. No one who works for a living should earn poverty wages. Yet 28 percent of Sonoma County residents are the working poor and cannot make ends meet. Local government should be a model employer. Also, a living wage is good for business because it puts money in the hands of consumers. Politicians of all stripes now acknowledge that the recent dramatic increase in income inequality in our county and nationally is not economically sustainable.

Equally important, the Sierra Club and SCCA believe that paying a living wage is good for the environment. Why?

As of 2013, Sonoma County was the 11th least affordable housing market in the nation based upon the ratio of median home prices to median family income and other indicators. Moreover, rents have skyrocketed by 30 percent over the last three years. In the City of Santa Rosa, for nearly half of all households, the rent or mortgage is not affordable—these

households pay over 30 percent of their gross monthly income for housing costs.

Unaffordable housing is a climate change issue. When housing is not affordable, growing numbers of low-wage workers must commute longer distances by car from more affordable markets—contributing to increased greenhouse gas emissions. If workers earn a living wage, it's more likely they can afford housing near where they work. This means less commuting and diminished greenhouse gas emissions.

A living wage law can help to ensure high-quality park and recreation services and effective enforcement of environmental and planning regulations. Poverty wages do not support quality public services.

The proposed living wage law includes a “responsible bidder” provision, which requires that all companies with County contracts demonstrate a record of compliance with state and federal labor, health and safety, and environmental laws. This will ensure that County contractors uphold the highest standards of compliance with environmental regulations.

Environmentalists need a mass citizen's movement to protect the environment. An active, engaged, and educated citizenry is essential. But an increasing number of low-wage workers must work two jobs and longer hours to make ends meet. The lack of a living wage means these workers and their families

“Living Wage Support” cont. on page 3

## Berryessa Snow Mountain Update

By VICTORIA BRANDON,  
REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

Members of the campaign for the permanent protection of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region are eagerly awaiting a White House announcement of the region's designation as a National Monument, but that doesn't mean we're sitting around doing nothing!

Quite the contrary: although Presidential action is expected soon and the champagne is on ice (metaphorically speaking, at least), we're still actively seeking endorsements from local governments, businesses, landowners, and anyone who loves this remarkable landscape. Assembly Joint Resolution 4, sponsored by Assemblymember Bill Dodd with the strong support of Redwood Chapter's other state legislators, passed in early April and was transmitted to the White House: this is the first time—ever!—that any state legislature has formally endorsed a proposed national monument. The most recent new supporters include the cities of American Canyon, Calistoga and Napa all of whom voted unanimously to support monument designation; at press time, a presentation before the Clearlake City Council (which passed a resolution of support for a National Conservation Area more than five years ago) was being agendized. Please check out the full support list at [berryessasnountain.org](http://berryessasnountain.org)—and if you don't see your own name, take a moment to sign a digital postcard of



Scouting out the true fragrance of Berryessa Snow Mountain on Walker Ridge.

support.

Another exciting moment came in April when President Obama put out a national request for photographs of regions we (the people) “would fight to protect”—and a Berryessa Snow Mountain photograph by Tuleyome staff member Mary Hanson was chosen for inclusion as part of the White House Earth Day message!

Here in Redwood Chapter, on April 18 I had the opportunity to give a presentation on the extraordinary biodiversity of the BSM region as part of the Lakeport Library's “Know Lake County” series, and have since been invited for a repeat performance before the Rockhounds Club early next month.

And for a truly unusual tribute, the wilderness perfumery Juniper Ridge is adding an extra component to its longstanding support for the BSM campaign by creating a unique “Berryessa Snow Mountain” fragrance, distilled from plants native to the area by traditional methods that owe more to art and a “conversation with the living, wild ecology” than to science. I can't wait for a sniff!

## Redwood Chapter Sponsors SPROG Participant

The Chapter is very proud to announce that for the first time we will 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.

Four training sessions will be held this summer, including West SPROG near Los Angeles in mid-July—and the Chapter is making it possible for Cobb resident Jack Shrive take part. About to enter



On May 2, Jack spent three hours helping Lake Group leaders spread the word at the Calpine Geothermal Visitors Center Earth Day Festival.

his junior year at Middletown High School and a self-described aspiring politician who says his ultimate goal is the presidency, for several years Jack has engaged in a solo 25-mile kayak trip across Clear Lake to raise awareness for protecting its ecosystem. He's also an adept public speaker, not only within the context of school activities but in appearances before service clubs and the county Board of Supervisors: most recently he urged the Board to protect the interests of the next generation by rejecting the retrograde “State of Jefferson” proposal. “I want to make large change in my lifetime,” says Jack, and to create “an environmentally conscious community that has the most modern technology such as solar roadways, wind turbines, and an effective public transportation system that produces no greenhouse gas emissions.”

We think SPROG might just be able to provide the tools he needs to fulfill those lofty ambitions!

## Keeping it California

By VICTORIA BRANDON,  
REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

As discussed at length in previous editions of the Redwood Needles, a small group of extremists has come up with a seriously bad idea: they want a group of northern California counties to secede from the state and set up a new (impoverished and underserved) “State of



Jefferson.” The Sierra Club strongly opposes this effort, which among other defects is specifically targeting California's landmark environmental laws.

Although most of the controversy is taking place in northeastern California within the boundaries of the Mother Lode Chapter, proponents recently sponsored a (poorly attended) “town hall” meeting in Mendocino County, and are also targeting Humboldt and Trinity. Next year Lake Group expects to play a leading role in this political firestorm, with the Board of Supervisors having declared their intention to place an advisory vote on the November 2016 ballot.

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



# Redwood Chapter Sierra Club Directory

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## Redwood Chapter

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

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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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for Group Websites, use www.redwood.  
sierraclub.org and add: /napa, /north, /sonoma,  
/lake, /mendocino, or /solano

Redwood Chapter Facebook:  
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# Earth Day Around the Redwood Chapter



Chapter Chair Victoria Brandon and Lake Group Chair Ed Robey at the CalPine Geothermal Visitors Center, May 2.



Sonoma Group volunteers Barbara and Adam at Montgomery Village Day on the Green in Santa Rosa, April 25.



Napa Group Executive Committee member Lisa Godfrey (and huge airborne salmon!) next to the Napa River.



Solano Group Executive Committee member Quintin Crawford encouraging recycling at Fairfield Earth Day, April 25.



Lake Group Chair Ed Robey at Yuba College Clearlake Campus, April 22.

## Non-Sierra Club Outings

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

### Saturday Saunters for Santa Rosa Area.

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

### Sonoma County Regional Parks trail work days.

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

### 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.

## "Keeping it California"

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In the meantime it is reassuring to learn that on April 7 concerned citizens from throughout the region met in Redding to form a new multi-county, non-partisan political action committee to represent the interests of residents who oppose separation from California and the formation of a new state.

"Keep It California is forming local coordinating committees in every county where State of Jefferson proponents are active and has volunteers in 20 counties building these committees to monitor and respond to any incursions by Jefferson proponents," stated Vice Chair Kevin Hendrick. "Keep It California will provide material and financial assistance to these local efforts." Hendrick was

the director of the June 2014 Keep It California campaign in Del Norte County, a campaign which defeated a resolution of support for the proposed "State of Jefferson" by a 58/42 percent majority.

Keep It California will encourage local agencies to evaluate the financial risks and uncertainties of this extremely ill-advised proposal and will inform voters and elected officials of the disastrous consequences of separating from California.

To learn more about these issues, and to donate, volunteer, and endorse the Keep It California campaign, visit [KeepItCalifornia.org](http://KeepItCalifornia.org) and the organization's Facebook page, [facebook.com/KeepItCalifornia](http://facebook.com/KeepItCalifornia)

## "Living Wage Support"

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have little time to participate in civic affairs or community organizations.

To get climate solutions off the ground, environmentalists must build the broadest possible alliance. Labor can be our ally in addressing the climate crisis. The transition to clean energy will be a powerful job creator, and we agree those jobs should be good living wage jobs.

"Green Growth," a new report by economists at the University of Massachusetts, shows the way to good green jobs. The U.S. can slash greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent from 2005 levels and create 2.7 million good new jobs in the clean energy sector by investing \$200 billion annually over the next two decades— in energy

efficiency and renewable energy such as wind, solar, geothermal, and small scale hydro.

A living wage is good for workers and good for the environment!

The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors will consider the Living Wage issue at their meeting on **Tuesday, June 9th at 8:30 a.m.**

For further information please click on: <http://www.northbayjobswithjustice.org>.

*Dan Kerbein is a solar technician and a member of the Executive Committee of the Sierra Club Sonoma Group. Janis Watkins is an attorney and serves on the board of Sonoma County Conservation Action.*

This article originally appeared in the *Press Democrat*





# Outings

## Tues. June 2 - Lake Group. Mt. St. Helena Full Moon Hike Robert Louis Stevenson Park.

Hike an old access dirt road that switchbacks up to South Peak under the light of the Full Moon. View mountain ranges, valley lights and moon shadows in the refreshing evening air. Moon rises 8:37 pm. Wear hiking boots, bring headlamp or flashlight, 2 liters of water, and a snack. Class: M-7.2-C. With two leaders we have the option to split the hike, if some wish to go to the top and others wish to descend earlier! Carpools: Meet 8:00 pm Middletown across from Hardesters market in Tricounties Bank parking lot. Trailhead: 8:30 pm Robert Louis Stevenson parking lot. By reservation only. Leader: Julie 987-9040, Co-leader: Tom. Rain or heavy clouds cancel.

## Sun. June 7 - North Group. Titlow Hill 5'n'10 Six Rivers NF Hike.

From Forest Road 1 we will hike to Road 5N10 on an old logging spur, then counterclockwise across Enquist Creek back to Road 1. We can then hike south to Cold Spring and return. Experience a wide range of landscapes: large old trees, mountain meadows, two water holes, and long views. Bring lunch, and protection from the sun or other mountain weather. Class: M-6.5-A. Carpools: Meet 9 a.m. Valley West Shopping Center. Leader Ned, nedforsyth48@gmail.com 825-3652. Heavy rain cancels.

## Sat-Sun June 13-14 - Benson Hut Work Party #1.

Benson Hut work party involves hiking

3 miles to the Benson Hut Saturday morning, hut maintenance Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, and then hiking back Sunday afternoon. Maintenance involves stocking the hut with wood, repairs, staining and cleanup. Good exercise, wonderful setting and great fun. Friday night stay at Clair Tappaan Lodge included with work party (Dinner Friday night and breakfast Saturday am). Contact leader Jim Gannon (707) 525-1052 jgannon99@sbcglobal.net for sign up or questions.

## Wed. June 17 - North Group. Prairie Creek State Park Friendship Ridge Hike.

Loop includes old-growth forest, flowers, views, waterfalls, and likely elk. Some steep, rough, or soggy places. Bring food, water, and hiking footwear. No dogs. Class M-8-A. Carpools 9 a.m. Valley West (Ray's) Shopping Center, 10:30 am Fern Canyon trailhead (exit Hwy. 101 at Davison Rd.). Leader Melinda (707) 668-4275. Steady rain or gusting winds cancel.

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

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

## Sun.-Sat. June 21 - 27 - Marble Mountain Wilderness.

Let's go out for a 6 night out and back, backpacking 5-7 miles each day and base camping for 2 nights in the middle of the trip. We'll see the beautiful Marble Mountains, several lovely lakes appropriate for swimming, and some of the most gorgeous scenery in California. We will put in about 30 miles total. There is the possibility of staying out longer if the group chooses.

This is a backpacking trip and participants must have backpacked within the last 5 years and be familiar with and own their own backpacking equipment. Need to carry your own gear and food for 6 nights. There will be no group meals. Bear canisters will be discussed before leaving. Class: M-30-B. Limit 10 people. By reservation only. Leader Val Nordeman, 707 477-4199, nordeman@willitsonline.com

## Sun. Jun. 21 - Sonoma Group. Father's Day/Summer Solstice Family Hike/Sonoma Coast.

Celebrate the 1st day of summer while enjoying our Sonoma County Coast on Father's Day! This hike will take us down Pinnacle Gulch and loop back up Shorttail Gulch including an extended break on beaches for children to enjoy. Bring water, brunch, and wear sturdy shoes. No strollers. Toddlers must be in backpacks. Class: M-1.9-A. Carpools: Meet: 8:30 am Santa Rosa City Parking lot under Hwy 101 on 4th St. near Railroad Square or 10 am trailhead 20665 Mockingbird Dr. Bodega. Parking is \$7 or free for regional parks members. By reservation only. Leader Nick 291-3470.

## Fri.-Sun. July 3-5 - Fourth of July, Black Rock Desert.

This will be a really busy weekend on the Playa as many Burning Man attendees use this as a shakedown

for Burning Man. No specific plans but we'll probably meet in Reno Thursday evening and head up to the Black Rock and camp on the edge of the Playa. We'll probably visit area hot springs and the Emigrant Trail. Primitive camping, bring all supplies and a shovel for personal needs. Possible Ham Radio License Class. 7/3 is a legal holiday, can't waste a long weekend. Leader is very familiar with the area! Sign-up after 6/15. David Book 775/843-6443

## Tue. July 7 - Sonoma Group. Spring Lake and Lake Ralphine Family Hike.

This family oriented hike takes a dirt trail approach to a popular evening hike around Spring Lake and Lake Ralphine. While traveling at a moderate hikers pace, toddlers will enjoy the sights from their backpack. Then out of backpacks for two toddler trekking sessions on trail. (where toddlers will walk on the trail resulting in slow or no progress). Come learn a great nature based urban hike route! No strollers. All parents need toddlers in backpacks. Appropriate for all hikers. Bring water and snacks for children. Class: E-4.9-A. Meet: 5:20 pm trailhead upper parking lot at Howarth Park, free parking. Reservation requested, not required. Leader Nick 291-3470.

## Fri.-Mon. July 10-13 - Nevada Wilderness Service.

Savor summer in eastern Nevada's scenic Highland Ridge Wilderness, just south of Great Basin National Park. We camped there among the aspens 3 years ago and once again partner with BLM's Ely office wilderness staff on useful service in a fine mountain wilderness. Central commissary offered. Contact Vicky Hoover, 415-977-5527, vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org. CNRCC Wilderness Committee

## Sat. July 11 - North Group. Redwood National Park Trillium Falls Hike.

Bring your child and walk this lovely loop winding through many memorial redwood groves. Check out the trail's namesake waterfall. If we are lucky

we might be able to view some elk in the meadow. Wear sturdy shoes and bring liquids and lunch. No strollers. Class: E-2.8-A. Carpools: 9 a.m. Arcata Safeway parking lot, 10 a.m. trailhead (Hwy 101 north, exit Davison road.) follow sign to parking lot on left.) Leader Allison, abronkall@yahoo.com 268-8767. Heavy rain cancels.



## Sun. July 12 - North Group. Mt. Lassic Wilderness and Botanical Area, Six Rivers NF Hike.

Take a scenic drive and hike with us in this natural wonderland off Highway 36. See vernal pools teeming with life, stark serpentine and peridotite barrens, and vegetation with character. Come take a long look at our vast North Coast backcountry. We will ascend distinctive 5,916-ft. Black Lassic and explore other nearby features. Bring lunch and extra water, and dress for the weather. Class: M-6-A. Carpools: Meet 8 a.m. Herrick Ave. Park'n'Ride in Eureka. By reservation only. Leader Ned nedforsyth48@gmail.com 825-3652. Bad weather cancels.

## Tues. July 14 - North Group. Del Norte Redwoods State Park Last Chance Coastal Trail Hike.

Join us for this easygoing ramble through lush old-growth forest upon a stretch of Redwood Highway replaced in the 1930's by the present Hwy. 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: 9 a.m. Valley West (Ray's) Shopping Center, Trailhead 10:30 a.m. Damnation Creek (3.3 mi. north of Wilson Creek Bridge, west side of Hwy. 101) Leader Melinda 668-4275. Steady rain or strong winds cancel.

## Fri.-Sun. July 17-19 - Napa & Sonoma Groups. Camping/Boating on the Blue Lakes.

Bring your kayaks/canoes, hiking boots, books, paint brushes, musical instruments, camping equipment, food and most important your enthusiasm! We will spend 2 nights, 3 days enjoying nature in the Sierra. Space is limited. A \$25 check per person will reserve your spot. The check will be returned to you at the put-in. (make it to "Napa Outings SC" and mail it to P.O. Box 5531 Napa CA 94581) These canoe/kayak overnights are tons of fun. Leaders Isabelle Saint-Guily scnapaisabelle@gmail.com and Carl Inglin chinglin@sonic.net

## Sun.-Sat. July 19 - 25 - Yolla Bolly Wilderness.

Please join me as we hike into my favorite wilderness area, where I've been going every year for 30 years. We will backpack into a beautiful spring, taking 2 1/2 days to get there, base camping for 2 nights, then returning home the same way. There are good day hikes from our base camp and a good spring. But be aware that water is scarce as we hike in and you must carry a minimum of 2 liters of water at all times, preferably 3 liters. This is a strenuous backpacking trip. You must have backpacked within the last 5 years and be capable of carrying your own food and gear for 6 days. We do not need bear canisters here. Class: H-35-C. If it's an easier hike than this indicates, then that will be good. But I

## 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 Lorrie Lagasse Julie Kreis

**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 Devot Ned Forsyth Nick Caston

**Slower-pace:** Allison Bronkall



# Outings

have found the Yolla Bolly Wilderness to be very wild, very dry, and the trails poorly maintained at best. Limit 10 people. By reservation only. Leader Val Nordeman 707 477-4199 nordeman@willitsonline.com

**Thur. July 23 - Sonoma Group. Taylor Mountain County Regional Park Family Hike.**

Come explore one of Sonoma County's newest urban accessible hiking gems with the family! This hike loops through the lower parts of Taylor Mountain's West and East trails. Children are sure to enjoy a close encounter with the grazing cattle and the ample opportunities for toddler walk times on the trail. Bring water and snacks. No strollers. Toddlers must be in backpacks. Great evening hike for all ages. Class: M-3-A. Meet: 5:30 pm trailhead 2080 Kawana Terrace, Santa Rosa. Parking \$7, free for Regional Parks Members. Nearby free parking on Kawana Terrace at base of park entrance. Reservation requested, not required. Leader Nick 291-3470.

**Fri.-Sun. July 24-26 - Bristlecone Pine Forest.**

Escape the summer heat. Come to the beautiful White Mountains to camp, hike and just relax. On Saturday, we'll visit the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, home to the oldest living things on Earth, to do a moderate 5-mile round trip interpretive hike, followed by a picnic lunch. At camp we'll enjoy Happy Hour, a potluck feast and a campfire. Sunday head home. Send \$8 per person (check payable to Lygeia Gerard), home and work phones, email address and rideshare preferences to Leader: Lygeia Gerard, P.O. Box 721039, Pinon Hills, CA 92372, 760-868-2179. Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee.

**Fri.-Sun. Aug. 21-23 - Napa & Sonoma Groups. Canoe/kayak camping on Utica Reservoir.**

This is a 2 nights, 3 days camping trip:

We load our boats and paddle across the lake to a beautiful spot to camp. This is wild camping, no facilities. Bring your own boat, camping gear, hiking boots, food, books, sketchbooks, musical instruments and most important, your enthusiasm! Space is limited. A \$25 check per person will reserve your spot. The check will be returned to you at the put-in. (make it to "Napa Outings SC" and mail it to P.O. Box 5531 Napa CA 94581) These canoe/kayak overnights are tons of fun. Leaders Carl Inglin chinglin@sonic.net & Isabelle Saint-Guily scnapaisabelle@gmail.com

**Fri.-Sun. Sept. 11-13 - Sonoma/Napa Groups. Car-Camping at French Meadows Reservoir.**

This is a 2 nights, 3 days car camping trip. Bring your own camping gear, hiking boots, food, books, sketchbooks, musical instruments and most important, your enthusiasm! Space is limited. A \$25 check per person will reserve your spot. The check will be returned to you at the campsite or if we get a group campsite, fee will be adjusted. (Make it to "Napa Outings SC" and mail it to P.O. Box 5531 Napa CA 94581) Leaders: Carl Inglin chinglin@sonic.net & Isabelle Saint-Guily scnapaisabelle@gmail.com

**Sat.-Sun. Sept. 12-13 - Benson Hut Work Party #2.**

Benson Hut work party involves hiking 3 miles to the Benson Hut Saturday morning, hut maintenance Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, and then hiking back Sunday afternoon. Maintenance involves stocking the hut with wood, repairs, staining and cleanup. Good exercise, wonderful setting and great fun. Friday night stay at Clair Tappaan Lodge included with work party (Dinner Friday night and breakfast Saturday am). Contact leader Jim Gannon (707)-525-1052 jgannon99@sbcglobal.net for sign up or questions.

## Outings Chair Report

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the summer solstice. Sierra Club leaders have planned a wonderful selection of outings. First of all I want to introduce new leaders. I have included photos. One is Nick from Sonoma Group and the other Phil from the Solano Group. Please show your support by going on their hikes.

Nick Caston is a father and avid hiker and cyclist. Living near Annadel State Park, he frequently hikes with his son, Adlai (one and a half), on his back. Having worked in public policy and elections for over a decade, Nick currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy. While growing up, Nick traveled with the Renaissance Faires traveling through Northern and Southern California, Arizona, Texas and Colorado. Often, during the week when the Fairs were not in operation, Nick would explore the trails around the local areas. Nick will be leading hikes oriented toward families including evening options during the week.



Nick and Adlai Caston

Phil Kohlmetz has been leading hiking and backpacking trips exploring art, community, and nature for 15 years, known as PhilCo Challenges. The four tenants of the PhilCo are: 1. Minimum Impact, Leave-No-Trace rules apply at all times; 2. Keep your team close (no one gets lost alone); 3. No whining (you are responsible for your own good time); 4. Love an adventure. He thru-hiked the John Muir Trail with a hiking partner in 2009 after a full year of planning and preparation. He has been an REI workshop presenter and has explored the original route of the John Muir Trail in successive solo hikes from 2010-2015, including research trips to the Yosemite



Phil Kohlmetz and pal.

He worked at Napa State Hospital where he met his wife Elaine. Tom was 60 years old.

Archives. Phil lives in Vallejo and has spent his entire professional career working in the non-profit sector. He is the Executive Director of the Western Railway Museum in Solano County and is a past president of the California Association of Museums. A Sierra Club member since 2002, he is excited to share his favorite Solano County and NorCal gems with fellow Sierra Club members.

Benson Hut was built in 1947-49 by friends and members of the Sierra Club as a memorial to John P. Benson, Jr., who was killed in action in Italy during World War 11. Ken Thatcher and Clark Nattkemper made Benson Hut the only hut maintained by a Sierra Club Chapter. I took over after they passed on for the summer work parties. The winter trips were led by Ken & Clark. After they passed on Tom Raboin took over and then Jim Gannon. The hut trips are very special. They are a day's hike apart. Jim took over the summer work party trips after I stepped down around 2005. A ledger is kept in each hut. (we have to keep it up on the wall as the mice like to chew it up.) People sign in and write their story. One can read the stories of the many who have used the hut as refuge from a winter storm. All ledgers have been saved and are in the library at Clair Tappaan Lodge. Read them the next time you stay at Clair Tappaan. Please help Jim maintain Benson Hut. Sign up for his work parties this summer. We also need help with the winter trips.

Jim will give you information. It is best to see the huts in the summer before you attempt a winter trip. A thank you to Dick Simpson who has been the volunteer hut coordinator since I joined in 1982. What would we do without him?

One sad note is the passing of former Sonoma Group leader Tom Graff from a heart attack. He had moved to American Canyon after getting married.

He worked at Napa State Hospital where he met his wife Elaine. Tom was 60 years old.

—CAROL VELLUTINI, REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR

## Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

### in 2015

**2015 Trip Schedule: June 14-16:  
A Bird Lovers Special! July 19-21;  
Aug. 23-25; Sept. 27-29**

This is a tour of a precious area of our state not seen by many. This spring and summer, you can experience the Channel Islands, including hiking and kayaking, with Sierra Club members and a park naturalist.

This is a gift that gives twice because your tour benefits the political work of Sierra Club California, the environment's strongest voice in the State Capitol. While you are floating about the islands, you will be helping to protect them and other natural resources found only in California.

Enticingly within view of Ventura and Santa Barbara, one of California's (and the country's) most unique environments is part of Channel Islands National Park and National Marine Sanctuary. It is also one of the least visited national parks in the U.S. The Channel Islands are only accessible by boat or plane.

The trips are organized by Sierra Club member Joan Holtz. Trip tickets cost \$615 and include meals and lodging aboard the tour boat that leaves from Santa Barbara.

Please contact the trip leader, Joan Jones Holtz, for more information at jholtzhln@aol.com. or 626-443-0706



Wave action, San Miguel Island



## Lake Group Report

### Sustainable Viticulture Forum May 27

At press time, Lake Group was putting the final touches on our next general membership meeting, when we're hosting an expert panel discussion of sustainable practices in grape growing. The Group sponsored an informative and well-received viticulture forum a number of years ago, but a lot has changed during the intervening years, not only within the wine industry but also in the community—so it seems like high time for a sequel. The event will take place at 7PM on Wednesday May 27, at the Lower Lake Methodist Church Community Room. Panelists include Erica Lundquist from the Mendocino County NRCS, Christian Ahlmann, (Six Sigma) Tracey Hawkins (Hawk & Horse), Randy Krag (Beckstoffer Vineyards), and Thurston Williams (Clover Creek Family Farm). We anticipate the discussion to be far-ranging, with subjects including an overview of best management practices, creative ways to integrate animal husbandry with vineyard management, organic and biodynamic practices, and—the hottest of topics these days—the best ways to use and conserve water. As always the meeting is free and open to the public: for details, contact Chair Ed Robey at 994 8304 or edrobey@wildblue.net.

### Federal ESA Listing for the Clear Lake Hitch?

Last summer, after nearly two years of investigation, the California Fish and Game Commission took action to protect the Clear Lake hitch (*Ivania exilicauda*) by designating this endemic fish as a “threatened” species under the state Endangered Species Act.

Once almost unimaginably plentiful, hitch populations have declined drastically in recent years from causes that include

water diversions, degradation of spawning and rearing habitat, migration barriers, and introduced fish species that include both predators and competitors. Drought conditions over the past few years have made spawning conditions particularly difficult, and have stranded both adults and juveniles as creeks dried up prematurely. Although the extinction of this iconic fish has become a sadly real possibility, there is an encouraging side to the story, in that the actions needed to restore the species—ensuring minimum stream flows, removing barriers to fish passage, improving water quality and restoring wetlands—are also the actions needed to benefit many other native wildlife species and the lake ecosystem as a whole.

When the original petitions for ESA protection were filed with the state and federal governments, the US Fish & Wildlife Service took no immediate action, but now the wheels are rolling. On April 9 USFW announced that after a 90-day formal review they have found “substantial scientific or commercial information” indicating that listing under the federal ESA may be warranted. A year long status review has now begun, commencing with a two-month comment submission period.

### Sierra Club Awards Scholarships

Lake Group is pleased to announce that for the fourth year in a row we have awarded \$1000 scholarships to two graduating seniors from Lake County high schools who are planning careers that will support the Club's mission to “enjoy, explore, and protect” the planet. This year's recipients are Clear Lake High School senior Melissa Thibeau and Joseph Swehla from Middletown High School. Congratulations, Melissa and Joseph!

—VICTORIA BRANDON,  
LAKE GROUP CONSERVATION CHAIR

## North Group Report

### Northcoast RWQCB meets in Eureka

On Thursday May 7 the Water Board met in Eureka. It took public comments on its proposed regulation of cannabis cultivation impacts in the North Coast region. Also on the agenda were a short-term renewal of National Forest waivers for salvage logging and other activities, and regulation of dairy operations' discharges in the Scott and Shasta river valleys. Felice Pace has additional details.

### New Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District General Manager

HBMWD has announced the hiring of new General Manager Paul Helliker, replacing longtime manager Carol Rische, who recently announced her retirement. HBMWD is in a unique position during California's drought, with Ruth Lake filled to capacity during this season's winter rains, and a recent history of drastically reduced customer demand (and revenue) since the two pulp mills on Humboldt Bay shut down some years ago. Mr. Helliker comes to HBMWD with more than 30 years' experience at the federal, state and local levels in environmental and water utility programs, most recently at California DWR.

### Science Projects Receive Awards

BY SUE LESKIW

For the ninth year, North Group sponsored an award at the annual Humboldt County Science Fair held in mid-March. (The projects were so competitive in 2015 that a second prize of \$25 was given.)

The \$50 first-place award went to “The Effect of the Amount of Precipitation in Klamath

on the Temperature and pH of the Klamath River” by Allie Sanchez, a 7th-grader at Sunny Brae Middle School. Allie's project question was whether drought was affecting the temperature and pH—two aspects of water quality important for fish survival—of the Klamath River. She hypothesized that if decreased precipitation is related to water quality, then samples taken during drought years will have higher temperature and lower pH than those taken in non-drought years. She collected samples in January at the boat ramp on three dates, and compared the results to data from the U.S. Geological Survey on those same dates in non-drought years. She found that average temperature of the Klamath was 12 degrees C in 2015 vs. 7 to 8 degrees C in non-drought years, while pH in 2015 was 6.8 vs. 8.4 in non-drought years. Allie, a member of the Yurok tribe, noted that healthy river temperatures for fish are between 4 and 14 degrees C., so the summer heat could make the water temperature rise and pH become more acidic, becoming harmful to salmon.

A \$25 second-place prize was awarded to “Using Water Quality to Identify Pollution in Four North Coast Creeks” by Camden Nichols, a 6th-grader at Jacoby Creek School. Camden hypothesized that creeks or rivers close to a mill, factory, or pasture would have the most pollution. She took two rounds of samples during January in Jacoby Creek, Janes Creek, Widow White Creek, and Little River. After a rain, turbidity increased between two- and seven-fold in the water bodies. Temperature and pH did not vary significantly between the four streams.

—NED FORSYTH, NORTH GROUP VICE CHAIR

## Napa Group Report

### A Napa Agricultural Preserve Champion Passes On

A couple of weeks ago I attended a memorial tribute to Volker Eisele, one of the founding champions of the Napa Agricultural Preserve, which is now 47 years old. The elders who saved the Napa Valley from San Jose's paved-over fate are handing the torch to younger generations. It is we who must commit to vigilance and action to respond to ever-new challenges to our Napa environment.

### Sierra Club Wins Seat on Agricultural Protection Advisory Committee

A major threat to Napa quality of life and sustainability is the proliferation of wineries as “event centers”, offering products and entertainment venues on a scale never envisioned at the inception of the Ag Preserve. Negative consequences include our increasingly congested roads, heavier demand on groundwater, and erosion of rural quality of life. In response, the County has formed APAC: the Agricultural Protection Advisory Committee. This group is charged with examining the Winery Definition Ordinance to see if modifications are needed to reinforce the spirit of the Ag Preserve. The Committee has broad-based community representation, and we are fortunate that Chris Benz, one of our current ExCom members, and Phill Blake, a former ExCom member are both on the committee. Many other allies have seats, to name a few: Dan Mufson, of Vision 2050 Coalition, Eve Kahn of Get a Grip on Growth, and Shari Gardner of Friends of the Napa River. We trust these staunch defenders of the environment to provide strong voices for a sustainable future.

### A wealth of events are coming up!

#### Roadmap for Postponing Global Climate Tipping Points

Napa General Member Meeting  
Thursday, June 25th,  
6:30 pm, Napa Library

It's easy to feel powerless in the face of the climate crisis, but there is still plenty we can do. Last summer, Dr. Rhodes addressed a packed room to provide a grim report on the state of the climate. In a word, the Earth's climate system is rapidly approaching irreversible tipping points that could wreak havoc for thousands of years, causing massive disruption to the economy and putting millions of people and species at risk. This year, he is returning to focus on those steps that can still be taken to forestall imminent climate tipping points and launch us on a more sustainable path forward. We have the technology and we have the tools. What is needed is a focus on those steps that can be implemented rapidly and at the scale necessary to turn the tide.

Saturday, June 6th CEQA workshop,  
10am -4 pm, Napa Valley College  
Community Room,  
Fee \$35, includes lunch

This expert-led workshop will train us to more effectively evaluate and challenge projects in our own cities and counties. For more information e-mail ceqaworkshop@gmail.com. Or register at brownpapertickets.com/event/1577941.

#### Find Upcoming Hiking, Paddling, and Camping Trips in Outings Section

Including family-friendly Father's Day celebration at Bothe Park! Cheers!

—NANCY TAMARISK, NAPA CHAIR

## 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!** NOTE: 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. 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 433-7651.



# Solano Breeze Corner

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

## Thanks to Volunteers!

Thanks to the Vallejo and Fairfield volunteers on Earth day.

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

## VALCORE Recycling and Paper Shredding updates:

Solano Group will be helping out 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). 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.

NEW WEEKDAY SHREDDING from 10 am to 4 pm – closed 1 pm to 2 pm for lunch, CREDIT or DEBIT ONLY.

## Help Maintain Lori's Native Plant Garden

We continually work at Lori's Native Plant Garden located at 225 Amador St, Vallejo. NEXT WORK DAY IS May 2nd, 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.

CONTRIBUTOR: JANE BOGNER  
EDITOR: GREG PETERSON

# Sonoma Group Report

## New ExCom Members

We'd like to welcome two new members who have been appointed by the Executive Committee to fill vacancies on the ExCom – Teri Shore and Theresa Ryan. Dan Kerbein has resigned as Chair and Suzanne Doyle is running the meetings as Vice-Chair.

## Dairyman Winery

The increasing number of events at wineries are causing transportation and density problems in several areas of the county, but the proposed Dairyman Winery is in a particularly bad location. It is on busy Highway 12 just to the east of Sebastopol, in the middle of our most important wetland, the Laguna de Santa Rosa, and its visitors will need to drive across the Joe Rodota bike and pedestrian trail to enter it. Dairyman will be importing almost all of the grapes for its wine, will be open daily, and is requesting a permit for 58 very large events a year.

A new organization has formed to oppose the Dairyman project, called **Preserve Rural Sonoma County**. For updates, and to find out about their June 16 benefit showing of the film *The Russian River: All Rivers*, go to <http://www.preserveruralsonomacounty.org>, or friend them on Facebook.

## Compost Chaos

Sonoma Compost, the garden & food waste recycling facility at the central landfill, must change its operations because of polluted water leaking into a creek below the landfill. The possible alternatives– shrinking the size of operations to match the size of the compost facility's storage pond, building an expensive and temporary new pond to hold runoff, moving all green waste disposal and composting out of the county, or finding a new site and building a state of the art new composting facility – all have

their problems. We hope that a solution can be found to keep a public composting operation here in Sonoma County.

## Water for Development?

Now that the economy is improving, residential development is on the agenda again for several cities. But do we have enough water to support more housing? Cities that receive water from the Russian River via the Sonoma County Water Agency are still operating as though they have as much water as their water allotments say they do. The SCWA has never delivered the total amount of its water allotments – it is 'paper water.' Shouldn't we show that we can live within a realistic, drought-proof water budget before building more houses?

## Community Water Fluoridation

The Sonoma Group has joined with the Sonoma County Water Coalition to recommend 'no fluoridation' of the Water Agency's water. We oppose it on the grounds that use of fluoridated toothpaste and modern dental practices make community water fluoridation an obsolete practice, and that too much fluoride can harm children, seniors and people with certain health conditions. We also are concerned about releasing fluoridated water into the county's streams through irrigation with recycled water since water treatment does not remove fluoride. For more details, see the white paper at [http://www.scwatercoalition.org/images/Fluoridation White Paper-Doyle-FullerRowell-150505.pdf](http://www.scwatercoalition.org/images/Fluoridation%20White%20Paper-Doyle-FullerRowell-150505.pdf).

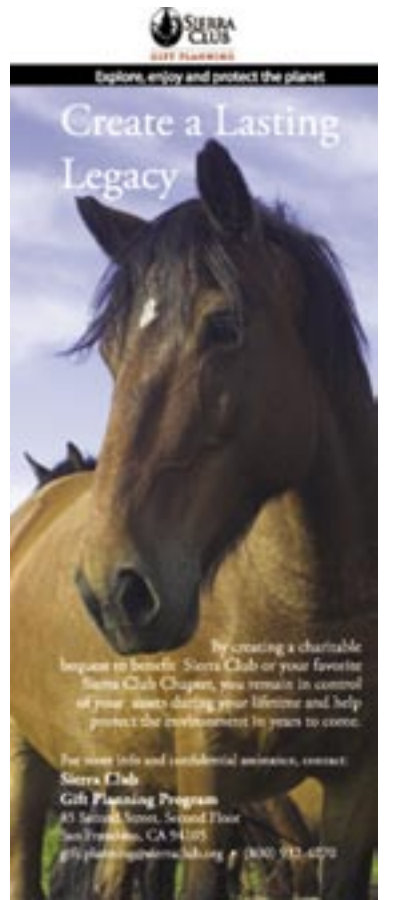
## Upcoming Meetings

Next Conservation Issues meeting: June 1 at 5:00pm, Environmental Center, Santa Rosa.

Next Executive Committee meeting: June 1 at 6:30pm, Environmental Center, Santa Rosa.

–SUZANNE DOYLE, SONOMA GROUP VICE CHAIR

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.



# Mendocino Group Report

We read in the current Fort Bragg Advocate newspaper that in response to comments including the strong letter put in by the Mendocino Group regarding the Solid Waste Transfer Station, the County of Mendocino is proposing a 28 acre Pygmy Preserve in Caspar near the former County Landfill and present Transfer Station. The article written by Solid Waste Czar Mike Sweeney says little for any understanding of what the Pygmy Forest is about, referring to the proposed Transfer Station site as .6 acres of "transitional pygmy." These labels are completely arbitrary and are used as evidence of a situation not really in existence; that there are levels of true pygmy. Pygmy soils are the sine qua non. A local botanical consultant says of the proposed Pygmy Forest Preserve, "Aside from a small graded road there are no signs of human disturbance." The fact is that once the hydrology is altered in a pygmy ecologic system there is no restoring that system.

Our friends at Grist Creek have challenged the County's override of the Planning Department's determination that a Mitigated Negative Declaration was not sufficient to protect the Creek against potential degradation due to having a gravel and asphalt processing facility functioning on its banks. Grist Creek is an important tributary to Outlet Creek that is an important Coho spawning stream. Mendocino Group has put a lot of comments into the record over the years and is very gratified that the neighbors have taken the onus upon themselves to make a legal challenge. We intend to support them as we can.

Caltrans held a scoping session for the EIR on restoring or replacing the Albion River Bridge. It is something of a moving target because it is unknown

whether the Salmon Creek Bridge continues as part of the project. There seems not as yet to be a discrete project description. Mendocino Group contributed some pages of comments for the scoping session. We laud the citizen's group Albion Community Advisory Board (ACAB) for its efforts at coming up to speed with the mountains of paper put out by Caltrans and dealing with what continues to be a multilayered unfolding, for example, the long past due repairs to the deck and the long past due earthquake retrofit on a project that Caltrans wants only to demolish, to say nothing of the Historic Site designation.

The standing dead tree issue in the industrial

lands of the Mendocino Redwood Company (MRC) continues to be a very grave concern given the very serious drought that is afflicting California. These thousands of acres of standing dead trees came about from a method of dealing with hardwoods known as Hack and Squirt in which an herbicide, usually Imazapyr, is injected into a cut made at the base of a living tree. The tree is left to die over time, and eventually, to fall. Should there be a forest fire, a very dangerous situation exists, especially in communities where ingress and egress is along a single road, or which road is not a through road. Sierra Club in the person of Linda Perkins is following the situation very closely.

–MARY WALSH, MENDOCINO GROUP CHAIR

# Silver Lake & Carson Pass

Come relax and enjoy the beauty. Fish, hike, or wander along the many lakeside and mountain trails abundant with wildflowers. After a hike, refresh in the cool water, lounge on our beach, or glide on the pristine Silver Lake waters, very peaceful and quiet. Then join us for a gourmet meal at our restaurant or spend the evening in your comfortable lakeside room or cottage, ending your day star-gazing from your deck or meeting others at the crackling campfire.

**Kit Carson Lodge**  
[www.kitcarsonlodge.com](http://www.kitcarsonlodge.com)

or call:  
**(209) 258-8500**

OPERATES UNDER USFS PERMIT

## With your help we can clean up our water

Sierra Club Water Sentinels are the first line of defense of America's waters. We live on the water planet. However, water is a finite resource with only about 1% of the world's water actually being available for human consumption. Water pollution & over-use are threatening both the quality & quantity of our water resources at an alarming rate.

**Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
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Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible (they support our efforts to clean up our water & address other environmental issues). Your dues include \$1.00 for a subscription to REDWOOD NEEDLES & \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to:  
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FORM 0300



# EPA Honors Sonoma County's Switch to Hybrid Vehicles

When Sonoma County announced in 2006, as part of its Climate Protection Action Plan, that it was going to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from its vehicle fleet by 20% by 2010, it seemed praiseworthy, but a small action in the face of the enormity of climate change. Nine years later, the County has 291 hybrid and electric vehicles, making up 35% of its fleet, and has saved 166,500 gallons of gas and 1815 tons of carbon dioxide since the program began.

Moving like the tortoise instead of the hare, this program shows that persistence with small actions can add up to a real contribution. Sonoma County now has one of the largest hybrid government fleets in the country and we residents should be proud of it. In April, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency honored Sonoma County Fleet Operations with a Clean Air Excellence Award for its pioneering investment.

## Redwood Needles

### August Deadline: Due July 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



Hiking San Miguel Island

**For more information about  
Island Hopping in Channel  
Islands National Park,  
see page 5.**

# Meetings

Send all Meeting events by the 8th of the month to Carl Inglin: [chinglin@sonic.net](mailto: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. June 1 - 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](mailto:shirlgirl707@yahoo.com) , 707-206-1138.

The Sonoma Group Water Committee will meet at 5:30 PM in conjunction with the Conservation and Energy Committees. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or [lholt@sonic.net](mailto:lholt@sonic.net)

Sonoma Group Conservation Committee at 6:00 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle [carsort@gmail.com](mailto:carsort@gmail.com)

Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Info: Suzanne Doyle [carsort@gmail.com](mailto:carsort@gmail.com)

#### Thurs. June 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. June 9 - 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.

#### Thurs., June 25 - Napa Group General Members Meeting.

Roadmap for Postponing Global Climate Tipping Points, 6:30 pm Napa Library. See Napa Group Report on page 6 for more details.

#### Mon. July 6 - 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](mailto:shirlgirl707@yahoo.com) , 707-206-1138.

The Sonoma Group Water Committee will meet at 5:30 PM in conjunction with the Conservation and Energy Committees. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or [lholt@sonic.net](mailto:lholt@sonic.net)

Sonoma Group Conservation Committee at 6:00 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle [carsort@gmail.com](mailto:carsort@gmail.com)

Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Info: Suzanne Doyle [carsort@gmail.com](mailto:carsort@gmail.com)

#### Tues. July 14 - 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.

#### Thurs. July 16 - 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. July 21 - Napa Group ExCom.

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

#### Sat., July 25 - 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@lakelive.info](mailto:Victoria.vbrandon@lakelive.info)

#### Mon. August 3 - The Sonoma Group Water Committee.

Will meet at 5:30 PM in conjunction with the Conservation and Energy Committees at the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or [lholt@sonic.net](mailto:lholt@sonic.net)

## Grassroots Guide to CEQA's Purpose, Power, and Process

**Saturday, June 6, 2015: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Napa Valley College, Community Room**

**2277 Napa Vallejo Hwy, Napa, CA 94558**

**Registration fee: \$35 by 5/29/15 (includes lunch) or**

**\$45 after 5/29/15 (includes lunch)**

**Register Online: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1577941>**

**Sponsored by: Napa Sierra Club, The Defenders of East Napa Watersheds and others**

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is California's preeminent environmental law, and has helped safeguard the state's lands, air, waters and communities for more than four decades. The law requires state and local agencies to assess and disclose environmental impacts of proposed projects, and to minimize or mitigate those impacts to the greatest extent possible. It is an environmental 'bill of rights' that ensures the public is engaged in the decisions that impact them most directly. And it is a law that has fostered more environmentally sound projects in virtually every community throughout California.

This workshop will be an introduction to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) with a focus on its purpose and implementation. An emphasis will be placed on practical use and application to give attendees an understanding of the law and CEQA process. It is especially intended to empower local residents and local environmental and social justice groups with the ability to affect decisions at the local level.

This course with case studies will cover the following topics. Question and answer sessions will follow each segment:

- Definition of a project under CEQA
- CEQA's 3-step evaluation process
- Climate Change and CEQA Overview
- Negative declaration/Mitigated negative declaration
- Contents of an Environmental Impact Report
- Public Review of an Environmental Impact Report
- How to target comments on DEIR
- How to present comments on DEIR
- Final Environmental Impact Report
- Certification, Project Decision, and Recirculation
- Legal challenge of an agency's decision