

Redwood Needles

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 57 Number 3

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

June/July 2016

Sierra Club Endorsements: Vote June 7th

By VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER POLITICAL CHAIR

Sierra Club political activists have been busy this spring with the grass roots investigation that precedes a Club endorsement, and are very proud of the candidates that have been chosen: please check their statements to learn more about them.

We think that the election of candidates endorsed by the Sierra Club offers the best hope of protecting the best qualities of the North Coast—abundant open space, towering forests, free-running rivers, charming, friendly small towns with a rural atmosphere—so we're asking our members to support those individuals who appear on the endorsement list on the back page of this newsletter. Please also consider making a personal endorsement, volunteering a few hours of time, or donating money: the future of all our communities hangs in the balance this year, and action by Club members can potentially tip that balance. Above all, please be sure to VOTE on June 7!

Club members in Solano, Napa and Sonoma counties are also urged to vote YES on Measure AA, which provides funding to restore wetlands in San Francisco Bay and is strongly supported by the Sierra Club. Please check out the article on page eight by Save the Bay executive director David Lewis to learn more.

Redwood Chapter Honored

The Berryessa Snow Mountain national monument dedication festival on March 19 was expected to contain some highly celebratory moments. That expectation turned out to be well justified—with the additional pleasure of a particular shout out for Sierra Club contributions during the seven-year campaign. Just before the end of the ceremony Congressmen Mike Thompson and John Garamendi announced that thanks to a number of key supporters had been read into the Congressional Record, among them the Redwood Chapter. Recipients were all called up to the front individually and presented with copies of this handsome “recognize and honor” proclamation, which will soon be framed and placed on display at the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa.



House of Representatives

March 19, 2016
Remarks of the Honorable Mike Thompson,
Honoring the Sierra Club, Redwood Chapter

Mr. Speaker, we rise to recognize and honor the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club for its great contribution to the designation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument by President Barack Obama on July 10, 2015.

This outstanding accomplishment was made possible by the tireless work of countless advocates. Their commitment to engaging friends, colleagues, local residents, businesses, stakeholders across the country, and policymakers in a coordinated effort to achieve permanent protection was critical to the establishment of the Monument.

Now, the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument may be counted among the hundreds of pristine parks across the country that represent America's most treasured public resources. The region's unique geological formations will play host for the world's scientists for years to come. Centuries-old archeological sites will draw curious historians and researchers as they piece together the stories of generations past. And avid hikers, bikers, campers, horsemen, and sportsmen will be able to enjoy this landmark that is now forever open and accessible to outdoor enthusiasts from Northern California and beyond.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument serves as proof of the value of the Antiquities Act and the power of the Executive to protect these lands in the face of inaction by Congress. After extensive input from interested parties and substantial evidence of this region's value, the Obama Administration honored the support of stakeholders, and the gravity of conservation.

The legacy of public lands is one of the most important we can leave for future generations. The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument is a critical piece of a preservation system that stretches from the Hawaiian Islands to the Maine Coast. It has been a privilege working with the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club to further our mutual goal of preserving our nation's great open spaces, and we look forward to collaborating in the future.

Mike Thompson John Garamendi Jared Huffman

MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress

JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress

JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress

Historic Klamath Dam Removal Agreement Signed



Signing the historic Klamath Dam Removal Agreement.

Photo by Felice Pace.

On Wednesday April 6 a group of dignitaries including California Governor Jerry Brown, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Congressman Jared Huffman, and representatives of PacificCorps, local tribes, water users, and non-governmental organizations gathered on the Yurok Indian Reservation at the mouth of the Klamath River to sign an historic agreement to remove four dams that have been impeding fish passage and impairing water quality for many years. Funding for dam removal has already been allocated, and it is expected that they will be gone by 2020.

“Today is a historic day where the parties who have worked

for decades to restore the Klamath Basin are reaffirming their commitment to each other for the shared vision of fisheries restoration and irrigated agriculture co-existing as we move into the future,” said Secretary Jewell. “This agreement is an important initial step as we work toward a comprehensive set of actions to advance long term restoration and sustainability for tribes, fisheries, and agriculture and water users across the Klamath Basin.”

“This historic agreement will enable Oregon and California and the interested parties to get these four dams finally removed and the Klamath River restored to its pristine beauty,” Governor Brown added.



Irongate Dam, photo by Victoria Brandon.

Benicia Oil Train Decision Postponed

By VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

On April 19, after several days of packed public hearings, the city of Benicia decided to postpone its decision on the Valero Refining Company's plan to run half-mile-long oil trains through northern California to its local refinery.

As reported in previous editions of the Redwood Needles, the company has applied to build facilities that would allow two 50-car trains of crude oil daily to pass through a series of California cities including Sacramento and Davis, potentially exposing millions of residents to significant health and safety risks, as detailed in the project's Environmental Impact Report. Citing these concerns as well as more localized impacts such as increased air pollution at the refinery site, the Benicia Planning Commission rejected the project in February by a unanimous vote, which was followed by an appeal by Valero to the city council.

Much of the debate has centered on federal law, with Valero asserting that interstate commerce rules bar local governments from regulating rail transport. According to this interpretation, the city is precluded from taking environmental hazards during transport into consideration

when making its decision. On the other side, the previous week California Attorney General Kamala Harris submitted a powerful letter to the city, maintaining Benicia's right and indeed its obligation to review environmental risks, and pointing out that federal rail preemption rules do not apply in this matter because Valero is not a railroad company.

Valero representatives then requested the city to delay its decision until an opinion about jurisdiction could be obtained from federal officials.

Although public testimony made the local community's objections to the project abundantly obvious, several council members said they were confused by contradictory legal opinions and supported the request for delay, which was opposed by environmental activists as well as by Mayor Elizabeth Patterson, who asked “is that what we want to do, wear out the public?” she asked. “We have other things we want to do in this city. I want to move on.” Patterson also objected to letting Valero frame the debate by taking the matter to another body.

Valero now plans to submit a request to the federal Surface Transportation Board for a ruling on the preemption issue, which is expected by September.

Evans Endorsed for Sonoma's 5th District



Noreen Evans' Candidate Statement:

Throughout her 21 years of public service, Noreen Evans has fought to protect the environment, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and prepare for the impacts of climate change. She served for 11 years in local government and 10 years in the State Legislature. In 2013, the Sierra Club honored her with the Byron Sher Award for her work defending the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

From co-authoring AB 32, California's groundbreaking climate change law, to helping keep Santa Rosa's waste water out of the Russian River, Noreen fought powerful interests to protect the environment. Evans' accomplishments include writing legislation enabling the Sonoma County Open Space and Agricultural District to preserve the Jenner Highlands, coastal trail improvements, and restoration projects on the Laguna de Santa Rosa. She fought to keep our

“5th District Supervisor: Noreen Evans” cont. on page 3

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

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Super Pollutant Control in Spotlight

By DIANA VAZQUEZ

California is taking the lead again—this time on a category of pollutants called “short-lived climate pollutants” or “super pollutants.”

These pollutants include black carbon (soot from fires and diesel engines), methane (CH₄) and fluorinated gases (F-Gases). They affect public health and the environment, contributing to both ground-level conventional air pollution and atmospheric climate pollution.

One of the characteristics that makes containing these pollutants so essential to addressing climate change is that they have a much larger climate impact than carbon dioxide over a twenty-year period.

Methane, for instance, is anywhere from 23 to more than 100 times more potent than carbon dioxide when it comes to changing climate. However, methane stays in the atmosphere for a much shorter period of time. Some scientists—including climate change pioneer James Hansen—argue that more attention should be given to controlling these pollutants to essentially “buy time” in the effort to reduce climate change impacts.

Additionally, some short-lived climate pollutants—including black carbon or soot—are among the most health-threatening ground-level air pollutants. This is particularly relevant in a state where air pollution

costs billions annually in health impacts, contributes to more than 7,000 premature deaths per year, and disproportionately affects disadvantaged communities.

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is currently conducting public workshops to discuss how to reduce super pollutant emissions. The agency has produced a Short Lived Climate Pollutants Reduction Strategy (Proposed Strategy), released for public review on April 11, 2016.

The proposed strategy outlines a plan and implementation strategies on how to cut super pollutant emissions, with specific targets to reduce black carbon by 50%, methane by 40% and fluorinated gases (F-gases) by 40% by 2030.

At the legislature, Senator Ricardo Lara has introduced Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) this legislative year to codify these targets into law. That bill is supported by Sierra Club and is currently working its way through the Senate process.

If you want to ensure that California continues its drive to reduce super pollutants, please call or email your State Senator today and urge them to vote “Yes” on SB 1383.

This article originally appeared in the May 2016 Sierra Club California’s Capitol Voice.

Redwood Chapter Website: www.sierraclub.org/redwood

Redwood Needles

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Statements of 2016 Sierra Club Endorsed Candidates

Solano County 2nd District Supervisor



Mike Ioakimedes

I'm proud to be running for Solano County District 2 Supervisor with the endorsement of the Sierra Club. I am a third-generation Solano County resident with deep roots in our community. I grew up in Vallejo and Benicia; Solano County is where my wife, Gayle,

and I owned and operated our family restaurant for over 30 years and where we raised our children.

During my four years on Benicia City Council, I was a key participant in negotiations that resulted in substantial cost savings for Benicia and put the community on the path to zero waste. I also led the fight to establish Benicia's Healthy Community Ordinance.

I'm passionate about public transit and firmly believe that we need to move away from the limiting concept of moving cars, and turn our focus to the concept of moving people. I've fought hard for these beliefs, and was a founding member of SolTrans, the public transportation system that serves southern Solano County. I am the only candidate who offers local government experience at the city, county, and state level. At each of these levels of government, I have been a tireless advocate for environmental causes. And that's a battle I won't stop fighting.

Solano County is changing, but our opportunities far outweigh our challenges. As County Supervisor, I pledge to continue fighting to preserve open space and valuable agricultural land. I will strive to attract the types of jobs and industry that doesn't require sacrificing our environment or our public health for short-term economic gains.

I'm honored to have received the endorsements of Congressmen George Miller (ret.), Congressman Mike Thompson, Benicia Planning Commission Chair Don Dean, and local environmental activists including Roger Straw, editor of the Benicia Independent Press, and Marilyn Bardot, among many others.

I would be honored to have your vote on June 7th.

Denis Honeychurch

As a candidate for Solano County Supervisor District 2, I am honored to have the endorsement of the Sierra Club, an organization that began with John Muir and has spent over 100 years fighting for the environment that is our home. I have been a proud member of the Sierra Club for years, and will use my election to uphold the Club's tradition of protecting our environment over special interests.

At the core of my platform as County Supervisor, my guiding principles relate to environmental protection, including maintaining open space, protecting our water and stopping the tunnel plan, fighting the degradation of the Suisun marsh, fixing our poor infrastructure and transportation system, and doing everything in my power to stop the crude-by-rail plans in Benicia. I am very concerned about the real threat facing our earth, that is climate change, and believe we need to expand our renewable sources of energy in the County. As a practicing trial attorney since 1973, and later as a Board member of the Solano Community College, I have a demonstrated record of standing up for justice, of public service, and commitment to this community that has never faltered.

I raised my three sons in Solano County, where I have resided for 35 years with my wife Judi. I will not allow the beauty of the marshes, green hills, open fields, and sparkling bayfront that define our unique geography to be threatened by big money interests or thoughtless policies. Our county needs leadership that will make sure that our beautiful environment remains so for generations to come. As the only candidate for supervisor with the experience, wisdom, and values to withstand the unprecedented attack and threats now facing our environment, stand with me as an advocate for our natural home. Vote Denis Honeychurch for Supervisor 2016.

Solano County

5th District Supervisor



Skip Thomson

I am writing to thank the Sierra Club for your endorsement of my re-election to the Solano County Board of Supervisors. While Solano County may not be the first place that comes to mind when thinking of environmental challenges, we are ground zero for a major environmental fight, and I have taken the opportunity

I have been given as Supervisor to pass progressive environmental legislation.

The Governor's "twin tunnels" plan that would divert the Delta's water to Southern California agriculture is a key environmental struggle of our time, and I am strongly oppose to this damaging plan. We should be focusing on conserving our water, not enormously expensive schemes to move water around. The tunnels plan would threaten endangered species, fisheries, farms, and the very existence of the Delta – and the existence of the unique Delta communities, many of which I represent on the Board of Supervisors.

In my recent term on the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I helped pass legislation that would allow solar power installations and farming to co-exist, and that would encourage wind energy production without jeopardizing the mission of Travis Air Force Base, a major employer in my district. I championed new rules on mixed-use developments, with great results.

I am fighting for re-election against a Republican whose election would flip the Solano County Board to the right, reversing the progress we have made. Please consider supporting my reelection with a donation, because the Delta, and Solano County, are integral parts of the Bay Area's environment. You can donate online at www.SkipForSupervisor.com.

Thank you for your support.

Sonoma County

1st District Supervisor



Susan Gorin

Thank you for supporting my election as 1st District Sonoma County Supervisor four years ago. And I ask for your vote once again because of the important issues we are working on together.

I have successfully collaborated with our community, bringing people together from all corners,

to restore, protect and improve our wonderful quality of life. My experience as a School Board Trustee, Planning Commissioner, Councilmember and Mayor and now 1st District Supervisor allow me to understand the issues and be effective in working with elected and appointed officials throughout the County, Region and State.

I'm proud of the success we've achieved so far, but we still face challenges.

Roads - I'm committed to finding more money for our roads, prioritizing our limited funding to reach our connector and neighborhood roads – serving those who live and work here. I've helped to start a 4-county effort to elevate Highway #37, a critical connector in the Bay Area. Nearly the full length of Highway 37 is threatened with inundation by sea level rise over the next 40 years.

Sonoma Developmental Center - Along with our shared leadership team, I am bringing together Sonoma County Health Services and other diverse stakeholders to preserve services at Sonoma Developmental Center, home to 350 of our most fragile, vulnerable developmentally disabled residents in the State. We must sensitively transform this keystone site in Sonoma Valley to meet the needs of our community.

Water – Water is our most important natural resource, with a finite supply depending on adequate rainfall in the region. My 10-year experience and knowledge about regional water supply allows me to effectively collaborate with others to establish three Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in the County and develop sustainable water budgets.

Climate Change – There is no issue more important than taking action to make changes in our lives individually and collectively that are critical to mitigating and adapting to the coming changes of sea level rise, stormwater capture, renewable energy production, local food security and much more.

Other important issues include expanding our trails and recreation areas, reauthorizing community green-space separators, enhancing senior services, developing universal preschool programs and addressing our housing crisis while limiting the profound impact of vacation rentals in our communities.

Thank you to Sierra Club for your endorsement. We will continue this vitally important work together for our community and our planet. The time is now.

For more information on how you can help, visit my website. www.SusanGorin.com

"5th District Supervisor: Noreen Evans"

(continued from page 1)

local state parks open during the recession, including Armstrong Redwoods and Fort Ross. She initiated the fight to prevent the state from charging entrance fees at our local beaches.

Evans was part of the successful 1996 campaign to adopt Santa Rosa's Urban Growth Boundaries and as State Senator, obtained millions of dollars to finish the SMART rail to the Sonoma County Airport. She served for four years on the California Coastal Conservancy.

Evans has broad experience in a range of issues. She worked to balance the State's budget during the recession while continuing

to fund vital State services such as K-12 education, HIV/AIDS prevention, In-Home Supportive Services, and foster care. She authored the Homeowners Bill of Rights, giving homeowners protection from foreclosure fraud. She authored legislation that would have required labeling of GMO foods.

The Sierra Club endorses Noreen because we need strong, independent, progressive and experienced leadership. Noreen is the most qualified candidate to lead Sonoma County in adapting to climate change and protecting our environment.

Napa County

4th District Supervisor

Diane Shepp

I value the endorsement of the Sierra Club, and the legacy and vision of John Muir. The support of the Sierra Club underscores my efforts to protect and preserve Napa County's environment and long-term sustainability of our natural resources. It is an honor to be recognized by an organization that for the past 130+ years has been the "lightning rod" of similar efforts nationwide.

Environmentalism understands the fundamental interrelatedness of the economy, the people, the environment and includes our surroundings, all influences on our surroundings and how we interact, e.g.: air, water, living conditions, education of our children, how we do business and conduct our lives. Environmentalism nurtures sustainability.

I am an environmentalist. I have a long history of successful public service protecting natural resources, the health, welfare and safety of children and families.

As a public school teacher, a nonprofit leader, and member of the Grand Jury, I've lived, worked and raised my family in Napa for over 32 years. I have the experience and commitment to be your voice on the Board of Supervisors.

As your Supervisor, I will:

✓ Always put the NEEDS of residents & children FIRST.

✓ Focus on smart growth that improves our infrastructure, workforce housing and a living wage.

✓ Protect our watersheds, the water supply of residents & agriculture; limit deforestation and conversion of open space.

✓ Prioritize commuter and tourist transportation projects including a tourist bus system, a light rail system, incentivized commuter vanpools and ride-sharing.

✓ Examine public health issues and impacts, particularly Napa's cancer rate in children.

In short, I will plan, protect, promote, and preserve our quality of life, our environment in OUR Napa County.

For my community leadership and dedication to Napa County, I am proud and honored to have earned the endorsement of the Sierra Club. Thank you!

Outings

Sat.-Sun. June 4-5, SF Bay Chapter. Austin Creek State Recreation Area Backpack.

Join us for an easy backpacking trip at a relaxed pace in Austin Creek SRA—perfect for beginners, lapsed backpackers or those who just like to take it easy in the backcountry. We'll hike through open grassland, oak woodlands, gurgling creeks and maybe we'll even find a hidden swimming hole to frolic in. The views of the coastal mountains are stunning as the trail angles steeply downhill to the campsite. The trail borders Gilliam and East Austin Creeks so water will be plentiful and we may find turtles, California newts and lingering wildflowers. We'll hike 5 miles each day (10 miles round trip) with an elevation change of 1,200 feet. Individual commissary, but guides will bring stoves for boiling water. Leaders: Inga Aksamit, ingasadventures@gmail.com (preferred) or (415)-470-1812, and Mike Bandrowski (Backpacking). Register: <http://tioga.sierraclub.org/oars-activity/pages/activity.jsf?activity=95935>

Sun. June 5 - North Group. Sierra Club Smith River NRA-Jedediah Smith State Park Hike.

From the trailhead off South Fork Road, we climb past a succession of botanical communities and stunning views to about 2000 feet through serpentine, and end up in redwoods at Howland Hill Road. Bring food, water, and hiking boots. No dogs. Class: M-10-B. One-way hike with a car shuttle. Meet: 9:30 a.m. Hiouchi Ranger Station (Hwy. 199 opposite Jedediah Smith Campground entrance). By reservation only. Leader Ned nedforsyth48@gmail.com (707)825-3652 message phone.

Sat. June 18 - North Group. 6 Rivers National Forest Horse Mountain Trip.

A series of 1-3mi. favorite rambles such as Indian Butte, Cold Springs, and Trinity Alps Vista Trail, including gravel roads, informal paths, and some cross country. Bring lunch and snacks, generous liquids, layered clothing, sun protection. No dogs. Class: M-6-A.

Carpools: Meet 9am Ray's Valley West .10 am trailhead Horse Mtn. parking area (4.5mi out Titlow Hill Rd from turn off Hwy 299) Leader Melinda 668-4275 <groomster@gmail.com> rain, threat of T-storms cancels.

Sun.-Sat. June 19-25 - Escalante River Backpack.

Enjoy the stunning landscape of southern Utah on this backpack along 27 miles of the Escalante River and 10 miles of deep and narrow Harris Wash Creek. Side trips along the way will explore the narrow canyons and creeks. Arrive in the town of Escalante at the Escalante Interagency Visitor Center around noon MDT to get our free permit and latest route information. Then set up a car shuttle between the beginning at the Hwy 12 bridge and the end at Harris Wash Trailhead. Bring a daypack for the side trips and footwear appropriate for being in and out of the river all day. There is an option of ending the trip June 24 or 25. David Hardy, 702 875-4826, email preferred hardyhikers@embarqmail.com. S. Nevada Group/CNRCC Desert Com

Mon.- Fri. June 20-24 - Mendo Group. Marble Mountain Wilderness Backpack.

We will backpack 6 miles into the east side of the Marble Mountain Wilderness, a heavily used but gorgeous area. We will base camp for 4 nights and do some moderate day hikes with stunning views of the Marbles. Participants must have backpacked within the last 5 years and have all their own gear, a bear canister, sleeping bag, tent, water filtration system, cooking equipment, rain gear and hiking boots. You must carry all your own food for 5 days and 4 nights. There will be a long drive to the trailhead and we'll decide later where to meet. Class: M-6-B. By reservation only. Limit 10 people. Leader Val Nordeman, 707 477-4199 nordeman@willitsonline.com

Sat-Sun June 25-26 - 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 signup or questions.



Sun. July 10 - North Group. Sierra Club Mad River Buttes 6 Rivers National Forest Hike.

Come explore this beautiful potential wilderness area off Forest Route 1. Sturdy boots a must. Return hike is mostly uphill, expect warm temperatures and sun. Bring lunch, a hat, and plenty of water. No dogs. Class M-8-A. Carpools: Meet 9 a.m. Ray's (Valley West) Shopping Center. Leader Ned nedforsyth48@gmail.com (707)825-3652. message phone.



Sat. July 16 - North Group. Redwood National Park Hike.

Starting from the upper, Bald Hills end of Lost Man Creek Trail, we pass through second growth mixed conifer forest in process of restoration by the Park. The final miles enter pristine old growth redwood forest, concluding a total descent of some 2,000'. Bring lunch, water, layered clothing. No dogs. Class: M-10-B. Carpools: Meet 8:30 am. Ray's Valley West. 9:15 am trailhead Lost Man Creek parking area (off 101, marked turnoff 1/2 mi. north of Davison Rd.) (Shuttle to starting point) Leader Melinda 668-4275 <mgroomster@gmail.com> steady rain cancels.

Mon.-Fri. July 18-22 - Mendo Group. Yolla Bolly Wilderness Backpack.

This is a 4 mile backpack into a lovely lake in the highest part of this wilderness, the southeast corner. The lake is good for drinking water, swimming, and is an excellent spot to base camp for 4 nights with day hikes for 3 days. We might even bag a peak.

Participants must have backpacked in the last 5 years and have their own gear including sleeping bag, tent if needed, cooking equipment and water filtration system. Bear canisters might be required and bring rain gear just in case. You must have food for yourself for 5 days and 4 nights. Meeting place and time to be decided later. Class: M-4-B. By reservation only. Limit 10 people. Leader Val Nordeman, 707 477-4199 nordeman@willitsonline.com

Sat.-Sun. Sept. 10-11 - 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 signup or questions.

Earth Day Around Redwood Chapter



Day on the Green: Sonoma Group Climate Chair Shirley Johnson and friend celebrate at Day on the Green in Santa Rosa.

Redwood Revolution (below): Redwood Revolution community art project on display at Day on the Green.



ExCom member Chris Benz and irresistible young lady in folkloric dance costume at Napa Earth Day Celebration, Oxbow Commons.



Lake Group: Ecology professor Dr. Harry Lyons and Redwood Chapter Chair Victoria Brandon at Woodland Community College Clearlake Earth Day.



Napa ExCom member Linda Brown introduces visitors to "Climate Challenge" game, with winners netting a chocolate earth.

Instructions to hikers

Outings will start not later than 15 minutes after scheduled meeting time. The leader is in charge of the trip and is responsible for your welfare and the good name of the Club. He/she must have your cooperation to make the trip safe, pleasant and rewarding. Never charge ahead of the leader and keep within sight or shouting distance of the person ahead of you so you do not miss an intersecting trail. Do not lag behind rear leader: if you need help, the rear leader will remain to assist you. Do not leave the group without the leader's permission. Be adequately equipped and prepared. You should carry lunch and liquids. Wear footwear appropriate for the outing. In most cases that would be hiking boots.

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

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

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

Visitors are welcome

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

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

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

To submit outings write-ups

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

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

Slower-pace: Allison Bronkall

Outings

From Forest Exploitation toward Stewardship: The Remarkable Story of the Evolution of California's Redwood Industry

Saturday, June 11, 10 AM – 12 PM
Volunteer Center, Armstrong Redwoods
Instructor – Jason Grant,
Sierra Club Forest & Certification Team

Jason Grant will share the remarkable story of the evolution of California's redwood industry. When Euro-Americans flooded into Northern California during and after the Gold Rush, they marveled at the immensity and grandeur of the region's virgin redwood forest – and began logging it. Today, around 4% of the original old growth remains and is virtually all protected in parks. Much of the remainder is second-growth forest where logging continues; but in recent decades there has been a remarkable transition across much of the redwood region from forest mining toward relatively enlightened forest management. This presentation uses vivid imagery and piquant detail to trace the arc of this extraordinary evolution, exploring both hopeful developments and continuing tensions between forest activists and timber companies. It will be followed by what is expected to be a rich and spirited discussion.

Outings Chair Report

I had the privilege of attending Pete McGee's Valley Fire Overview outing in Middletown (see photos). The landscape has changed drastically since the fire. We went to Rabbit Hill, 9.5 acres managed by the Lake County Land Trust. Rabbit Hill was the sanctuary of Huck and Juanita "Skee" Hamann. We walked by serpentine outcroppings with plants and leather oaks starting to emerge from the ashes. Woodpeckers were on the black burned trunks of trees. Wildflowers bloomed in spots making a strange yellow mosaic on the black landscape. Lower meadows had magnificent displays of spring wildflowers. The fire burned most of the landmarks on the hill but the views were fantastic. After the walk Jim Finn from Cazadero and June Smith from Lower Lake (formerly from Napa but displaced after the earthquake) joined me for a drive up Cobb, Kelseyville and Anderson Springs. So many people lost everything in the fire. We spoke to residents about the nightmare of the fast burning fire. A scary coincidence because as I write about the Valley Fire, the Alberta Canada fire has spread to 621 square miles and 88,000 people have fled. The fire is in the boreal forest, home to diverse wildlife, birds and plants. The unseasonable hot weather and dry conditions transformed the forest into a tinderbox. I watched a newscast and the evacuated



Hike leader Pete McGee (on right) talks to Jim Finn from Cazadero.

people said the same thing as the residents of the Lake fires said. The propane tanks went pop, pop, pop in the fire, the wind kept changing



Lake Group Leader Pete McGee, Rabbit Hill, Valley Fire.

directions, homes burned in minutes, trucks and cars were reduced to black scorched frames, and no one is allowed back in. I hope Alberta receives rain soon. Experts say the fire will burn for months in some places. Climate change is taking a toll on the world.

On a brighter note our National Parks are celebrating their 100th anniversary. Make an effort to visit parks this year. We must protect our precious lands and bring children to visit so they understand what our nation has set aside for everyone to enjoy.

The Sonoma Group has another leader in training. I met with Heather Thurber last month and we talked about her background. Heather has a B.S. degree in Recreation & Parks Mgmt and has group facilitation experience. She is interested in family oriented and easy hikes around Sonoma County. Nick Caston also does family outings. The Sonoma Group hopes to offer more family outings with the goal of supporting parents to encourage their children to appreciate the outdoors.

Please support Jim Gannon on his Benson Hut work parties this summer. The Sierra is beautiful and flowers will still be blooming by Benson. Visit Clair Tappaan Lodge and go hiking on the Pacific Crest Trail. Exercise is a key to good health.

—CAROL VELLUTINI, REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park: 2016 Schedule

June 12-14 July 17-19 August 21-23
September 25-27 October 23-25

Join us for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard cruise to California's Channel Islands! Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines. Snorkle in pristine waters teeming with colorful fish. Swim with frolicking seals and sea lions. Look for unusual sea and land birds. Watch for the highly endangered island fox. Or.....just relax at sea! All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. The cost, \$650, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks and beverages plus the services of a naturalist-docent assigned by the national park to help lead hikes, point out items of interest and give evening program. For more information contact leader: Joan Jones Holtz; 626-443-0706; jholtzhl@aol.com. To make a reservation send a \$100 check, written to Sierra Club, to leader, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732.



Sierra Club Volunteer/Activist Opportunities

Seeking a bilingual volunteer to respond to questions from members of the public through Redwood Chapter's Spanish website page. This position should only take a few hours a month at the most, and will support our outreach efforts. For more information, please contact: Mary at odavison@sonic.net

Napa Group Treasurer: This is an opportunity to serve the Sierra Club without too heavy an investment in time, and without leaving home. No meetings to attend! Our accounts are kept on QuickBooks, and we have only a few transactions each month. The treasurer does need to become familiar with C3 vs C4 forms. If you might be interested, contact me at nancy@aya.yale.edu

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 carolvst@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. If you are not able to attend by 5:30, we can adjourn to the back room to continue our meeting later. If you are not able to attend our meetings; you may e-mail Len Holt with your concerns and ideas. 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 waste waters. Help protect the quality of our water for people, wildlife, fish and other aquatic life. Check for our meeting dates in the Needles. To get on our Water Committee e-mail list, e-mail Len Holt at lholt@sonic.net.

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.

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
or call:
(209) 258-8500

OPERATES UNDER USFS PERMIT



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.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club
Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

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

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint	Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15	N/A	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 49	
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100	
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175	
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1200	
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	

Enclose a check and mail to:
Sierra Club, PO Box 827081
Napa, CA 94588
or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org

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North Group Report

Science Projects Receive Awards

For the tenth year, North Group sponsored an award at the annual Humboldt County Science Fair held in mid-March. (The projects were so competitive in 2016 that a second prize was given.)

The \$50 first-place award went to Rachel Meyer and Jazzy White, a 7th-grade team from Pacific Union School in Arcata. Their project investigated adding different substances as a top



Tommy Robinson, who won second prize, and Rachel Meyer and Jazzy White, who won first prize from North Group.

layer of a rapid sand filter, to see which would remove the most oil from distilled water. The idea for the project came from the fact that oil or gas from illegal marijuana grows may end up in streams used for domestic water supplies. While rapid sand filters are effective at removing bacteria, organisms, iron, and manganese, they do not remove oil and gas from water. The girls tested various additives that they hypothesized could clean the water

more thoroughly: activated carbon (charcoal), shredded redwood bark, organic cloth, and clay-based kitty litter. Rachel and Jazzy hypothesized that charcoal would perform the best. Their results were that charcoal and bark were equally good at removing oil (although they were not fully effective), followed by cloth, then kitty litter. The project was selected to compete at the State

Science Fair held in May in Los Angeles.

A \$25 second-place prize was awarded to “Ferntastic Forest” by Tommy Robinson, an 8th-grader at Jacoby Creek School in Bayside. Tommy hypothesized that sword fern frond length would be greater in old-growth forests than in second-growth ones and increase as one travels north. He was hoping to show that fern length data could be used to track the general health of a forest, climate change, human impact, and effects of El Nino. He measured 100 fronds from both Prairie Creek Redwoods (Orick) and Redwood Park (Arcata). Tommy found that Prairie Creek, which is the older and more northern forest, had fronds that averaged 24 centimeters longer than those in Redwood Park.

Forestry and Fisheries on Private Timberlands

California’s Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Program (TRFR) is continuing, following the passage of AB 1492 in 2012. TRFR’s funding for the current fiscal year is estimated at \$37 million, mostly going to the existing Forest Restoration Grant Program, administered by California Department of Fish and Wildlife. This money comes from AB 1492’s one percent tax on retail sales of wood products in California, a big change from Timber Harvest Plan (THP) review costs coming from landowner permit fees and the

General Fund.

According to presentations at the recent annual Salmonid Restoration Federation conference in Fortuna, the first “Planning Watershed Pilot Project” has been selected by the California Resources Agency, which administers the TRFR together with CalEPA. Campbell Creek in coastal Mendocino County will be the location of this initial endeavor, which is expected to yield new data on how to achieve efficiency and collaboration among landowners, fisheries restorationists, state regulators, and other stakeholders. Our endangered salmonids and other wildlife will be the chief beneficiaries of this improved funding and improved science of cumulative impacts in the watersheds.

There are calls for funding to be made available to environmentalists and other members of the public for expert input on forest and fisheries restoration. Since the public now pays all THP expenses, we seek a way to pay qualified members of the public for their work on the public trust of our forests and our irreplaceable salmon and trout species.

Get more information from Sierra Club member Richard Gienger, rgracks@humboldt.net and from forestsforever.org and treesfoundation.org

—NED FORSYTH, NORTH GROUP VICE CHAIR

Mendocino Group Report

Mendocino Group Coastal Committee Chair Rixanne Wehren has sent the California Coastal Commission a letter of support for the Pelican Bluff trail. It’s located on the Coast south of Point Arena. She describes it as an effort beneficial to both the local and greater community and applauds the efforts of the Mendocino Land Trust in pursuit of getting the trail established. The issue is before the CCC on appeal.

The law firm Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger in its April newsletter writes that its client Keep the Code has won a court victory against Harris quarry owner’s attempt to conduct mining operations without a use permit. “The court in

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.



Keep the Code vs. Mendocino County et al held that the County could not approve the owner’s claimed ‘vested right’ to mine Harris Quarry without issuing a permit” because under the previous owner the quarry was never operated. This is interesting in the light of the struggle of local activists to halt gravel extraction on Grist Creek an important tributary to Outlet Creek. The two involve appeals based on the necessity for CEQA review. The County in both instances found no CEQA review to be necessary.

The County is finally taking action to protect public health. A press release dated May 6 states that Mendocino County Air District is seeking a Superior Court Injunction against Grist Creek Aggregates Asphalt plant.

Mendocino Group was active in the first go round of this issue that resulted in the requirement for a CEQA review. We incorporated by reference all the material filed in the first submission when it was resubmitted to Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. The BOS fast tracked it in March of 2015 removing the requirement for environmental review.

The lawsuit outlines eight different ways in which the defendants failed to comply with Air Quality District rules.

Linda Perkins reports that Sierra Club members, among others, provided comment on the 2014 timber plan on Railroad Gulch in Albion (THP 1-14-080) that was taken to court by the Forest Preservation Society (FPS), a small non-profit who engaged attorney Tom Lippe to take the case. His legal brief challenged CalFire’s decision to approve the plan – for failure to assess the cumulative impacts of the plan on northern spotted owls and on greenhouse gas emissions, and for failure to comply with the special watershed rules designed to protect already – impaired watersheds such as the Albion River. The case was heard recently in the Mendocino Superior Court by Judge Jeanine Nadel. The bad, but not unexpected news is that she ruled against FPS and refused a temporary stay on operations to allow FPS to consider whether to appeal the case. The good news is that Attorney Lippe then went to District 3 of the Appellate Court who granted the stay and accepted the filing of the appeal. We don’t as yet know when the appellate court will hear the case. Stay tuned.

—MARY WALSH, MENDOCINO GROUP CHAIR

Lake Group Report

Inner Coast Range Conservancy Moves Forward

As reported in the last edition of the Redwood Needles, the Sierra Club is following up on the years of effort that culminated in the permanent protection of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region as a national monument by working for the creation of an Inner Coast Range state conservancy, and thus providing resources needed to support stewardship projects and improve recreational opportunities in the region, both inside and outside monument boundaries.

Conservancies such as the Sierra Nevada Conservancy or the Coastal Conservancy are a major conduit for state allocations, bond funds, and grants: they have a proven track record of advancing environmental preservation and restoration while promoting a thriving local economy—but the northern Inner Coast Range region is unable to take advantage of these benefits, because it lies outside the boundaries of existing conservancies. We are the hole in the donut.

On April 12 the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water voted to approve SB 1396, a bill establishing an Inner Coast Range Conservancy and opening the door to future funding for projects to protect, restore, and enhance natural resources in the region, which includes all of Lake County. The bill will now move on to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Planning Commission Rejects Proposed Middletown Dollar General

On April 28, more than a year after the proposal was first made public (and months

after a similar application in Kelseyville was rejected by the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors because of opposition from the community), the Lake County Planning Commission considered an application from Texas-based Cross Development for a Dollar General outlet on Highway 29 just north of central Middletown. Sierra Club comments submitted a year previously reflected our serious doubts about the desirability of this project, for reasons including water quality, traffic, esthetics and inconsistency with Middletown Area Plan policies. We reiterated those considerations at the April 28 meeting, as did many members of the community— and are delighted to be able to report that the Planning Commission rejected every one of the requested entitlements by a unanimous vote. An appeal to the Board of Supervisors is anticipated.

Lake Group Presents “Life in the Lake”

At Lake Group’s May 17 general member meeting at the county courthouse in Lakeport, Lake County Vector Control District Vector Biologist Bonnie Ryan will guide us through a “living tour” of the complex microscopic life at the base of the food chain in Clear Lake. The program will include live samples of both phyto and zooplankton as well as algae blooms, and promises to provide an unusually fascinating look at a little-known and uncommonly important subject. When a similar presentation by LCVCD was offered in 2010 every seat was taken and an overflow crowd had to listen from the lobby, so we are anticipating a good crowd for this free presentation.

—VICTORIA BRANDON, LAKE GROUP CONSERVATION CHAIR

North Group Needs Your Help!

Volunteer opportunities are available. Please contact Gregg or Ned for details, or make plans to attend a regular Executive Committee meeting in Eureka. Your ideas and skills are welcome, from Internet communications to outings leaders and more.

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: napavalleyssierraclub@gmail.com

Solano Breeze Corner

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

Solano Group ExCom Meetings

Sierra Club Solano Group ExCom meetings are on the first Monday of each month, usually at Denny's Cordelia, 7 pm. All Sierra Club members welcome. Call Jane at 707-644-9183, or Greg at 707-386-6411 to confirm.

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. The charge is only \$10 (CASH or CHECK ONLY) per twenty pounds of paper shredded, but volunteers get FREE shredding! (Maximum: 100 pounds).

There is also 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.

—CONTRIBUTOR: JANE BOGNER, EDITOR: GREG PETERSON

Sonoma Group Report

Sonoma County Climate Action Plan (CAP)

<http://rcpa.ca.gov/projects/climate-action-2020/>

The Regional Climate Protection Authority has produced a document, "Climate Action 2020 and Beyond," which is supposed to be a blueprint for all the actions that County residents need to take to meet our greenhouse gas reduction goal. Another purpose of the CAP seems to be to give CEQA pre-approval for future discretionary development projects. Appendix A provides a checklist which allows these projects to claim that their greenhouse gas impacts will be "less than significant."

Take a look at the CAP and Appendix A on the RCPA's website: <http://rcpa.ca.gov/projects/climate-action-2020/>.

Comments can be submitted online before May 31.

UPDATES

Parking Fees at Sonoma County Beach State Parks: There was a big turnout at the Coastal Commission meeting on April 13 in Santa Rosa, and comments were almost entirely opposed to the proposed parking fees. The Commissioners punted, postponing the decision in order to allow more talks between State Parks and the County. It may be back on the Coastal Commission's agenda in the fall.

Atascadero Wetlands: The Planning Commission voted 4 to 1 (the hold-out being Commissioner Mauritzen of the 4th District) to approve a zoning update and increased protection for the Atascadero wetlands near Graton. These wetlands along Atascadero Creek, home to rare marsh plant species, are also a priority area for coho salmon and steelhead. The wetlands have been increasingly threatened by vineyard development and expansion. The Board of Supervisors will vote on the new protections in August.

Compost Facility: The plan to build a new and improved compost facility at the County landfill is defunct, and there is nothing in the works to replace it. The supervisors seem to be waiting for private enterprise to replace County management of our green waste. Meanwhile, we are shipping it all out of the County and compost for home gardening is getting scarce. To help lobby for a new composting facility in the County, join the Compost Coalition: <http://www.compostcoalitionsoco.org/>.

—SUZANNE DOYLE, ACTING SONOMA GROUP CHAIR

Non-Sierra Club Outings & Events

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.

Napa Group Report

Napa Group Endorses Diane Shepp For Board of Supervisors, District 4; No endorsement for District 2.

It is time for new blood on the Board of Supervisors.

Despite a rising chorus of voices expressing outrage over the County's "forgive and forget" response to blatant winery abuses of use permits, concern over the onslaught of tourists in our farmlands, and vineyard expansion threats to our hillsides, the Board of Supervisors has failed to take effective action.

Therefore, we are endorsing Diane Shepp, who is challenging incumbent Alfredo Pedroza. Shepp, who founded Save Rural Napa in response to development along Soda Canyon Road, has proven that she shares our environmental values, and is able to work with a wide range of stakeholders.

Walt Ranch: Final Hearing saw scads of new substantive comments submitted.

After receiving dozens of substantive new comments on the Walt Ranch EIR, the County has deferred its final decision on the project until June.

The Final EIR ignored or evaded many significant questions raised by commenters on the draft. These included assertions from an engineer that the project's heavy equipment traffic could cause road failure, spewing raw sewage into Capell Creek; professed ignorance of a wetland and perennial stream at the project's entry point; dismissal of concerns over pedestrian safety; failure to disclose the disposal method for 24,000 downed trees; failure to require remedial action if nearby residential wells start to dry up; failure to specify location of woodland conservation acreage.

The City of Napa predicted that the Walt Project will degrade water in Milliken Creek, costing the City millions for new water treatment facilities.

The battle to prevent deforestation of 300 acres on Atlas Peak continues.

Open Volunteer Opportunities

Treasurer Retiring.

After decades assisting us in the treasurer post, Tom Davis is retiring and moving to Nevada. He will be missed.

We need a new treasurer. Tom has been keeping our accounts on Quick Books, though he tells me that we have so few transactions, that it is almost overkill. This is a great way to contribute from your home.

Empty Seat on Napa ExCom.

Ready for more active involvement? Consider joining our executive committee.

We meet every two months, and individuals take on projects of interest.

If you might be interested in either of these positions, contact me at nancy@aya.yale.edu

Events

Napa Valley Healing Walk.

Join an interfaith, inter-generational, and intercultural group on a peaceful pilgrimage along the length of the Napa Valley. The walk is rooted in the indigenous philosophy of invoking sacred space in order to heal the land and its people. The walk will raise awareness about local watershed, wildlife issues, and policy changes that will ensure their protection.

Sat. May 21, and Sat. June 11.

For more information, Contact Xulio Soriano at mishteko@gmail.com

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

Meetings

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

Thurs. June 2 - Solano Group ExCom.

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

Mon. June 6 - 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 & Energy Committee at 5:30 p.m., Contact Shirley, shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, 707-206-1138.

Conservation Committee: 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

Tues. June 14 - 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. July 4 - 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 & Energy Committee at 5:30 p.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

Tues. July 12 - 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.

Sat., July 16 - Redwood Chapter ExCom. And ConsCom.

Location: Best Western in Willits.

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

Tues. July 19 - Napa Group ExCom.

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

Thurs. July 21 - Solano Group ExCom.

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

Mon. Aug. 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 & Energy Committee at 5:30 p.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





Sierra Club Endorsements

National Candidates:

- Jared Huffman**
Congress, District 2
- John Garamendi**
Congress, District 3
- Mike Thompson**
Congress, District 5
- Kamala Harris**
U. S. Senate

State Candidates:

- Jim Wood**
Assembly, District 2
- Marc Levine**
Assembly, District 10

Local Candidates and Measures:

- Susan Gorin**
Sonoma County Supervisor,
District 1
- Noreen Evans**
Sonoma County Supervisor,
District 5
- Diane Shepp**
Napa County Supervisor,
District 4
- Mike Wilson**
Humboldt County Supervisor,
District 3
- Denis Honeychurch**
Solano County Supervisor,
District 2
- Mike Ioakimedes**
Solano County Supervisor,
District 2
- Skip Thomson**
Solano County Supervisor,
District 5

Bay Area:

- YES on Measure AA**
For a Clean and Healthy Bay



See pages 1 & 3 for Candidate Statements

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

Vote YES on Measure AA

San Francisco Bay is a part of all our lives—whether we live along the Bay, work there, walk, jog or visit parks along its shores.

But pollution and other problems have put the health of the Bay at serious risk. Many of the Bay's wetlands have been paved over or diked off, and the North Bay shoreline communities face increasing flood risks from extreme storms and sea level rise.

Now we have the first chance in our history to come together across the entire Bay Area to vote for San Francisco Bay and make it healthier and safer for future generations. Measure AA on the June 7 ballot in all nine Bay Area counties is a small parcel tax that creates huge benefits. For only \$12 annually per parcel, Measure AA raises \$500 million over 20 years to restore wetlands around the Bay that will provide habitat for fish and wildlife and filter out

pollutants from the water.

Shoreline communities in the North Bay will directly benefit from Measure AA funds, allowing accelerated restoration of wetlands.

Measure AA includes important fiscal accountability protections. All funds must stay in the Bay Area to be used only on local habitat restoration and wildlife protection projects. The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority would provide grant funds to restoration projects, overseen by a board of elected representatives from around the Bay, including from Solano, Napa and Sonoma counties.

San Francisco Bay gives us so much. Now let's make the Bay healthier for future generations by voting Yes on Measure AA. Visit YesonAAfortheBay.com for more information.

—DAVID LEWIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SAVE THE BAY.

Teachers' Pensions Should NOT be Invested in Fossil Fuels

Many people are aware that the California teachers' retirement fund (CalSTRS) has divested from coal, but do not realize that the fund is still heavily invested— to the tune of \$7 billion— in gas and oil. Fossil Free California believes it is time for CalSTRS to divest from all fossil fuels for the sake of the planet and to ensure a healthy future for our children and grandchildren. With the threat of the looming carbon bubble, fossil fuel divestment also makes sense financially.

For the past two years, members of FFCA have been urging CalSTRS to divest. Our members have spoken many times before the CalSTRS Investment Committee, and have read comments from teachers across California who have been unable to attend. For the final Investment Committee meeting of this fiscal year, Friday, June 10, we are planning a silent demonstration of teachers, students, FFCA members

and other allies at the CalSTRS headquarters (100 Waterfront Place, W. Sacramento) from noon to 1:00 pm. Please come if you can, and if you can't, please spread the word!

For more information: contact@fossilfreeca.org



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



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