

Redwood Needles



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 59 Number 3

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

June/July 2018

Pivotal Election Looms

BY VICTORIA BRANDON,
REDWOOD CHAPTER POLITICAL CHAIR

We seem to be in the middle of a pivotal year for the environment, nationally and locally, as outrage over the excesses of the Trump administration fuels a level of grassroots activism that hasn't been seen for many years. The 2018 elections provide a vital opportunity to restore a Congressional bulwark against the cynical efforts to roll back environmental protections at a time when climate disruption makes them more important than ever.

Closer to home, 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 via the endorsement link on the back page of this newsletter. Please also consider making a personal endorsement, volunteering a few hours of time, or providing financial support: 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 5!

Talking Zero Waste Across California

BY PORTIA SINNOTT, ZERO WASTE USA
AND ZERO WASTE SONOMA COUNTY

The California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee (CNRCC) Zero Waste Committee supports the 13 California chapters and Sierra Club California in advocating for Zero Waste initiatives at the state and local level. To that end, the Committee asked Sonoma County (and Bay Area) based Zero Waste USA to implement a state-wide Train-the-Trainers program utilizing the fun, interactive Zero Waste Curious presentation that ZWUSA volunteers give in San Francisco and Alameda County. The development of these presentations were in part funded by a 2017-2018 Altamont Education Advisory Board grant underwritten by Altamont Landfill mitigation fees resulting from a lawsuit of which the San Francisco Bay Chapter was a party.

The emerging plan is to develop the series this Spring at the Sonoma Group offices and then give 20-minute talks all over the county. This summer we will start training Redwood, San Francisco Bay and San Diego chapter members to train others to talk Zero Waste. The planning team is looking for a host and presenter travel funding for a large mid-California training later this year. Next year some or most of the trainings may be done via webinars and conference calls.

The Sonoma County trainings are co-sponsored by Zero Waste Sonoma County in collaboration with 350 Sonoma. Sonoma Group leaders Shirley Johnson and Theresa Ryan have been helping organize the series. Sixteen people have volunteered to date and more will join as the word gets out. The initial training includes four sessions - a program overview with sample presentation, a script reading via conference call, practice with a buddy and then a friends and family presentation. The next training series starts Wednesday, May 23 from 1-3pm including a friends and family presentation at 2pm. To join the team, please RSVP to zwsonoma@sonic.net. Drop-ins welcome at 2pm.

This effort is in concert with a large stakeholder collaborative initiated in July 2017 by the Sonoma County Local Task Force on Integrated Waste Management. Working over 9 months, the Sonoma County Zero Waste Task Force (ZWTF) prepared the 2018 Zero Waste Resolution Request for Sonoma County jurisdictions. To support this epic effort the ZWTF is working to create a groundswell of support for the Request by giving Zero Waste Curious presentations in every town and city in the County. If you are willing to schedule a presentation with your group or in your town, please send an email to zwsonoma@sonic.net with contact information and presentation ideas.

Prop 68: Protecting California

BY AMY HARTMAN, SOLANO GROUP EXCOM

When you go to the polls (or fill out your mail-in ballot) in California on June 5, 2018, you'll have the opportunity to vote for the first parks and water bond that has been on a statewide ballot in 12 years. Senate Bill 5—the Park Bond Bill—passed out of both the Assembly and the Senate this past legislative session in Sacramento. Governor Brown signed the bill in October of 2017 and now, the \$4.1 billion bond bill, supporting parks, water projects, and climate adaptation efforts throughout the state of California, will be brought to the voters in this year's primary election.

The federal administration seems determined to put the nation's environment at risk. Now is the time for Californians to stand up for our natural resources. Proposition 68 is an opportunity to do just that. The funding from the Park Bond Bill falls into 4 main categories: parks, flood, water, and climate adaptation.

Parks

In a recent Mercury News article, Bay Area Open Space Council Executive Director Deb Callahan noted that the measure contains \$1 billion in competitive grants that are open to all regions of the state and that the Bay Area historically has done well in applying for them.

One of the largest allocations of the Park Bond Bill is \$725 million for parks in "park-poor neighborhoods." According to California Senate Pro Tem Kevin de Leon, funding from the Park Bond Bill is "the single largest investment in the history of the United States to park-starved communities."

Another \$285 million will be allocated as local grant monies supporting local parks, regional park districts, and open space districts. Existing state parks in California will receive \$218 million to improve public access and catch up on deferred maintenance.

Flood

In a recent opinion piece, the Vice President of the Sierra Club, Susana Reyes, and California State Senator and Park Bond bill sponsor Anthony Portantino wrote, "Five years of severe drought followed by heavy rains have magnified the lingering aftermath of the 2008 economic downturn, leaving our state with a substantial need to invest in deteriorating local and regional parks and aging water infrastructure, dams, reservoirs, and flood protection."

The Park Bond Bill, if passed by California voters, will provide \$550 million for flood protection and repair. This will include \$350 million for flood protection, \$100 million for stormwater, mudslide, and other flood-related protections, and another \$100 million for urban multi-benefit flood projects.

Water

Over \$1 billion dollars of Park Bond Bill funding would be allocated to "water projects" throughout the state, including: \$290 for regional water sustainability, \$250 million for clean and safe drinking water, \$175 million for ocean and coastal protection, \$162 million for rivers, creeks, and waterways, \$100 million for water recycling, and \$80 million for groundwater cleanup.

Notable water projects near the Bay Area include:

\$3 million to restore Los Gatos Creek and the Guadalupe River in San Jose.

\$3 million to restore the Russian River in Sonoma County.

\$20 million for the Coastal Conservancy to help fund Bay Area wetlands restoration.

Climate Preparedness

According to State Senator Portantino, the Park Bond Bill will allocate \$443 million for climate adaptation and resilience and \$767 million for wildlife conservation and state conservancies. Much of this funding will protect and expand wildlife corridors, and will fund adaptation projects for fish and waterfowl and fire resiliency projects in the Sierras and Cascades. The Bay Area Conservancy Program's climate work will also receive funding from this category.

Passing Prop. 68 this June sends a powerful message to the nation about how much we value the environmental, economic, and quality of life benefits that our parks and natural resources provide for all Californians—now, and for many generations to come.

On June 5, vote YES on Prop. 68—the first parks and water bond on a statewide ballot in more than 10 years.

Fire-Resistant Materials Key to Rebuild



Karen Sommer is rebuilding her home on her property that burned in the Nuns fire Oct. 9, 2017. She and her husband, Stan, are using fire-resistant materials and paving the way for thinking differently about how to live in

harmony with nature.

Santa Rosa couple embraces fire-resistant materials to rebuild home destroyed in Nuns fire

BY SHOSHANA HEBSHI, REDWOOD CHAPTER COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

When Karen and Stan Sommer fled their home on Bennett Ridge in the early hours of Oct. 9, the flames were coming up from Annadel State Park, which borders the east end of their property. They grabbed some key items, and Karen remembers glancing at her prized artwork hanging on the walls and wishing there was room in her car to take the pieces. Stan grabbed the heirloom silver and his Leica cameras and they drove through the smoke and flying embers into Santa Rosa and safety.

They left the house they designed and built in 1973 not knowing if it would withstand the firestorm that was engulfing many parts of Santa Rosa, Kenwood and Sonoma Valley. But when they found out their house and everything in it had burned, Karen, a resourceful, level-headed retired interior designer, got straight to work on how to build a new home that

"Fire-Resistant Materials" continued on page 3

For more Redwood Chapter information:

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

Redwood Chapter Sierra Club Directory

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95402, Phone 544-7651, Fax 544-9861

Office Address: Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa (West off of Cleveland Ave., to the west of Hwy 101)

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.

Chair • At Large • Political Chair • RCC Delegate • Wilderness Chair		
Victoria Brandon*	994-1931	vbrandon@lakelive.info
Vice Chair • Solano Group Delegate to Chapter		
Joe Feller*	415-902-3395	joe56feller@gmail.com
Secretary		
Joan Dambros		joandambros@earthlink.net
Treasurer		
Jana Selph	829-5356	jselph@sonic.net
At Large • Legal Chair		
Keith Kaulum*	538-5569	kkaulum@sonic.net
At Large • Council of Club Leaders Alternate		
Rue Furch*	823-3555	pqrst@monitor.net
At Large • Conservation Chair • Council of Club Leaders Delegate		
Tom Roth*	632-5873	troth@monitor.net
At Large • Energy and Climate Chair		
Randal Stuart MacDonald*	391-0833	randal@whatcanbedone.com
Transportation Chair		
Steve Birdlebough	576-6632	affirm@friendshouse.org
Grazing Chair		
Felice Pace	954-6588	unofelice@gmail.com
Forestry Chair		
Jason Grant	536-5983	jason@jasongrantconsulting.com
Lake Group Delegate to Chapter		
Carolyn Ruttan*	295-0333	carolyn.ruttan@clerc.co
Lake Group Delegate Alternate		
Denise Rushing	560-1166	
Mendocino Group Delegate to Chapter		
Mary Walsh*	937-0572	bella@mcn.org
Mendocino Group Delegate Alternate		
Lorrie Lagasse	964-3011	lorrielas@yahoo.com
Napa Group Delegate to Chapter		
Nancy Tamarisk*	257-3121	napaquail@gmail.com
Napa Group Delegate Alternate		
Lisa Godfrey	731-9587	merichi@yahoo.com
North Group Delegate to Chapter		
Ned Forsyth*	826-2417	nedforsyth48@gmail.com
North Group Delegate Alternate		
Joyce Yowell	559-916-8575	jayowell@hotmail.com
Sonoma Group Delegate to Chapter		
Shirley Johnson-Foell*	206-1138	johnsonson@sonoma.edu
Sonoma Group Delegate Alternate		
	Vacant	
Solano Group Delegate Alternate		
	Vacant	
Administrative Staff • Publication Rep		
Tom Devlin	544-7651	tdevlin@sonic.net
Finance Committee		
Jana Selph	829-5356	jselph@sonic.net
Outings Chair • Outings Leadership Training		
Louis Vas	563-7100	lvas@sonic.net
Redwood Needles Editor		
Mary Davison	874-3704	odavison@sonic.net
Chapter Webmaster		
Melanie Matway		adastra7@hotmail.com
Chapter Communications Coordinator		
Shoshana Hebshi	415-350-7355	shoshana.hebshi@sierraclub.org

Lake County Group

P.O. Box 1686	560-1166	
Lakeport CA 95453		
Chair • Political • Chapter Delegate Alternate		
Denise Rushing*	560-1166	
denise@productfrog.com		
Vice Chair		
Ed Robey*	994-8304	
edrobey@wildblue.net		
Treasurer		
Cheri Kessner*	263-5787	
cherisierraclub@gmail.com		
Secretary		
Debra Sally*	995-2125	
enviracat1@gmail.com		
Outings Chair		
Steve Devoto	279-8308	
sdevoto@mchsi.com		
Conservation Chair • Newsletter Editor • Webmaster		
Victoria Brandon*	994-1931	
vbrandon@lakelive.info		
Chapter Delegate • Water Chair		
Carolyn Ruttan*	295-0333	
carolyn.ruttan@clerc.co		
Membership Chair		
Tricia Evans*		
tricialouevans@gmail.com		

Mendocino County Group

P.O. Box 522	937-0903	
Mendocino 95460		
Chair • Treasurer • Newsletter Editor • Membership • Chapter Delegate		
Mary Walsh*	937-0572	
bella@mcn.org		
Vice Chair • Coastal Trails • Coastal Committee		
Rixanne Wehren*	937-2709	
rixanne@mcn.org		
Secretary • Conservation Chair • State Forests		
Linda Perkins*	937-0903	
lperkins@mcn.org		
Corp. Accountability • Energy • Global Warming • Toxics Committee		
Bernie Macdonald*	937-4352	
omni@mcn.org		
Outings Chair		
Vacant		

Napa County Group

P.O. Box 5531, Napa 94581		
Chair • Treasurer • Political Chair		
Chris Benz*	252-7462	
christinabenz@gmail.com		
Vice Chair • Chapter Delegate		
Nancy Tamarisk*	257-3121	
napaquail@gmail.com		
Secretary		
Linda Gail Brown*	510-504-0226	
lindagailbrown@earthlink.net		
Conservation Chair		
Bill Dyer*	942-5502	
bill@dwyerwine.com		
Chapter Delegate Alternate		
Lisa Godfrey*	731-9587	
merichi@yahoo.com		
Web Master		
Nancy Tracy	ntracy@sbcglobal.net	
ExCom		
Karen Culler*		
cullerwines@aol.com		

* Executive Committee members

North Group

Box 238, Arcata 95518		
(Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity, western Siskiyou counties)		
Chair • Membership		
Gregg Gold*	826-3740	
gregggold@netscape.net		
Vice Chair • Politics • Transportation • Chapter Delegate		
Ned Forsyth*	826-2417	
nedforsyth48@gmail.com		
Secretary		
Open		
Conservation Chair		
Open		
Energy • Global Warming/CAFE • Webmaster/Computer		
Richard Kreis*	626-622-8148	
rgkreis@gmail.com		
Treasurer		
Sue Leskiw	442-5444	
sueleskiw1@gmail.com		
Newsletter • Agriculture • Water • Parks • Grazing • Publicity		
Felice Pace*	954-6588	
unofelice@gmail.com		
Outings Chair		
Vacant		

Solano County Group

Box 4717, Vallejo 94590	319-6398	
sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com		
Chair • Chapter Delegate • Political Co-Chair		
Joe Feller*	415-902-3395	
joe56feller@gmail.com		
Secretary • Website		
Quinton Crawford*		
Watershed Issues • Alt Chapter Delegate		
Doug Darling*	373-1766	
ddfsh4life@sbcglobal.net		
Treasurer • Recycling • Volunteer Coordinator		
Jane Bogner*	644-9183	
jabogner@outlook.com		
Newsletter Editor		
Greg Peterson*	864-8573	
gspeterson1@gmail.com		
Transportation		
Joe Green-Heffern*	408-216-9689	
bj.greenheffern@gmail.com		
Volunteer Coordinator		
Amy Hartman*	301-789-5981	
ahartman13@gmail.com		
Outings Chair		
Marilyn Farley	434-0316	
mjarley01@gmail.com		
Landuse		
Duane Kromm	588-7321	
dkkromm@gmail.com		

Sonoma County Group

Box 466, SR 95402	544-7651	
55A Ridgway Ave., Santa Rosa		
Executive Committee Members*		
Richard Sachen*	327-8298	
richard@rsachen.net		
Teri Shore*	575-3661	
tshore@greenbelt.org		
Theresa Ryan*		
Suzanne Doyle*	carsort@sbcglobal.net	
Shirley Johnson-Foell*	206-1138	
shirlgirl707@yahoo.com		
Co-Chair • Conservation Chair		
Suzanne Doyle*	carsort@sbcglobal.net	
Co-Chair		
Teri Shore*	575-3661	
tshore@greenbelt.org		
Office Coordinator • ExCom Secretary		
Tom Devlin	544-7651	
tdevlin@sonic.net		
Outings		
Vacant		
Transportation		
Steve Birdlebough	576-6632	
scbaffirm@gmail.com		
Parks & Trails • Backpacking		
Carol Vellutini	546-6308	
carolvsr@sonic.net		
Political Chair		
Keith Kaulum	538-5569	
kkaulum@sonic.net		
Membership Chair		
Vacant		
Treasurer		
Jana Selph	829-5356	
jselph@sonic.net		
Webmaster		
Melanie Matway		
adastra7@hotmail.com		
Volunteer Coordinator		
Diana Nasser	823-4293	
diananas@sonic.net		
Water Committee Chair		
Leonard L. Holt	527-7516	
lholt@sonic.net		
Climate & Energy Committee		
Shirley Johnson-Foell*	206-1138	
shirlgirl707@yahoo.com		



Redwood Chapter and all local Groups have a variety of volunteer opportunities. Visit www.sierraclub.org/redwood/ get-involved for details or contact vbrandon@lakelive.info

pitch a tent with someone you love



Redwood Needles

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Outings Chair:	e-mail: odavison@sonic.net
Louis Vas (707) 563-7100	P.O. Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95401
lvas@sonic.net	Ph 707-544-7651
Meetings Coordinator:	Fax 707-544-9861
Carl Inglin (707)538-8271	<i>Redwood Needles Deadlines</i>
chinglin@sonic.net	
Address Corrections:	Issue
address.changes@sierraclub.org	Deadline
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Redwood Chapter & Sonoma Group Office

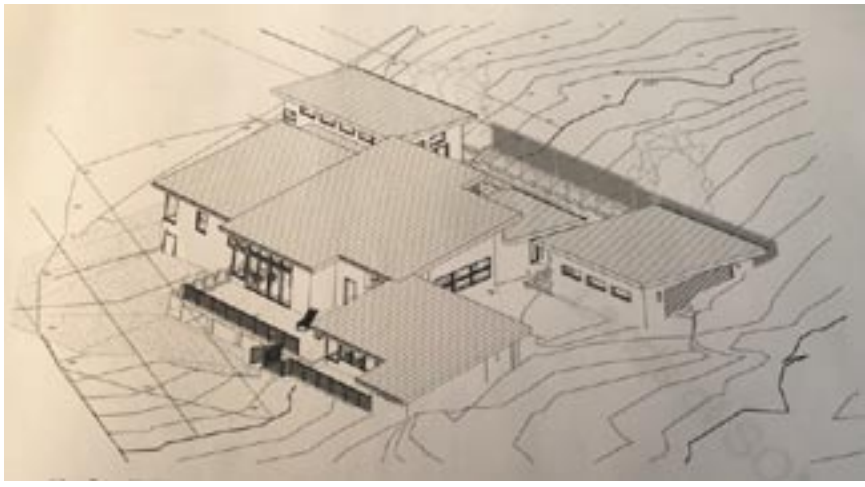
Location: Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Ave., Santa Rosa

The office is usually staffed Monday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.. Call ahead to confirm, 544-7651. The Office is also open during evening meetings (see listings on last page) and at other times when volunteers are present.

Redwood Chapter Online

Redwood Chapter Website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood>
for Group Websites, use www.redwood.sierraclub.org and add: /napa, /north, /sonoma, /lake, /mendocino, or /solano
Redwood Chapter Facebook:
www.facebook.com/SierraClubRedwoodChapter/

“Fire-Resistent Materials” continued from page 1



The Summers' Tri-D house plans.

would withstand the likelihood of another fire.

“This is an opportunity to put in everything that’s technically an advantage for us,” she said. “It’s an opportunity to make it right.”

Stan says the likelihood of another fire sweeping through the Ridge is high, as they live in what’s called the Wildland Urban Interface—unincorporated and largely undeveloped land in Sonoma County with high fire risk but where many homes have been built during the last 40 years. These homes face stricter building codes than regular subdivisions in cities, but the Sommers have taken these codes to new levels.

“No sticks,” Karen likes to say when referring to the building materials they are choosing. The couple has opted to employ a little-known building system called Tridipanel, which uses only wire, foam insulation and concrete to create solid structures that are fire resistant, quick to install and provide stellar insulation.

The Sommers’ architect, Sara Woodfield, suggested the Tri-D for their home, knowing the couple was keen on innovative building techniques.

“For 20 years I’ve worked with sustainable materials,” said Woodfield, who works in Santa Rosa with her firm Harrison Woodfield Architects. “I’ve done almost every single type of solid wall material, and I think this is the best there is because it’s just so easy to work with.”

The ease of the construction will keep labor costs down, and

though the Tri-D is more expensive than traditional materials, which because of the fire are at a higher demand than normal, Karen said the total cost may be equivalent to building a traditional house. Even so, Karen said they would not be able to build a traditional house because of the strict building codes for WUI homes.

The Tri-D panels will be manufactured in northern Mexico and shipped up. When they arrive, a crew will install them, then cement will be sprayed or troweled on both sides of the panels. Woodfield, who is currently working on a home in Carmel Valley being built from Tri-D, said it’s a well-engineered and well-thought-out system. “It’s amazing what you can do with this,” she said, adding it cuts down

about half the time of building a traditional house.

The Sommers’ house will include fire sprinklers, a metal roof, concrete floors with radiant heat, double-pane windows, steel framing, LED lighting, solar panels and iron fencing. The only wood used will be in the cabinetry. They will have ample cement outside on the patios to provide even more buffer from fire. Another couple on Bennett Ridge is using the Tri-D system, but most of the neighbors are sticking to more traditional techniques, yet using more fire-resistant material, such as concrete and metal.

Woodfield said since the fire, many people are desperate to rebuild, but she estimated only 20 percent are ready to build something different. There

are emotional traumas, insurance complications and people are moving away—all of which impedes this type of progress. “It’s a real important tipping point because all of a sudden the quality of the materials are what’s needed,” she said, adding that this fire will create new openings for people to try different materials like Tri-D and bring them into the mainstream. “We have a chance to really get good at this and hopefully do more,” she said. “It’s become clear that Sonoma County, Napa County, Lake County, that these wildfires come through, maybe it’s every 30 years, but that’s not very long when you think about rebuilding a house.”

“It’s our fear,” Stan said. “It could happen in two years, you don’t know.”

Yet, what the Sommers do know is the house they are building will stand up to whatever fire comes its way. They filed for a permit at the end of April and hope to begin construction in the summer.

“We’re building the safest house we can,” Karen said. “It makes so much sense to do this.”



The Sommers review plans and alternative materials for their home rebuild.

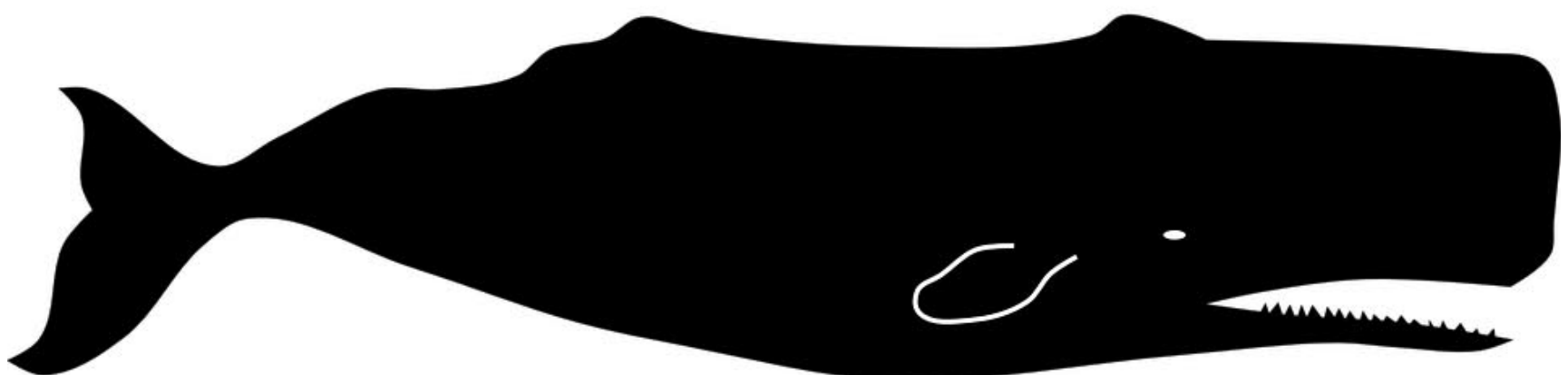
Visit

<https://www.sierraclub.org/redwood>

for the

June 5, 2018 Election

Sierra Club Endorsements



Outings

Sat. June 2 – Sonoma Group. Chanate Historical Walk.

This is the walk that was cancelled due to weather. Jeremy Nichols, local historian, will be our narrator. First we will tour the Bird Rescue Center as today is Open House. I hope to take a group photo by the mural. After snacks & talks by neighbors who evacuated during the fire, we will explore. Jeremy will take us to see the site of Santa Rosa's old community hospital and "WPA 1941" rock walls. Then going by the morgue we will walk on sidewalks and cross over to the other property being sold by Sonoma County off Chanate Rd. for building and demolition projects. This historic site has changed names but the last was Sutter hospital. Beautiful historic

colorful tiles decorate the building, but sadly much vandalism has taken place. Next we cross at the stoplight and go up a hill to the historical cemetery, and many historical buildings. We will then walk to the Paulin Creek Preserve (optional). This walk is on dirt trails with some hills. We will see the oak woodlands our tax dollars purchased, the old dam spillway with colorful graffiti art, the site of the old pond, walk part of the Water Agency Road and return to cars. We will be walking along paths with uneven surfaces and dirt trails so please wear appropriate footwear (please no wheelchairs or walkers). Class: E-2-A. Bring water and snacks. Meet 11 a.m. (off County Farm Drive) by Bird Rescue Center 3430 Chanate Rd.

Follow the one way loop road with the rock walls and park in the area to your left as you approach the top. Walk over to the Bird Rescue Center to meet leader and to sign in. Leader Carol Vellutini 546-6308 carolvsr@sonic.net.

Sun. Jun 3 - Lake Group. Anderson Marsh State Park-McVicar trail.

We will hike the mostly level McVicar trail to the picnic table or perhaps all the way to the sandy beach on Clear Lake. Bring water, snacks and hiking shoes. Class: M-7-A. Meet: 9 am at Anderson Marsh State Park, entrance off Hwy 53 between Lower Lake and City of Clearlake.

Will depart at 9:15. Parking \$4 per car unless you have a permit. Parking can be found on outside as well. Maximum 10. RSVP required to Leader Julie Kreis at 707-987-9040, tikaljak@yahoo.com

Sat. June 9 - North Group. 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, good hiking boots, and a hat. 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, 825-3652 message phone. Bad weather cancels.

Sun. June 10 - Lake Group. South Cow Mountain Eightmile Valley Meadow Restoration Hike.

Lake County Resource Conservation District ecologist Larry Ray will join us for a moderate three mile hike to view and learn about the Goats Rue Eradication and Sediment Reduction and Habitat Enhancement projects in Eightmile Valley at the headwaters of Scotts Creek. A collaborative partnership between the Scotts Valley Tribe of Pomo Indians, the BLM, and the Lake County RCD will reduce sediment transport to Clear Lake, stabilize and restore the streambed, and enhance habitat value of the degraded meadow and riparian ecosystem. Bring plenty of water, snacks/lunch, sun protection, and sturdy hiking shoes. Class M-3-B. Carpool from the Lake County Ag Department, 883 Lakeport Blvd. in Lakeport, at

8:00am, or meet at the ORV staging area at the top of Mill Creek Rd. off Talmage Rd. east of Ukiah at 9:00am. By reservation only. Leader Julie Kreis, 707 295 6773 or tikaljak@yahoo.com.

Sat. June 23 - Solano Group. Benicia Historic Walk.

Join a local historian on a walk along the shoreline of Benicia. The 2 mile walk begins at 9th Street Park and will head toward downtown through residential neighborhoods. Along the way pass local landmarks, learn more about the former industries that were located here and hear about Jack London's time spent in Benicia. The walk ends in downtown Benicia. Participants are welcome to check out the shops and restaurants in Benicia or walk back to 9th Street Park. Bring sturdy shoes, water, a hat, sunscreen and a snack. No pets. Rain cancels. Meet at the flagpole at 9th Street Park at 10:30, walk ends at 12:30. Class: 1-A. Preregister by June 20. RSVP to Doug Tracey dtracey@gmail.com or 925-366-9612.

Sat. June 23 - North Group. Russ Park's Lytel Ridge Trail Hike.

Climb switchbacks in Ferndale's "verdant wilderness park," through thickets of thimbleberry and passing scenic look-outs of the Eel River Valley, shady canyons filled with fern, and a pond in a Sitka spruce forest. We will lunch in a redwood, grand fir, and alder grove and then return passing through a eucalyptus grove. Wear long sleeves and pants because of poison oak and stinging nettles. Bring water and lunch. Friendly dogs OK on leash. Class M-1.5-A. Carpools: Meet at 10 a.m. at the Elk River Road/Herrick Park & Ride lot (off of Highway 101 South.) Leader Allison 268-8767. Rain cancels.

Sat. June 23 - Mendo Group. Peter Douglas Trail Lost Coast.

Hike to a fantastical grove of "candelabra" redwoods with

twisted massive limbs and along bluffs with sweeping ocean views of the Lost Coast. Learn about the unique redwoods, the efforts of the Save the Redwood League and Mendocino Trust to preserve them, and Peter Douglas the founder of the California Coastal commission. Join a group camping at Usal Beach after the hike if you like. Bring lunch, water, layered clothing. Carpools: Meet 10 am at Harvest Market, Fort Bragg. Class: M-4-A. By reservation only. Leader Yvonne Kramer, (707)463-0342, kramer@saber.net

Sat. July 14 - North Group. Redwood National Park Trillium and Lost Man Trails Hike.

Come and enjoy the redwoods in the summer! This hike passes a mossy waterfall and blooming trillium on the Trillium Trail and then continues up Lost Man Creek through old growth redwoods and maples before returning. Bring water and lunch. No dogs. Class M-10-A. Carpools: Meet 9:00 a.m. Valley West (Ray's Food Place) parking lot, or 9:30 a.m. trailhead Elk Meadow Day Use Area off Davison Rd. By reservation only. Leader Ned, nedforsyth48@gmail.com, 825-3652. Rain cancels.

Sat. July 21 - North Group. Guthrie Creek Dog Walk.

Bring your canine friend for a great walk on a trail south of Centerville Beach. While the walk is rated easy, the return from the beach follows an old ranch road with an elevation gain of 400 feet. Dogs will be required to stay on leash but will have the opportunity to run off leash and swim in the lagoon near the mouth of Guthrie Creek. There should be outstanding views north and south as the walk descends to the beach. Limited to 10 friendly dogs on leashes and their persons. Children welcome with parent. Class E-2-A. Carpools: Meet at 10 a.m. at the Elk River Road/Herrick Park & Ride lot (off of Highway 101 South.) Leader Allison 268-8767.

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 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: Louis Vas, Outings Chair, (lvas@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.



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Ratings for Outings Leaders: How fast or slow do you go?

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

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

Varies, see hike description for details: Jim Gannon Phil Kohlmetz Doug Tracey
Moderate-pace with few stops: Lorrie Lagasse Julie Kreis Paul Farley
Moderate-pace with more frequent stops: Carol Vellutini Yvonne Kramer Brian Collett
Jonah Freedman Steve Devoto Ned Forsyth Pete McGee
Slower-pace: Allison Bronkall Carl Inglin

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. 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 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.

Mon. June 4 - Sonoma Group.

Conservation Committee 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com
Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

Tues. June 12 - North Group ExCom.

All are welcome to discuss local conservation issues between 7:45 and 8:45 p.m. or come for the business meeting starting at 6:45 p.m. Meet at the Adorni Center Conference Room on the Eureka Waterfront. For more information, contact Gregg at (707) 826-3740.

Mon. July 2 - Sonoma Group.

Conservation Committee at 5:30 pm - 6:30 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

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

Mon. July 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.

Tues. July 10 - North Group ExCom.

All are welcome to discuss local conservation issues between 7:45 and 8:45 p.m. or come for the business meeting starting at 6:45 p.m. Meet at the Adorni Center Conference Room on the Eureka Waterfront. For more information, contact Gregg at (707) 826-3740.

Sat., July 21 - Redwood Chapter ExCom. And ConsCom.

Location: Super 8 hotel meeting room in Willits. Conservation Committee meets at 10 a.m., ExCom meets 1-3 p.m. at the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa, 55A Ridgway. Info: Victoria vbrandon@lakelive.info

Tues. July 17 - Napa Group ExCom.

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

Thurs. July 19 - Solano Group ExCom.

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

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.

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

Garden Volunteer Days: First Friday of the Month, 9am - noon. Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa. Enjoy our native plant garden! Volunteers are essential in beautifying our site. Share your expertise or learn new skills by getting involved today! http://lagunafoundation.org/volunteer_garden.html

Laguna Stewardship Days: Once a month on a Saturday from 9am - noon.

Details of the site location announced 2 weeks in advance of the workday (various sites along the Laguna) Help care for the Laguna and restore critical wildlife habitat! Joining the Laguna Stewards is a fun and meaningful way to volunteer while enjoying the outdoors.

http://lagunafoundation.org/volunteer_lagunastewards.html

Helping a Resilient Landscape Recover from Wildfire

The spring is always special here in northern California: green grass cloaks the hills, wildflowers burst forth in profusion, and returning birds set up housekeeping in every crevice. In many parts of Redwood Chapter the spring of 2018 has also included the opportunity to rejoice in the visible evidence of the recovery of our fire-adapted landscape from last October's conflagrations. So much that appeared dead is now bursting with renewed life, as long-dormant seeds spring forth, the roots of scorched chaparral plants sprout new growth, and many blackened trees that looked dead in the immediate aftermath of the fires demonstrate vigorous regeneration.

To help guide this process, the California Native Plant Society recently issued an invaluable comprehensive "Fire Recovery Guide" specific to our region, with contributions from photographers, ecologists, foresters and land managers throughout the area. Its primary message is clear: in most cases wildlands will make a faster and more ecologically appropriate recovery from fire if well-intentioned interference is kept to the minimal level needed to protect human health and safety.

For example, "reseeding" with the non-native grasses that make up the bulk of "erosion control" seed mixes is likely to introduce fast-growing invasive plants and increase fire hazards for the following summer; even seed mixes that consist of native plants can out-compete the seedbank in the soil that is released by fire and that in the long term will restore the land.

It's also usually a bad idea to yield to the

temptation to remove burned woody debris, since charred plant remains protect the landscape from wind and water erosion and help keep surviving plants and seeds moist. What looks like a mess is actually invaluable protection against rain and runoff. The goal with runoff is to slow and spread it to give the water a chance to sink into the soil rather than gully and increasing downstream flooding. Where the natural cover is inadequate, adding mulch is a great way to achieve this objective, as long as it is weed free. Wood chips and certified weed-free straw are good choices. On steep slopes, strategically placed straw wattles and branches can slow down the flow and filter out sediment.

Dead and structurally damaged trees near houses, roads and power lines pose a safety risk and must be removed, but others should be left alone for at least a few years. Many species—oaks in particular—will recover on their own, and even trees that are indeed dead help hold soil in place and provide habitat for many species. For example, more than 80 species of birds rely on dead trees as nesting sites and food sources.

Fire has played a crucial role in shaping this remarkable landscape over the millennia, and will continue to do so. Let's help, not hinder.

—VICTORIA BRANDON,
REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

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.



Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park, 2018 June 10-12; July 15-17; Aug. 19-21; Sept. 23-25; Oct. 21-23

Join us for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard tour of the enchanting Channel Islands. Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines, marvel at pristine waters teeming with frolicking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on unusual sea and land birds—and an occasional whale. Watch for the highly endangered island fox. Look for reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or, just relax at sea. All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. The cost, \$675, includes an assigned bunk and all meals, snacks, and beverages. A ranger/naturalist assigned by the national park will travel with us to help lead hikes, point out items of interest and give evening programs. Kayaking will be overseen by our concessionaire; all hikes will be on trails, class 1 terrain. This trip is a fundraiser to support the Sierra Club political program in California. To reserve space send a \$100 deposit, written to **California Sierra Club PAC** to Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. For more information contact leaders: Joan Jones Holtz: jholtzhl@aol.com; 626-443-0706. Wayne Vollaire: avollaire1@gmail.com; 909-327-6825.



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. We now offer some pet friendly cabins.

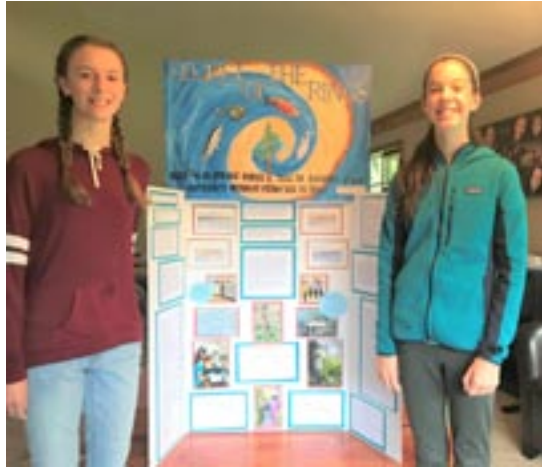
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OPERATES UNDER USFS PERMIT

North Group Report

Welcome Party!

The North Group Sierra Club will be hosting a new and continuing members welcome party on Wednesday, June 13 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Humboldt Bay Social Club, 900 New Navy Base Rd, Samoa. It is a fabulous location out on the Samoa Peninsula with fire pits, a clubroom with a no-host bar, local oysters available to purchase and other goodies you can roast on the provided barbecues. Music will be provided by Tyger Byle, a popular local string/country/bluegrass band. So, come and meet other local members and enjoy the start of summer! For questions and to RSVP contact Gregg



Anneli and Mathilde Macdonald, winners of the environmental issues category at the Humboldt County Science Fair.

Gold, greggold@aol.com, 707-826-3740. Hope to see you there!

Science Projects Receive Awards

By SUE LESKIW

For the 12th year, North Group sponsored an award for the best project relating to environmental issues at the annual Humboldt County Science Fair held in mid-March. (The projects were so competitive in 2018 that a second prize was given.)

The \$50 first-place award went to Anneli and Mathilde Macdonald, 8th graders at Jacoby Creek School. They investigated whether levels of a nitrogen isotope (15N) found in tree rings (by decade) of a Sitka spruce near Freshwater Creek could be correlated with

populations of past salmon runs in that creek. Anneli and Mathilde hypothesized that as fish numbers have decreased over the past 40 years, the marine-derived nitrogen in spruce would decline also. When salmon smolts go to the ocean, they eat organisms that contain concentrated 15N. When adults return to their home creek to spawn, they die and decompose into the river or its bank. Plants take nitrogen from the soil; thus, marine-derived nitrogen from the salmon is used by trees near the water. The girls found a strong (correlation coefficient of 0.69) between the spruce within 25 meters of the creek and past salmon runs, whereas another spruce 200 meters away from the creek had almost no correlation (coefficient 0.006). Thus, the 15N in tree cores could be used to roughly estimate past salmon populations in a creek. [The twins also won first place from North Group in 2017 for a project on how log jams affected macroinvertebrates in Freshwater Creek.]

A \$25 second-place prize was awarded to Samantha Gaiera, an 8th grader at Sunny Brae Middle School. She investigated the question: how does ocean acidification affect copepod mortality? Samantha thought that survivorship would decrease as pH decreased and tested it by infusing carbon dioxide (CO₂) into jars of sea water containing copepods. She used a species that can survive extreme environmental changes, so if that organism was affected, "implications for less resilient species are a cause for concern" (plus copepods are the base of the marine food chain). Survivorship in the control samples was 100%, compared to 63% in the test samples. [An interesting sidebar to her experiment was that her grandfather's Master's thesis studied how salinity and temperature affect copepods!]

Both projects were among the only 16 selected to represent Humboldt County in the state science fair competition held in late April.



Samantha Gaiera, 2nd place Science Fair winner.

Lake Group Report

As this edition of the Needles was going to press, Lake Group was taking a deep breath after tabling in no fewer than three Earth Day events, and about to embark on several new directions.

Next meeting "Going Solar with Confidence"

Our May 16 general membership meeting will feature a seminar by local entrepreneur Carol Cole-Lewis on how to save money on your electric bill and add thousands of dollars of value to your home, how to distinguish between different kinds of solar systems and find out if your home qualifies for solar, and gain the confidence needed to interview prospective solar providers. We're hoping that this information will encourage local residents to become participants in a green renewable energy future.

"Chasing Coral" May 18

Then two days later we are partnering with the Unitarian Universalist Church and the Soper Reese Community Theatre to co-sponsor a screening of the acclaimed 2017 eco-documentary "Chasing Coral." This film offers a breathtakingly beautiful look at some of the Earth's most incredible natural wonders, while delivering a sobering warning about their uncertain future. Put together by a team of scientists and filmmakers who must overcome technical malfunctions and the forces of nature, this award-winning movie presents the story of the underwater world with powerful photography, nail-biting suspense and startling emotion. After the film climate Chapter Climate and Energy committee chair Randy MacDonald will offer a 10 minute slide show on climate change, with facilitated discussion about how to take individual action to forestall looming global catastrophe.

Annual Lake Group Midsummer BBQ

The Group has also scheduled our annual midsummer BBQ, to be held on July 27 for the first time at Dancing Tree People farm in Upper Lake, and is also planning our first all-day strategy-setting retreat in a number of years, with the specific objective of deciding on climate-energy priorities.

Berryessa Snow Mountain Planning

As was reported nearly 18 months ago, a well-attended National Monument stakeholder workshop was held in Davis on January 20, 2017 (ironically enough, inauguration day), but the ill-conceived "review" of BSM and other monuments delayed implementation. Now plans for management plan development are finally moving forward, starting with a series of Recreation, Volunteerism and Stewardship Workshops intended to:

- Engage stakeholders in a collaborative discussion.
- Share expertise and lessons learned from previous volunteer efforts.
- Learn more about agency processes and requirements for projects that rely on volunteer support.
- Create successful partnerships.

One of these workshops will be held on May 18 in Upper Lake, and Lake Group is looking forward to participating.

— VICTORIA BRANDON, LAKE GROUP CONSERVATION CHAIR

Earth Day 2018 Around the Redwood Chapter



Clockwise from the left:

- Redwood Chapter Chair Victoria Brandon distributing Douglas Fir seedlings at Woodland College, Clearlake on April 19
- Lake Group ExCom member Carolyn Ruttan gave away more seedlings at Middletown Rancheria's festival on April 23
- Napa's Vintage High School Sierra Club created a video showcasing breathtaking aerial views of Napa's wild and open spaces and showed it during Earth Day Celebration on April 22
- Solano Group activists Doug Darling and Jane Bogner at the Vallejo Farmers Market on Earth Day



Solano Breeze Corner

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

Please attend the Solano Group meetings, usually on the first Monday of each month. Our next dates are: June 4, July 2, August 6, 2018. To confirm location, call Jane at 707-319-6398

VALCORE Recycling and Paper Shredding updates:

Solano Group helps out with paper shredding every 3rd Saturday each month at 38 Sheridan Street, Vallejo from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There is a charge of \$.50 per pound (CASH or CHECK ONLY) of paper shredded. (Maximum: 100 pounds) WEEKDAY SHREDDING from 10 am to 4 pm, closed 1 pm to 2 pm for lunch (CREDIT OR DEBIT ONLY).

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

Vote YES on Proposition 68

By AMY HARTMAN, SOLANO GROUP EXCOM

“With the challenges faced by our parks, open space and water resources, a vote for Proposition 68 will protect our valuable water resources while also improving the state’s parks and open spaces.” – Solano Sierra Club, Endorsement of Prop. 68

The Solano Sierra Club has endorsed Proposition 68—the California Clean Water and Safe Parks Act. Prop. 68 is a general obligation bond that invests \$4.1 billion in the coming years to address some of California’s most important water, park, and natural resource needs.

The state legislature passed the California Clean Water & Parks Act (SB5) that authorized this vote last year. Now, every Californian voter will have the opportunity to support Prop. 68 on Election Day: June 5, 2018. We urge you to VOTE

YES on Prop. 68.

How Does Proposition 68 Help Solano County?

Each of the seven cities in Solano County—Vallejo, Benicia, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun City, Dixon, and Vacaville—receives \$200,000 to invest in water, park, and natural resource needs.

In Solano County Prop. 68 provides at least \$400,000 for parks projects—guaranteed.

Solano County and each of the seven cities are eligible for over \$1 billion in competitive grants for projects and organizations such as: urban greening and restoration projects, the Solano Land Trust, the Pacific Flyway Center, other nature centers in Solano County, a Solano County Regional Park and Open Space District, and safe parks for underserved communities.

Prop. 68 will fuel economic development by creating an estimated 50,000 new labor jobs statewide for infrastructure projects.

“Of the \$4.1 billion total, the bond provides \$1.3 billion for parks and recreation projects, most of which would be used to build or improve local parks. Among the many provisions of Proposition 68 each Solano County city will receive a minimum of \$200,000, and Solano County is guaranteed at least \$400,000 for parks projects. This money can be used for deferred maintenance and/or new parks and water projects. Proposition 68 also designates \$218 million to repair and improve State parks desperate for money to pay for deferred maintenance.” Bob Berman, Benicia Resident and Supporter of Prop. 68

Follow and support the online campaign. Share the following links with your friends.

Website: <https://yes68ca.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Yes68CA/>

Twitter page: @Yes68CA

–CONTRIBUTOR: JANE BOGNER

EDITOR: GREG PETERSON



With your help we can protect the wolf

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

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Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

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Napa Group Report

The Sierra Club has endorsed Napa’s Measures C and D

Measure C: This complex initiative would extend additional protections to our woodlands. The initiative process is not ideal. However, after more than a decade of advocating within the system, we have reached the conclusion that the influence of the wine industry on the Board of Supervisors is so pervasive, that the initiative process is the only recourse to prevent irretrievable damage to the Napa River watershed.

Measure D: would prohibit private helipads in the county. The necessity for this initiative was manifested by the application by the Palmaz family for a helipad. It is foreseeable that such applications will proliferate, and that the effect on quality of life for residents of Napa Valley will be negative. Arguments by the “No on D” proponents that Measure D will prohibit PG & E from replacing electrical transmission lines, or prevent medical copters from rescuing the critically ill are out and out false.

Walt Ranch Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Lawsuit

Our lawsuits were denied at the local level. Our attorneys think that we have a better chance at the appellate level, since those judges have more CEQA experience. All of the other litigants: the Center for Biological Diversity, Circle Oaks Water District and Homes Association, and Living Rivers Council, have decided to appeal the decision. At press time, appealing was under review by the Sierra Club.

Reward for High School Environmental Video

We were joined at our Earth Day booth by Vintage High School Sierra Club members, who created a kids’ beanbag toss game. The students also created a video including drone footage of their hike to Rector Reservoir. We awarded them a \$100 prize for their beautiful film. We will post it to our website.

Keep Informed on Napa Environmental Activities!

Get our monthly e-newsletter, by contacting us at scnapapam@gmail.com, and follow Napa Group on Facebook.

–NANCY TAMARISK, NAPA VICE CHAIR

Help Wanted: Redwood Chapter Seeks Chapter Director

Redwood Chapter is looking for a half-time Chapter Director to strengthen our conservation programs, fundraising, volunteer development and member services.

Working closely with volunteer leaders, this talented individual will identify chapter needs and recruit volunteers to fill them, train and oversee membership coordinators at the chapter and group level who can welcome new members and work with the Chapter Treasurer on fundraising strategy, including efforts to bring fundraising components to events and outreach efforts. Strong communications and computer skills are essential, and a passion for protecting the planet.

This half-time job will be based in Sonoma County though some telecommuting may be possible, and is expected to last about six months, with an extension also possible.

A full job description and link to the application form is available on the Club Careers website, <https://www.sierraclub.org/careers>. Chapter Chair Victoria Brandon is also glad to answer questions: feel free to call her at 707 994 1931 or to send an email to vbrandon@lakelive.info.

Mendocino Group Report

We applaud the recent Louisiana Court ruling by District Judge Alvin Turner, Jr. that the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources failed to follow state guidelines when it issued a Coastal use permit to Energy Transfer Partners’ subsidiary Bayou Bridge Pipeline, LLC. This project intends to connect the Dakota Access Pipeline to export terminals. The pipeline purportedly transfers a million barrels of crude oil daily across 700 bodies of water and has potential serious impacts for the Saint James Parish, an historic predominately black community located at the end of the pipeline. The judge ruled that these potential impacts were not considered.

The Mendocino Group has been contacted by the Surfrider Foundation as regards its Straws Suck Campaign. We are beginning an educational campaign regarding the single use plastic drinking straw. About 20 billion kg of plastic end up in the ocean each day. It takes maybe 200 years for plastic straws to break down into tiny toxic particles. We encourage everyone to just say no to plastic straws. A healthy ocean is a strategy for surviving climate change. Everyone needs to work on it.

We have sent out a questionnaire to candidates for supervisor. There are a lot of them. We will be publicizing the answers.

The Group continues to follow the process for determining if the Regional Park owned by the Mendocino Coast Recreation and Parks Department will be turned into an Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Park. The Park is located 2 miles east of Fort Bragg on a 586 acre parcel comprised of mainly Mendocino Cypress Woodlands also known as Pygmy Forest. This rare plant community has been reduced to 1480 acres -in the whole world!- and 20% of those precious remaining acres is located on this one parcel. This area is also the headwaters of Neuman Gulch, a source for Fort Bragg drinking water. The rare species - Bolander Pine, Fort Bragg Manzanita and Northern Bishop Pine - have not been adequately addressed in environmental documents to date. In fact, the whole process started with the use of an erroneous Categorical Exemption and is continuing with the development of a “Programmatic EIR” rather than the usual EIR. The draft programmatic EIR is expected to be released in the first part of July. The Mendocino Group advocates for a complete EIR before any work is done and objects to an OHV Park in a wetland especially one that drains into Neuman Gulch and the Noyo River.

Stay tuned.

–MARY WALSH, RIXANNE WEHREN AND LINDA PERKINS, MENDOCINO GROUP EXCOM

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Sierra Club Endorsements

State Measures:

YES on Prop 68
CA Drought, Water, Parks,
Climate, Coastal Protection
and Outdoor Access for All Act

No on Prop 70
Greenhouse Gas
Reduction Reserve Fund

Local Measures: Napa County

YES on Measure C
Watershed and Oak
Woodland Protection Initiative

YES on Measure D
Disallows the use of
Personal Heliports

Please Vote on June 5th

**Visit <https://www.sierraclub.org/redwood> for the
June 5, 2018 Election Sierra Club Endorsements**



Great Redwood Trail Proposed from San Francisco Bay to Eureka

State Sen. Mike McGuire is carrying a bill to create a 300-mile-long Great Redwood Trail using much of the defunct Northwestern Pacific Railroad right-of-way north of Willits through California's North Coast and ancient redwoods.

The bill (SB 1029) has been given bipartisan "do pass" recommendations in the state Legislature in its initial policy committees hearings. If enacted, the planning and transition process could begin in 2019.

SB 1029 would give the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit agency responsibility for freight operations on its existing tracks and dissolve the North Coast Railroad Authority, which now provides freight rail service. North of Willits, the existing rail right-of-way would be transferred temporarily to Caltrans, while a new agency is established with the goal of creating a world-class trail to connect the San Francisco Bay and Eureka.

The trail would connect with state parks and local trails, creating a way for outdoor enthusiasts to traverse some of our most scenic landscapes. There could also be rail service along with a trail north of Eureka.

Financing is yet to be determined. The Legislature has until August to work out the details of the bill.

— STEVE BIRDLEBOUGH, REDWOOD CHAPTER TRANSPORTATION CHAIR