

Redwood Needles



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 55 Number 5

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

October/Nov. 2014

Celebrating Wilderness 50 Around the Redwood Chapter



VISIONS OF THE WILD: A REPORT FROM THE FIELD

BY VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR



Amynoel Coughran and Linda Brown chatting with Saturday's large and lively crowd.

In early September Redwood Chapter was delighted to be able to take an active part in Visions of the Wild, a vibrant four-day festival hosted by the U.S. Forest Service as part of nationwide celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the federal Wilderness Act. Held near the San Francisco Bay waterfront in downtown Vallejo, the festival included art exhibits, woodcraft demonstrations, speakers, film screenings, music, and field trips.

With assistance from Nancy Tamarisk and Linda Brown from Napa Group and Amynoel Coughran and Joe Feller from Solano Group as well as national Sierra Club Wilderness

50 Anniversary chair Vicky Hoover and San Francisco Bay Chapter Wilderness 50 coordinator Anne Henny, Redwood Chapter staffed a booth at Vallejo's Pocket Park on Friday September 5 and Saturday September 6—see photos! We also sponsored a panel discussion on invasive plants in wilderness, with participation from the Solano Land Trust, California Invasive Plant Council, East Lake Resource Conservation District, and Tuleyome. Besides all that, Napa Group Chair Marc Pandone was one of the artists whose work was exhibited at the Vallejo Maritime and Historical Museum as part of this event.

Nationwide Wilderness 50 celebrations will continue until the end of 2014. For more information, visit www.wilderness50th.org.



Vicky Hoover recruiting the youngest environmentalist of the day.



NAPA COUNTY CELEBRATES WILDERNESS 50

On August 18 Napa County became the fourth in Redwood Chapter to issue a formal proclamation celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the landmark federal Wilderness Act. Napa Group Chair Marc Pandone holds a framed certificate from the Board of Supervisors, accompanied by executive committee members Isabelle St-Guily, Phill Blake, Nancy Tamarisk, Linda Brown, and Christine Benz.



NORTH GROUP 50TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

North Group Sierra Club was founded in 1964, the same year as the Wilderness Act was passed. We will be celebrating these two milestones at a members-only reception on Thursday, November 6. The event will be held at the Humboldt Area Foundation on Indianola Cutoff between Eureka and Arcata from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Join us to reminisce about the five decades of conservation work that North Group members have performed on the North Coast. Space is limited to the first 60 people that RSVP to sueleskiw@suddenlink.net or 707-442-5444 before November 3. Be sure to give the name(s) of the attendees and their drink preference (beer, white wine, red wine, apple cider).



WILDERNESS GUIDEBOOK AVAILABLE

As mentioned previously, to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the landmark federal Wilderness Act, Redwood Chapter has published a Guidebook to the 21 officially designated wildernesses in our territory. Copies are available at the Environmental Center (55A Ridgway) in Santa Rosa and at Watershed Books (304 N. Main) in Lakeport for a suggested donation of \$5, and may also be ordered by mail by sending a \$6 check (to cover postage and handling) made out to Sierra Club Redwood Chapter to Victoria Brandon, 15995 Lucy Circle, Lower Lake CA 95457.

Russian River Documentary to Preview in September

A new feature-length documentary, *The Russian River: All Rivers—The Value of an American Watershed*, is scheduled to preview in Sonoma County in late September and various venues in the coming months.

This exciting film takes a lyrical look at the river itself, and portrays its complex, often unfortunate history with a theme of industry "boom and bust." In doing so, it conveys a story common to rivers everywhere. The film is also a call to action, bringing together information and commentary that can be an invaluable tool for further environmental action, especially during this time of drought.

The Russian River: All Rivers includes interviews with renowned water activist and author, Maude Barlow; Jim Lichatowich, author of *Salmon Without Rivers*; Don McEnhill, Executive Director of Russian Riverkeeper; David Keller, Bay Area Director of Friends of the Eel River, legendary



environmentalist Marty Griffin and other key stakeholders from the agricultural, governmental and environmental communities.

Redwood Chapter is proud to have been able to offer a financial subsidy to this enterprise, which dovetails perfectly with many of the Sierra Club's ongoing conservation campaigns on the North Coast. We're also hoping to sponsor a showing in Santa Rosa this fall or winter—please stay tuned!

This film was created by filmmakers living in the Russian River watershed. For more information, including ways that individuals can help, please visit their website: <http://russianriverallrivers.com>

Please Vote on Nov. 4th

BY VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER POLITICAL CHAIR

As the November 4, 2014 election approaches, Sierra Club activists have been engaged in the painstaking task of identifying the best candidates in local races such as county supervisor and city councilor. The results of these grassroots contests often have momentous consequences, with the question coming down to this: do we want to foster the best qualities of the North Coast—abundant open space, towering forests, free-running rivers, charming, friendly small towns with a rural atmosphere—or do we want to become like the rest of California?

We think the choices are clear, and that the election of candidates endorsed by the Sierra Club offers the best hope of making those choices wisely. So please examine the endorsement list on the back page of

this newsletter, and give your vote to the individuals named there that appear on your ballot. 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 November, and action by Club members can potentially tip that balance.

The Club has officially taken a "no position" stance on Proposition 1, the California Water Bond. "No position" does not in any way imply "no opinion": please see the detailed explanation on page 3 in this newsletter for the reasons behind our action.

Other local endorsements were in progress as this issue of the Needles went to press. The names of additional endorsed candidates will be posted to <http://redwood.sierraclub.org/Committees/Political/> as they are approved.

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 • CCL Delegate		
Victoria Brandon*	994-1931	vbrandon@lakelive.info
Vice Chair • Lake Group Delegate to Chapter		
Ed Robey*	994-8304	edrobey@wildblue.net
Secretary		
Jill Hunter		redwoodjill@comcast.net
Treasurer		
Tom Davis	963-4466	tom@napavalleycps.com
At Large • Legal Chair • Council of Club Leaders Alternate		
Keith Kaulum*	538-5569	kkaulum@sonic.net
At Large • Conservation Committee Chair • Public Land • At Large		
Diane Beck*	445-2690	dfbeck@northcoast.com
At Large		
Leonard L. Holt*	527-7516	lholt@sonic.net
At Large		
Rue Furch*	823-3555	pqrst@monitor.net
At Large		
Daniel Myers*	895-3887	dmyers@pacific.net
Lake Group Delegate Alternate		
Win Stiles	262-1242	win@w_s.com
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		
Chris Benz	252-7462	christinabenz@gmail.com
North Group Delegate to Chapter		
Ned Forsythe	826 2417	nedforsyth48@gmail.com
North Group Delegate Alternate		
Joyce Yowell	559-916-8575	jayowell@hotmail.com
Sonoma Group Delegate to Chapter		
Steve Birdlebough*	576-6632	affirm@friendshouse.org
Sonoma Group Delegate Alternate		
Dan Kerbein	535-0326	dkerbein@sonic.net
Solano Group Delegate to Chapter		
Joe Feller		joe@americantelecomwest.com
Solano Group Delegate Alternate		
Open		
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		
Carol Vellutini	546-6308	carolvsr@sonic.net
Redwood Needles Editor		
Mary Davison	874-3704	odavison@sonic.net
Chapter Webmaster		
Melanie Matway		adastra7@hotmail.com

Lake County Group

P.O. Box 27	994-8304
Lakeport CA 95453	
Chair • Chapter Delegate • Political Chair	
Ed Robey*	994-8304
edrobey@wildblue.net	
Vice Chair	
Cheri Holden*	263-5787
cherisierclub@gmail.com	
Secretary • Chapter Delegate Alternate	
Win Stiles*	262-1242
win@w-s.com	
Treasurer	
Julie Kreis	987-9040
tikaljak@yahoo	
Outings Chair	
Steve Devoto	279-8308
sdevoto@mchsi.com	
Conservation Chair • Newsletter Editor • Webmaster	
Victoria Brandon*	994-1931
vbrandon@lakelive.info	
ExCom	
Caroyn Ruttan*	295-0333
caninoridge@digitalpath.net	

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	
Webmaster	
Dave Jordan	884-3426
scmendoweb@gmail.com	

Napa County Group

Box 644, Napa 94559	
Chair	
Marc Pandone*	966-1902
mpandone@att.net	
Vice Chair • Chapter Delegate	
Nancy Tamarisk*	257-3121
napaquail@gmail.com	
Secretary	
Linda Gail Brown*	510-504-0226
lindagailbrown@earthlink.net	
Treasurer	
Tom Davis	320-3802
tom@bdcocpa.com	
Conservation Chair	
Phil Blake*	297-0379
philblake@sbcglobal.net	
Political Chair	
Carol Kunze*	966-5211
carol@tuleyome.org	
Web Master	
Nancy Tracy	ntracy@sbcglobal.net
Membership Chair • Outings Chair	
Isabelle Saint-Guily*	izstguily@gmail.com
Chapter Alternate	
Chris Benz *	252-7462
christinabenz@gmail.com	

Classified Ads

Women's Trips to the National Parks! 5 days/4 nites-daily guided hikes. Visit sierrasisters.net or Janet 707-874-2126.

North Group

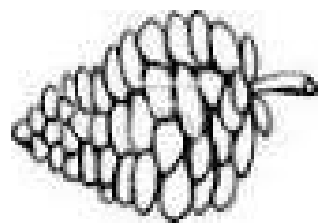
Box 238, Arcata 95518	
(Del Norte, Humboldt, W. Siskiyou, and parts of Trinity County)	
Chair	
Gregg Gold*	826-3740
greggjgold@netscape.net	
Vice Chair • Publicity • Transportation • Chapter Delegate	
Ned Forsyth*	826-2417
nedforsyth48@gmail.com	
Secretary • Membership Chair • Chapter Delegate Alternate	
Joyce Yowell*	559-916-8575
jayowell@hotmail.com	
Conservation Chair • Chapter Delegate • Marine	
Diane Beck*	445-2690
dfbeck@northcoast.com	
Energy • Global Warming/CAFE	
Richard Kreis*	626-622-8148
rgkreis@gmail.com	
Treasurer • Education Chair	
Sue Leskiw	442-5444
sueleskiw@suddenlink.net	
Newsletter • Agriculture • Water • Parks • Grazing	
Felice Pace*	954-6588
unofelice@gmail.com	
Wilderness	
Lynn Ryan	lynnr8@gmail.com
Webmaster • Computer	
Nick Vogel	nicholasvogel@gmail.com

Solano Group

Box 4717, Vallejo 94590	553-1653
sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com	
Chair • Wild Lands • Genetic Engineering	
Jim Dekloe*	864-3123
JIMDEKLOE@aol.com	
Vice Chair • Political Chair	
Open	
ExCom	
Amynoel Coughran*	amynoelcoughran@yahoo.com
Outings	
Open	
Co-Membership	
Kitty Powell*	642-3477
kitty1.mom@gmail.com	
Newsletter Editor	
Greg Peterson*	864-8573
gspeterson1@gmail.com	
Secretary • Chapter Delegate	
Joe Feller*	415-902-3395
joe@americantelecomwest.com	
Treasurer • Fundraising • Recycling • Newsletter • Volunteer Coordinator	
Jane Bogner*	644-9183
jabogner@juno.com	

Sonoma County Group

Box 466, SR 95402	544-7651
55A Ridgway Ave., Santa Rosa	
Executive Committee Members*	
Steve Birdlebough*	576-6632
affirm@friendshouse.org	
Richard Sachen*	327-8298
richard@rsachen.net	
Jessica Jones*	696-1963
rotishot@gmail.com	
Dan Kerbein*	535-0326
dkerbein@sonic.net	
Suzanne Doyle*	carsort@sbcglobal.net
Shirley Johnson-Foell*	206-1138
shirlgirl707@yahoo.com	
Chair	
Dan Kerbein*	535-0326
dkerbein@sonic.net	
Administrative Chair • Sierra Student Coalition:	
Jessica Jones*	696-1963
rotishot@gmail.com	
Conservation Chair	
Suzanne Doyle	carsort@sbcglobal.net
Office Coordinator • ExCom Secretary	
Tom Devlin	544-7651
tdevlin@sonic.net	
Outings	
Open	
Parks & Trails • Backpacking	
Carol Vellutini	546-6308
carolvsr@sonic.net	
Political Chair	
Keith Kaulum	538-5569
kkaulum@sonic.net	
Membership Chair	
Open	
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 Needles

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club of California

Editorial Board:		\$6.00 per year. Requests: Redwood Needles Subscriptions, P.O. Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95402
Mary Walsh, Becky Frank, Sue Leskiw, Diane Beck, Victoria Brandon		
Editor:		The <i>Redwood Needles</i> is published six times a year on recycled paper using soy-based ink.
Mary Davison (707) 874-3704	odavison@sonic.net	Circulation: 7,400
Advertising Manager:		An additional 505 newsletters are distributed electronically
Holly Oppenheimer (707) 544-7651	hollyoppen@gmail.com	Printing: Healdsburg Printing, Inc.
Classifieds: \$5/10 words. Send check and ad copy by the 8th of the month.		Submit articles by deadline via e-mail mail or fax to:
Outings Chair:		<i>Redwood Needles</i>
Carol Vellutini (707) 546-6308	carolvsr@sonic.net	e-mail: odavison@sonic.net
Meetings Coordinator:		P.O. Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95401
Carl Inglin (707) 538-8271	chinglin@sonic.net	Ph 707-544-7651
Address Corrections:		Fax 707-544-9861
address.changes@sierraclub.org		<i>Redwood Needles Deadlines</i>
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 (415) 977-5653		Issue
Non-member Subscriptions:		Deadline
		Aug./Sept. July 8
		Oct./Nov. Sept. 8
		Dec./Feb. Nov. 4

Redwood Chapter & Sonoma Group Office

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

The Office is staffed most weekday afternoons. Call ahead to confirm, 544-7651. The Office is also open during evening meetings (see listings on last page) and at other times when volunteers are present.

Redwood Chapter Online

Redwood Chapter Website: <http://www.redwood.sierraclub.org>
for Group Websites, add:

/napa, /north, /sonoma, /lake, /mendocino, or /solano

Sequoia Paddlers: groups.yahoo.com/group/sequoiapaddlers

Redwood Chapter Blog: sierraclubredwoodchapter.wordpress.com

Redwood Chapter Facebook:

www.facebook.com/SierraClubRedwoodChapter

Redwood Chapter Blog:
sierraclubredwoodchapter.wordpress.com

Check us out on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/SierraClubRedwoodChapter

Statements of 2014 Sierra Club Endorsed Candidates

State Senate

Mike McGuire, District 2



I want to thank the Sierra Club for the endorsement of our grassroots campaign for State Senate. As a Sonoma County Supervisor, I've been privileged to work closely with local members on a variety of issues and I'm grateful for their invaluable input and guidance. I'm honored by the Sierra Club's support and I'm

excited to start working on the state issues that the Sierra Club and our current Senator, Noreen Evans, have championed for many years.

The beautiful Second Senate District runs from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Oregon border comprising 40% of California's coastline, and includes both Lake and Trinity counties. I will be the voice of the coast in Sacramento, and I fully recognize that the coast must be protected for future generations.

As your state senator, I will work tirelessly to pass legislation to ban fracking in California.

As a founding member of the Regional Climate Protection Authority and Sonoma Clean Power, I know there is no greater environmental concern facing California than climate change. I will continue to be outspoken on this important issue and ensure California is a national leader on proactive climate change and GHG reduction policy.

Water and drought related issues will be at the top of my agenda for action in the Senate, and I will strongly support comprehensive conservation measures and a complete review of water supply.

Together, we'll continue to oppose the Delta Tunnel proposal which will cost taxpayers billions, impose irreversible environmental damage to the Delta and only add to Los Angeles' ability to sprawl.

The Second Senate District is home to more state parks than any other district in the entire State of California, and we must re-open these public lands and get residents back into their parks.

I will always continue my long practice of proactive engagement with the Sierra Club on all of these issues and truly appreciate your support over the many years we've worked together.

State Assembly

Jim Wood, District 2



Jim Wood is running for the 2nd Assembly District, which includes Del Norte, Trinity, Humboldt and Mendocino Counties, plus northern and coastal Sonoma County.

We need proven leadership in Sacramento. Jim served on the

Healdsburg Planning Commission for four years and was elected to the City Council in 2006. Currently serving his second term as Mayor he focuses on environmental protection, increasing energy efficiency, conserving water, and expanding Healdsburg's renewable energy portfolio.

Jim co-founded the Healdsburg Green City Committee to implement green building principles, increasing water conservation standards, and expanding energy efficiency rebate and education programs. Healdsburg is a member of the Northern California Power Agency and has the highest renewable power of any city in Sonoma County and committed to grow green power for the community. As Chair of the Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency he is focusing on waste diversion and composting. Jim worked with Sonoma County Supervisor Mike McGuire and the Sonoma County Agriculture and Open Space District to preserve 288 acres on Fitch Mountain as public-access open space within city limits. During this historic drought, Healdsburg has taken a leadership role in the region in efforts to conserve water.

Jim is also active in state and national health care causes. He serves on the Board of Advisors for the Pediatric Dental Initiative, a dental surgery center for children with severe dental problems. He is a nationally recognized expert in forensic dentistry.

In the State Assembly he will continue to fight for natural resource protection, greater access to quality healthcare, job creation, and education. Jim is proud to have earned the support of Congressmen Jared Huffman and Mike Thompson, State Senator Noreen Evans and Assemblymember Wesley Chesbro. Jim would be honored to have your support for State Assembly.

Why Sierra Club California Takes a "No Position" on Prop. 1: The Water Bond

The \$7.5 billion Water Bond (Prop 1 on the November ballot) passed the legislature with near-unanimous votes and has been signed by the Governor.

Sierra Club California does not normally take a neutral or "no position" on major ballot measures that have an environmental impact. However, in this case, a "no position" stance is the only feasible position for the Club to take at this time.

This "no position" stance on the water bond is not intended to muzzle our voices on this important issue. We encourage all our members to engage in the debate. The "no position" on Prop 1 will allow staff and volunteers to freely discuss and acknowledge the benefits in the bond, while also pointing out the major concerns we have about the large portion of the bond money that could potentially be used to build one or more dams in the State. The Club is not, however, urging either a "yes" or a "no" vote on Prop 1.

We Support the Good Programs in the Water Bond

There are some very substantial environmental benefits outlined in the bonds. These include about \$1.3 billion for watershed restoration, \$810 million for regional water management, storm water management, and efficiency, \$900 million for groundwater treatment, planning, and management. We strongly support these conservation and restoration programs. The bond will allocate more than \$500 million to ensure safe drinking water for low income disadvantaged communities in the southern San Joaquin Valley, and provide funding to clean up groundwater pollution in the Los Angeles basin.

But We Hate the Dam Funding in the Bond

Sierra Club California cannot support Proposition 1 despite our support for certain aspects of the bond, because it also appropriates more than one-third of the total bond package—or \$2.7 billion—to storage projects, including three projects Sierra Club has opposed: to raise Shasta Dam, and to build two new dams, one off-stream using Sacramento River water at Sites in Colusa County, and one on the San Joaquin River at Temperance Flat. These projects could be enabled by the bond, depending upon how the Brown Administration chooses to interpret the language as the bond is implemented.

We recognize that the final bond package has many positive elements for Californians and our state's natural areas. But spending \$2.7 billion—more than one-third—of the \$7.5 billion bond funds on an old-school, unsustainable approach to water management just doesn't make sense.

Redwood Needles

December Deadline: Due Nov. 4

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

Betty Yee: The Right Choice for State Controller

The race for State Controller is shaping up to be one of the most exciting and hotly contested this November. While the office can tend to fly under the radar, there are several key reasons that environmentalists should be excited to have the opportunity to elect a true environmental champion to this position. Betty Yee, currently a member of the State Board of Equalization, is prepared from day one to tackle Climate Change. Yee knows Climate Change is the overarching environmental problem of our time, and will, for instance, promote clean and renewable energy standards for public works projects throughout California.

Furthermore, she will use her office to alert public officials around the state that climate disruption is not only an environmental disaster, but also a disaster that will cost taxpayers a lot of money. As Controller, Yee will have a seat on the State Lands Commission, giving her an opportunity to address uncontrolled fracking, water conservation, landfill waste and recycling, and income inequality.

Sierra Club urges you to vote for the only candidate who has promised not to accept campaign contributions from oil companies: Betty Yee.

—AMANDA WALLNER AND MATT WILLIAMS

Kit Carson Lodge

Are You Looking For Winter Lodging Away From The Maddening Crowds of Lake Tahoe and Ski Resorts?

Come to Polar Bear Cottage. The back country and Silver Lake are right outside your front door where you can play in the snow, cross-country ski or snowshoe.

You are at the edge of the wilderness, isolated from the bigway, yet minutes away from Kirkwood ski resort and 45 minutes away from South Lake Tahoe.

Polar Bear Cottage, Rustic elegance for up to 6 persons

phone: (209) 258-8500 • www.KitCarsonLodge.com

Statements of 2014 Sierra Club Endorsed Candidates

Sonoma County 4th District Supervisor



Deb Fudge

Deb Fudge is an experienced leader and environmental advocate who will work to protect and preserve our natural resources on the Board of Supervisors. As the fourth generation of her family to live in Sonoma County, Deb knows that our natural resources, farmland and open spaces are what set our community apart, and she is committed to protecting this unique environment. That's why Deb has spent the past two decades here in Sonoma County, working to transform Windsor from a sprawl model of development to

an award-winning, transit-oriented, smart growth town.

Deb has been active on the Russian River Watershed Cleanup Board for 25 years. As a Windsor Town Councilmember since 1996, and Windsor's only 5-time Mayor, she worked to implement a 20-year voter mandated urban growth boundary around Windsor to protect adjacent farmland. Deb was also instrumental in the creation of California's first Pay As You Save program— an award-winning water conservation pilot program working to fight our historic drought conditions. Deb worked with the first citizens' group to start forming what is now Sonoma Clean Power, and helped Windsor become the first city to sign on to the clean power agency. She has also served on the SMART Board for the past nine years, working to bring the SMART train to Sonoma County to reduce traffic, cut pollution, and create a greener county and thousands of local jobs.

Deb is a change agent— always looking ahead to make Sonoma County a model of innovative environmental protection. On the Board of Supervisors, she will continue to preserve and protect our natural resources, while planning for a smarter future of conservation in Sonoma County.



Petaluma City Council Teresa Barrett

I am extremely honored to have the endorsement of the Sonoma County Chapter of the Sierra Club. Both as a councilmember and as a past member of the Petaluma Planning Commission, I have voted to promote long-term values of sustainability in every project. I will continue to make projects better and support those that promote the principles of smart growth, respect our Urban Growth Boundary, and are supported by existing infrastructure.

I currently serve as a Director of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), representing the cities of Sonoma County. BAAQMD is a leader in promoting strict standards to eliminate air pollution throughout the nine Bay Area counties. As a Director, I also serve on the Climate Protection and the Public Outreach Committees.

In addition, my eight-year tenure on the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) allows me to focus on well-planned growth and promote sustainable, efficient government in Sonoma County.

I am proud to have once again earned an A/A environmental "report card" from Sonoma County Conservation Action (SCCA). Being endorsed a third time by this organization and receiving the SCCA's Upstream Swimmer award (2013) are among my distinct honors.

Working hard to grow our community in a thoughtful and sustainable way that provides a good place to live, to work and to play is my goal. Together we can continue to achieve those goals, distinguishing the Redwood Empire as an environmental leader.

Sebastopol City Council Sarah Glade Gurney



I want to protect Sebastopol's future. I intend to:

- Adopt a new General Plan;
- Encourage in-fill development;
- Reduce traffic congestion;
- Improve pedestrian and bicycle safety;
- Enlarge our Laguna Preserve;
- Strengthen our local economy;
- Unite Main Street and The Barlow;
- Support local arts, music, film and theater.

We have much to preserve— our small town character, history, natural resources, experience of community.

We have key opportunities to pursue— city-centered in-fill development, multi-storied mixed uses and smaller-scale housing.

We must address challenges that degrade our quality of life— traffic, pedestrian and bicycle safety, noise, and uncertainty about water.

We must work together to write a new General Plan to protect our town.

We need new ways to build affordable housing. Our aging population and expensive housing compel alternative approaches to traditional single-family ownership. Some choices: housing of 700-1000 square feet for people entering the housing market and elders downsizing, located within walking distance of downtown or transit; smaller living spaces with communal dining rooms and kitchens; single-family homes with multi-tenant occupancy.

We must market our businesses to promote loyalty so folks keep sales tax dollars here. To those within a 1-2 hour range, we could market ourselves as the ideal small town we are.

I support the renewal of our Urban Growth Boundary.

I support Measure M because I want a robust public library, including Monday hours. The most visited public building and "our community living room," our Library provides service that cannot be obtained anywhere else. It is key to democracy.

I support Measure R, to modernize the Utility Tax structure, lower the tax rate from 4% to 3.75%, and provide a low-income exemption.



Mayor of Petaluma David Glass

As Mayor of Petaluma, I am honored to once again be endorsed by the Sierra Club. The choice in the Mayor's race is clear.

I also received the endorsement of Sonoma County Conservation Action, am a past recipient of the Up Stream Swimmer Award (given annually to the elected official in Sonoma County who has been effective against long odds in fighting for the environment) and have the endorsement of Congressman Jared Huffman.

My record reflects one of leadership to implement smart growth, transit oriented development within our Urban Growth Boundary.

I have been instrumental in achieving the use of recycled waste water for irrigation which has allowed Petaluma to conserve potable water for human consumption. With the effects of climate change we need to conserve resources rather than flagrant consumption to provide for our future.

Petaluma's transit oriented development model will enable us to grow our economy and create affordable housing options in an ecological manner as we strive to continue to enhance our community in a pedestrian friendly manner.

We do not have to choose between the economy and the environment. The city's economic strategic plan calls for re-populating existing buildings and retaining existing businesses. As a retired municipal securities principal with two four year terms as your Mayor I am the best choice to lead us into a better future for you and our children.

I greatly appreciate the Sierra Club's continued support and endorsement and look forward to continue to work on your behalf.

Thank you for your vote for re-election.

Statements of 2014 Sierra Club Endorsed Candidates

Santa Rosa City Council

Lee Pierce



Santa Rosa is a special place to live. We are a city with a strong sense of community that prides itself on a shared set of core values.

I am running for City Council to further these values and make Santa Rosa safer, more just, more economically prosperous, and

more environmentally sustainable.

For my part, I know what it takes to bring people with diverse political and philosophical beliefs together for a common purpose. I had the privilege of serving on the Santa Rosa City Council from 2004 to 2008, acting as Vice Mayor from 2006 to 2007. During that time, I worked alongside fellow environmental advocates and Councilmembers: Steve Rabinowitsh, Veronica Jacobi, and Former Mayor Susan Gorin.

While on the Santa Rosa City Council, I made it a priority to listen to you. I fought to deliver real results that positively shaped our city, including:

- Established a Green Building Program
- Tightened and expanded the city's no-smoking ordinance
- Voted to establish countywide goals for reduction of greenhouse gases (GHG) to 25% below 1990 levels
- Opened the Prince Memorial Greenway.

If elected to the Council, one of my top priorities will be to promote environmental sustainability and work to implement a Zero Waste policy in Santa Rosa. As the current Government Affairs Manager for a local recycling business, Global Materials Recovery Services, I know how important it is to work with both businesses and environmental groups to increase access to recycling and composting in the County of Sonoma.

Together, I know we can bring responsive and effective government to Santa Rosa!

Lee Pierce www.PierceforCityCouncil.com

Curtis Byrd



We need less conflict, and greater cooperation on the Santa Rosa City Council. Our community needs a peacemaker, and problem solver.

The life-long lessons learned from Little League, Cub and Boy Scouts, my high school and college education, competing on a National Track and Field team, business experience with small

and large companies, Fellow Class 2011 of the Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy and serving on the Santa Rosa Planning Commission support my qualifications to serve on the Santa Rosa City Council.

As a native Santa Rosan, those qualifications include:

- Preparation means studying the rules and understanding the culture of the community in its historical, institutional and environmental framework.
- Practice means individually, and as a team member, continued development of my skills, and belief in the highest values and intent to serve; and
- Performing to the best and highest within me and making a meaningful difference for the team (community).

Along the way, the most important lessons were learned within family, particularly Grandpa Gilbert Gray who required Sunday school and teaching about giving, sharing, service, and excellence.

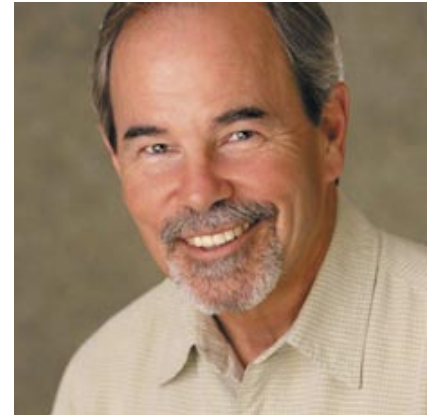
I understand the diverse needs of Santa Rosa and commit to the work that lies ahead and I will follow through with the courage of my convictions to make tough budget decisions to create sustainable living wage jobs, improve our roads, and support our parks!

Join with Neighborhood Leaders, Clergy, seniors, Santa Rosa teachers, North Bay Labor Council, Sonoma County Democratic Party, and numerous elected officials, in supporting an experienced leader with new ideas and A Fresh Vision of Leadership.

Together we can Make a Difference!

www.votebyrd.com

Chris Coursey



Santa Rosa's city government has lost its way. I will bring new leadership to help get our city back on track.

Since 1980, when I started as a reporter with

the Press Democrat, I have been deeply involved with our community's institutions and its neighborhoods, its people and their concerns. As a news columnist who offered strong opinions that often challenged the status quo, I was open to diverse arguments and respectful of other perspectives – even if I didn't agree with them.

I have a record of working cooperatively toward a common community goal. As a senior staffer for the SMART Rail Project, I helped maintain a broad coalition of interest groups and elected officials who didn't always agree with each other, but who worked together to create a transportation system that will do lasting good for our region's environment, economy and quality of life.

That is my goal on the Council: to make our city a better place for every resident to live, work, play and retire.

I'm proud to be endorsed by hundreds of our neighbors who care about Santa Rosa, including many of our community's top elected officials. For a complete list, visit www.chris4santarosa.com.

I ask for your vote.

Sierra Club Volunteer/Activist Opportunities

Sonoma Group Hike Leaders: Sonoma Group outings leaders training. Always a need for more leaders for outings. If you would like a training, please email Tiffany at tiffany.macneil@sonic.net or call 696-3387 for info. People are requesting families with children, camping and easy hikes.

Work with the Sonoma Group Water Committee! Help conserve water and develop ideas to best use our scarce water resources. Come to our meetings at the Environmental Center at 7:00 PM on the third Wednesday of most months. The Water Committee develops and promotes measures to conserve, save, and reuse our water resources. Our goal is to preserve and improve the natural water environment, by promoting the responsible use of water and the safe reuse or disposal of our wastewaters. Help protect the quality of our water for people, wild life, fish and other aquatic life. Check for our meeting dates in the Needles. To get on our Water Committee e-mail list, e-mail Len Holt at lholt@sonic.net. If you are not able to attend our meetings, you may e-mail Len Holt with your concerns and ideas.

Get CHARGED by attending the Climate & Energy Committee. Join us on the 1st of the month at 5:00-5:45 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 Shirley Johnson-Foell Climate & Energy Committee Forum-Chair. Email: Shirlgirl707@Yahoo.com, home 206-1138, or call office 433-7651.

Pacific Coast SunTrail™ Route

Electric Vehicle Charging for the Pacific Coast

The First EV Charger Network to use

100% renewable Energy

Chargers are Open at 4th and B street,

Point Reyes Station

If you wish your bequest to be used locally, be sure to specify

"Sierra Club Redwood Chapter" or the name of your local Group in your bequest.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Preserve the Future

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering Sierra Club in your will. There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

Sierra Club
Gift Planning Program
85 Second St, Second Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
gift_planning@sierraclub.org • (800) 932-4270

Outings

Sun. Oct. 12 - Lake Group. Glen Eden Trail to Goat Rock Hike.

Hike in the North Cow Mountain Recreation Area with mostly steep, chaparral-covered slopes with scattered stands of fir, pine and oak. Trailhead on Scotts Valley Road 8 miles from Hwy 29. Bring lots of water, lunch & sturdy shoes. Class H-8-B. Carpools: meet 8:00 am Lower Lake Coffee Co. on Main Street, off junction of Hwy 29 & 53 or 9:00 am Glen Eden Trail head. By reservation only. Leader Julie Kreis 707-987-9040 or 707-671-5947. Rain cancels.

Sun. Oct 12 - Mendo Group. Stornetta Lands and California Coastal Nat'l Monument Walk.

Spend a day leisurely walking through the newest acquisition to our public lands. Investigate tide pools, sheer cliffs where cormorants raise their young, flat lands and forested areas, and even a research facility (from afar). This will be a day of wandering (there are no trails) through this special place, with no specific goal other than pleasing our senses and giving thanks to the Stornetta Family. Bring layered clothing per season, rain gear, hiking boots, water, lunch, snacks. Meet: 10am at the access point on Lighthouse Road just where it bends north toward the Point Arena Lighthouse. Call/email for carpool info. The leader will be spending Sat. night at the Manchester State

Campground and invites interested parties to join him there. Class E-4-A. By reservation only. Jonah Freedman 467-877 jonahfreedman@sbcglobal.net. Rain cancels.

Sat. Oct. 18 - Lake Group. Pope to Putah trail Hike.

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

Sat.-Sun. Oct. 18-19 - 3rd Saturday-Sunday Benson Hut Work Party.

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. Oct. 19 - Mendo Group. Abhayagiri Monastery hike.

Abhayagiri Monastery in Redwood Valley, Calif. is again providing our group with a tour led by one of the monks. An information/question session, a tour of the grounds, and a hike up the beautiful hillside behind the monastery where the monks live awaits participants. The hike, though only 2 miles, is quite steep with many stairs and a narrow, rocky trail. Class: M-2-A. Bring water and suitable layered clothing per season. Carpools: Meet 11:45 Raley's Parking lot, Ukiah, in front of O'Reilly Auto Parts or 12:30 the monastery parking lot, 16201 Tomki Road, Redwood Valley. Directions: Take Hwy 101 north from Ukiah, West St. exit. Continue north on West St until it ends at Tomki Road. Left on Tomki about 5 miles to monastery on right. By reservation only. Limited to 25 participants. Reserve early as trip filled last year. Leader Jonah Freedman 4671877 jonahfreedman@sbcglobal.net Rain cancels.

Thurs. Oct. 23 - North Group. Prairie Creek State Park Hike West Ridge-Prairie Creek Loop Hike.

Towering ridge forest and stout creek-side giants; a rippling creek overhung by autumn maples! From the Visitor Center, West Ridge Trail rises steadily up to the ridge, then winds moderately northwards to Zig-Zag#1 connector, descending to Prairie Creek Trail. Return in 2.5 idyllic, level miles to our start. Bring lunch, water, hiking gear. No dogs. Class: M-6-A. Carpools: Meet 9:15 am SW corner Arcata Community Sports Center (101/Samoa exit) 10:30 am Prairie Creek Visitor Center. Leader Melinda 668-4275. Rain cancels.

Sun. Oct. 26 - Lake Group. Cowboy Camp Loop Hike.

Enjoy rolling oak woodlands, chaparral and beautiful vistas. Bring water & lunch. Class: M-9.4-B. Carpools: Meet 8:00 am Lower Lake Coffee Co. on Main Street, off junction of Hwy 29 & 53. Meet 9:00 am at Cowboy Camp Trail head, from Clearlake Oaks, go east on State Hwy 20, about 28 miles to Hwy 16 intersection, Travel south on Highway 16 for 1 mile. Parking lot is on the right. By reservation only. Leader Julie Kreis 707-987-9040 or 707-671-5947. Rain cancels.

Thurs.-Sat. Oct. 30 - Nov. 1 - Death Valley Wilderness Restoration.

Join us in restoring wilderness values in this remote and beautiful National Park. The main project involves cleaning up the debris from a marijuana grow site on Friday. We will gather early Thursday afternoon and work on an as-yet-undecided project in the Valley before heading to our campsite. Trip requires four wheel drive to get to the

work site. Camping will be primitive - bring everything you need, including water. Group size limited. Leader: Kate Allen, kj.allen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056. CNRCC Desert Committee.



Fri.-Sun. Oct. 31 - Nov. 9 - DESERT WILDERNESS CELEBRATIONS.

Join the Sierra Club's California/Nevada Wilderness Committee in a series of gatherings to celebrate the anniversaries of the Wilderness Act (50th) and the CA Desert Protection Act (20th). Starting the evening of Oct 31, joining NPS's "Mojave Fest" Nov 1, heading Nov 2 to Mecca Hills Wilderness and continuing as a moving campout in honor of both anniversaries. Ending at the Nov 8-9 Desert Committee in Saddleback Butte State Park. Attend one or both weekends plus any in-between time you can; for details as they develop; see www.caldesert20.org or contact Vicky Hoover: vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org, 415-977-5527; Judy Anderson, anderson-judith@att.net, 818-248-0402; or Pat Flanagan, patflanagan29@gmail.com. CNRCC Wilderness Committee.

Sun. Nov. 2 - Sonoma Group. Annadel State Park Hike.

We'll do a loop through the eastern part of Annadel, using Steves S, Richardson, South Burma, Marsh and Two Quarry Trails, with a lunch stop at Buick Meadow. Bring lunch, liquids, good hiking shoes. Dress in layers for autumn weather. Class M-7.5-B. (7.5 miles, a bit over 1,000 ft. elevation gain). There is a day use fee at the Richardson trailhead. Carpool: Meet: 9:45 Cobblestone Trailhead (on Channel Drive outside of park) or 10am Richardson Trailhead, end of Channel Drive. Leader Carl Inglin 538-8271 or chinglin@sonic.net Rain cancels.

Sun. Nov. 9 - North Group. Horse Mountain Botanical Area trails Hike.

Two loop trails, each just over 2 miles, mostly on dirt roads: one to the west of our parking area, past the old "Ski Chalet" site, with views of the King Range, the Siskiyou, and the coast, and another loop to the north and east among rugged Jeffrey pines, red rocks, and a short stretch of cobblestone-strewn single track, looking at the Trinity Alps, the Yolla Bollys, and maybe a peek at Mt. Lassen. Bring lunch, water and good boots. No dogs. Class M-5-A. Carpools: Meet 9 am Valley West (Ray's) Shopping Center, 10 am Horse Mtn. parking area. Leader Ned nedforsyth48@gmail.com or 825-3652. Heavy rain cancels.

Sat. Nov. 15 - Lake Group. Mount St. Helena Hike.

Hike switchbacks about 20 minutes through fir woods up to a dirt road which leads to the top of St.

Helena Mountain. On a clear day see spectacular views, including much of the San Francisco Bay area, view mountain ranges in a 360 degree panorama including Mt. Shasta! Bring water, Lunch, binoculars & snacks. Class M-10-C. Carpool: 9 am in front of Middletown Mugshots coffee shop on corner of Hwy 29 & 175 or 10 am at Robert Louis Stevenson Park - parking lot. By reservation only. Leader Julie 707-987-9040 or 707-671-5947. Rain cancels.

Sat.-Sun. Nov. 15-16 - Explore and Serve in the Carrizo Plains.

Pronghorn antelope will not jump fences to escape predators but rather attempt to crawl under. Our service on Saturday will either remove or modify several sections of fence to facilitate this mobility. Sunday will be, at the choice of the group, either a hike in the Caliente Range or else a tour of popular viewing areas in the plains. This is an opportunity to combine carcamping, day-hiking, exploring, and service in a relatively unknown wilderness. Leader: Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, (310-477-6670) CNRCC Desert Committee

Sun. Nov. 30 - Lake Group. Town of Silverado Hike.

Hike to and through the town site of Silverado which lies within Robert Louis Stevenson State Park on Mt. St. Helena. No buildings remain from the mining town that was home to over 1,000 but the 1960 restoration of the area for tourism left several buildings and the layout of the old mining town is still intact. Fruit trees and other ornamentals date back to the early 1900's. We will walk past one mine tunnel and perhaps continue to the feature known as the Turk's Head which lies on the ridge dividing Napa and Alexander Valleys. Bring water and snacks. Class E-2-A Meet 8:30 a.m. at the RLS parking area on the east side of highway 29. By reservation only. Leader Pete McGee at 942 1373 or Montesol@hughes.net

Mon.- Fri. Dec. 29, 2014-Jan. 2, 2015 - Holiday Service in the Carrizo Plain.

Once again we return to the Carrizo Plain to celebrate the end of the year and to offer service to the pronghorn antelope in this National Monument. Lying between Bakersfield and San Luis Obispo, this vast grassland is home to pronghorn antelope, tule elk, kit fox, and a wide variety of birds. A welcome hike Dec. 29, two and a half days of service modifying barbed wire fencing, and a full day for hiking and exploring are planned. Use of accommodations at one of the old ranch houses is included. Limited to 12 participants, \$30 covers four dinners and breakfast on New Year's morning. For more information, contact leader: Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, (310-477-6670)

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 Isabelle Saint-Guily

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

Moderate-pace with few stops: Don Anderson Tiffany MacNeil Boone Lodge Lorrie Lagasse Julie Kreis

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

Slower-pace: Allison Bronkall



AUTUMN: Peter Rowan Songwriting Retreat, Halloween Party, Laurie Lewis Band Sessions, Yoga Jambalaya Thanksgiving & NOLS Outdoor Medicine Institute Classes
Like us on Facebook, see our News Blog
on YosemiteBug.com or call 866.826.7108 for more

HAUL IT PORTABLE BIKES

BIKE PARTNERS.NET 855-483-3732

We DELIVER to renters or buyers

Folding & Packable bikes for EVERY purpose
Bike Friday Haul-a-Day Cargo Bike

Sales . Rentals . Service
Visit our NEW Shop & Tour Center at 512 Wilson Street, Santa Rosa in Railroad Square



HIKING THE JOHN MUIR TRAIL 2014: RAIN, SNOW AND FIRE

BY TERI SHORE

I was half way up Pinchot Pass when it got bad. The morning sky had started dark with clouds. Soon serious rain began to pour down. Then, cold wind and hail. Thunder and lightning spooked me as I climbed up, up, up toward the hulking red peaks and steel skies. And now, snow.

It was my Day 14 on the John Muir Trail when a snowstorm hit at about 7:30 a.m. below the 12,130-foot mountain pass. I crouched down next to a boulder and tree for safety, deliberating what to do next: Turn back, sit it out, or keep going.



Crossing Pinchot Pass in surprise sunrise snowstorm.

Everyone backpacking the John Muir Trail in the High Sierra this summer got deluged by rain and hail. Monsoon-driven rainstorms dumped far more than the usual afternoon showers over the Sierra Nevada. The snow falling at sunrise took most of us by surprise.

Thankfully, three other wet and cold hikers came up behind me. I asked to hike with them and we chanced it to the top. The snow, wind and cold followed us up and over. After two hours of mayhem, we dropped down below tree line and the sun came out. We made hot water and warmed up. Turns out that anyone on a high pass that morning got pelted—and survived. But the bad weather sent many folks home.

After leading Sierra Club backpacks for nearly 20 years, I decided to finally through-hike the JMT this year in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. The JMT travels through three magnificent wilderness areas: Yosemite, Ansel Adams and John Muir. Before the trip, I raised about \$1,500 to split between trip costs and wilderness protection, specifically to help pass a new federal bill to expand wilderness areas in California. I plan to deliver a check to the Sierra Club at the wilderness conference in Albuquerque in October.

I took 21 days to cover 185 miles of the 211-mile JMT starting in Tuolumne Meadows on July 7 and summiting Mt. Whitney on July 27. I'd say that about 50 percent of the hikers I met planned to finish the trail in 14 to 17 days; another 25 percent were taking three weeks; and the rest up to a month or in sections.

My pack weighed about 30 to 35 pounds with food and water. I ate lots of oatmeal, Krave jerky and string cheese, and instant mashed potatoes. My food drops were at Red Meadows and John Muir Ranch, and I paid a packer to carry in my last resupply over Kearsarge Pass. Like most people, I lost my appetite due to the altitude and had to force myself to eat chocolate and nut butter that I usually wolfed down.

I don't have any bear stories, but one family told me that bears ripped open three of their packs at the bottom of Half Dome. My Pinchot Pass friends said that one night a bear slashed a hole in a pack to get at a fishing rod reel that still smelled of fish. All were able to duct-tape the damage and finish the JMT.

I was impressed to see so many solo women hikers like myself out on the trail. We all seemed to get the same questions before we left, such as, "Won't you be scared?" and "What happens if you get hurt?" and even "Are you carrying a gun?" We all agreed that we felt safer on the JMT than walking downtown anywhere. For me, the evenings alone in camp were far too long, so I started hiking later each day or camped with others.

After the terrifying snowstorm on Pinchot, I started worrying about 13,152-foot Forester Pass. A couple from Quebec helped me get over. However, we spotted smoke as we approached the pass. Hikers coming down said they saw trees going up in flames. First snow, now fire! Concerned, we continued to get above tree line where, at least in theory, there was no fuel for a fire to burn. Amazingly, within an hour, a state fire department helicopter showed up to check out the fire. Eventually, the small blaze died down, though we could smell smoke during the night.



On top of Forester Pass, 13,153 feet elevation, the last before Mt. Whitney.

In the morning, we climbed three hours to get to the top, where we said goodbye and I went on toward Mt. Whitney and home.

See Teri's photos, trail journal and JMT links at <https://johnmuirtrail2014rainandfire.shutterfly.com/>

Teri Shore is an avid backpacker and wilderness advocate who has led Sierra Club backpack trips for the San Francisco Bay Chapter Backpack Section since 1996. She adores Yosemite, the Sierra Nevada and Trinity Alps. She has climbed Mt. Shasta and many non-technical Sierra peaks over 9,000 feet including Mt. Conness, Mt. Dana, and Mt. Hoffman. She has also completed long treks in Australia, New Zealand and Canada.



Starting the John Muir Trail from Tuolumne Meadows (Dog Lake Trailhead).

Outings Chair Report

A big thank you goes out to all the outing leaders who were involved in Wilderness 50. It is important to draw attention to our wilderness protection system. We now have protection for more than 109 million acres of wild lands. What would we do without an invaluable set of base lines for



Another great work party at Benson Hut! Leader: Jim Gannon.

showing us what healthy systems look like? As you go on hikes or backpacks remember those who helped protect these wild lands. Sierra Club backpacker Teri Shore shares her 21 days as a solo backpacker on the John Muir Trail. This was Teri's tribute to Wilderness 50. See her story just to the left of this report. Thank you Teri!!!

Benson Hut high in the Sierra has been maintained by the Redwood Chapter. We always need volunteers to help out. Jim Gannon, current hut work party leader, reports that the spring is still

running. I was concerned that with the drought, perhaps it had stopped running. The spring is down a steep ravine and is the only reliable water source for miles. Hikers on the Pacific Crest trail also use it. Jim reports that the wood room is 90+% full. Volunteers cut dead wood up into pieces that are hauled up the hill. The wood stove is a popular gathering spot after going through snow and ice. Please see the photo of the last work party.

Ned Forsyth will lead his 1st outing on November 9th. Please join him to show support for our new leader. Congratulations, Ned.

—CAROL VELLUTINI,
REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR

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.

Deepening Honeybee Crisis and Our Food Supply

BY SIERRA CLUB'S GENETIC ENGINEERING ACTION TEAM (GEAT)

What is the Hoopla about Honeybees?

When people think of honeybees, honey comes to mind. Most people are not aware that honeybees are a major pollinator for crops that produce one third of American food, including over 140 fruits, vegetables, seeds and nuts. Yet honeybee populations are in significant decline.

What is the Science Behind the Dwindling Honeybee Populations?

There is a strong body of scientific peer reviewed papers linking the honeybee demise to a widely-used class of neurotoxic pesticides called neonicotinoids ("neonics" for short). This new class of pesticides has been registered for use since the early 1990's. Commonly used neonics are imidacloprid, clothianidin, thiamethoxam (and others).

Traditionally, pesticides are applied directly to the soil or plant. In 2005, Monsanto received patents to "coat" their proprietary genetically manipulated seeds with neonics, primarily manufactured by Syngenta and Bayer.

Since 2005, seed treatments became the new norm, in order to protect emerging seedlings from pests. These neonic coated seeds are encapsulated with a material which releases the pesticide slowly. (www.i-sis.org.uk/requiemForTheHoneybee.php; www.i-sis.org.uk/SmartStaxCornCorporateWarOnBees.php; www.i-sis.org.uk/MysteryOfDisappearingHoneybees.php)

Neonics are systemic pesticides that are taken up through roots and leaves and distributed throughout the entire plant, including pollen and nectar. They are even present in the tiny drops of fluid which form on the plant's surface. Neonics are slow to break down. They contaminate surface water, ground water, and soil. The entire food chain becomes contaminated.

Neonics endanger not only pollinators, but also other beneficial species that inhabit these ecosystems, such as butterflies, earthworms and birds. Many are calling this critical situation the next Silent Spring.

Neonics are used extensively as seed dressings on corn,

soy, sunflower, canola, as well as on horticultural crops. Most conventional corn seeds and virtually all genetically manipulated corn seeds are now treated with a neonic seed treatment. Corn is grown not only for human consumption, but also to feed animals raised in livestock factories and feedlots and to drive our cars.

What is Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)?

The surge in seed treatments coincided closely with the crash in honeybee populations. In 2006, David Hackenberg, former president of the American Beekeeping Federation, and other beekeepers discovered their foraging bees left the colony in search of pollen and nectar but did not come back, which is highly unusual for a social insect to leave a queen and its brood or young behind.

This finding of neurobehavioral disruption is a significant distinction of Colony Collapse Disorder. Other responses include disruptions in bee mobility, navigation, feeding behavior, foraging activity, memory and learning, and overall hive activity. Neonics also impair the bee's immune system, leaving it much more susceptible to attacks by parasitic fungi and other disease agents.

Exposure to neonics has both lethal and sublethal effects on honeybees. Lethal effects occur when bees die within a few hours from exposure to a high dose. Sublethal effects, measured at very low doses in parts per billion or even parts per trillion, result in various harmful symptoms. (www.purdue.edu/newsroom/research/2012/120111KrupkeBees.html)

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Registration Of Neonics

The U.S. EPA has allowed the very rapid and ubiquitous expansion of neonic application to most farmland in North America. EPA registration was based solely on the data submitted by the companies manufacturing their proprietary pesticide (primarily Bayer Crop Science). In addition, the EPA did not consider sublethal effects on honeybees in the approval process.

Does Multinational Agribusiness Suppress the Science?

Numerous independent scientists signed a statement which included: "When those with a vested interest attempt to sow unreasonable doubt around inconvenient results, or when governments exploit political opportunities by picking and choosing from scientific evidence, they jeopardize public confidence in scientific methods and institutions, and also put their own citizenry at risk. Safety testing, science-based regulation, and the scientific process itself, depend crucially on widespread trust in a body of scientists devoted to the public interest and professional integrity. If instead, the starting point of a scientific product assessment is an approval process rigged in favor of the applicant, backed up by systematic suppression of independent scientists working in the public interest, then there can never be an honest, rational or scientific debate."

(www.independentsciencenews.org/health/seralini-and-science-nk603-rat-study-roundup)

Many believe the crisis of worldwide bee deaths threatening the global food supply has been worsened by an industry-funded misinformation campaign and that public relation companies hired by leading chemical companies (Monsanto, Bayer, and Syngenta) have been distracting policy makers from identifying the causation of honeybee decline.

European Union Suspension

In January 2013, the European Food Safety Authority officially labeled neonics to be an "unacceptable" danger to bees feeding on flowering crops and the regulations contained "major weaknesses." Following that review, the European Commission implemented a continent-wide two year suspension of the three most-used neonics.

The Sierra Club Genetic Engineering Action Team

Sierra Club's Pollinator Protection Campaign is a special project of the Sierra Club's GEAT. The evidence points to neonic seed coatings as an important cause of Colony Collapse Disorder. Most corn, soy and canola are genetically manipulated and "coated" with neonics.

Sierra Club's GEAT wrote the EPA, urging the regulatory agency to suspend all neonic seed treatment product registrations until it can obtain scientific evidence that the effects are not causing harm to America's honeybees.

Sierra Club's GEAT worked with Kevin Hansen, who produced the outstanding documentary "Nicotine Bees." The film included an interview with independent scientist Charles Benbrook, PhD, who explained in layman's terms how neonics are decimating honeybee populations. Sierra Club's GEAT then distributed copies of Nicotine Bees to every member of Congress, along with a letter from the National Honey Bee Advisory Board, stating: "Nicotine Bees vividly describes a very real threat to the pollinators of our country."

Sierra Club and other groups and beekeepers (3/21/2013) filed a lawsuit in Federal District Court against the EPA for failure to perform adequate toxicity evaluations and allowing registration of the pesticides on insufficient industry studies.

According to Dr. Benbrook, the EPA has never denied an application for a new pesticide, nor banned a currently registered product because of adverse impacts on bees, nor is it likely to without new legislation and a push from the public and Congress. Therefore Sierra Club sent numerous action alerts for members to encourage Congress to support the Saving America's Pollinator Act of 2013 (H.R. 2692).

TAKE ACTION:

Call Congressional representatives to support the Saving America's Pollinator Act of 2013 (H.R. 2692). Phone calls are more effective than emails.

Other Actions:

- Tell the story
- Encourage garden centers to refrain from selling neonic-treated plants
- Replace grass with edibles and pollinator plants in residential and business areas
- Plant edible gardens
- Install backyard beehives
- Encourage cities to ban neonics. (See the Cleveland Hts, Ohio, ordinance which bans outdoor pesticides on public grounds: www.neosierragroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/131-1995PSH-As-Amended.pdf)

Ending Thoughts

As Dr. Benbrook so eloquently explained in his Rachel Carson Memorial Lecture (12/2008), "Our failure to ask ecologically-grounded questions, coupled with the economic power behind the private sector push toward high-cost systemic, genetic engineering and proprietary pest management technology, has set the stage for a series of train wrecks." (www.organic-center.org/reportfiles/Final_Paper.pdf)

The EPA claims the agency will review the situation in 2018. Clearly, that's not good enough. The time is now for EPA to quit dodging the illusion of oversight and, instead, cancel these bee-killing pesticides. If we travel too far down our current path, we could create conditions in our food system much like those that brought down the financial system.

For further information, contact Laurel Hopwood, Sierra Club Genetic Engineering Action Team Chair & Coordinator, Sierra Club Pollinator Protection Campaign at lhopwood@roadrunner.com

Non-Sierra Club Outings

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

Sat. Oct. 18, 2-4:00 pm RiverKeeper Stewardship Park Grand Opening Free event.

With live music, an assortment of delicious seasonal appetizers, and refreshments. Please join us for the Grand Opening, Open House Event for the newest park on the River. Russian Riverkeeper Stewardship Park will serve as a place to enjoy the beauty of a healthy riparian habitat while educating local residents, students, businesses and visitors to take care of the Russian River. The park is equipped with numerous different interpretive stations which teach about native wildlife, the role of flooding and much more! Please join us and learn more at <http://russianriverkeeper.drupalgardens.com/content/riverkeeper-park>.

Saturday Saunters for Santa Rosa Area.

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

Sonoma County Regional Parks trail work days.

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

Volunteer Days Riverkeeper Stewardship Park in Guerneville, Every Wednesday.

9:30 - 11:30 am, 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 Wike 865-2474 VictoriaWike@usa.net.

Letter to the Editor

I was one of the happy campers on Joan Holtz' Channel Island three day cruise-- the travel bargain of the year. The "Truth" was a tidy ship with a competent and caring crew, well kept, clean heads, welcoming lounge and ample deck benches (I'm not very conversant with water lingo). Captain Davey was right there when needed, with his fully vetted second in command, we were safely transported to the day's hiking, snorkeling, kayaking, seal watching, cave exploring, et. all and then came back to gourmet meals (I was expecting spaghetti and instead we had three course meals with wine), full breakfasts and lunches to take ashore as needed. The park naturalists filled in the blanks on this precious resource taking us back to what California must have been like when the explorers first landed. This trip truly "exceeded my expectations" on all fronts--thanks.

—GAIL ELLESTAD, SANTA ROSA, CA.

Redwood Chapter Election Schedule

August 8, 2014: Appointment of Chapter Nominating and Election Committee

September 3, 2014: Appointment of Nominating Committee by Groups

October 3, 2014: Receipt of all candidates' applications (statement of intent to run) with contact information, for consideration by Group Nominating Committees.

October 10, 2014: Group Nominating Committees inform all potential candidates of their status and submit list of candidates, with contact information, to their respective ExComs and Chapter Election Committees.

October 24, 2014: Nominating Candidates submit ballot statements to Election Committee.

October 24, 2014: Statements are sent for December Needles.

November 4, 2014: Receipt of ballot petitions and Petition Candidate ballot statements by Election Committee. Approved statements sent for December Redwood Needles.

December 30, 2014 Ballots due in office.

January 3, 2015: Ballots counted. Notify all candidates, Chapter ExCom and Redwood Needles Editor of results.

Nominating Committee Chair Contact Information

Solano Group - Jane Bogner/Amy Noel - 644-9183

Lake Group - Victoria Brandon - 994-1931

Napa Group - Marc Pandone - 966-1902

Mendocino Group - Mary Walsh - 937-0572

Sonoma Group - 823-4293

North Group - Ned Forsyth - 826-2417

Redwood Chapter - Diana Nasser - 823-4293

Bioneers Offers Discount to Sierra Club Members for its 25th Anniversary Conference

Bioneers was founded 25 years ago to focus on developing solutions for our world's wicked problems. Their annual conference is a world famous convening of global experts. Bioneers beautifully weaves together environmental topics such as food and farming and climate change with programs such as Indigenous Culture and women's empowerment. Bioneers has been at the forefront of ideas that have evolved into movements. Michael Pollan first drew attention and inspiration for his work on food through Bioneers. Bill McKibben was an early Bioneers speaker. The Precautionary Principle was a concept that arose from conversations that began at a Bioneers Conference.

Bioneers Founders Kenny Ausubel and Nina Simons and their team have put together an appropriately high level line up. This year's conference will feature Paul Stamets on how mushrooms can help us survive extinction, Eve Ensler on her campaign, One Billion Rising for Justice, Clayton Thomas-Muller, founder of Idle No More and a leading native voice in the fight against Tar Sands and John Warner, the "father" of Green Chemistry. These are just a few of the dozens of great speakers participating in inspiring plenary talks and enlightening breakout sessions and discussions.

John DeCock, Bioneers' Chief Operating and Outreach Officer, is a life member of the Sierra Club and was on the staff of the Sierra Club and the Sierra Club Foundation for 27 years, serving 9 years as Executive Director of The Sierra Club Foundation. "I greatly respect the grassroots power of the Sierra Club's members" says John, "and I think it is essential to our goal of spreading solutions far and wide to bring more members of the Sierra Club to the Bioneers Annual Conference."

The conference is October 17 - 19, 2014 at Marin Civic Center in San Rafael, CA. <http://conference.bioneers.org>

Bioneers is offering a 10% discount for the first 100 Sierra Club members who register for any part of the conference, from a full three-day pass to a single afternoon of sessions. Not valid for pre- and post-conference intensives or the 25th Anniversary Dinner. Cannot be combined with other discounts. To take advantage of this code, enter SCB10.

—MICHAEL LERNER, PRESIDENT, COMMONWEAL

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. Oct. 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. Oct. 6 - Sonoma Group.

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

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

- Sonoma Group Conservation Committee at 5:30 p.m. Info: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net

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

Tues. Oct. 14 - North Group ExCom.

The public is invited to attend the monthly meeting of our governing committee. Join us for a discussion of local conservation issues between 7:45 and 8:45 p.m., following the ExCom

business meeting from 6:45-7:45 p.m. Meet at Adorni Center Conference Room on Eureka Waterfront. For more info, call Gregg at 707-826-3740.

Wed., Oct. 15 - Sonoma Group Water Committee.

7:00 PM at the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

Tues. Oct. 21 - Napa Group ExCom.

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

Mon. Nov. 3 - Sonoma Group.

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

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

- Sonoma Group Conservation Committee at 5:30 p.m. Info: Info: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net

- Sonoma Group Executive Committee

at 6:30 p.m. Info: Info: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net

Sat., Nov. 8 - Redwood Chapter ExCom and ConsCom.

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

Tues. Nov. 11 - North Group ExCom. See Oct. 14.

Wed. Nov. 19 - Sonoma Group Water Committee.

7:00 PM at the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

Thurs. Nov. 20 - 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.

There is no Water Committee meeting in December. Next Water Committee meeting is January 21.

Restoring Natural Wildfire

As I write this the air outside at Klamath Glen is full of unhealthy smoke. Last night the wind shifted from Northwest to southeast bringing wildfire smoke, which had been choking inland valleys and canyons for weeks, to the Coast.

While no one likes the smoke, attitudes toward wildfire are changing in Northwest California. Many folks now understand that fire is a natural part of western forest ecosystems; these forests are going to burn sooner or later. That has shifted thinking from "will they be able to keep fire at bay" to "how can we protect the community so that fires can be allowed to play a more natural role in forest ecosystems."

Attitudes toward cultural burning are also shifting: Indigenous natives burned portions of these forests for uncounted generations and many of us believe tribal efforts to restore cultural burning should be supported.

At the same time, concerns about the high cost of fire suppression have grown in Washington, DC, within the Forest Service and with taxpayers. In the Klamath Mountains we've had those concerns for a long time because, in spite of spending many millions of dollars, fire suppression on the national forests in these rugged mountains is rarely effective once a fire has grown large.

Too often Forest Service and fire managers order costly and questionable suppression actions which trigger landslides and damage watersheds but do little to protect communities or control a fire. Bulldozer lines and burnouts in the backcountry are particularly ineffective, costly and damaging.

Folks who track national forest management also recognize that current Forest Service fire risk reduction is too scattered and too limited to achieve much other

than getting a few logs to the mill. In too many cases Forest Service "thinning" projects actually increase fire risk down the road because they stimulate sprouting of small trees and brush. Salvage logging, which reestablishes highly flammable tree plantations, is also a detriment to restoring fire to a more natural, and therefore sustainable, role in Klamath Forest ecosystems.

Faced with Forest Service policies that are not working, those living in forest communities within the Klamath Mountains have begun moving toward a more enlightened and effective approach to living with wildfire. Led by local restoration and fire safe councils, citizens are working to construct shaded fuel breaks around towns and residences and on strategic ridge tops so that natural wildfires can be allowed to burn naturally without threatening human habitations.

Because so much of the Klamath Mountains is national forest land, restoring fire to a more natural ecological role will require substantial changes in Forest Service management practices. A more strategic approach to fire risk reduction, restraint in deploying fire suppression actions which cause environmental damage, and fire risk reduction projects which are not just timber sales with a new name remain the exception rather than the rule.

Still Forest communities, tribes and environmental groups have made a good start and even some Forest Service managers are beginning to change business

as usual. When it comes to wildfire suppression and fire risk reduction, the winds of change are blowing both locally and nationally. Hopefully that will lead to reduced suppression costs and greater reliance on natural and cultural fire as appropriate and cost-effective tools to restore forest ecosystems. Stay tuned.

—FELICE PACE, NORTH GROUP



This large landslide in the Trinity Alps Wilderness was triggered by a Forest Service burn-out. It delivered a massive amount of sediment to New River which is one of the few streams still supporting Summer Steelhead.

Lake Group Report

Sierra Club Supports Measure S

Lake Group is actively engaged in the effort to pass Lake County Measure S, another attempt at a special half cent sales tax to protect and restore Clear Lake. Like Measure L, which received 65.2 percent of the vote and was defeated by barely more than 200 votes in June, Measure S would fund invasive species/weed and algae control/water quality programs, with all revenues devoted to projects benefiting our lakes and their watersheds, especially Clear Lake.

Measure S ballot language has been changed slightly to include a provision making it clear that the proceeds could fund a variety of projects to strengthen our defenses against invasive mussels (not mechanical ramp controls alone), and basing oversight committee membership on geographic balance rather than organizational affiliation.

Specifically, Measure S revenues will be used to improve the quagga and zebra mussel prevention program; provide the county's share of the Middle Creek wetland restoration project funding; conduct a number of specific projects designed to improve water quality as mandated by the state; and maintain existing nuisance weed and algae programs. Revenues cannot be diverted to any other purposes, and transparency is assured by the establishment of a citizens oversight committee that will meet quarterly to review the expenditure plan in advance. The measure sunsets in ten years.

A reliable source of funding is essential for success in our efforts to protect Clear Lake from invasive species and to reverse the

conditions that have allowed toxic, foul-smelling cyanobacteria (commonly though erroneously called "algae") to proliferate. Clear Lake is one of the natural jewels of California, probably the oldest lake in North America and a remarkably rich and varied ecosystem like none other. Restoring it to a thriving, healthy condition is imperative for its own sake, and also vital for the future of our community.

To learn more please visit savethelake.info This time we're going to get this done!

Hitch Declared "Threatened"

At their meeting in San Diego on August 6 the California Fish and Game Commission voted unanimously to list the Clear Lake hitch (*Lavinia exilicauda chi*) as "threatened" under the California Endangered Species Act. Probable causes for their drastic population decline include reduction in spawning and juvenile-rearing habitat, competition from and predation by non-native fish, and other contributing factors. The bad news is that this unique, iconic fish is in such deep trouble, but there's good news too: first, listing opens the door for the California Department of Fish and Game to conduct a number of long overdue studies that besides benefiting the hitch are likely to increase our knowledge of the lake's complicated ecosystem. Second, eligibility for a number of different funding sources just got a dramatic boost upwards— something else that is likely to produce conservation benefits that go far beyond the hitch alone.

—VICTORIA BRANDON, LAKE GROUP

Napa Group Report

PCT Adventure Featured at Next General Membership Meeting

Join us Thursday, November 20th, 6:30 pm, at the Napa Library, when Darlene Scott of Yountville will share beautiful photos and amazing stories from her 4-month hike this summer on the Pacific Crest Trail. This meeting was postponed from September, due to the library's Community Room being taken over by the County after the earthquake for emergency office space.

Planned Vineyard Raises Water Concerns

Neighborhood groups are expressing concern about the Walt Ranch proposal to develop over 500 acres near Atlas Peak for vineyards. Local residents are asking what will happen to their wells when the project starts pumping over 69 million gallons of groundwater annually. The project practically surrounds the 180-home community of Circle Oaks, and there are hundreds of additional residences scattered about the surrounding area. The project would destroy more than 28,000 trees, which, along with loss of wild habitat and carbon sequestration, could contribute to erosion and land instability, raising the threat of landslides onto roads and homes.

Challenging this project to make sure that it only goes forward with strict protection for the environment and the community will require hiring environmental consultants to submit expert comments to the county. Donations are needed to supplement our limited resources. If you can contribute, please write a check to the

Sierra Club Foundation, with "Napa Group" on the memo line, and mail it to Napa Sierra Club, PO Box 644, Napa, CA 94559.

Napa Pipe – Part of the City of Napa?

On Election Day, voters residing within the city of Napa will be asked to decide whether the Rural Urban Line (RUL) should be expanded to embrace the Napa Pipe Project, south of Kennedy Park. This would be the first step toward eventual annexation of the property into the city. Sierra Club and other community activists have steadfastly opposed this project, feeling that it is the wrong place for residential development, complicated by many unresolved environmental and traffic problems. However, opinions differ on whether annexation into Napa proper is desirable. Therefore, Napa Sierra Club, along with Greenbelt Alliance, has decided to remain neutral on this vote. We would encourage all Napa voters to examine the complex issues surrounding annexation of Napa Pipe, and vote your best judgment.

Keeping in Touch

Receive our monthly e-bulletin for the latest news on Napa events and environmental issues by sending your e-mail address to napavalleyssierraclub@gmail.com. Join our outings by accessing the Redwood Chapter Sierra Club Outings Group on Meetup. And be sure to Like us on Facebook!

—NANCY TAMARISK, VICE-CHAIR, NAPA GROUP

Call for Candidates for Sierra Club Offices

Please consider running for the Executive Committee of a Group or of the Redwood Chapter. There will be openings in all Groups and opportunities for those of you wanting to get more involved in the work of the Sierra Club. Those interested should contact the Nominating Committee Chair of your Group or the Group Chair. They will tell you what to do to continue the process. Potential nominees for the Chapter ExCom should send an email to Chapter Committee Chair Diana Nasser, diananas@sonic.net. The Sierra Club always needs new people with ideas and energy to work on the many issues we face at this time. Please consider running for an office and donating a few hours each month to help with the goals of the Sierra Club. For questions, email Election Committee Chair: Diana Nasser-diananas@sonic.net. The complete election schedule with deadlines for each step in the process can be found in this issue on page 8.

Discounted prices for purchase of calendars at the Environmental Center at 55 Ridgway, Santa Rosa: Wilderness: \$13, Engagement: \$14; prices include sales tax. Call for hours: 707-544-7651. If ordering by mail, shipping is \$2 per calendar. The mailing address is Sierra Club, PO Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95402. Your purchases directly benefit Sierra Club's conservation work.

Mendocino Group Report

Linda Perkins prevailed upon the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors to reconsider a vote to hire Mendocino Redwood Company (MRC) to log the property the county owns near the Little River Airport. Linda is concerned about a core of Old Growth, and that trees will be taken right up to the Old Growth, leaving no buffer zone and she fears that the old trees will not survive. She has been talking with conservation groups to get one of them to purchase the whole property, much of which is in pristine pygmy and Bishop Pine forest. Linda has taken lots of tour groups of local citizens as well as elected officials and conservation group reps out to the property.

Mary Walsh sought assistance from the Sierra Club Parks Committee as regards the convoluted land swap which is part of the Solid Waste Transfer Station proposed to be sited in the pygmy forest on Highway 20 in Fort Bragg. The land swap sees Jackson State Demonstration Forest (JDSF), which owns the property the transfer station is to be sited upon, trading that property to the county, while Russian Gulch State Park will transfer 12.6 acres of protected recreational second growth to JDSF and Parks will get the old Caspar Dump and the current Transfer Station. The DEIR is due out Nov 6.

—MARY WALSH, MENDOCINO GROUP CHAIR



Enjoy, explore and protect the planet

2015 Sierra Club Calendars



Item	Cost	Qty	Total
Engagement Calendar	\$14.95		
Wilderness Calendar	\$13.95		
Subtotal:			
Shipping:			
Sales Tax Included:			
GRAND TOTAL:			

Ship To:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Email _____



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
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$19	<input type="checkbox"/> \$19
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Elite	<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

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!

SIERRA CLUB

Enclose a check and mail to: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421881, Napa, CA, 94559-1881 or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org

Executive Committee (EXCOM) Members needed. The Solano Group is in need of people who want to make a difference in Solano County. Put on your Sierra Club Hat and join us for meetings where we review local issues and come up with plans to protect our local environment.

For more information, email sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com or leave a message at 707 319-6398.

Recycle.solanocounty.com has been updated for 2014. This downloadable recycle guide has 21 pages of local recycling information. Book mark it or put on your desk top.

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

Thanks to Adam Mangosing, Justin and Alicia Ashorn, Errol Dempster, Matt Hoffman, and Jane for staffing the August and September paper shredding events.

VALCORE Recycling and Confidential Paper Shredding 2014.

WEEKEND: Solano Group will be working every 3rd Saturday

Solano Breeze Corner

Covering Benicia, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun, Vacaville and Vallejo

sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com 707-319-6398

of the month at 38 Sheridan Street, Vallejo from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Oct. 18, Nov 15, Dec 20) There is a charge of \$10 [CASH or CHECK ONLY] per twenty pounds of paper shredded. (maximum: 100 pounds). Sierra Club volunteers help tend the money and direct traffic. Once a year is all we ask and you only need work an hour or so. Volunteers get free shredding.

NEW WEEKDAY SHREDDING

From 10am to 4 pm – closed 1 pm to 2 pm for lunch, CREDIT or DEBIT ONLY.

We continually work at Lori's Native Plant Garden located at 225 Amador St, Vallejo. NEXT WORK DAY IS OCTOBER 25 (9 TO 11). We also weed, plant, prune and mulch year-round. If you have an hour, call Jane and she'll work with you to get you started. 707-319-6398

EXCOM and Volunteers needed: Come join us for our monthly meetings which rotate between Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville. We meet on the first Thursday of the month and are making a positive impact on our county and need a few more members to help carry the load. Call Jane (707) 319-6398 or Greg (707) 386-6411 for current meeting info.

—CONTRIBUTOR: JANE BOGNER

—EDITOR: GREG PETERSON

North Group Report

Campers Learn & Enjoy Themselves

"Amazing," "wonderful," and "fun" were among the adjectives used by the four campers North Group members supported to attend a Towering Trees & Tidepools Camp for grades 4-5 and a Redwoods Ecology Camp for grades 6-8 this July in Redwood National & State Parks. We were able to underwrite a girl and two boys from Eureka (one of them living in a family shelter) and a boy from Weaverville. This marked the 20th year that our Lucille Vinyard/Susie Van Kirk Environmental Education Fund provided a camping experience for children in our membership area of Humboldt, Del Norte, and Trinity counties.

"Cappy" McKinney Memorial Trail Dedicated

BY SUE LESKIW

On a gorgeous late summer day, approximately 40 people gathered along the Eureka waterfront to pay tribute to the late Mel McKinney. The September 4 ceremony, emceed by Eureka mayor Frank Jaeger, featured short speeches by Sue Leskiw (North Group Sierra Club), Jim Clark (Redwood Region Audubon Society, RRAS), Dan Ehresman and Jen Kalt (Northcoast Environmental Center), and

Maggy Herbelin (close friend).

Signs erected on both ends of a shoreline loop segment of the Hikshari Trail south of the main Hilfiker parking lot now proclaim it the Melvin "Cappy" McKinney Loop. The proposal to honor Mel in this fashion originated with North Group and RRAS, two groups to which he dedicated many hours as a volunteer. The Eureka City Council had

voted unanimously in August to approve the naming, following a recommendation from City staff and positive votes by Eureka's Space, Parks, and Recreation Committee and Planning Commission. Representatives of North Group and RRAS had attended

all three meetings to testify in favor of the recognition.

Cappy, who passed away in June 2013, spent much of his retirement protecting the Elk River Wildlife Sanctuary. He was a long-time member of North Group's Executive Committee, serving as its political co-chair and wetlands committee head.

He worked with various agencies to identify appropriate uses and preserve the natural habitat, patrolling the area on a regular basis to report problems. Mel's persistence led the City of Eureka to upgrade what had been the Elk River Wildlife Area to Sanctuary status in 2003.



Sign posted at entrance of McKinney Loop Trail. (NG ExCom member Felice Pace on left.) Photo by Tom Leskiw.



Attendees walk the loop trail following the dedication ceremony. Photo by Sue Leskiw.

Sonoma Group Report

Richard Sachen, a sustainable transportation activist and electric vehicle entrepreneur, received our appointment as interim member of our Executive Committee, to fill a seat left by the resignation of Annabel Ascher, who served with us for 3 years. We also bade farewell to Jessica Jones, who is moving to UC Davis to complete her baccalaureate studies. We have an opening on the ExCom for a person willing to join us and commit to Sonoma County's environmental future.

At our Spring meeting, the Sonoma Group committed to join the Ohlson Ranch legal action, as a plaintiff. At our August meeting, we committed to pay a portion of the attorneys' costs incurred.

We got results from the letter we sent in August to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors requesting that a portion of their upcoming sales tax ballot measure go to transit, and not just to road repair. In September, we got word that the measure includes a provision that 10% of the revenue will go to transit.

In September we co-sponsored Drive Electric Day North Bay, an EV (electric vehicle) show at Coddington in Santa Rosa. This event was organized in part by ExCom member Richard Sachen. Shirley Johnson-Foell, Climate Chair, coordinated a flash mob performance at the event, in solidarity with 350 and the climate marches taking place the same day.

In September we made a donation of support to the Wild & Scenic Film Festival. Suzanne Doyle, Conservation Chair, and Shirley Johnson-Foell tabled at the event.

Chair Dan Kerbein gave the Group's position on riparian habitat protection at a hearing of the PRMD regarding updates to the Riparian Ordinance. Rue Furch, a member of the Redwood Chapter ExCom and former member of the Planning Commission, has served on the Citizens Committee which made recommendations for improvements, along with some takeaways that favor agriculture. The Commission approved the new ordinance.

Sonoma County's Living Wage Coalition released its draft ordinance (LWO) to raise the pay of County workers and County contract workers. The Coalition also released an economic impact report prepared by the University of Massachusetts. Dan Kerbein spoke at the Coalition's Sept. 8 press conference, explaining that the Sierra Club's support of LWOs across the country is important to the advancement of environmental justice. Those comments will also be published in the October Sonoma County Gazette.

Dan and fellow ExCom member Jessica Jones spoke at the Rohnert Park Planning Commission, calling for walkable local business areas and fewer carbon-spewing superstores like the one proposed by WalMart, with a track record of driving out local businesses and replacing their employees with minimum wage workers who commute long distances. The Council approved the project, in spite of Sierra Club legal action and a majority of public testimony against it. Next is a vote by the City Council.

After a review by Dan and Suzanne of the the new Russian River documentary film (which is currently in post-production), the Chapter gave \$1000 toward

its completion and release.

We have endorsed several candidates for local office, subject to interviews by our Political Committee, chaired by Suzanne Doyle. Among these are candidates for SRJC Board of Trustees. We will be providing input to the college as they submit their bond measure, Measure H, to the voters. We will campaign for sustainability provisions and a pedestrian overpass near Coddington.

Evelina Molina, Chair of the Food Security Committee, initiated a Local Food Project this summer by teaming up with the Roseland Lions Club on the neighborhood's first open-air market, the Roseland Village Faire (known to local residents as "el mercado", or "el tianguis"). In exchange for volunteer hours by Evelina and Group Chair Dan Kerbein, the Sierra Club operates a free booth at the market, where we sell fresh pesticide-free fruit and vegetables from local growers and dispense Spanish-language literature. The market takes place 8am-3pm every Sat. & Sun. through the end of October.

Evelina also led a team on Coastal Cleanup Day in September, removing debris from the North Jenner Beach.

Michael Thornton, Sierra Club's National Organizer for wilderness protection and its campaign to end fracking, presented a stunning overview of the issues and effects of the fuel extraction process termed hydraulic fracturing of underground rock formations to extract flammable gases. Earthquakes and water contamination accompany the practice known as "fracking", and companies are legally protected from revealing what is in the fluids they use to crack through subterranean rock. Shirley and Dan pledged to push for a fracking moratorium in Sonoma County as well as support one statewide.

—DAN KERBEIN, SONOMA GROUP CHAIR

Sonoma Group Seeks ExCom Member

We have an opening on our Executive Committee for a person with some environmental knowledge, and a desire to bring some tangible results for the quality of life in Sonoma County's rural and urban habitats. Call the Ecology Center office at 707- 544-7651, or Goup Chair Dan Kerbein, 707-921-6646. If you prefer, you can message us on the Sonoma Group Facebook or send an email to dkerbein@sonic.net.



Sierra Club Endorsements

National Candidates:

- Jared Huffman**
Congress, District 2
- John Garamendi**
Congress, District 3
- Mike Thompson**
Congress, District 5

Proposition 1 (Water Bond): No Position
(For information, see page 3)

State Candidates:

- Mike McGuire**
Senate, District 2
- Jim Wood**
Assembly, District 2
- Dave Jones**
Insurance Commissioner
- Tom Torlakson**
Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Kamala Harris**
Attorney General
- Alex Padilla**
Secretary of State
- Betty Yee**
State Controller
- John Chiang**
State Treasurer

See pages 3 - 5 for Candidate Statements

Please Vote on Nov. 4th

Local Candidates and Measures

Sonoma County:

- Deb Fudge**
Sonoma County Supervisor, District 4
- Mark Landman**
Cotati City Council
- Teresa Barrett**
Petaluma City Council
- David Glass**
Petaluma Mayor
- Curtis Byrd**
Santa Rosa City Council
- Chris Coursey**
Santa Rosa City Council
- Lee Pierce**
Santa Rosa City Council
- Sarah Glade Gurney**
Sebastopol City Council

Lake County:

- YES**
on Measure S

Changes to Redwood Needles Delivery

If you have received via email the notice that the October issue of the Redwood Needles is available online, and would rather receive a paper copy in the mail, please send a message to: ERedwoodNeedles@gmail.com.

Alternatively, if you have received a copy of the newsletter in the mail and would prefer to receive the emailed notice that the newsletter is available online, please send a message to: ERedwoodNeedles@gmail.com.

Nonprofit
PRST STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 363
Petaluma, CA



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