

# Redwood Needles



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 56 Number 5

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

October/Nov. 2015

## Trans-Pacific Partnership: Down to the Line

As has been previously reported, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a massive trade deal being negotiated among twelve countries in the Pacific Rim, an area of immense environmental sensitivity that includes both Australia's Great Barrier Reef and part of the Amazon rain forest—two of the most biologically diverse areas on Earth. The Asia-Pacific region accounts for about one third of all the threatened species in the world, some of them in rapid decline, and illegal logging in a number of countries involved in the TPP threatens both natural forests and the communities dependent upon them.

While the contents of the TPP are still secret, we do know that it does include a chapter on the environment, with provisions that are too weak to safeguard the environment. Trade agreements should strengthen environmental and climate protections, not undermine them. At a minimum, a sound environment chapter should:

- Include the same dispute settlement provisions as commercial chapters
- Ensure that countries uphold and strengthen their domestic environmental laws and policies and their obligations under multilateral environmental agreements
- Address the special environmental challenges of the Pacific region by including enforceable prohibitions on trade in illegally obtained timber and wildlife.

Instead, the TPP proposes to follow the model of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) by allowing corporations to sue governments directly— for unlimited cash compensation— over almost any domestic environmental (or other) law that the corporation alleges reduces its ability

to profit. Such cases are decided in special trade tribunals that are unaccountable to any other national or international authority— not only undermining health and environmental protections, but doing so in a completely opaque and irresponsible manner.



**Congressman Mike Thompson, Redwood Chapter Chair Victoria Brandon, Citizens Trade Campaign Coordinator Xiomara Castro, and Napa/Solano Central Labor Council Executive Director Jon Riley met to discuss the TPP and related issues on August 27.**

The TPP would also require the U.S. Department of Energy to give automatic approval onto all natural gas exports to other countries in the partnership. This would inevitably lead to an increase in hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) in this country, and probably increased electricity prices as well.

Earlier this year the Obama administration asked Congress to authorize Trade Promotional Authority

(TPA), known commonly as “Fast Track.” Under Fast Track, once the TPP is agreed upon by all participating countries, the President signs it, and passes it to Congress which can give only a straight up-or-down vote, with no room for amendments and limited floor debate.

The Sierra Club and our partners in the labor movement fought hard to defeat Fast Track, and came within a whisker of prevailing, but after a complex series of arcane political maneuvers, President Obama obtained the negotiating authority he sought late in June.

It is by no means certain that all the members of Congress who voted for Fast Track will support the TPP itself when it comes before them in the fall or (more likely) some time early in 2016. All across the nation, Sierra Club lobbyists and volunteers took advantage of the August Congressional recess to meet with legislators who voted for Fast Track in their district offices and talk to them about the evils of TPP, as well as to express gratitude those legislators who voted against Fast Track. Here in Redwood Chapter, all three members of our stellar Congressional delegation (Congressmen Jared Huffman, John Garamendi, and Mike Thompson) voted against Fast Track, and all three are expected to oppose the TPP when it finally comes before Congress. However, they will all be subjected to intense lobbying pressure from special interest groups and the Executive Branch, and now more than ever, need to hear that their constituents remain behind their decision to vote against Fast Track.

Thank you for your continued support of the Sierra Club and opposition to shady, irresponsible trade deals! Together, we can defeat the Trans-Pacific Partnership in the name of the environment. For more information on Sierra Club's Responsible Trade Program, please call me at 707 994 1931 or send an email to [vbrandon@lakelive.info](mailto:vbrandon@lakelive.info)

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



## Exploring Potential Wilderness on Mt. Lassic

On Sunday July 12 North Group excom member Ned Forsyth led a moderate six mile hike into the Mt. Lassic Wilderness and Botanical Area in Six Rivers National Forest, a natural wonderland characterized by sweeping views, vernal pools, stark serpentine and peridotite barrens, and vegetation with character. To make things particularly exciting, an additional 1300 acres of wilderness has been proposed in this area as part of the Mountains and Rivers campaign— visit [mountainsandrivers.org](http://mountainsandrivers.org) to learn more.



Hiking the Salmon Summit National Scenic Trail. (Photo courtesy Ned Forsyth.)



Black Lassic from the Mt Lassic summit. (Photo courtesy Ned Forsyth.)

## Great News for California's Wildlife

On August 5 Redwood Chapter Conservation Chair Diane Beck attended the meeting of the California Fish and Game Commission to urge that the Commission ban bobcat trapping in the state altogether, as was the original intent of the 2013 “Bobcat Protection Act.” As discussed in an Action Alert in the previous edition of the Redwood Needles, this action would fully implement the 2013 “Bobcat Protection Act” and was one of two options before the Commission, the other being to establish extensive bobcat closure areas near national parks, monuments and wildlife refuges.



Diane is delighted to report that after extended debate and in the presence of more than 100 members of the public the Commission did the right thing: commercial trapping of these iconic predators is now completely forbidden in California! Congratulations to the Commissioners, and thanks to everyone who wrote a letter, sent an email, made a phone call, and attended the meeting.

Then less than two weeks later we got some more exciting news: the first pack of wild wolves— two adults and four cubs— to be seen in California in nearly a century has settled in. The location given is a bit vague (for obvious protective reasons), but the location of the “Shasta Pack” seems to be somewhere in eastern Siskiyou county. That means they have set up housekeeping in Mother Lode Chapter instead of Redwood, but with an established pack in the Rogue National Forest just across the Oregon border our time is surely coming soon. For some great photos of these new residents, check out <http://www.lostcoastoutpost.com>.

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



# Redwood Chapter Sierra Club Directory

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

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

<b>Redwood Chapter</b>		
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.		
<b>Chair • At Large • Political Chair • RCC Delegate • Wilderness Chair • CCL Delegate</b>		
Victoria Brandon*	994-1931	vbrandon@lakelive.info
<b>Vice Chair • Lake Group Delegate to Chapter</b>		
Ed Robey*	994-8304	edrobey@wildblue.net
<b>Secretary</b>		
Jill Hunter		redwoodjill@comcast.net
<b>Treasurer</b>		
Tom Davis	963-4466	tom@napavalleycpas.com
<b>At Large • Legal Chair • Council of Club Leaders Alternate</b>		
Keith Kaulum*	538-5569	kkaulum@sonic.net
<b>At Large • Conservation Committee Chair • Public Land • At Large</b>		
Diane Beck*	445-2690	dfbeck@northcoast.com
<b>At Large</b>		
Leonard L. Holt*	527-7516	lholt@sonic.net
<b>At Large</b>		
Rue Furch*	823-3555	pqrst@monitor.net
<b>At Large</b>		
Tom Roth*	632-5873	troth@monitor.net
<b>Energy and Climate Chair</b>		
Woody Hastings		woodyhastings@gmail.com
<b>Grazing Chair</b>		
Felice Pace	954-6588	unofelice@gmail.com
<b>Lake Group Delegate Alternate</b>		
Carolyn Ruttan	295-0333	caninoridge@digitalpath.net
<b>Mendocino Group Delegate to Chapter</b>		
Mary Walsh*	937-0572	bella@mcn.org
<b>Mendocino Group Delegate Alternate</b>		
Lorrie Lagasse	964-3011	lorrielas@yahoo.com
<b>Napa Group Delegate to Chapter</b>		
Lisa Godfrey*	731-9587	merichi@yahoo.com
<b>Napa Group Delegate Alternate</b>		
Nancy Tamarisk	257-3121	napaquail@gmail.com
<b>North Group Delegate to Chapter</b>		
Ned Forsyth*	826 2417	nedforsyth48@gmail.com
<b>North Group Delegate Alternate</b>		
Joyce Yowell	559-916-8575	jayowell@hotmail.com
<b>Sonoma Group Delegate to Chapter</b>		
Shirley Johnson-Foell*	206-1138	johnsons@sonoma.edu
<b>Sonoma Group Delegate Alternate</b>		
Vacant		
<b>Solano Group Delegate to Chapter • Water Chair</b>		
Jim Dekloe*	864-3123	jimdekloe@aol.com
<b>Solano Group Delegate Alternate</b>		
Vacant		
<b>Administrative Staff • Publication Rep</b>		
Tom Devlin	544-7651	tdevlin@sonic.net
<b>Finance Committee</b>		
Jana Selph	829-5356	jselph@sonic.net
<b>Outings Chair • Outings Leadership Training</b>		
Carol Vellutini	546-6308	carolvsr@sonic.net
<b>Redwood Needles Editor</b>		
Mary Davison	874-3704	odavison@sonic.net
<b>Chapter Webmaster</b>		
Melanie Matway		adastra7@hotmail.com

<b>Redwood Needles</b>		
Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club of California		
<b>Editorial Board:</b>		
Mary Walsh, Becky Frank, Sue Leskiw, Diane Beck, Victoria Brandon		
<b>Editor:</b>		
Mary Davison (707) 874-3704 odavison@sonic.net		
<b>Advertising Manager:</b>		
Holly Oppenheimer (707) 544-7651 hollyoppen@gmail.com		
Classifieds: \$5/10 words. Send check and ad copy by the 8th of the month.		
<b>Outings Chair:</b>		
Carol Vellutini (707) 546-6308 carolvsr@sonic.net		
<b>Meetings Coordinator:</b>		
Carl Inglin (707) 538-8271 chinglin@sonic.net		
<b>Newsletter Coordinator:</b>		
Pamela Nelson		
<b>Address Corrections:</b>		
address.changes@sierraclub.org Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 (415) 977-5653		
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e-mail: odavison@sonic.net		
P.O. Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95401		
Ph 707-544-7651		
Fax 707-544-9861		
<i>Redwood Needles Deadlines</i>		
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	
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<b>Lake County Group</b>		
P.O. Box 27	994-8304	
Lakeport CA 95453		
<b>Chair • Chapter Delegate • Political Chair • Treasurer</b>		
Ed Robey*	994-8304	edrobey@wildblue.net
<b>Vice Chair</b>		
Cheri Holden*	263-5787	cherisierraclub@gmail.com
<b>Secretary</b>		
Win Stiles*	262-1242	win@w-s.com
<b>Outings Chair</b>		
Steve Devoto	279-8308	sdevoto@mcn.org
<b>Conservation Chair • Newsletter Editor • Webmaster</b>		
Victoria Brandon*	994-1931	vbrandon@lakelive.info
<b>Chapter Delegate Alternate • Water Chair</b>		
Carolyn Ruttan*	295-0333	caninoridge@gmail.com

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

<b>Napa County Group</b>		
P.O. Box 5531, Napa	94581	
<b>Chair</b>		
Nancy Tamarisk*	257-3121	napaquail@gmail.com
<b>Secretary</b>		
Linda Gail Brown*	510-504-0226	lindagailbrown@earthlink.net
<b>Treasurer</b>		
Tom Davis	320-3802	tom@bdcoopa.com
<b>Conservation Chair</b>		
Bill Dyer*	942-5502	bill@dyerwine.com
<b>Chapter Delegate</b>		
Lisa Godfrey*	731-9587	merichi@yahoo.com
<b>Web Master</b>		
Nancy Tracy	ntracy@sbcglobal.net	

<b>Vice Chair • Membership Chair • Outings Chair</b>		
Isabelle Saint-Guily*		scnapaisabelle@gmail.com
<b>Political Chair</b>		
Chris Benz *	252-7462	christinabenz@gmail.com

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

<b>Solano County Group</b>		
Box 4717, Vallejo	94590	553-1653
sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com		
<b>Chair • Chapter Delegate • Genetic Engineering</b>		
Jim Dekloe*	864-3123	JIMDEKLOE@comcast.net
<b>Vice Chair • Webmaster • Youth Events • Endangered Species</b>		
Quinton Crawford	360-7567	quintoncrawford1@yahoo.com
<b>Political Co-Chair • Volunteers</b>		
Amynoe Coughran*		amynoe@coughran@yahoo.com
<b>Secretary</b>		
Kathy Pettibone*	372-1229	kpettibone59@yahoo.com
<b>Electric Vehicles • Urban Farming</b>		
Erin Tator*	925-286-1766	erintator@sbcglobal.net

<b>Watershed Issues</b>		
Doug Darling*	373-1766	ddfsh4life@sbcglobal.net
<b>Political Co-Chair</b>		
Joe Feller*	415-902-3395	joe@americantelecomwest.com
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>		
Greg Peterson**	864-8573	gspeterson1@gmail.com
<b>Outings Chair</b>		
Vacant		
<b>Treasurer • Recycling • Volunteer Coordinator</b>		
Jane Bogner**	644-9183	jabogner@juno.com
** designates ExCom alternate vote		

<b>Sonoma County Group</b>		
Box 466, SR	95402	544-7651
55A Ridgway Ave., Santa Rosa		
<b>Executive Committee Members*</b>		
Richard Sachen*	327-8298	richard@rsachen.net
<b>Adrienne Leihy*</b>		
adriennenow@sbcglobal.net		
Teri Shore*	575-3611	tshore@greenbelt.org
Theresa Ryan*		carsort@sbcglobal.net
Suzanne Doyle*	206-1138	shirlegirl707@yahoo.com
<b>Chair</b>		
Vacant		
<b>Vice Chair • Conservation Chair</b>		
Suzanne Doyle	carsort@sbcglobal.net	
<b>Office Coordinator • ExCom Secretary</b>		
Tom Devlin	544-7651	tdevlin@sonic.net
<b>Outings</b>		
Vacant		
<b>Transportation</b>		
Steve Birdleough	576-6632	affirm@friendshouse.org
<b>Parks &amp; Trails • Backpacking</b>		
Carol Vellutini	546-6308	carolvsr@sonic.net
<b>Political Chair</b>		
Keith Kaulum	538-5569	kkaulum@sonic.net
<b>Membership Chair</b>		
Vacant		
<b>Treasurer</b>		
Jana Selph	829-5356	jselph@sonic.net
<b>Webmaster</b>		
Melanie Matway		adastra7@hotmail.com
<b>Volunteer Coordinator</b>		
Diana Nasser	823-4293	diananas@sonic.net
<b>Water Committee Chair</b>		
Leonard L. Holt	527-7516	lholt@sonic.net
<b>Climate &amp; Energy Committee</b>		
Shirley Johnson-Foell*	206-1138	shirlegirl707@yahoo.com

\* Executive Committee members

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

Redwood Chapter Facebook:  
www.facebook.com/SierraClubRedwoodChapter

**Get the latest updates on environmental activities in the Redwood Chapter! Visit our website:**

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



# 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference

In December, world leaders will meet at the United Nations Climate Change Conference, tasked with reaching an international agreement to cut carbon emissions. There is overwhelming scientific consensus and a growing global climate movement that recognizes the need for swift action.

The 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC) aims to achieve, for the first time in over 20 years of UN negotiations, a meaningful agreement on climate action. This is critical because we know that the climate crisis has reached its tipping point, and we are the first generation that is seeing the lasting effects of the climate crisis but may be the last generation that has the chance to do anything about it. With that in mind, the 195 countries that participate in this annual conference will be gathering in just a few short months to attempt to agree on how to combat climate disruption. They'll develop objectives, rules, and outline their individual climate action contributions at this conference.

## Why Is Paris So Special?

Each of the UNFCCC's 195 member countries have agreed to submit an Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) this year, which will outline the actions each country intends to take between 2020 and 2025 or 2030. Given that developed countries have massive carbon footprints, the UNFCCC has asked these countries to lead the way and make the biggest commitments. However, they are also asking for new funds to be sent to developing countries, since it is undoubtedly more difficult for small governments with fewer resources to find big solutions.

And while reaching a universal climate standard will be difficult, 15 major countries—including the United States, China, and the UK—have already released climate commitments in preparation to adopt the Paris standards.

But while Paris will be an important step for meaningful and lasting climate action, this isn't the last step in the fight to quell the climate. A strong agreement in Paris will leave the door open for continued climate action in the years to come, and in the meantime, people around the world aren't waiting for politicians and world leaders to act. Soon, carbon levels may be too high, the Arctic may have already melted, or the sea levels will have risen too much to turn back the tide. Paris is so monumentally important because not only are we finally making

a globalized statement that these things are, indeed, happening, but that it's even more vital that we stop their progress.

## The Sierra Club And The UNFCCC

The Sierra Club has long been actively engaged in the UNFCCC process. In most years, we have focused our work inside the negotiations to achieve specific policy outcomes and to ensure that the U.S. plays a constructive role. This year, with a headline deal on the agenda, the stakes will be much higher, and international climate issues will gain far more attention than at any time since the Copenhagen meeting in 2009.

As a result, we created the #ActInParis campaign to bring awareness to the negotiations and show our support for meaningful climate action at all levels -- from local to national to international.

## What You Can Do:

### Send a Message to President Obama

Be sure to check out our website, <http://www.sierraclub.org/paris>, to tell President Obama that you support strong climate action in Paris, and to find more helpful resources for this year's climate negotiations

### Join the Day of Action on Oct. 14th by Finding an Event Near You or Starting Your Own!

The nation's leading environmental organizations and the People's Climate Movement (PCM) have designated October 14, 2015 as a National Day of Action ahead of international climate negotiations this December in Paris. Events will be organized by local grassroots climate advocates in cities and towns throughout the nation under the umbrella of the People's Climate Movement, which coordinated last year's historic People's Climate March.

When over 400,000 people joined last year's People's Climate March in New York City, it signaled to both U.S. and global leaders that Americans are committed to tackling the climate crisis. The march was the largest action on climate in history, and successfully elevated the significance of protecting the climate as an issue around the world.

Now, recognizing that the movement for action on climate needs not just "everyone" but "everyone, everywhere," grassroots advocates are joining organizations from across the board in driving local events in cities and towns throughout the United States. Visit <http://www.peoplesclimate.org/> for details.



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- Vallejo Whaleboat Regatta
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- Non-profit Information Booths
- Chili Cook-off at the Vallejo Yacht Club with Red Hot Chili Music Stage
- Celebrity Dunk Tank
- Local Art Exhibits
- Triathlon/Kayak Races
- Food and Craft Vendors
- OZCAT Music and Community Stage
- Various Maritime Demonstrations
- Car Club Exhibits
- Lite the Nite for Foster Greatness: 5K Twilight Walk/Run, Kid/Dog Costume Contest
- Vallejo Historical Museum Exhibit

• Sol-Trans Guided Tour of Waterfront and Mare Island

## Non-Sierra Club Outings

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

### Saturday Saunters for Santa Rosa Area.

Every Saturday. Meets 9 am and usually ends around 11:30. These walks are moderate. Fun way to exercise with friends. For info call Bob Martin 707-539-6300 [bmphoto@comcast.net](mailto:bmphoto@comcast.net).

### Sonoma County Regional Parks trail work days.

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

3356. [ParksVolunteer@sonoma-county.org](mailto:ParksVolunteer@sonoma-county.org)

### Volunteer Days Riverkeeper Stewardship Park in Guerneville, Every Wednesday.

9 a.m. - Noon, for all or part of the time. Park is located on the north bank of Russian River directly upstream Guerneville pedestrian bridge. Access entrance from the driveway in front of Sonoma Nesting Co. (16132 Main Street, just east of Armstrong Woods Rd.) At bottom of driveway look for blue & white "Russian Riverkeeper Stewardship Park" sign. Bring drinking water & wear sturdy footwear. Light refreshments provided. Info Victoria Wikle 865-2474 [VictoriaWikle@usa.net](mailto:VictoriaWikle@usa.net).

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# Outings

## Thu.-Sat. Oct. 8-10 - Death Valley Wilderness Restoration.

Join us in restoring wilderness values in this remote and beautiful desert National Park by helping to clean up marijuana grow site in the Hunter Mnt area. 4WD required possibility of carpooling. Meet Thursday afternoon at the junction of Hwy 190 and the South Saline Valley Road. Work Thur. afternoon and all day Friday. On Sat, either more clean up, or we may be free to enjoy the park. Camping is primitive, bring all the food and water that you need for the weekend, plus a trowel or shovel for personal needs. Leader: Kate Allen, kj.allen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056. CNRCC Desert Com

## Sat. Oct. 10 - Lake Group. Wide-Awake Mine Hike.

Hike on road to a mine above Wilbur Springs. The trail descends on road to mine site. Bring water and lunch. Class: M-4-B. Carpools: meet 8:00am Lower Lake Coffee Co.

on Main Street, off junction of Hwy 29 & 53 or 9:00 am trail Head (390 00' N 122o 24' W) on Hwy 20 14.9 miles from Hwy 53/20 intersection at a BLM fire gate on the left side of the road just past Judge Davis TH and before Colusa County line. By reservation only. Leader Steve Devoto sdevoto@mchsi.com 707-279-8308. Rain cancels.

## Sun. Oct. 11 - Sonoma Group. Salt Point State Park Hike.

The last time I led this hike I missed a turn and got...confused. This time I promise to bring a map. We'll start at the North Trail trailhead on Hwy 1 and follow it through pine forests to the Pygmy Forest. Then we'll follow Central Trail down to the bluffs below Gerstle Cove for lunch. We'll return to the cars by way of Gerstle Cove and Salt Point trail, with views of striking sea carved rocks, about 6 miles. Bring lunch, liquids, dress for coastal weather including fog, mist and wind. Class: M-6-A. Carpools: Meet 9:15 am Park'n'Ride on River Road just west of Hwy 101. Leader Carl Inglin, 538-8271 or chinglin@sonic.net. Rain cancels.

## Mon. Oct 12 - Solano Group. Green Valley Falls Hike.

Take advantage of a rare opportunity to experience the seasonal Green Valley Falls, located on land accessible only with

special permission. Trail is over uneven ground, mostly level, but with a steep 500' elevation gain at the end. Bring sturdy shoes, water, hat, sunscreen, and a snack. Total trip time estimated to be 3 hours. Possible snake and poison oak encounters. The hike is limited to 30 persons 14 and older. Persons under 18 must be with a parent. Due to processing fees imposed by the City of Vallejo, we are asking for a donation of \$7 per person. Class: M-4-A. Carpools: Meet at 10am. By reservation only by Oct. 5. Rain cancels. Directions will be given when you register. Leader Phil Kohlmetz philcoagogo@sbcglobal.net

## Sat. Oct. 24 - Lake Group. Mahnke Peak Hike.

This hike starts at the south end of Kelsey Creek Drive and follows a moderately sloped dirt road to Mahnke Peak with a great view over the geysers power plants. Elevation gain 2116 ft. Bring lunch and two liters of water. Meet: 8 am car pool parking lot at the corner of Live Oak Drive and Highway 29 in Kelseyville. Class: M-10-C By reservation only. Leader Steve Devoto sdevoto@mchsi.com 707-279-8308. Rain cancels.

## Sat. Oct. 24 - North Group. Lacks Creek/Pine Ridge Prairies Hike.

Come and explore this nearby

Bureau of Land Management area off Highway 299, on new and old trails created by BLM, Humboldt Trails Council, and Redwood Coast Mountain Bike Association. We will see a mix of oak savannas, old-growth conifers, and regenerating hardwood-covered slopes. Humboldt Bay and ocean views a possibility. Bring lunch and water, and dress for a fall day at 3,600 feet elevation. Class: M-5-A. Carpools: Meet 9 a.m. Ray's Market in Valley West, trailhead 10 a.m. Leader Ned nedforsyth48@gmail.com, (707) 825-3652 message phone. Heavy rain cancels.

## Sat.-Sun. Oct. 24-25 - Service in the Carrizo Plains.

This is an opportunity to visit and to assist an outstanding and relatively unknown national monument. Saturday we will be assisting others cleaning up debris and trash at the Goodwin Ranch, a historic ranch complex maintained by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). We will be car-camping, and Saturday night is a BBQ given for the volunteers by TNC. On Sunday we will tour one or several of the historic, prehistoric, or geologic sites in the Monument with details to be determined by consensus of the group. Limit 10 people. Contact leader Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, (310-477-6670) CNRCC Desert Committee

## Sat.-Sun. Oct. 31-Nov. 1 - Ghost Town Extravaganza.

Celebrate Halloween by visiting the ghosts of California's colorful past in the eerie desert landscape near Death Valley. Camp near the historic ghost town of Ballarat. Saturday, a challenging hike to ghost town Lookout City with historian Hal Fowler who will regale

us with tales of this wild west town. We'll return to camp for Happy Hour and a potluck feast, followed by a midnight visit to Ballarat's graveyard. On Sunday, we'll make a quick visit to the infamous Riley townsite. Send \$8 per person (check payable to Lygeia Gerard), home and work phones, email address and rideshare preferences to Leader: Lygeia Gerard, P.O. Box 721039, Pinon Hills, CA 92372, 760-868-2179. Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

## Sat. Nov. 14 - North Group. Humboldt Redwoods State Park Avenue of the Giants Hike.

Two separate trails, about a mile apart, take us to a view of the Eel River from High Rock (an actual rock along the river), and to a grove of stately redwoods about 1,000 feet above. Bring lunch and water. Fall colors. Band-tailed Pigeons? Class: M-5-A. Carpools: Meet 9 a.m. Herrick Avenue Park & Ride in Eureka. Leader Ned nedforsyth48@gmail.com, (707) 825-3652 message phone.

## Thu.-Sat. Nov. 19-21 - Death Valley Wilderness Service Trip.

Come help restore wilderness values in this stunning desert national park. The work project has not been determined yet. It might be marijuana grow site or help with the clean-up of cabin in the Panamints. (Or something else entirely.) We will meet Thursday afternoon, place TBD and work Thursday afternoon and Friday. Pot luck either Thursday or Friday night. Leader: Kate Allen, kj.allen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056. CNRCC Desert Committee

## Sun. Nov. 22 - Sonoma Group. Taylor Mountain Hike.

We'll start at the new Petaluma Hill



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



## With your help we can clean up our water

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

Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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	N/A
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 30	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 60
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible if you support our efforts. Obtain board advisory & holding officers. Your dues include \$1.00 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine & \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to:  
 Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421941  
 Palm Coast, FL 32142-1941  
 or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org



## Instructions to hikers

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

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

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

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

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

## Visitors are welcome

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

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

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

## To submit outings write-ups

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

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

## Ratings for Outings Leaders

### How fast or slow do you go?

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

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

**Varies, see hike description for details:** Isabelle Saint-Guily  
 Jim Gannon Phil Kohlmetz

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

**Moderate-pace with few stops:**  
 Don Anderson 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 Ned Forsyth Nick Caston

**Slower-pace:** Allison Bronkall



# Outings

Road entrance and climb for about 2.7 miles to the top of the park for panoramic views of the Santa Rosa plain. Elevation gain is about 1200 ft. Bring lunch and water, good hiking shoes, layered clothes for the weather. Hiking poles are useful. There is a \$7 parking fee. Meet: Taylor Mountain Regional Park parking lot, 3820 Petaluma Hill Road, at 10 am. Class: M-5.5-B. Leader Carl Inglin, 538-8271 or chinglin@sonic.net. Rain cancels.

## Thu.-Sun. Nov. 26 - 29 - Basin & Range Thanksgiving.

Tour our newest national monument in southern Nevada. Comprising 700,000 acres, Basin and Range National Monument highlights the basin and range topography with Great Basin dry dusty valleys and rocky, wooded ridges. Archaeological sites and the modern City landscape-scale construction by artist Mike Heizer are preserved here for posterity. We'll tour the area mostly by vehicle, with some hiking. Expect

primitive camping sites with no amenities. Contact David von Seggern, Chair, Toiyabe Chapter, vonseg1@sbcglobal.net, 775-303-8461. Toiyabe Chapter

## Sat.-Mon. Jan. 2-4 - Napa Group. Snowshoe/Cross-country-skiing at Loon Lake Chalet.

This is a 2 nights, 3 days trip. (Notice that we are going up on Sat. and coming back on Mon. to avoid traffic.) Do you enjoy snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, sledding, all snow activities in the company of others? This remote chalet by a Sierra lake offers access to the calm beauty of winter. The cost is \$25 for two nights. In the Sierra Club's spirit of doing things together, we will share the cooking and purchasing of food. Space is limited- reserve in Dec.. A \$25 check per person will reserve your spot. (Make it to "Napa Outings SC" and mail it to Isabelle Saint-Guily 1020A Easum Dr. Napa CA 94558). Leader: Isabelle Saint-Guily scnapaisabelle@gmail.com.

## Outings Chair Report

The Lake County fires impacted some of our outings leaders and many members of Sierra Club. Leader Pete McGee, experienced in fire fighting, took part in controlling the advance of the fast spreading fire by Clearlake and Middletown. This was an exhausting task, fighting a fire exhibiting a behavior that was unprecedented. Last I heard the Rocky Mountain fire had burned over 70,000 acres. A big thank you goes out to first responders and for all the support from other counties and states. California has many wildfires burning and our outing leaders will see a vastly changed landscape come spring. Put in a call if possible before going into the backcountry to scout your outing. Many trees have fallen across trails. The predicted heavy winter rains will have a toll on bulldozed mountain tops and landslides are probable.



Rollye Wiskerson passed on July 29th. Rollye was one of the Mare Island engineers who helped maintain Benson Hut on Sierra Club work parties. This group went backpacking, hiking and camping together. He will be missed. He was also known for sailing, bird watching, trail maintenance and woodcarving. His memorial at Mare Island was a reunion of many groups. I had been in touch with Eugene Miya, another Benson Hut work party regular, as we were trying to piece together a history of John Benson. See the article on John Benson of our beloved Benson Hut in the high Sierra.

—CAROL VELLUTINI, REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR

## Remembering Benson Hut's Namesake

The Redwood Chapter was leading work parties to Benson Hut when I joined Sierra Club in 1982. Benson Hut was built in 1947-49 by friends and members of Sierra Club. Benson Hut is located just below the north face of Anderson Peak, 5.5 miles beyond the



Last Benson Hut work party of the season. Leader: Jim Gannon.

Pacific Crest Trail trailhead on Donner Pass Road. Redwood Chapter leaders to the hut were Clark Nattkemper in the 50's, Ken Thatcher (started leading in 1968 until 1998.) Carol Vellutini led until around 2004, followed by current work party leader Jim Gannon. Many engineers and workers from Mare Island were hut volunteers and that is the Rollye Wiskerson connection to Mare Island where his memorial was held. Some faithful volunteers I knew were Howard Hofman, Jim Hench, Dick Thatcher, George Grammens, Everett Games, Rollye Wiskerson, Sam McGee, Doug Porter, June Smith, Ed Smith, Eugene Miya, Ed Schrieber and Tom Raboin. There were many others but my space is limited. Major accomplishments were new roof 1994-2001 and new stove 2004.

Eugene Miya and I stated emailing about Sierra Club member John

Benson's history when Val Rios (the President of the 10th Mtn. Div. Sierra Nevada Chapter) and Eugene were doing the same research on the 87th Regiment Company K. Val provided me with the photo of Lt. John Benson's grave site. Val now has photos of all 10th Mtn. Div. soldiers who are buried at the American Cemetery near Florence, Italy. This was a project that Val initiated in 2012 (Val's 96 yr. old Dad was in the 87th Regiment same as Lt. Benson) and just completed a few months ago so family members (in that Sierra Club Chapter) unable to go to Florence, will be able to see a photo of their family member's final resting place.

John Benson enlisted on February 9, 1942 in the Presidio of Monterey, California. He was about 24 at the time, had completed two years of college, and was not married. He first served with the 87th Infantry, Company I. A payroll report lists him as a Private First Class in December of 1942. Records show that by 1943 he had been promoted to 2nd Lieutenant. His officer number was O1317976. He was transferred in grade to 87-F on February 21, 1944, and stayed with



that unit until his death in Italy possibly in 1945. I am not certain about the accuracy of all details of this history but wanted to give members an idea about who the John Benson of Benson Hut was. John was an ardent Skier and loved the Sierra.

—CAROL VELLUTINI, REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR

## Sierra Club Volunteer/Activist Opportunities

*"Don't count the days, make the days count."*

—Muhammad Ali

**Group Hike Leaders:** Many Redwood Chapter Groups need Outings Chairs. This volunteer position is working with leaders, coordinating with the Chapter Outings Chair, training leaders, keeping records, encouraging new leaders and community outreach. There is Outings Chair training available. Contact Carol 546-6308 or carolvsr@sonic.net for information.

**Work with the Sonoma Group Water Committee!** NOTICE: The Water Committee is now meeting at 5:00 PM on the first Mondays of most months in conjunction with the Conservation and Energy Committee meetings. The Water Committee develops and promotes measures to conserve, save, and reuse our water resources. Our goal is to preserve and improve the natural water environment, by promoting the responsible use of water and the safe reuse or disposal of our wastewaters. Help protect the quality of our water for people, wildlife, fish and other aquatic life. Check for our meeting dates in the *Redwood Needles*. To get on our Water Committee e-mail list, e-mail Len Holt at lholt@sonic.net. If you are not able to attend our meetings, you may e-mail Len Holt with your concerns and ideas.

**Get CHARGED by attending the Climate & Energy Committee.** Join us on the 1st of the month at 5:00-5:30 p.m. at the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa, learn about what is going on in our community to fight climate change through renewable energy programs. Contact Chair Shirley Johnson-Foell: Email: Shirlgirl707@Yahoo.com, home 206-1138, or call office 544-7651.





# Lake Group Report

## Community Choice in Lake County

For the past several months Lake Group has been keeping a close eye on a proposal to set up a Community Choice Energy provider in Lake County as an alternative to PG&E. Unlike the system established in Sonoma County (with the extended enthusiastic support of Sonoma Group) the original proposal involved contracting with a private company called California Clean Power, a deal that as originally presented in May would have included a questionably legal multi-million dollar payment to the county general fund. After several meetings and extended public input, the details of the agreement were changed considerably, but it was nonetheless dismaying to learn in mid-August that the county still proposed to waive the normal competitive bidding process.

When this proposal came before the Supervisors on August 18 Lake Group Chair Ed Robey spoke on behalf of the Sierra Club, arguing that it was neither prudent nor legal to obligate the county without the due diligence and transparency that had been promised, and that common sense and legal strictures require. We are delighted to be able to report that this sensible advice convinced the county to abandon the “sole source provider” idea and instead to issue a Request for Proposals and seek competitive bids—the normal way to do business, with good potential to result in a stable, long-term, locally-sourced green energy system for the community.

The Sierra Club looks forward to continuing to participate in the dialog on this issue, and in the meantime urges the county to sponsor one or more public

forums to help the community educate itself about Community Choice, and also to confer with the cities of Lakeport and Clearlake about the possibility of setting up a Joint Powers Agency that could create a genuine community-wide power market.

### Dollar General: Down One

After two Dollar General outlets were approved in Lake County in 2014 it came as something of a surprise to learn that the Community Development Department had received preliminary applications for three additional stores, in Kelseyville, Middletown and Loch Lomond. It has now been determined that the Kelseyville store—which during the predevelopment review process seemed the least problematic of the three—will not be built. On August 25, the Board of Supervisors voted to support the Planning Commission’s unanimous rejection of the application, primarily because the location across from the high school raised traffic and safety concerns, but also because the business seemed incompatible with the characteristics of the community.

A complete application for the Middletown store has still not been received, but it is apparent that similar considerations will apply, only more so. Lake Group has submitted detailed comments on the preliminary application and expects to take an active part in the discussion once a full proposal is available. As for the Loch Lomond store, nothing further has been heard about it since the predevelopment discussion revealed the presence of both a vernal pool and hazardous waste on the site, inconsistency with area planning guidelines, and the unswerving hostility of the community.

—VICTORIA BRANDON,  
LAKE GROUP CONSERVATION CHAIR

# North Group Report

## Streamflow and Water Pollution - the Shasta River Example

There is a famous saying about water pollution: *the answer to pollution is dilution*. The truth that the saying expresses is fundamental: a stream’s water quality and flow are intertwined and cannot be separated.

Let’s consider the Shasta River as an example. The North Coast Regional Water Quality Board (North Coast Board) designated the Shasta River as “impaired” with respect to water temperature and dissolved oxygen in the early 1990s. Eventually, and only after a lawsuit by environmental groups, the North Coast Board conducted a study to identify the sources of impairment and an implementation plan to clean-up the pollution and restore those beneficial uses, including ESA-listed Coho and at-risk Chinook



**Depleted by irrigation water withdrawals, the Shasta River runs hot and nasty during summer and early fall. (Photo courtesy of Klamath Riverkeeper)**

Salmon, as required by the federal Clean Water Act and the state Porter Cologne Act. The Shasta TMDL and Implementation Plan was adopted in 2006.

The study conducted by the Water Board found that the temperature of Shasta River water could be lowered sufficiently to support salmon and other beneficial uses if Shasta River flows were increased by 45 cubic feet per second. The Shasta TMDL Implementation Plan calls for that flow increase to be achieved by those who divert water from the River and its tributaries employing “*water management practices and activities that result in increased dedicated cold water instream flowing the Shasta River and its tributaries.*” Assistance to landowners, most of whom are ranchers and hay growers, in reducing water use is provided by the local Resources Conservation District, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the California Department of Water Resources and directly by the North Coast Water Board.



**Toxic Algae at Dwinell Reservoir near Weed. The Reservoir heats cold water coming from the Mount Eddy Roadless Area, which can be seen in the background, and other public lands. (Photo courtesy of Klamath Riverkeeper)**

*flow in the Shasta River in relation to the 45 cfs goal or alternative flow regime that achieves the same temperature reductions from May 15 to October 15.”*

The report was due in 2002; there is no evidence that it has ever been filed.

The deadline for achieving the required 45

cfs increase in river flows through voluntary means was also 2002. If the flow increase was not achieved, the Implementation Plan states that the Water Board:

*“May recommend that the State Water Board consider seeking modifications to the decree (In re Waters of Shasta River and its Tributaries, No. 7035 (Super. Ct. Siskiyou County Dec.29, 1932)), conducting proceedings under the public trust doctrine, and/or conducting proceedings under the waste and unreasonable use provisions of the California Constitution and the California Water Code.”*

Needless to say, the “required” 45 cfs increase in Shasta River flows has not been achieved. Nor has the Water Board recommended modification of the Shasta River water right adjudication decree. The Board’s Executive Officer has not even informed the North Coast Board that

Shasta River flows, and the beneficial uses those flows support, remain impaired.

Today as I write this report Shasta River flows are a pitiful 24 cfs. No doubt those who divert water from the River would claim that is the result of drought. However, when we check out Shasta River flows over time as measured by the US Geological Survey near the River’s mouth we discover that the flows have been very similar year after year since when the USGS first began measuring the flows in 2007. That’s because Shasta River flows derive mostly from large volcanic springs rather than snowmelt. Volcanic springs are little affected by short term changes in precipitation or snow pack.

Those among you who want to learn more about the Water Boards plans and actions to clean up water quality problems on the Shasta River at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water\\_issues/programs/tmdls/shasta\\_river/060707/finalshasta\\_tmdlactionplan.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdls/shasta_river/060707/finalshasta_tmdlactionplan.pdf). You can check out current and time series flows for the Shasta and other streams in California and across the nation at this <http://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/rt>.

### It’s Election Time at the North Group

The Sierra Club is the only national environmental group that is a true membership organization. Most Boards of Directors of national and even local environmental groups are self-selecting; when new board members are needed the existing board members recruit and elect them. At the Sierra Club the members elect not only the national board but members of chapter and group executive committees.

The North Group will soon elect members of the Group’s Executive Committee. If you would like to seek election to the North Group Executive Committee contact Nominating Committee Chairperson Diane Beck at [dfbeck@sitestar.net](mailto:dfbeck@sitestar.net). **Join us!**

The North Group’s Executive Committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the first floor conference room at the Adorni Center on the waterfront in Eureka. The meeting, which covers regular business and conservation issues, begins at 6:45 PM. Members and non-members with environmental concerns are encouraged to attend. When a new person comes to us with an environmental issue or concern, we often place them first or early on the agenda.

—FELICE PACE, NORTH GROUP WATER CHAIR

## 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](mailto:carolvsr@sonic.net)

Send Meetings to Carl Inglin: [chinglin@sonic.net](mailto:chinglin@sonic.net)

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.



Enjoy, explore and protect the planet

## 2016 Sierra Club Calendars



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

Please make checks payable to "Sierra Club" and mail to the address listed below or your vendor.

Ship To:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



## Solano Breeze Corner

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

**Thanks to:** Nancy, Jane, Justin, Adam, Camelo, Beverly and friends for staffing the VALCORE Recycling and Confidential Paper Shredding event.

### VALCORE Recycling and Paper Shredding updates:

Solano Group will be helping out every 3rd Saturday of the month at 38 Sheridan Street, Vallejo from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There is a charge of \$10 (CASH or CHECK ONLY) per twenty pounds of paper shredded. (Maximum: 100 pounds). Sierra Club volunteers help tend the money and direct traffic. Once a year is all we ask and you only need work an hour or so. Volunteers get free shredding.

NEW WEEKDAY SHREDDING from 10 am to 4 pm – closed 1 pm to 2 pm for lunch,

Weekdays we accept CREDIT or DEBIT ONLY.

### Help us in Lori's Garden

We continually work at Lori's Native Plant Garden located at 225 Amador St, Vallejo. 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.

### The 2015 Recycling Guide is online at recycle.solanocounty.com.

November 14 is America Recycles Day. VALCORE will hold a winter coat drive. Coats will be given out locally. Drop them by when VALCORE Recycling is open.

### Looking for Volunteers

Step up and help Solano Group be more of a presence in Solano County. We need members to volunteer to take officer positions. Thank you.

—CONTRIBUTOR: JANE BOGNER EDITOR: GREG PETERSON

## Mendocino Group Report

The latest news on the Solid Waste Transfer Station is that the roll out of the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) has been postponed indefinitely. This is due in large part to very strong letters in opposition from CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife and CA Dept Parks and Recreation, and with heroic efforts from Linda Perkins and Rixanne Wehren. It turns out one of the three land swap properties is important Marbled Murrelet habitat, and a very important mushroom foraging area. Mendocino Group's attorneys sent a very strong letter as well. Mendocino Group is glad to take a break from some very hectic work.

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) of the Rainforest Action Network met in Caspar to consider whether to renew Mendocino Redwood Company's credential for sustainably harvested timber. An overflowing crowd gave testimony for the most part urging that the FSC not give the approval to MRC because of the protocol of killing hardwoods via the Hack and Squirt method. Making a cut at the base of the tanoak and squirting a measured amount of the herbicide Imazaphyr into the cut and letting the tree stand until it falls has evidently saved MRC a lot of money and it has resulted in tens of thousands of standing dead trees on thousands of acres on industrial lands across the County. Community members regard the result as extremely hazardous as regards fire danger. Also at issue is the number of acres filed on with THPs under the new directorship of persons from Sierra Pacific Industries. The acreage is huge, the prescribed cut is heavy and the fish and other creatures of the forests have to survive in spite of losing habitat to poison and chainsaws.

—MARY WALSH, MENDOCINO GROUP CHAIR

## Keep the SMART Station at Corona Road:

The Petaluma City Council needs to hear from city residents so that development interests don't get the north Petaluma SMART station moved to a site near Penngrove - at the edge of the city rather than where people live.

### Local Coastal Plan:

The agriculture element of the County's draft update of the Local Coastal Plan is vague and full of loopholes. We might see increased conversion of coastal grazing land to vineyards and more wineries and event centers along Highway 1. Stay tuned for hearings on this.

### Heritage Roads:

Is there a winding old road through a beautiful landscape near you? The County is interested in preserving these old roads, and keeping them from being widened and straightened. Let your supervisor know if there is a heritage road near you.

### City of Sonoma Leaf-Blower Ban:

Not only are leaf blowers loud and

polluting, but many users blow the leaves into storm drains rather than picking them up and binning them for compost. This practice is bad for creeks, which can only handle decomposition of a natural amount of biological material.

### Gualala River Logging:

Friends of the Gualala River are opposing the recent timber harvest plans that Gualala Redwood Timber has submitted to Cal-Fire. GRT wants to log redwoods in the Gualala River's floodplain and along river and creek banks in northern Sonoma County. This logging operation will trash the floodplain and pump huge amounts of water from the River as it goes. For more information and to support Friends of the Gualala River, see their website at gualalariver.org.

### Sonoma Developmental Center:

You can participate in the process of transforming the Sonoma Developmental Center. Sonoma Land Trust is leading a movement to save this mostly undisturbed habitat, which is full of wildlife, valley

and blue oak forests and steelhead streams, and provides a crucial piece of an east-west wildlife corridor through the county. The next community meeting is October 17. See transformsdcc.com for details.

### Keep the green waste and garbage out of your blue recycling bin!

North Bay Corporation reports that about 50% of the content of the blue bins is garbage - its recycling systems are breaking down, and it has asked for a rate increase.

### Sonoma Group Meetings:

Next Sonoma Group meetings, held at the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway in Santa Rosa.

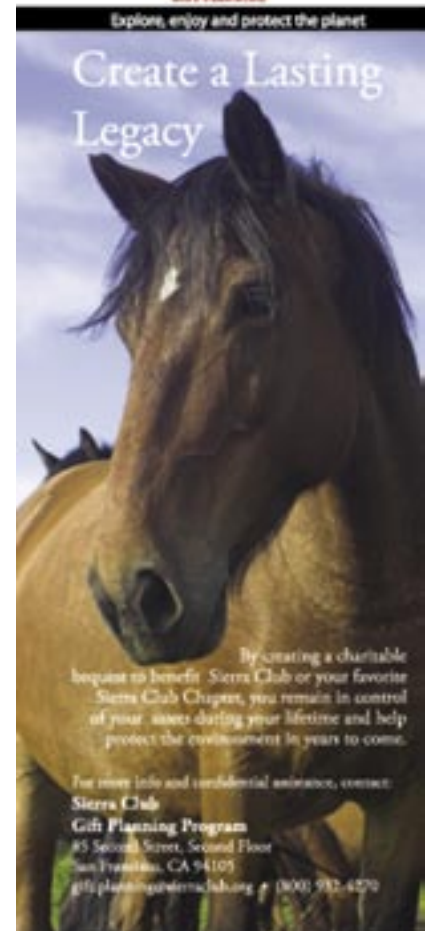
October 5: Conservation issues from 5:00 to 6:30pm, Executive Committee meeting from 6:30to 8:00pm.

November 2: Conservation issues from 5:00 to 6:30pm, Executive Committee meeting from 6:30to 8:00pm.

—SUZANNE DOYLE,

SONOMA GROUP VICE CHAIR

*If you wish your bequest to be used locally, be sure to specify "Sierra Club Redwood Chapter" or the name of your local Group in your bequest.*



## Napa Group Report

### Show you Care: October 13th Reverie Winery Hearing

Unbelievably, the Napa County Planning Commission voted last June to "forgive and forget" Reverie Winery's flagrant violations of their use permit, which include:

- building a 4700 sq ft unpermitted cave
- degrading a creek
- adding an unpermitted outdoor tasting area
- exceeding their permitted production capacity
- exceeding their permitted visitation by 100%

These violations came to light when a party interested in purchasing the property, which is on Diamond Mountain near Calistoga, discovered them through due diligence research.

Local resident George Caloyaniddis has, at his own expense, appealed this decision to the Board of Supervisors, and this appeal is to be heard at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct 13th, at the Board of Supervisors Meeting in Napa.

Public pressure is the only hope left to reverse this decision, which encourages landowners and developers to openly flout the law, undermining our protections against over-development, and putting law-abiding business people at a competitive disadvantage. Reverie's current owners are

set to make a huge profit by their law-breaking, since the property will command a much higher price with the expanded capacity.

This appeal is not about just one winery. Over the years, the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors have taken a cavalier attitude to violations by developers, resulting in a prevailing attitude of "do it and ask forgiveness later." If our County government will not enforce the law, there is no hope for managing development in Napa County.

You can help by attending the Oct. 13th hearing, or by contacting Board members:

- Diane.dillon@countyofnapa.org
- Brad.wagenknecht@countyofnapa.org
- keith.caldwell@countyofnapa.org
- mark.luce@countyofnapa.org
- alfred.pedraza@countyofnapa.org

Ask the Supervisors to support the appeal against Reverie Winery. It is time that wineries and land developers got the message that violations of the law will be punished. If you plan on attending the hearing, please contact me: nancy@aya.yale.edu so that I can let you know if there is a change in date or time.

—NANCY TAMARISK, NAPA GROUP CHAIR



## Holiday Networking Party for Environmental and Social Justice Groups

**Wednesday, Dec. 2, 5-8 p.m.  
at the Sebastopol Grange**

**Save the Date! Details will appear in the  
December Redwood Needles.**



## 2015 Redwood Chapter and Group Elections Schedule

**October 6, 2015:** Receipt of all candidates' applications (statement of intent to run) with contact information, for consideration by Group Nominating Committees

**October 13, 2015:** Group Nominating Committee inform all potential candidates of their status and submit list of candidates, with contact information, to their respective ExCom and Chapter Election Committee

**October 27, 2015:** Group Nominating Committees submit ballot statements to Election Committee

**October 27, 2015:** Statements are sent for December *Redwood Needles*

**November 6, 2015:** Receipt of ballot petitions and ballot statements by Election Committee

Approved statements sent for December *Redwood Needles*

**December 30, 2015:** Ballots due in office

**January 4, 2016:** Ballots counted. Notify all candidates, Chapter ExCom and *Redwood Needles* of results

## Nominating Committee Chairs

Redwood Chapter:

Diana Nasser diananas@sonic.net 823-4293

Napa: Nancy Tamarisk napaquail@gmail.com 257-3121

North Group: Diane Beck dbeck@sitestar.net 445-2690

Sonoma Group: Suzanne Doyle carsort@sbcglobal.net

Lake Group: Carolyn Ruttan caninoridge@gmail.com  
295-0333

Mendocino Group: Tom Wodetski TW@mcn.org

Solano Group - Jane Bogner jabogner@juno.com 644-9183

## 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. 1 - 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. 5 - Sonoma Group.**

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

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

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

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

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

**Tues. Oct. 13 - North Group.**

The public is invited to attend the monthly meeting of our governing committee. Join us for a discussion

of local conservation issues between 7:45 and 8:45 p.m., following the ExCom business meeting from 6:45-7:45 p.m. Meet at Adorni Center Conference Room on Eureka Waterfront. For more info, call Gregg at 707-826-3740.

**Mon. Nov. 2 - Sonoma Group.**

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

Water Committee meets 5:00 - 5:30 p.m. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net; Climate & Energy Committee at 5:30 p.m., Contact Shirley, shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, 707-206-1138; Conservation Committee at 6:00 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

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

**Tues. Nov. 10 - North Group ExCom.**

The public is invited to attend the monthly meeting of our governing committee. Join us for a discussion of local conservation issues between 7:45 and 8:45 p.m., following the ExCom business meeting from 6:45-7:45 p.m. Meet at Adorni

Center Conference Room on Eureka Waterfront. For more info, call Gregg at 707-826-3740.

**Sat., Nov. 14 - Redwood Chapter ExCom. And ConsCom.**

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

**Tues. Nov. 17 - Napa Group ExCom.**

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

**Thurs. Nov. 19 - Solano Group ExCom.**

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

**There will be no Water Committee meeting in December.** Meeting dates for 2016 are January 4 and February 1.

## Tell Sonoma County to Renew its Greenbelt Protections

For 20 years, Sonoma County's community separator polices have prevented subdivisions, shopping malls and big box stores from sprawling into nearly 17,000 acres of natural and agricultural lands between our towns and cities. In 2016, Sonoma County must renew the voter-backed community separator measures that passed with more than 70% of the countywide vote.

For the first time in decades, Sonoma County has an opportunity to review, revise and improve voter-backed open space policies.

Sierra Club's Sonoma Group was among the first to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors urging them to develop and support a robust renewal, update, and expansion of community separators.

So far, the supervisors have not committed to anything beyond a bare-bones renewal.

They will soon vote on a work plan to renew the community separators, so individual and organizational letters are needed now to urge them to extend community separator designations to:

- priority greenbelts
- lands around Penngrove
- lands between Cloverdale and Healdsburg
- lands with high natural resource values

Community separators protect agriculture, waterways, drinking water, groundwater and recharge, wildlife corridors, hillsides, and woodlands and preserve clean air, water, and climate resiliency - all key to public health and wellness across populations and income levels.

Greenbelt protections are strongly supported by

voters in Sonoma County. Three supervisors are up for re-election in 2016: Supervisors Susan Gorin, Shirlee Zane and Efrén Carrillo. To demonstrate their commitment to protecting Sonoma County's natural and agricultural lands ease, they must direct the Permit Resource and Management Department to implement a community separator work plan for the

2016 ballot measure that includes renewal, revisions of 20-year old policies and consideration of additional designations in priority areas.

Pressure is once again mounting to sacrifice Sonoma County's greenbelts and communities to sprawl like we've seen throughout the Bay Area.

Maintaining policies that prevent sprawl is cost-effective for government and cities. The need for housing in Sonoma County can be met

through infill development within existing footprints.

Please write or call your supervisor to support community separator renewal and expansion now, not later.

(707)565-2241

Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org

Shirlee.Zane@sonoma-county.org

Efrén.Carrillo@sonoma-county.org

James.Gore@sonoma-county.org

David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org

An action alert with sample letter is posted on Greenbelt Alliance's website, [greenbelt.org](http://greenbelt.org). To join the campaign, contact Teri shore at tshore@greenbelt.org or 707-575-3661.



**Houses line up against farm land along Petaluma Hill Road south of Santa Rosa. This is not in a community separator but gives an example of the urban edge and rural lands we see around the county that are at risk of development in the long term if not protected.**

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



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