

Redwood Needles



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 58 Number 5

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

October/Nov. 2017

New Potential Wilderness in Redwood Chapter



By VICTORIA BRANDON,
REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

In August Congressman Jared Huffman held a series of well-attended public meetings in the northern part of Redwood Chapter to gather input on new legislation he is considering introducing. The draft bill, which the Congressman describes as “a balanced approach to land management” would designate

new federal Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River segments, and also promote stewardship and trail-building.

Specific provisions include:

- Protection of over 326,000 acres of pristine federal public lands by expanding nine existing wilderness areas and establishing ten new ones.
- Protection of over 480 miles of streams on federal land as “wild and scenic rivers.”
- Establishment of a 700,000-acre South Fork Trinity-Mad River Special Restoration Area in the heavily logged South Fork Trinity River watershed and the Forest Service-portion of the Mad River watershed in southern Trinity and western

Humboldt counties.

- Establishment of a partnership of federal, state, and local entities to restore public lands affected by illegal trespass marijuana grows.
- Authorization of the construction of an interagency visitor center in Trinity County.
- A requirement for federal agencies to coordinate fire management in northwestern California’s wilderness areas.
- Exploration of the possibility of establishing a long-distance “Bigfoot National Recreation Trail” similar to the Appalachian and Pacific Crest trails
- Direction of federal agencies to conduct a trails study to improve motorized and non-motorized recreation trail opportunities.

It will NOT limit hunting or fishing, close any legally open roads or trails to vehicles, or affect access to or the use of private property.

Although no firm date for the introduction of this legislation has been set, a draft is available for public review on Congressman Huffman’s website [link: <https://huffman.house.gov/rep-huffmans-legislation-to-protect-the-north-coast-s-spectacular-wild-places-and-rivers-0>], and written comments are invited: just send an email to ca02publiclands@gmail.com to share your views.

The Sierra Club’s national Wildlands Team is reviewing the

proposed bill, a necessary prerequisite to taking a position on the legislation itself, but in the meantime we applaud Congressman Huffman for his pro-active approach to the protection of our public lands, a very refreshing change of pace from the defensive mode that the hostility of the Trump administration has demanded in recent months.



Redwood Chapter Chair Victoria Brandon shares a moment with Congressman Huffman after the August 29 meeting in Ukiah.

Protecting our Monuments: Where We Stand



By VICTORIA BRANDON,
REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

On August 24 Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke presented the long-awaited results of his “review” of 27 national monuments, including our own Berryessa Snow Mountain. Instead of the specific details that had been

expected, Zinke instead issued a report that lacked any actual recommendations or decision-making metrics. The national Sierra Club has filed a Freedom of Information Act request to get the information Zinke is attempting to keep from the public.

This secrecy should probably not be surprising given the intensely political nature of the whole capricious charade. At the time of Zinke’s announcement multiple press accounts based on inside information suggested that cuts would be made to the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments in Utah, and to the Cascade Siskiyou national monument straddling the Oregon/California border. Reductions to another unspecified monument were also rumored.

The threat to Bears Ears is particularly outrageous, since its designation represents the consensus of five sovereign native nations, who responded: “The Bears Ears region is not a series of isolated objects, but the object itself, a connected, living landscape, where the place, not a collection of items, must be protected. You cannot reduce the size without

harming the whole. Bears Ears is too precious a place, and our cultures and values too dignified and worthy, to backtrack on the promises made in the Presidential Proclamation.”

As the Redwood Needles was going to press a more detailed list of reductions was issued, and it’s even more appalling than we thought. Cuts are now intended not only to Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante, and Cascade-Siskiyou, but also to Gold Butte in Nevada, Katahdin Woods in Maine, and Organ Mountains and Rio Grande Del Norte, both in New Mexico, and also to Northeast Canyons and Seamounts, Pacific Remote Islands and Rose Atoll marine national monuments. No specific information about the scope of the reductions is available. Taken as a whole, these actions represent an unprecedented attack on our public lands, and on the values and priorities of the American people as expressed in more than 2.7 million public comments submitted in response to this irresponsible proposal, with more than 98 percent supporting the continued protection of these special places for the sake of posterity.

Although it appears that Berryessa Snow Mountain will be spared (for now) the proposal to close a portion of the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument is of particular regional concern. These protected lands anchor the northern end of the Klamath-Siskiyou ecological region while Berryessa Snow Mountain anchors the southern end. Connectivity throughout this region is important for the plants and animals throughout, and will become more so as effects of climate change wreak ecological havoc.

Redwood Chapter’s Guide to the SMART Train

What’s the SMART train and what’s so good about it?

The Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) service restores passenger trains to the rail right-of-way to allow commuters to travel without a car between Sonoma and Marin counties. The rail service is expected to add vibrancy to the areas within walking and bicycling distances of the train stations along the route. And, you can feel good about your transportation choices because you’re reducing your greenhouse gas emissions while supporting car-free public transit.

How do I get on the train?

There are 10 stations in this initial phase of the 43-mile route from the Sonoma County airport to the transit mall in San Rafael. There is car and bike parking at each station. Most stations are within walking distance of a bus stop. To ride the SMART train, you will need to purchase a fare through the Clipper Card or the SMART mobile app. No paper tickets are issued.

How much does it cost? Are there any discounts?

Fares are based on travel zones, and range from \$3.50 for the shortest one-way trip, to \$11.50 for a 43-mile trip from one end of the system to the other. Seniors, youth, and disabled passengers may pay half-fare by applying for a clipper card. Full fare information is available here: <http://www.sonomamarintrain.org/fares>



“SMART Guide” cont. on page 3

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

Redwood Chapter Sierra Club Directory

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

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

Redwood Chapter

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

Chair • At Large • Political Chair • RCC Delegate • Wilderness Chair		
Victoria Brandon*	994-1931	vbrandon@lakelive.info
Vice Chair • Lake Group Delegate to Chapter		
Ed Robey*	994-8304	edrobey@wildblue.net
Secretary		
Jill Hunter		redwoodjill@comcast.net
Treasurer		
Tom Davis	963-4466	tom@napavalleycpas.com
At Large • Legal Chair		
Keith Kaulum*	538-5569	kkaulum@sonic.net
At Large • CCL Delegate		
Rue Furch*	823-3555	pqrst@monitor.net
At Large • Conservation Chair • Council of Club Leaders Alternate		
Tom Roth*	632-5873	troth@monitor.net
Transportation Chair		
Steve Birdlebough	576-6632	affirm@friendshouse.org
Energy and Climate Chair		
Woody Hastings	829-3460	woodyhastings@gmail.com
Grazing Chair		
Felice Pace	954-6588	unofelice@gmail.com
Forestry Chair		
Jason Grant	536-5983	jason@jasongrantconsulting.com
Lake Group Delegate Alternate		
Carolyn Ruttan	295-0333	caninoridge@digitalpath.net
Mendocino Group Delegate to Chapter		
Mary Walsh*	937-0572	bella@mcn.org
Mendocino Group Delegate Alternate		
Lorrie Lagasse	964-3011	lorrielas@yahoo.com
Napa Group Delegate to Chapter		
Nancy Tamarisk*	257-3121	napaquail@gmail.com
Napa Group Delegate Alternate		
Lisa Godfrey	731-9587	merichi@yahoo.com
North Group Delegate to Chapter		
Ned Forsyth*	826-2417	nedforsyth48@gmail.com
North Group Delegate Alternate		
Joyce Yowell	559-916-8575	jayowell@hotmail.com
Sonoma Group Delegate to Chapter		
Shirley Johnson-Foell*	206-1138	johnsons@sonoma.edu
Sonoma Group Delegate Alternate		
Vacant		
Solano Group Delegate to Chapter		
Joe Feller*	415-902-3395	joe@americantelecomwest.com
Solano Group Delegate Alternate		
Vacant		
Administrative Staff • Publication Rep		
Tom Devlin	544-7651	tdevlin@sonic.net
Finance Committee		
Jana Selph	829-5356	jselph@sonic.net
Outings Chair • Outings Leadership Training		
Carol Vellutini	546-6308	carolvsr@sonic.net
Redwood Needles Editor		
Mary Davison	874-3704	odavison@sonic.net
Chapter Webmaster		
Melanie Matway		adastra7@hotmail.com
Chapter Communications Coordinator		
Shoshana Hebshi	415-350-7355	shoshana.hebshi@sierraclub.org

Lake County Group

P.O. Box 27	994-8304
Lakeport CA 95453	
Chair • Chapter Delegate • Treasurer	
Ed Robey*	994-8304
edrobey@wildblue.net	
Vice Chair	
Cheri Holden*	263-5787
cherisierraclub@gmail.com	
Secretary • Political Chair	
Denise Rushing*	560-1166
denise@productfrog.com	
Outings Chair	
Steve Devoto	279-8308
sdevoto@mchsi.com	
Conservation Chair • Newsletter Editor • Webmaster	
Victoria Brandon*	994-1931
vbrandon@lakelive.info	
Chapter Delegate Alternate • Water Chair	
Carolyn Ruttan*	295-0333
caninoridge@gmail.com	
Membership Chair	
Tricia Evans*	
tricialouevans@gmail.com	
ExCom	
Debra Sally*	995-2125
enviracat1@gmail.com	

Mendocino County Group

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

Napa County Group

P.O. Box 5531, Napa 94581	
Chair • Treasurer • Political Chair	
Chris Benz*	252-7462
christinabenz@gmail.com	
Vice Chair • Chapter Delegate	
Nancy Tamarisk*	257-3121
napaquail@gmail.com	
Secretary	
Linda Gail Brown*	510-504-0226
lindagailbrown@earthlink.net	

Conservation Chair	Bill Dyer*	942-5502
bill@dyerwine.com		
Chapter Delegate Alternate		
Lisa Godfrey*	731-9587	
merichi@yahoo.com		
Web Master		
Nancy Tracy	ntracy@sbcglobal.net	
ExCom		
Karen Culler*		
cullerwines@aol.com		
North Group		
Box 238, Arcata 95518		
(Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity, western Siskiyou counties)		
Chair • Membership		
Gregg Gold*	826-3740	
gregggold@netscape.net		
Vice Chair • Politics • Transportation • Chapter Delegate		
Ned Forsyth*	826-2417	
nedforsyth48@gmail.com		
Secretary		
Open		
Conservation Chair		
Open		
Energy • Global Warming/CAFE • Webmaster/ Computer		
Richard Kreis*	626-622-8148	
rgkreis@gmail.com		
Treasurer		
Sue Leskiw	442-5444	
sueleskiw1@gmail.com		
Newsletter • Agriculture • Water • Parks • Grazing • Publicity		
Felice Pace*	954-6588	
unofelice@gmail.com		
Outings Chair		
Vacant		

Solano County Group

Box 4717, Vallejo 94590	553-1653
sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com	
Chair • Chapter Delegate • Political Co-Chair	
Joe Feller*	415-902-3395
joe@americantelecomwest.com	
ExCom	
Stefanie Garcia*	
Secretary • Website	
Quinton Crawford	
Watershed Issues • Alt Chapter Delegate	
Doug Darling*	373-1766
ddfsh4life@sbcglobal.net	
Newsletter Editor	
Greg Peterson*	864-8573
gspeterson1@gmail.com	
Outings Chair	
Marilyn Farley	434-0316
mjfarley01@gmail.com	

Landuse	
Duane Kromm*	588-7321
dkkromm@gmail.com	
Treasurer • Recycling • Volunteer Coordinator	
Jane Bogner*	644-9183
jabogner@outlook.com	
Co-Membership	
Kitty Powell	kitty1.mom@gmail.com
Genetic Engineering • Wildlands	
Jim Dekloe	864-3123
JIMDEKLOE@comcast.net	
Sonoma County Group	
Box 466, SR 95402	544-7651
55A Ridgway Ave., Santa Rosa	
Executive Committee Members*	
Richard Sachen*	327-8298
richard@rsachen.net	
Adrienne Leihy*	
adriennelow@sbcglobal.net	
Teri Shore*	575-3661
tshore@greenbelt.org	
Theresa Ryan*	
Suzanne Doyle*	carsort@sbcglobal.net
Shirley Johnson-Foell*	206-1138
shirlgirl707@yahoo.com	
Chair •	
Teri Shore*	575-3661
tshore@greenbelt.org	
Conservation Chair	
Suzanne Doyle	carsort@sbcglobal.net
Office Coordinator • ExCom Secretary	
Tom Devlin	544-7651
tdevlin@sonic.net	
Outings	
Vacant	
Transportation	
Steve Birdlebough	576-6632
scbaffirm@gmail.com	
Parks & Trails • Backpacking	
Carol Vellutini	546-6308
carolvrsr@sonic.net	
Political Chair	
Keith Kaulum	538-5569
kkaulum@sonic.net	
Membership Chair	
Vacant	
Treasurer	
Jana Selph	829-5356
jselph@sonic.net	
Webmaster	
Melanie Matway	
adastra7@hotmail.com	
Volunteer Coordinator	
Diana Nasser	823-4293
diananas@sonic.net	
Water Committee Chair	
Leonard L. Holt	527-7516
lholt@sonic.net	
Climate & Energy Committee	
Shirley Johnson-Foell*	206-1138
shirlgirl707@yahoo.com	

* Executive Committee members

Redwood Needles

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club of California

Editorial Board:		Non-member Subscriptions:	
Mary Walsh, Becky Frank, Sue Leskiw, Victoria Brandon		\$6.00 per year.	
Requests: Redwood Needles Subscriptions, P.O. Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95402			
The <i>Redwood Needles</i> is published six times a year on recycled paper using soy-based ink.			
Editor:		Circulation: 4,800	
Mary Davison	(707) 874-3704	An additional 4000 newsletters are distributed electronically	
odavison@sonic.net		Printing: Healdsburg Printing, Inc.	
Advertising:		Submit articles by deadline via e-mail mail or fax to:	
For information, contact Mary at odavison@sonic.net			
Classifieds: \$5/10 words. Send check and ad copy by the 8th of the month.			
Outings Chair:			
Carol Vellutini	(707) 546-6308	<i>Redwood Needles</i>	
carolvrsr@sonic.net		e-mail: odavison@sonic.net	
Meetings Coordinator:			
Carl Inglin	(707) 538-8271	P.O. Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95401	
chinglin@sonic.net		Ph 707-544-7651	
Newsletter Coordinator:			
Pamela Nelson			
Address Corrections:			
address.changes@sierraclub.org			
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 (415) 977-5653			

Redwood Needles Deadlines

Issue	Deadline
Dec./ Jan.	Nov 4
Feb/March	Jan. 8

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/

Edgar F. Hoefler

The family of Sierra Club member Edgar F. Hoefler recently made a memorial donation of \$1,000 to the Sonoma Group. He passed away on June 8, 2017. Edgar was a longtime resident of Sebastopol and Santa Rosa. He was an environmentalist and avid hiker, backpacker and cyclist. He had many friends in the Sierra Club. He is survived by his loving wife Margaret Hoefler of Sebastopol. We thank the family for the generous contribution. His obituary was in the Press Democrat on June 15, 2017. <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/pressdemocrat/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=185818273>

Labor Day 2017: Good Jobs and Zero Waste Now!

BY MARTIN J. BENNETT

Sonoma County residents have an historic opportunity to address two of America's most critical 21st century issues: one is soaring economic inequality and the explosion of low-wage jobs paying less than \$15 an hour; the other is global warming and the imperative to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions by ending our reliance on fossil fuel. California communities have addressed both crises with "good jobs and zero waste" policies.

Two May 2017 events spotlight this opportunity for Sonoma County. First, after a five-month organizing drive for waste management workers, 400 drivers and recycling and clerical workers employed by the Ratto Group—North Bay's largest waste management company—voted overwhelmingly to join Teamsters 665. North Bay Jobs with Justice supported the drive, working closely with the Teamsters to build a broad coalition of labor, environmental, and community organizations.

Second, more than 100 business, environmental and labor organization representatives attended the first Zero Waste Symposium in the County, organized by Sustainable North Bay. Participants discussed how wastes could be recycled, reused, and composted, to divert 90 percent or more from landfills and incinerators.

Ratto and the Crisis of Low-Wage Employment

Dominating Sonoma County's waste management industry since the late 1990s, and providing waste hauling and recycling services for County unincorporated areas and every city

except Sonoma, the Ratto Group (a North Bay Corporation subsidiary) became the North Bay's "Wal-Mart of garbage."

Ratto consistently underbid competitors to provide the lowest rates for cities and the County, while generously contributing to local elected officials' campaigns.

However, "always lower prices" invariably means paying poverty wages and providing no benefits. Ratto Group drivers averaged \$16 an hour and recycling workers received barely more than the state minimum wage of \$10.50 an hour. Ratto workers did receive health insurance, but no retirement benefits—critical for a physically challenging occupation like waste management. Along with big box giants, Wal-Mart and McDonald's, and hotel chains like Hyatt, the Ratto Group drives the County's low-wage employment crisis.

According to 2015 U.S. Census data, one-third of County residents belonged to working-poor families—earning less than \$48,500 yearly (for a family of four with at least one member reporting income).

The California Employment Development Department estimates that 54 percent of newly created jobs in Sonoma County between 2014-2024 will pay less than a livable wage of \$22/hr.—the minimum that two parents, each working a full-time job, must earn for basic necessities and support for two children without relying on public programs, such as Medi-Cal and Food Stamps.

What a Santa Rosa Audit of the Ratto Group Revealed

The Ratto cost-cutting business model has undermined the quality of services provided. In June 2016 a City of Santa Rosa consultant audited the waste management contract and slammed the Ratto Group for many violations of its franchise agreement.

The audit discovered that Ratto was operating a rat-infested, poorly maintained and

hazardous recycling facility on Standish Road in Santa Rosa without the required County Health Department permits. The consultant also found the Ratto Group out of compliance for failing to rebuild its fleet of polluting and unsafe garbage trucks; not meeting minimal 45-percent rates of waste diversion from landfill and incinerators; and for providing inadequate customer service.

In 2015 the County Health Department began assessing daily fines against Ratto (that totaled nearly \$400,000 by June 2016) for operating a substandard recycling facility. The City of Santa Rosa threatened further fines totaling \$17 million dollars.

In 2016 the city refused to extend the Ratto Group contract for another five years and reopened competitive bidding for the waste management contract.

Recology and Sustainable Waste Management

In January 2017, the waste management firm Recology, which serves all of San Francisco and 126 California, Oregon, and Washington communities, announced that it would purchase Ratto. The sale was finalized in early August, and Recology signed a binding agreement with the Teamsters mandating that the company will retain Ratto employees and their union.

Recology has a long track record of maintaining the highest labor, environmental, and customer service standards. Recology has operated in San Francisco as a unionized wall-to-wall company since the 1930s, providing excellent family-supporting wages and comprehensive benefits, including health and dental care, sick days, paid vacation, and retirement.

In addition, Recology workers can purchase tax exempt shares in the company. Employees own 100 percent of company stock, and can cash out when they leave—or receive additional retirement income based upon their stock's value. The company also provides extensive education and training programs for workers

seeking better-paying and more skilled positions within the company.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that waste management and recycling is one of the nation's most dangerous industries, with the fifth highest worker fatality and injury rate in 2015. Recology has maintained a strong safety record through: ongoing health and safety trainings for all employees; implementing an 'illness and injury prevention program,' audited and updated annually; and ensuring that all employees have state-of-the-art protective gear.

Recology workers are on the front line for achieving zero waste. With a voice at work through their union, access to ongoing training and education, a controlled line speed, and a safe workplace, they are equipped to play a key role in maximizing recycling rates and ensuring a high-quality, clean waste stream.

According to the Los Angeles Alliance for A New Economy's 2015 report, "Cleaning Up Waste Management and Securing the Benefits: A Blue Print for Cities," Recology has: 1) partnered with San Francisco to attain an 80-percent diversion rate in 2013—the highest of any North American city; 2) maintained one of the most advanced and automated recycling facilities in the world at Pier 96; 3) collaborated with the City to develop an extensive door-to-door multilingual consumer education program for instructing customers how to recycle their trash

"Good Jobs & Zero Waste Now"
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"SMART GUIDE"

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How frequently will it run?

The schedule has 34 trains per day, with intervals of about 30 minutes during commute hours, and a mid-day train in each direction. A morning southbound train leaves the airport station at 4:19 a.m. and arrives in San Rafael at 5:26 a.m. Northbound, the first morning train leaves San Rafael at 5:59 a.m. and arrives at the airport station at 7:06 a.m. On weekends, the first morning train leaves Airport Road at 10:13 am. and the last evening train leaves San Rafael at 8:50 pm. A full schedule is available here: <http://www.sonomamarintrain.org/schedules-fares>.

What's the ride like?

SMART train cars are well-appointed, with cushioned seats, bright lighting and a coffee bar. Some seats face each other across a table. Others are rows of two with an aisle down the middle. The ride is smooth and quiet. WiFi is available.

What are the policies on bringing bikes on?

Bikes are a great way to enhance your SMART experience and go carless. They are welcome on board the trains and each car has spaces for 24 bikes. Stations have bike parking and secure bike lockers. SMART is also exploring partnerships to provide bike sharing near some of its stations.

How do I get from the San Rafael terminal to the ferry terminal?

Until the train service expands to Larkspur (planned for 2019), SMART riders can get a free bus from the San Rafael station on Golden Gate Transit's Route 31 to the Larkspur ferry terminal. There is also a return trip from ferry to train. The shuttle is about 10 minutes. Read more here: <http://www.marinij.com/article/NO/20170525/NEWS/170529843>.

When are extensions of train service expected?

Extension of service to the Larkspur ferry terminal is due in 2019. Extensions north to Windsor, Healdsburg and Cloverdale are planned but are dependent on funding. Future train service could extend to Sacramento via the Capitol Corridor.

Calendars are available for purchase at the Environmental Center at 55 Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Call for hours: 707-544-7651. If ordering by mail, shipping is \$2 per calendar and sales tax is included. The mailing address is Sierra Club, PO Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95402. If you would like to pay by credit card, please order from the general Sierra Club website: <https://store.sierraclub.org/sierra-club-store-c27.aspx> Your purchase directly benefits Sierra Club's conservation work.



Enjoy, explore and protect the planet

2017 Sierra Club Calendars



Wilderness Wall Calendar



Engagement Calendar

Item	Cost	Qty	Total
Engagement	\$14.95		
Wilderness	\$15.95		
Subtotal			
Shipping			
GRAND TOTAL			

Ship To: Please make checks payable to "Sierra Club" and mail to the return address shown on your invoice.

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Create a Lasting Legacy



By creating a charitable bequest to benefit Sierra Club or your favorite Sierra Club Chapter, you remain in control of your assets during your lifetime and help protect the environment in years to come.

For more info and confidential assistance, contact:
Sierra Club
Gift Planning Program
85 Second Street, Second Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
giftplanning@sierraclub.org • (800) 932-6270

Outings

Fri.-Sun. Sept. 29-Oct. 1 - National Public Lands Day

Join various N. Nevada outdoor groups for an as yet undetermined volunteer project in the Black Rock Desert about 100 miles north of Reno. Current plans are for a project at Soldier Meadows Hot Spring. Most food provided but you'll have to work for it! There's usually a work day and a play day so we won't work all weekend! Call David Book 775/843-6443 for more info as we get closer to the event! Great Basin Group.

Fri. Oct. 6 - Lake Group. Full Moon over Clear Lake

A funny little hike to obtain a spectacular view of the sunset as the full moon rises over the lake. We will hike a steep two miles to the top of Elephant Mountain with breathtaking views of Clear Lake from high above the north shore between Lucerne and Glen Haven. The first two thirds is up a Kono Tayee subdivision street. We will meet in the early evening. Bring food for dinner and drinks Class: M4A. Call the leader Steve Devoto 279-8308 or sdevoto@mchsi.com to find out the time and place of the meeting. Limit 15.

Sun. Oct. 8 - Sonoma Group. Gunsight Rock Hike.

Experienced hikers only; this trail is steep with loose footing in some sections. Starting out at Sugarloaf State Park Goodspeed Trailhead we'll see the fall colors from Gunsight Rock. Bring water, snacks, lunch, wind parka, hat and sturdy hiking boots. The Nattkemper Trail is our Sierra Club Trail, constructed in 1982-1985 Meet: 9:15

Goodspeed trailhead Sugarloaf State Park first parking area on the left on Adobe Canyon Road (2.2 miles from Hwy 12). Parking is \$8; exact change only. Class: S-71/2-B. Leader Dave 849-1111 Rain Cancels.

Sat. Oct. 14 - North Group. Humboldt Redwoods State Park Bull Creek Flats Loop.

Beginning beneath redwood giants of Rockefeller Loop, our route upstream along Bull Creek leads through some of the world's largest old growth forest. Since seasonal bridges may be removed by this date, be prepared to wade shallow crossings. Bring lunch, plentiful water, hiking footwear. Class: M-9-A Carpools : Meet 8:30 am Ray's Valley West, 9:15 am Eureka Kmart hwy 101 S. or trailhead 10 am Rockefeller Grove. Leader Melinda 668-4275 or mgroomster@gmail.com Rain, strong winds cancel.

Sat. Oct. 21 - North Group. Del Norte Redwoods State Park Last Chance Coastal Trail Hike.

Join us for this easygoing ramble through lush old-growth upon a stretch of Redwood Highway replaced in the 1930's by the present 101 route, itself soon to be abandoned for more stable inland terrain. With luck, we can descend to the beach below. We will see how the main roadway is evolving with the latest round of slope failures. Bring water and lunch. No dogs. Class M-8-A. Carpools 9 a.m. Valley West (Ray's) Shopping Center, 10:30 a.m. Damnation Creek trailhead (3.3 mi. north of Wilson Creek bridge, west side Hwy. 101) leader

Ned, nedforsyth48@gmail.com, (707) 825-3652. Heavy rain cancels.

Sat. Oct. 28 - Solano Group. Skyline Wilderness Park Hike.

Enjoy an invigorating hike through woodlands and open ridgelines with views of Napa Valley. On this 5 mile hike we will be taking the Skyline and Buckeye trails to Lake Marie, return to the parking lot on Marie Creek Trail. Hike is moderately strenuous with a 500 foot elevation gain, mainly at the beginning of the trail. Be prepared with clothing layers, hat, sunscreen, snacks and water. Class: M-5-B. Meet: 9am, Skyline Wilderness Park parking lot. Located at 2201 Imola Avenue off Soscal/Hwy 221. Parking fee \$5. Parking lot opens at 8am. Leader Doug Tracey 925-366-9612 dtracey@gmail.com

Fri.-Sun. Oct. 27-29 - Wilderness Restoration in Death Valley National Park.

Join us as we continue the clean-up of

a grow site in this beautiful National Park. We will hike about 3 miles up a rugged canyon to gather and carry out the trash left behind in an illegal grow site. Participants should bring an old backpack if they have one. Sturdy trash bags will be supplied to protect packs. Details on meeting time and camping location have not been finalized. Potluck Saturday night. Leader: Kate Allen, kj.allen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056.

Thurs. Nov. 9 - North Group. Prairie Creek State Park Hike.

We will make a loop on the West Ridge and Prairie Creek Trails: out through towering ridge forest, returning creekside past autumn maples and bottom-land giants. Bring lunch, water, hiking footwear. Class: M-6-A Carpools: Meet 9am Ray's Valley West. All meet 10:15am porch at Prairie Creek Visitor Center. Leader Melinda 668-4275 or mgroomster@gmail.com Steady rain

cancels.

Sat. Nov. 18 - 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. Medium difficulty, about 5 miles, less than 1,000 feet elevation gain/loss. Carpools: Meet 9 a.m. Ray's Market in Valley West. Leader Ned, nedforsyth48@gmail.com, (707) 825-3652 message phone. Heavy rain cancels.

Sierra Club Volunteer/Activist Opportunities Help Wanted: Chapter Secretary and Outings Chair

Redwood Chapter is actively seeking applicants for two important positions. After eight years of exemplary service Chapter Secretary Jill Hunter is retiring and moving to the Gold Country. A full job description for this vital post is available at <http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/volunteer-redwood-chapter>, but the main responsibility is to take minutes at chapter meetings, which are held six times annually in either Santa Rosa or Willits.

We are also looking for a Chapter Outings Chair or (alternatively) an Outings Coordinator. After more than 30 years of outstanding service to the Club, Carol Vellutini is also taking a well-earned retirement as of the end of the year. Job descriptions for both positions are also posted at <http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/volunteer-redwood-chapter>. Familiarity with the Sierra Club Outings program or willingness to learn is an essential component of either of these jobs, but please note that qualification as an Outing leader is not required.

Interested? Please contact Chapter Chair Victoria Brandon, 707 994 1931 or vbrandon@lakelive.info

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



Furch Joins Water Advisory Committee

Redwood Chapter's ExCom member Rue Furch has been appointed to the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Sustainability Agency's (GSA) Advisory Committee.

The California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires GSAs be formed where basins have been identified as at risk in order to secure groundwater sustainability. Rue has served on the Basin Advisory Panel since its inception, and been active in surface/groundwater issues including quality and quantity locally and statewide for decades. The purpose of the advisory committee is to provide informed recommendations to the Agency Board on the Sustainability Plan, implementation and policies.

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

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

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

Varies, see hike description for details: Jim Gannon Phil Kohlmetz Doug Tracey

Fast-pace with few or no stops: Carol Magill

Moderate-pace with few stops: Don Anderson Lorrie Lagasse Julie Kreis Paul Farley David Oliver

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

Slower-pace: Allison Bronkall Carl Inglin

Instructions to hikers

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

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

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

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

Visitors are welcome

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

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

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

To submit outings write-ups

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

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

Climate Change: This Time, it's Personal

My husband and I have been considering switching to an electric car for the past few years. Our feeling of urgency has ramped up since the current administration took office. First, Scott Pruitt was picked to gut the EPA. Then the U.S. pulled out of the Paris Climate Accord. Now hurricanes are battering southern states and Caribbean islands. Since our national leaders won't step up to address Climate Change, it's up to us as individuals to take charge.

Once we read about the amazing rebates, we realized how painless it was to have a positive impact. The rebates and incentives make it cheap and easy to do the right thing!

There are nine models this year to choose from, each with different rebates and incentives. In August, we opted for a three-year lease of a 2017 Nissan LEAF, since the technology is likely to improve by 2020. The local dealer and manufacturer gave substantial reductions for the LEAF lease, including the value of the \$7500 federal tax credit (an incentive which may not last forever in the current political climate.) Since we are a Sonoma Clean Power customer, we also qualified for their \$2000 rebate.

With \$5000 down (which will more than be reimbursed by further incentives I list below), our payments will be around \$100 a month. We've already received a \$500 rebate from PG&E, are on the waiting list for \$2500 from the California Clean Vehicle rebate (likely to be funded in the near future, though not guaranteed.) North Coast Air Quality Control District (NCAQCD) residency provides another rebate, of \$3000. Low to moderate incomes qualify for further incentives from each of these programs (except from PG&E.)

But wait, that's not all! Sonoma Clean Power also provides a free 240 volt charger (it should take only 4 to 6 hours for a full charge of our LEAF) to customers— you just pay sales tax and a \$50 handling fee. Ours arrived within a week of signing up online. If you also sign up for JuiceNet, (a system that monitors the electricity grid to reduce the charger's draw during high demand times, although you can override it) you'll receive a \$150 rebate. It cost about \$700 for us to have the charger installed, including the permit. That's no problem either, since the NCAQCD also provides up to \$1000 for costs of the charger and installation.

Jim Bone Nissan also gave us a card for 2 years/\$1200 worth of free charging at select public chargers. In a half hour, these chargers deliver up to 80% of the full charge. I tested it out yesterday and it worked great.

According to Sonoma County's website, "The fossil-fuel transportation sector accounts for about 65% of the state's greenhouse gas emissions. It also emits fine particulates and other pollutants that form smog in the air we breathe. A transition to an EV community protects our air quality and fights climate change." Federal, state and local incentives are designed to move us more quickly away from the internal combustion engine. The future needs to be now. You can find the details about rebates, incentives, and links to the various programs available at <https://sonomacleanpower.org/drive-evergreen/> . The Sonoma Clean Program and credits will only be available until Oct. 31, or as long as vehicle inventories last.

—MARY DAVISON, REDWOOD NEEDLES EDITOR

Non-Sierra Club Outings & Events

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

Sonoma County Regional Parks trail work days.

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

Garden Volunteer Days: First Friday of the Month, 9am – noon. Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa. Enjoy our native plant garden! Volunteers are essential in beautifying our site. Share your expertise or

learn new skills by getting involved today! http://lagunafoundation.org/volunteer_garden.html

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

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

http://lagunafoundation.org/volunteer_lagunastewards.html

Outings Chair Report

Mother Nature seems to be bringing our planet extreme changes. Personally I haven't adapted to heat spells, muggy humidity, and thunder & lightning storms.

We had the brutal drought followed by heavy snows in the Sierra. Throughout many regions this produced a lush growth of grasses thicker and taller than I have ever seen. Then there was a very hot spring. This happened so fast that the deep snow melted much faster than expected. The rapid melting and raging rivers caused many Pacific Trail backpackers to abandon their plans for through hiking. All the grass that grew high dried out and so did forests at the higher elevations. This was fuel for wild fires so now we have raging fires in some locations. Summer lightning storms and humans caused 76 large fires burning in nine Western States. We had suffered smoky skies for weeks, and thank goodness for the wind today at my house as now I have clean air to breathe.

One of my favorite areas is the Columbia River Gorge trail system. The trails go to beautiful waterfalls and lush forests with fern grottos. The Eagle Creek Fire (started by teenagers) jumped from Washington to Oregon by 200 mile an hour wind gusts. This resulted in impacting the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and evacuations.

Many other beautiful areas have fires including Pasayten Wilderness (crossed the border into Canada last month) and in Montana fires are near Lake McDonald Lodge in Glacier National Park.

Mendocino County has wildfires sparked by lightning as we had several waves of thunderstorms from the Bay Area to Northern California. By the 13th there were more than 1,700 lightning strikes in the region.

I am thankful that we have not had the tragedies that Texas, Florida, Virgin Islands, and Mexico are dealing with. Mother Nature must be telling us that the earth that I knew as a child is not the earth of today. Our populations are not sustainable. Our climate has changed.

Please take care when leading and scouting hikes. Your familiar trails, water sources, and camps might not be there. After the Lake County fires I was amazed how the landscape had changed. You saw what our Benson Hut looked like this winter completely covered over with snow. I have not had a work party report from Jim Gannon yet as he just did a work party trip up there to fix winter damage.

Today feels like Fall already. Where did my year go? I spent so many days indoors due to the weather outside. Well there is always next year.

—CAROL VELLUTINI,

REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR

—UNTIL JAN 1ST.



With your help we can protect the wolf

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

Lead the pack & JOIN Sierra Club.

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Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Elite	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
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Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

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Sonoma Group Report

Climate Action

The Summerfield moved us to the biggest theater due to demand for Sierra Club's premiere screening of Al Gore's "The Inconvenient Sequel" in Santa Rosa. After the viewing, the audience stayed seated for a lively discussion with our Climate Panel: City Councilmember Chris Rogers, Climate Reality graduate Laurie Gallian and Climate Protectors Chair Tom Conlon. The Q & A session became heated over the recent court decision to uphold the legal challenge to the environmental review of Sonoma County's Climate Action Plan.

To help clarify the issues, Sonoma Group hosted attorney Jerry Bernhaut of RiverWatch in



Sierra Club's Tom Conlon and Sonoma Councilmember Laurie Gallian celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Sonoma County Parks.

a briefing on the legalities of the court decision at our Climate and Energy Committee meeting in August that packed the Environmental Center. He explained that the County basically needs to revise the baseline for countywide greenhouse gas emissions to more fully include wine industry and tourism activities. The county also needs to look at additional environmental alternatives such as slowing or putting a moratorium on increased emissions. Or appeal the case.

It is clear that the legal action does not stop the county or cities from taking action to reduce climate change gases as specified in the Climate Action Plan. Our Climate Action Committee is growing and looking for more volunteers to become Climate Protectors. Their work continues to press for local measures to be implemented.

Regional Parks 50th Anniversary

The Sierra Club saluted the 50th Anniversary of the Sonoma County Regional Parks with a Meet and Greet with Parks Director Bert Whitaker. A resolution from the California State Legislature was presented to him by district staff from our state delegation. Bert provided an inspiring vision for protecting and expanding our regional parks. He is excited about expanded public access at Tolay Regional Park near Petaluma. He announced a Park Summit on Sept. 21 designed in part to gauge interest and support for a possible park measure in 2018. Read more about Bert here: http://parks.sonomacounty.ca.gov/About_Us/

News/Supervisors_Appoint_Regional_Parks_Director.aspx

Connect the Dots

Steve Birdlebough and Tom Conlon attended a workshop by the National Sierra Club on Leadership Training. They plan to show us all how to use personal narratives and storytelling to better connect with members and potential new members. We are going to practice these skills at upcoming committee and ExCom meetings, so come join us!

Zero Waste

ExCom member Theresa Ryan is providing input on development of a Zero Waste policy for Sonoma County. She recently shared a draft policy developed by the Zero Waste Coalition for review and input by Sierra Club.

She also shared the information on the Zero Waste website and the current plastic straw ban campaign and suggested a possible Sierra Club Forum event on the subject of Zero Waste. Representatives from Sonoma Compost will share prospects for a new City of Santa Rosa composting site at the October 2 Conservation Committee meeting that starts at 5:30 pm.

Toxic Free Future - Endorsed

Sierra Club's Sonoma Group has endorsed a Toxic Free Future campaign recently launched by Sonoma County Conservation Action. The goal is to limit and eventually phase out the use of glyphosphate to kill weeds in public parks, schools, libraries and other public places. The campaign is already making strides with the Santa Rosa City Council moving to require landscape contractors to reduce or

eliminate use of harmful weed killers. The campaign seeks to ensure that all of our public agencies are in compliance with existing laws for reporting and use. Ultimately, the campaign seeks to ensure that all government agencies have Integrated Pest Management Plans (IPM) that require using least toxic methods first with a goal of "getting to zero" pesticide use in the next five years (exceptions for public health and safety). Read more here: <http://www.conservationaction.org/news/toxicfree/>

-TERI SHORE,

SONOMA GROUP CHAIR



Sonoma Group Chair Teri Shore joins Parks Director Bert Whitaker as Callum Weeks of Assemblyman Marc Levine's office and Logan Pitts of Senator Bill Dodd's office present a resolution commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Sonoma County Parks.

North Group Report

North Group Underwrites Two Campers

In July, North Group sponsored two 10-year-old girls—one from Eureka and one from Crescent City—to attend a week-long "River & Adventure" session at Lost Coast Camp near Petrolia. This represented a new venue for campers sponsored through donations to the Lucille Vinyard/Susie van Kirk Environmental Education Fund.

In 2016, the Oregon Museum of Science & Technology discontinued its overnight camp sessions in Redwood National & State Parks near Orick, where North Group had been sending local children for a number of years. So, I began searching for a new local overnight camp with an environmental emphasis and discovered Lost Coast Camp in the Mattole Valley. The facility's mission is to "provide youth with a dynamic summer camp experience, which promotes building self-esteem and positive friendships, individual expression, and fostering an appreciation for the natural world."



River & Adventure campers at Lost Coast Camp.

In exchange for their tuition, the girls agreed to submit an essay to North Group about their experience. Below are excerpts:

Camper 1: "My experience at camp brought out the best in me and that makes me proud of myself. I stepped up to help and was brave when I needed to be. One day I earned a medallion because I was willing to talk about my goals, about how I wanted to act as a person when I left camp. Now, I'm confident and sure I can do anything when I put my mind to it. Some of my most memorable moments include the mouth-watering, healthy meals; evening campfires when we would sing and tell stories; and our counselor reading us a story before bed. I met unique girls and formed strong friendships and bonds and will never forget my cabin mates. But the really amazing moments were walking to the river through pastures and fields and seeing the beautiful mountains. The colors were so vibrant and bright and they inspired me to be curious and happy. One night we slept under the stars on the sand lining the shore of the Mattole River."

Camper 2: "This truly was an exceptional, amazing camp experience, like no other I've had. This is my first time getting to explore the Lost Coast and this camp was an easy way to do that, through visiting its forests, mountains, rivers, and beaches. We spent almost all of our time outdoors. Every day we took a trip to the river. One day we went canoeing; another, we went to the beach and played in the woods. My favorite part of camp was our overnight at Strawberry Rock, a big rock on top of a mountain. The other best part of camp was the beach day, where you could do so many things: play on the sand, swim in the water, or play games in the woods."

-SUE LESKIW, NORTH GROUP TREASURER

Vital Lands Initiative Public Meetings

Sierra Club urges all members to mark your calendars for a series of community meetings to provide input on the draft goals, objectives, strategies, and performance measures of the Vital Lands Initiative of the Sonoma County Agricultural and Open Space District. The meeting schedule is as follows:

Oct 12 – Petaluma Veterans Memorial Building
6:00pm – 8:00pm

Oct 14 – Location TBD (West County)
10:00am – 12:00pm*

Oct 16 – Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building
6:00pm – 8:00pm

Oct 17 – Villa Chanticleer (Healdsburg)
6:00pm – 8:00pm

Oct 18 – Sonoma Veterans Memorial Building
6:00pm – 8:00pm

*Note this meeting is on a Saturday in the morning.

To register and learn more about this important open space program, go to this website: <http://www.sonomaopenspace.org/projects/vital-lands-initiative/>

Solano Breeze Corner

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

Solano County is celebrating the passage of Senate Bill 365 (Dodd). As the last county in the Bay Area to not have a regional park district, we are now one major step closer to getting a district. Senator Dodd's bill, co-authored by Assembly members Frazier and Grayson, allows the Solano County Board of Supervisors to put the formation of the District question in front of our voters. This came about because of work by the Board of Supervisors, who all supported the measure. Supervisors Erin Hannigan and John Vasquez are now expected to take the lead in moving us towards a vote. Much work remains, some about how the District functions, what lands are included, how it is to be funded, and when might we see an election.

Amy Hartman, Greenbelt Alliance's new Solano County Regional Representative, played a crucial role in building support for the legislation. Letters of support went in from many organizations, including every city but Dixon, which did not take a position. For now, this is a big win for park advocates in Solano County. With a thank you to Senator Dodd for his leadership, along with thanks you's to Assembly members Frazier and Grayson.

Stay tuned on how you can help move a Solano County park district forward. Grassroots effort will be crucial.

-DUANE KROMM AND MARILYN FARLEY

Join Solano Group meetings, usually on the first Monday of each month. Our next meeting dates are:

Oct 2, Nov 6, Dec 4, 2017

To confirm, call Jane at 707-319-6398

VALCORE Recycling and Paper Shredding updates:

Solano Group helps out with paper shredding every 3rd Saturday each month at 38 Sheridan Street, Vallejo from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There is a charge of \$10 (CASH or CHECK ONLY) per twenty pounds of paper shredded. (Maximum: 100 pounds).

WEEKDAY SHREDDING from 10 am to 4 pm, closed 1 pm to 2 pm for lunch (CREDIT OR DEBIT ONLY).

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

-JANE BOGNER

EDITED BY GREG PETERSON

Mendocino Group Report

A man called me up from Sebastopol this morning. He wanted to tell me about a Reuters article that had him quite alarmed. It said that there were 50,000 illegal marijuana grows in California and that at most of them there was evidence of chemicals (including pesticides and rodenticides) banned here in our state. These chemicals increasingly contaminate the ground water. He said this is an existential threat that crosses all spectrums. He had done some research and learned of an outfit called Integral Ecology Research Center (Iercecology.org) that has been working on this issue. He said that the problem is far worse north of Sonoma County.

Linda Perkins and Bill Heil have been honored as the 2017 Outstanding Volunteers



Linda Perkins and Bill Heil. Photo courtesy of Redwood Forest Foundation.

by the Redwood Forest Foundation Inc. A front page center splendid photograph in the Mendocino Beacon and a very nice accompanying article talks of their twenty year involvement with the Foundation (www.rffi.org) which incorporated that long ago as an innovative nonprofit organization based on ecology, economy and equity. Described as a leader in sustainability RFFI, with its Usal Forest which was purchased in 1997, has been in the news for being one of the largest forest based carbon sequestration projects in the nation. On the opinion page of the Beacon is a very interesting editorial piece titled Forestry Finding a New Vision. It acknowledges that the days of boom and bust are gone and lauds a forestry that can see beyond the quarterly return. These articles both on the front page and on the editorial page signal a change in attitude and are very heartening in these days of so much bad news on the national front.

Residents of Albion, Perkins and Heil have both been members of the Mendocino Group executive committee for many years; Perkins is also a member of the Redwood Chapter Forest and Legal Committees. Best wishes and thanks to Linda and Bill for your steady and selfless work.

-MARY WALSH,
MENDOCINO GROUP CHAIR



Napa Group Report

Private Heliport Rejected by Planning Commission

In a rare victory for community activists (which included the Napa Sierra Club), the County Planning Commission on a 4:1 vote rejected an application by the Palmaz family for a private heliport on the shoulders of Mt George. One major concern of opponents was that if the heliport went through we might see a flood of such applications by private parties. The Palmaz's can appeal to the BOS.

Version 2 of Watershed Oak Woodland Protection Initiative Has Been Filed!

Two years ago the Watershed and Oak Woodland Protection Initiative, which proposed expanded protection of Napa County's streams and woodlands, was tossed from the ballot over technical issues.

Undeterred, the proponents sought more input from the community, especially the Vintners' Association, made some changes, and are re-filing.

Sierra Club will be taking a close look at the revised Initiative.

Litigation Worries Delay County Climate Action Plan

CAP (Climate Action Plan) hearings have been postponed following the successful litigation against the Sonoma County Climate Action Plan

by attorney Jerry Bernhaut. He has threatened litigation against the Napa County CAP as well if it is not strengthened.

Sierra Club Shines Spotlight on California Water Politics

On Sept 8th, over 70 people attended our showing of the film, Water & Power: a California Heist, which tells the tale of privatization of California's water, primarily by corporate agricultural interests. Co-sponsors include the League of Women Voters, and the Unitarian Universalist Church.

ARG fires a shot over the BOS' bow

A mystery group "Association for Responsible Government" has sent a letter to the Board of Supervisors charging that the County has routinely flouted State environmental law (CEQA) in their approvals of winery projects over the years. The County responded via the Napa Register, rejecting these claims.

Keep Informed on Napa Environmental Activities!

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

-NANCY TAMARISK, NAPA GROUP VICE CHAIR

Lake Group Report

Wild and Scenic Film Festival October 28

Lake Group has been gearing up to present our first-ever Wild and Scenic Festival, to be held from 4-10 p.m. (with a dinner break) at the Soper Reese Community Theater in Lakeport. Besides a series of prize winning films from last January's acclaimed Wild and Scenic Festival in Nevada City, the event will feature some local films and a live performance—a presentation with musical accompaniment by ecology professor Dr Harry Lyons. Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association, Big Valley Rancheria, Lake County Land Trust, Middletown Arts Council, Redbud Audubon Society and Watershed Books are among our local cosponsors. Refreshments, and socializing too! Tickets \$15 (\$13 for Sierra Club members) available online at soperreesetheatre.com, at The Travel Center - 707.263.3095, at Watershed Books at 305 N. Main in Lakeport, and at the door. Proceeds will benefit the Middle Creek Marsh wetlands restoration project.

We're also getting ready for our first community meeting of the fall season, which will be held at the Round Room of Mendocino Community College at 6:30PM on Wednesday September 27, and feature a talk by Randal MacDonald of the Citizens Climate Lobby on "Climate Change and What We Can Do About It." He will report on the latest findings in climate science and then compare and contrast CCL's Carbon Fee and Dividend plan with other leading climate solutions, such as Cap and Trade. It all seems more relevant than ever in these days of hurricanes, wildfires, and floods. As always the event is free and open to the public.

Contact Debi Sally, enviracat1@gmail.com, for more information.

Clear Lake Nutrient TMDL- what's next?

On August 28, Lake Group joined a jam-packed room of concerned citizens at Lakeport City Hall to hear a presentation by State Water Board staff on the progress (or lack thereof) towards meeting the goals of the Clear Lake Nutrient TMDL. Since it's plainly impossible to meet the original compliance deadline— June 2017 (!) the Water Board was sounding out public opinion on extending the deadline for another ten or twenty years, but without any clear plan for actions that would lead to compliance. A number of suggestions were made at the meeting, including a recommendation by Lake Group that sub-watershed monitoring be done to pinpoint the actual sources of the sedimentation that have created the nutrient overload in the first place, and it was made very clear that completing the Middle Creek project is key to meeting overall goals. What's not clear is the path to that end: if the Water Board recognizes how essential the project is, why aren't they doing all they can to obtain the necessary funding? At present the county needs another \$15 million to acquire the remaining parcels in the project site; once that happens the federal Army Corps of Engineers will cover the great bulk of remaining costs— but in the meantime everything is dead in the water, as are a lot of fish and mats of decaying blue-green algae.

-VICTORIA BRANDON,
LAKE GROUP CONSERVATION CHAIR

Redwood Needles

December 2017 Deadline: Due Nov. 4th

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

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most efficiently and effectively.

Recology's record in San Francisco and elsewhere demonstrates how to create good jobs across the waste stream, and achieve the highest diversion rates in a cost-effective manner.

A Zero Waste Policy for Sonoma County?

Sonoma County Environmentalists have long urged local government to adopt zero waste programs similar to other California

cities and counties. Zero waste is a goal and a vision for reducing what we put in landfills and incinerators to zero. Much that we now throw away can be safely and economically recovered, recycled, reused, or composted to yield biogas.

Getting to zero will require mandatory recycling and composting for all residents and businesses, and implementation of a three-bin customer system for separating recyclables (glass bottles, paper/cardboard, aluminum cans, hard

plastics) from organic waste (food scraps and yard trimmings), and trash (plastic bags, broken glass, pet litter) to maximize recycling and a clean waste stream. Recycling of construction waste and debris also must be mandatory. Implementing a highly efficient three-bin system won't occur overnight; it requires years of consumer education.

Composting is essential for reaching zero waste. Compostable food wastes are as much as 35 percent of trash sent to landfills, which produce methane, accounting for 17 percent of all greenhouse emissions according to the EPA. Sustainable agriculture requires composting to add precious organic nutrients back to the soil and to sequester carbon in healthy soils.

Due to a lawsuit settlement and environmental concerns, Sonoma Compost, the County's only large compost producer, ceased operations at the County landfill in 2015. Recology's six compost facilities in California manufacture a billion pounds of compost each year and the company has the capacity and resources to fill the void left by the closure of Sonoma Compost.

Zero Waste and the Circular Economy

Getting to zero requires much more than the three-bin collection system. The May Zero Waste Symposium discussed the need for fundamental change in product manufacturing and design, in order to develop a 'closed loop clean recycling economy.' State and local government can lead the way by requiring higher recycling content in public-sector procurement—and by providing economic incentives for both business investment and innovation in a clean recycling economy, and for manufacturing new products made with locally recycled materials. A 2011 Tellus Institute report, "More Jobs Less Pollution," stated that increasing U.S. recycling 40 percent by 2030 could create 1.5 million good recycling-reliant manufacturing and reuse jobs, while cutting greenhouse gas emissions in half.

AB 341, approved by California's legislature in 2014, mandates a 75-percent waste-diversion rate from landfills by 2020. Cal Recycle, charged with overseeing the State's waste management programs, identifies 5 counties and 21 cities that have implemented zero waste policies exceeding the mandate. For example, a 2014 Los Angeles zero waste policy requires a 90 percent diversion rate by 2025.

The unionization of Sonoma County's waste management industry, this year's first Zero Waste Symposium, and now the arrival of Recology, indicate a turning point for the local zero waste movement.

This is the moment for a broad coalition of labor, environmental, business, and community organizations to develop a comprehensive policy on good jobs and zero waste for every city and the County—and to engage elected officials and County residents in an informed dialogue about policy that can improve job quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Sierra Club Sonoma Group member Martin J. Bennett is Instructor Emeritus of History at Santa Rosa Junior College and co-chair, North Bay Jobs with Justice. This article originally appeared in the September 2017 Sonoma Gazette.

Meetings

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

Mon. 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. 2 - Sonoma Group.

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

Tues. Oct. 10 - North Group ExCom.

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

Sat., Nov. 4 - Redwood Chapter ExCom. And ConsCom.

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

Mon. Nov. 6 - Sonoma Group.

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

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

Mon. Nov. 6 - Solano Group ExCom.

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

Tues. Nov. 14 - North Group ExCom.

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

Thurs. Nov. 15 - Solano Group ExCom.

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

Tues. Nov. 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 napaquail@gmail.com

2017 Redwood Chapter and Group Elections Schedule

October 5, 2017: Receipt of all candidates' applications (statement of intent to run) with contact information, for consideration by Group Nominating Committees

October 12, 2017: Group Nominating Committee inform all potential candidates of their status and submit list of candidates, with contact information, to their respective ExComs and Chapter Election Committees

October 26, 2017: Group Nominating Committees submit ballot statements to Election Committee


October 26, 2017: Statements are sent for December *Redwood Needles*

November 2, 2017: Receipt of ballot petitions and ballot statements by Election Committee

Approved statements sent for December *Redwood Needles*

December 30, 2017: Ballots due in office

January 3, 2018: Ballots counted. Notify all candidates, Chapter ExCom and *Redwood Needles* of results



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Campaign Training for Teams

November 3-5, 2017, Reno, NV

Are you working to stop a development, pass legislation, get your city to use 100% renewable energy, protect a special place, or achieve another critical campaign victory?

Connect the Dots is a Sierra Club training program designed to benefit new and existing campaign teams to be stronger on all aspects of campaign planning and implementation:

- Campaign Planning & Strategy
- Connecting to Community Values
- Building & Sustaining Teams
- Building a Network of Partners
- Engaging New Volunteers & Leaders
- Power Mapping & Target Engagement
- Telling Compelling Stories
- Equity, Inclusion & Justice

Who is eligible?

- Teams that are newly forming, or that have existed for some time.
- Teams of 3-5 people dedicated to a single issue or cause.
- All organizations and affiliations welcome! Sierra Club affiliation NOT required.
- LIMITED TO 25 PEOPLE total.

This Connect the Dots training is hosted by the Sierra Club. Why are we doing this? Because we want to support important environmental and social causes to make our world a better place.

There is no cost for the training. Sierra Club will cover most food and lodging. You need provide only your transportation and one or two meals.

Join the Sierra Club in building partnerships and a movement toward a better future.

If you're interested, [click the link below](#) to tell us more about your team and campaign goals. We'll get back to you with details about the training as they come together.

<http://bit.ly/2xK2mll>

(Because this form is a PDF, you might have to cut and paste the above link into your browser)

If you have questions or comments, contact Brian.Redford@sierraclub.org