Placer Group ExCom-Member Meeting
As a member of the Sierra Club, you are welcome to attend our Placer Group Executive Committee meetings, usually held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. In order to encourage member participation, the April 5 meeting will be in Raley’s Community Room at 1915 Douglas Blvd in Roseville. Contact Marilyn for more info at marilyn.jasper@mlc.sierraclub.org

Placer Group Alerts
To sign up for all alerts or to let Placer Group know what interests you for alerts or volunteering, contact a leader or e-mail to michaelgarabedian@earthlink.net

Experience Lee Stetson as John Muir
Details on page 2

Are You Mad as Heck and Not Going to Take it Anymore Does your INNER Activist need to be released?
Then here are a few activities where you may find like-minded allies.

Earth Day/Spring Events
Wednesday, April 19
Earth Day at Kaiser (Eureka Road). Placer Group will be there.

Thursday, April 20
Sierra College Earth Day

Saturday, April 22
Celebrate the Earth Festival
www.roseville.ca.us/earthday

Saturday, April 29
March for Climate Mobilization
http://tinyurl.com/kgvhrww

Creek Week
Sacramento Area Creeks Council
Thursday, April 20 at Sierra College / Saturday, April 22 at Roseville’s Celebrate the Earth Festival / Saturday, April 29 at the Maidu Museum Yomen Spring Celebration

Saturday, April 29
People’s March

Centennial Dam
Public Comment on the proposed dam ends on April 10, 2017. For information visit www.savebearriver.com
American River Watershed Institute www.bearriver.us
Foothills Water Network www.foothillswaternetwork.org www.damwatchdog.org
For an excellent visual presentation of the issues, watch a film online at www.VoiceoftheBearRiver.com to learn why Centennial Dam is a mistake. The film was shown at the Wild and Scenic Film Festival.

MLC Awards & Fundraiser Banquet on May 6... Details on page 3
Two John Muir presentations will focus on the history and life of John Muir, the first president of the Sierra Club and inspirational spokesperson for preservation of forests, wild lands and national parks in America.

The first is the popular one-man play “John Muir Among the Animals”, presented by renowned actor, Lee Stetson of Yosemite on Friday, April 21 at 7:30 pm in Dietrich Theatre on the Rocklin campus – replete with rich stories of bears, rattlesnakes, sheep and even the dog, Stickeen. Stetson holds his crowds, spellbound, as they laugh and cry along with him.

Read more at https://www.sierracollege.edu/events/upcoming/2017/04/nhm-john-muir.php

Buy tickets at http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2891178

The second Muir event will be a popular presentation by Robert Hanna also at Dietrich Theatre on Friday, April 28 at 7:30 pm. Hanna is great-great-grandson of John Muir.

Hanna’s presentation is a mixture of history of John Muir, growing up within the Muir family, and Hanna’s own efforts to support sustainability and conservation, especially with regards to public lands like national parks. Hanna speaks with authority, of personal and little-known facts about his great-great-grandfather and how Muir’s legacy has carried through his family and lives on today. Hanna’s humorous and inspirational presentation will include a cameo appearance by Lee Stetson. Numerous books by and about Muir will be available for purchase.

For more information visit https://www.sierracollege.edu/events/upcoming/2017/04/nhm-hanna.php
Buy tickets at http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2905482

All presentation proceeds to Sierra College Natural History Museum and Sierra College Press
Sierra Club Mother Lode Chapter Annual
AWARDS BANQUET
Saturday, May 6, 2017

Join us for our fun-filled Annual Awards Banquet to honor our dedicated environmental heroes.

The banquet is held at the Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95825. Happy hour begins at 5:00 pm, dinner is at 6:00 pm. There is a Raffle & Silent Auction.

Reservations will be available online. The cost per person is $45 and helps sustain our Chapter and Group programs.

Help by donating items for our silent auction and raffle, such as artwork, cabin stays, guided hikes, gift baskets, paintings, handmade items, new books, wine etc. are all welcome.

Become a sponsor. For more info, email Dyane Osorio (dyane.osorio@sierraclub.org) or call (916) 557-1100 ext. 108.

RSVP at www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode and scroll down to SAVE THE DATE.
Reservations are due by April 28, 2017

Climate Change March – Join Us!

On Saturday, April 29, 2017, there will be marches in Washington, DC and other U.S. cities (including Sacramento) to demand action on climate change. Two years ago, the first People’s Climate March was very successful and was followed by the Paris Agreement and the Clean Power Plan. We need to keep the progress we have made and continue to do more. IT IS TIME TO MARCH AGAIN! The Sierra Club is one of the organizations that will be participating in Washington, DC on April 29th. In addition to the main march on Washington, there will be hundreds of distributed marches and rallies across the country.

“Of all the individual actions you can take, nothing will be more powerful than joining with others to say that climate change demands action…,” says Michael Brune, executive director of the Sierra Club.

Save the date and check our website for more details on this important event!
Step Up for Conservation
By Mike Garabedian, Placer Group Chair

Being Placer Group Chair was added to my Sierra Club responsibilities as of March 1. My plate of conservation issues work in Placer County was already over-flowing when as vice chair I automatically became chair.

How could I manage both? The Sierra Club’s unique answer to getting things done is that it’s member driven. Volunteers make and implement policy.

Members elect volunteers to make policies for the Placer Group, for the Mother Lode Chapter (24 counties) that Placer Group is in, and for Sierra Club California and our national Board of Directors.

Some volunteers offer to fill any needs. Others bring skills they have. Two kinds of volunteer effort are equally essential to our mission.

First is conservation action. The Placer Group works on county and city air and water pollution, water supply including opposition to Auburn Dam and Centennial Dam, wildlife and habitat, pending development of 70,000 new housing units, our land use planning crisis, community character, environmental justice, federal lands, alternative transportation, conversion of agriculture and forest lands, incorporating fire prevention into new development, protecting visual and near wilderness values of the Auburn State Recreation Area, prevention of canyon hazardous rail spills, developing a Placer Group Climate Action Plan, and protecting outdoor recreation for people and community economic benefit.

Second is building and maintaining our organization and effectiveness for all initiatives including outreach and fundraising.

New Placer Group member alert network. A higher level of member outreach is needed because of President Trump’s attack on the environmental safety net. What’s taken decades to establish through multiple administrations of both political parties is on an expedited deregulation agenda.

Does the Trump administration understand that the purpose of environmental regulations is to level the playing field between economic competitors for our natural resources? Do city and county leaders understand that existing residents as well as developers have property rights?

Sign up for alerts! To sign up for all alerts or to let Placer Group know what interests you for alerts or volunteering, contact a leader or e-mail to michaelgarabedian@earthlink.net

Sierra Club California: It’s All About You!

Since November—more specifically, since the November election—Sierra Club’s membership in California has jumped by more than 10,000. I suspect you can guess one reason why: Many Californians are determined to not let the Trump Administration roll back environmental protections without a fight.

You may be one of those new members. Or you may be one of the long-time members who gets this Letter from Sacramento every month and wonders, what is this thing called Sierra Club California? And who is this person that keeps sending me these letters?

First things first. Sierra Club California is the legislative and regulatory advocacy arm of Sierra Club in California. We’re unlike any other Club chapter anywhere in the country. We focus only on state-level issues.

We’re based in Sacramento, just a few blocks from the Capitol building. By “we”, in this case, I mean the staff that makes up the physical presence of Sierra Club California day to day. But the "we" in Sierra Club California is a lot more than staff. It’s you.

Sierra Club California is governed by a volunteer board of directors or, in Club parlance, an executive committee. The positions we take on legislation, who we endorse in elections, and where we stand on regulatory issues are determined by lots of volunteers who are active in a variety of committees.

That means that if you want to be involved in state-level issues as a volunteer, there’s a place for you and it could be on one of Sierra Club California’s committees.

If you’re more interested in local issues, there’s a place for you in a local chapter. There are 13 local chapters around the state. Not a single inch of California is outside the bounds of some local chapter. You can find the list of local chapters, with a rough map outlining jurisdictions, on Sierra Club California’s website.
Stepping Down
By Carol Love

On March 1, 2017 I resigned my position as Chair of the Placer Group Sierra Club and handed the reigns over to our very active and competent Vice-Chair, Mike Garabedian. Due to continuing family health challenges, I cannot devote the time and energy necessary to continue on as chair, but I am hoping to continue on as an ExCom member and continue to help with the quarterly newsletter. The Sierra Club has a lot of work to do in 2017 to further our environmental goals. Working on climate change issues will be a high priority. I hope you will be able to participate in the Climate Change March in Washington, DC or one here in Sacramento on April 29th. Please check our website and newsletter for ways you can participate or help. Locally, we are opposing the Nevada Irrigation District (NID) plan to build a dam on the Bear River. We will have information available for how you can get more informed and actively help us defeat the Centennial Dam.

Placer County is a very large area and we have a very small group of us trying to manage all that we need to do. We certainly appreciate the help you give us by being members of the Sierra Club, but if you are also able to give us some of your time as a volunteer, we would be very grateful for that.

Thanks for your support!

Go Solar!

Every day there’s more evidence that Trump and his administration are launching an attack on the environment. He’s stripped the White House website of any mention of climate change, signed executive orders supporting the Keystone XL and Dakota Access Pipelines, and proposed drilling in our national parks. But together we’re proving that clean energy is the future. While Trump continues trying to dismantle environmental protections, there’s something you can do today to fight for the environment—switch to powering your home with solar power.

The Sierra Club has partnered with Sungevity for the past five years to bring solar to more than 1,500 Sierra Club members and supporters like you. Join today and save, plus Sungevity will donate to the Sierra Club to continue the fight against this administration and its war on the environment.

While Trump, Pruitt, Tillerson, and Perry may deny basic science, they can’t deny that solar works, and that twice as many people now work in solar than in coal.

Join the movement today—learn what solar could mean for you. Together, we will send a powerful message that clean energy sources like solar are here to stay.

Visit www.sungevity.com today!

Did You Know?

The Desert Report is a publication of Sierra Club California through its conservation committee, which goes by the catchy name of the California Nevada Regional Conservation Committee. For short, insiders call it the CNRCC.

One of the CNRCC’s committees is the Desert Committee, which focuses on deserts in the US Southwest, particularly in California and Nevada, but sometimes straying into Arizona and Mexico. The managing editor is Craig Deutsche, to whom you can submit proposals for articles and letters to the editor.

The current issue can now be found at http://www.desertreport.org/, where you can take a look and find all previous issues. The Desert Report is funded by Sierra Club California, several Sierra Club chapters, a legacy donation, and donations from individuals. Paper copies are sent to legislative offices, other political leaders, and federal and state agencies.

Send submissions to craig.deutsche@gmail.com
The Controversy over Killing Wildlife

Wildlife habitat has been seriously reduced in size and/or degraded which puts most species at a disadvantage—blocked corridors, disrupted migration, climate change, etc. If that wasn’t bad enough, killing wildlife, whether under the guise of depredation, sport or trophy, is being questioned by citizens who do not support what is becoming out-dated practices.

The Sierra Club has supported hunting and fishing with a policy of, “…Acceptable management approaches include both regulated periodic hunting and fishing when based on sufficient scientifically valid biological data and when consistent with all other management purposes and when necessary total protection of particular species or populations…” [www.sierraclub.org/policy/wildlife/wildlife-and-native-plants].

Controversy surrounding diminished “fair chase” and “ethical hunting” issues can no longer be ignored. With huge advancements in high-tech killing aids (laser sights, high-powered firearms and bows, scents, calls, trail cameras, etc.), radio telemetry collars (and now GPS) on dogs to hunt deer, to mention just a few, it’s amazing that animals survive at all. Nowadays, citizens who hunt with a camera, or simply hike to view wildlife, are fortunate if they catch even a fleeting glimpse. Although many high-tech aids are legal, they are also used by poachers—in addition to illegal devices and baiting.

Added to the proverbial “War on Wildlife” are some ranchers and/or livestock producers who graze on public lands, as well as private, but who refuse to provide adequate protection for their animals—such as using non-lethal deterrents of predators. Simply being observed eating a carcass of an animal, that may have died from natural causes or disease, should not be a death sentence for any predator.

Our taxpayer-funded USDA’s “Wildlife Services” (WS) reported killing over 2.7 million animals last year. Already this year at least three “accidental” killings have been reported of both wildlife (in Oregon) and domestic dogs (one in Idaho and two in Wyoming*) with WS’s use of M-44 cyanide (aka, “Canid pest ejectors”). These “bombs” kill when an animal pulls on a lure or bait. Cruelty aside, they result in indiscriminate killing of any animal that goes for the bait, and/or can inflict grave injuries on any human who investigates and mistakes an M-44 for a property line marker/monument. For more information on WS, watch “Exposed: USDA’s War on Wildlife” under “Films” at www.predatordefense.org or read the op-ed, “Lessons from a dead wolf: Oregon must stop poisoning wildlife” at http://tinyurl.com/k4o6dnl.

To keep wildlife populations healthy, citizens must stay informed of decisions made by local, state and federal wildlife management agencies, and make their voices heard. Contact the agencies and be added to their mailing lists for agenda notices, or visit their websites. In Placer County visit http://tinyurl.com/md9qrht; for the CA Fish and Game Commission go to www.fgc.ca.gov; for the CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife go to www.wildlife.ca.gov; for Federal USDA APHIS Wildlife Services visit http://tinyurl.com/k7bjywn and for US Fish and Wildlife Services go to www.fws.gov*

MEMBERSHIP

The Sierra Conservationist comes with your Sierra Club membership. Donations from anyone to help defray newsletter costs are always appreciated. Write “newsletter” on your check.

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*http://predatordefense.org/features/m44_WY_Amy_dogs.htm