Sonoma Group Environmental Forums

A Panel on the State Park Closures: Part 2
7 p.m. on April 11th
Water Issues and the Environment
7 p.m. on May 9th

Location: TBD, please check the Redwood Chapter website: http://www.redwood.sierraclub.org/for updates

For more information contact Annabel Ascher, annabelascher@yahoo.com 707-508-9645

Join 300 Local Sierra Clubbers and Go Green!

To receive future copies of the Redwood Needle via email send an email to RedwoodNeedles@gmail.com with your name and address, and "newsletter by email" in the subject line; or to receive notification that the current newsletter is available online and a link to it, please specify: "Notification newsletter is online".

Sierra Club Endorsements

Our local Sierra Club continues the process of endorsing candidates. The current list of endorsements, as the Redwood Needle goes to press, appears below. Visit redwood.sieraclub.org and follow the links for "2012 endorsements" to view updates. The June issue of the Redwood Needle will contain the complete list.

Congressional District Five: Mike Thompson
Congressional District Three: John Garamendi
Assembly District 2: Wes Chesbro
Assembly District 4: Mariko Yamada
Senate District 3: Lois Wolk
Sonoma County Supervisor, 1st District: joint endorsement for Susan Gorin and Mark Bronin
Sonoma County Supervisor, 3rd District: Shirlee Zane
Lake County Supervisor, 1st District: Victoria Brandon

Potrero Hills Landfill Update:

Trashing Solano County?

BY DUNAIE KROMM

Some basic background for those who are perhaps new to this issue or have lost track. In 1984 Solano County voters passed Measure E, an initiative that annually limited the amount of 95,000 tons of trash that could be brought in to landfills in Solano County from out of county. Measure E was declared unenforceable by the County Board of Supervisors in the 1990s based on an opinion of County Counsel that it violated the Interstate Commerce Clause. There is no provision in State law for any local jurisdiction for any reason to not enforce a voter passed initiative. Initiatives are supposed to be successfully challenged in court but no legal challenge has ever been brought against Measure E.

In the early 2000’s Potrero Hills Landfill (PHLF) applied to the County for an expansion of their landfill which sits on the northern edge of Suisun Marsh. The Sierra Club and other environmental organizations opposed the expansion based on environmental concerns. During the debate over this expansion the lack of enforcement of Measure E came to light.

Sierra Club along with two East Bay environmental organizations filed suit against the County to enforce Measure E which would, if enforced, negate the need for an expansion of PHLF. In 2010 we won a major victory when Solano County Superior Court Judge Paul Birmingham found that Measure E was constitutional. Since then the County has appealed the decision and PHLF has sued in Federal Court to try to move the case out of State Court.

So far we continue to win the court battles. The State Appellate Court briefs have been filed but no date has been set for a hearing. Federal Court is holding the case after a hearing late last year with no likelihood of anything being overturned.

The other major battle has been in the State Legislature. Assemblywoman Fiona Ma of San Francisco carried AB1178 in 2011 that would have effectively removed from local jurisdictions the ability to limit waste imports into their communities. We fought this bill hard, suffered an early loss in the Assembly and were then able to move it to a two year bill in the Senate. Our friends in Sacramento think the bill will not re-emerge in 2012 but we cannot be sure and we are diligently watching.

This is a pitched battle because of the enormous financial implications for PHLF and Solano County. PHLF’s parent company, Waste Connections, Inc., has published in their annual reports to the SEC that they will lose $6 million a year if Measure E is enforced. At the peak of importations PHLF was importing over 600,000 tons a year. Solano County gets a $5 tipping fee from each ton of trash dumped in Solano County. They could lose about $3 million a year.

Assuming we continue to successfully prosecute our legal efforts to enforce Measure E, we expect that at some point PHLF and its allies will attempt to pass a new initiative seeking to overturn or significantly modify Measure E. Our local activists have made it clear to County leadership and to PHLF management that we are willing to discuss settlement terms with them. To date they have shown no interest in negotiating, as their revenue from importations greatly exceeds their estimate of their legal fees. When and if it is obvious that they cannot stall any further we need to be prepared to fight a political battle or negotiate, or perhaps some of both.

Sonoma County Environmental Awards 2012

Four locals receive awards, five others also honored

The Sonoma County Conservation Council, the Sierra Club, Sonoma Group and more than 160 activists gathered March 3rd at the Sebastopol Veteran’s Auditorium to honor 7 individuals and 2 local environmental programs:

Environmentalist Of The Year: Steve Birdlebough

Steve has chaired the Sonoma Group Sierra Club’s Executive Committee since 2008 and has been a key member of Friends of SMART for many years. Steve’s attention to detail, strategic thinking and persistence have helped bring about victories such as the SMART funding measure, and wrung concessions out of ‘hopeless’ battles such as opposing the location of the new Sutter Hospital (in a greenbelt and miles from its workforce and patients). One of Steve’s strong interests is transportation, in creating an energy-saving network of non-car transportation in Sonoma County, and in transit-oriented development based around SMART stations.

Outstanding Grassroots Environmentalist: Duane Dewitt, Environmental Planning Student at UC Cal And Advocate For Roseland, Santa Rosa

Outstanding Environmental Educator: Nichole Warwick, Brookhaven Middle School Ecology Program Coordinator and Pine Crest Elementary School Environmental Educator, Sebastopol

Ernestine I. Smith Lifetime Environmental Commitment: Roger Raiche, California Native Plant Society State Fellow 2011, Professional Botanist and Designer For Planet Horticulture And Co-Founder Of The Cedars Friends, Forestville

Honorable Mentions:

Silke Fleischer, ATIV Software, Santa Rosa

Sean Lovett, Revive Drinks, Windsor

Lisa Preschel, Occidental Arts and Ecology

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The Bureau of Land Management just released a long-awaited programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) on the leasing of millions of acres for the purpose of developing oil shale. Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar ordered the study back in 2009.

After a thorough scientific review, the agency recommended a dramatic scaling back of federal lands available for leasing, and only for research and development...until the industry can demonstrate oil that is viable enough to attract investors) when, after a century of trying, no one has demonstrated a viable process to extract usable oil from a rock?

Redwood Chapter Newsletter

Redwood Chapter

Redwood Chapter

Redwood Chapter

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Redwood Chapter

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Participate:
To join the Sierra Club’s effort for the California Right to Know campaign, or find out how your chapter can help lead this process, email your name, address, telephone, and email address and the best time to reach you to: Cynthia A. Denny
Sierra Club California ExCom Member
California Nevada Regional Conservation Steering Committee
Phone: 650-520-7954
Campaign Email: labelgmnos12@gmail.com
Website: www.carighttknow.org

The following activities and events are not sponsored nor administrated by the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has no information about the planning of these activities. It takes no responsibilities 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:
April 14 - Lynch Canyon, Sonoma County
Meet 9 a.m. and usually ends around 11:30. These are moderate. Fun way to exercise with friends. For info call Bob McBeth, 707-631-6609.

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 or for more information call the park at 707-565-3356. ParksVolunteer@sonoma-county.org

Fri, April 6 - Docent-Led Nature Hike at Sugarloaf.
We’ll hike the Goodspeed trail to just beyond the park boundary. Route presents spectacular views, a profusion of wildflowers and a gradual late afternoon/early evening hike when the park is otherwise closed. Enjoy spectacular views and learn about Lynch Canyon’s natural and human history.
Meet 9:00 a.m. 3100 Lynch Rd, Vallejo. Leader Linda Sonner. Info: 707-432-0150 x200 or www.solanolandtrust.org

Sat, April 21 and Sat, May 19 - Get the Rush at Rush Ranch.
Get the Rush is a series of fun and free activities designed for families— all ages are welcome! Activities may include a guided tour of the tidal marsh and upland grasses, a traditional blacksmith shop in action, and an opportunity to visit Little Bear at his table full of Native American tools and decorations. If weather and resources permit, all ages are invited to go for a horse-drawn wagon ride. Wheelchair users are encouraged and can board via a solar-powered wheelchair lift. There has been very effective in early April and into May, but with an expected “drought pattern” for the rest of the year. If you like to hike, you’ll definitely enjoy our spring rains, and it’s just the perfect way to get a head start on your plant care. It’s not a “no-brainer.” Take care of your planet. I grew up on a farm and you’re sustainable. We didn’t use that term when we were kids, but you take care of what you have in front of you.

Even though her academic and professional background began in Music Education while attending Wichita State University, Bogner’s teaching experience definitively translates into her recycling and volunteering leadership efforts. She admits that maintaining the consistent return of volunteers is her main obstacle in keeping the environmental message alive.

But the biggest challenge is to get people to come out and work at least once a year. People will be ok with giving money, but as far as coming out and volunteering, that’s the toughest part is reaching out to people. You will see someone once and that is it. People are so busy with their own lives,” Bogner said.

“...individual relationships Bogner has gained during her extensive leadership roles have been far more rewarding experiences greater than any negatives throughout the years. “The friendships. The people who do come out and volunteer continue to volunteer because it’s so important. It’s a big family,” Bogner says appreciatively. “They’re my hiking buddies, my VALCORE buddies, my gardening buddies. When one of them’s going, we’re all going for that one. That kind of bond is amazing–just totally amazing.”

While being the Recycling Chair and Treasurer for the Sierra Club Solano Group and representing the Sierra Club as Vice President of the VALCORE Board, Bogner is leading the long fight against the garbage industry’s constant appeals to Measure E in Solano County. Measure E is a citizen’s initiative passed in 1984 that limits the amount of garbage that can be hauled into Solano County landfills. (See article on page 1 of this issue for more details.) “Measure E is enforceable. The county and everybody’s appealing it. It’s one of these legal battles that’s going to go on forever,” Bogn says.

Bogner believes that society’s biggest future environmental challenges and concerns will definitely be about energy sources, use and conservation. “Energy conservation. We have to stop using too much (energy). Period. Stop it. Stop buying. Stop using,” says Bogner.

In Bogner’s plan for her own future, let’s just say her actions speak louder than her words. “I’m not going to do this because I’m doing this is the best thing for the planet. I’m not doing it for the kids. I have no kids. I’m doing it because it’s everybody’s should be doing for the planet.”

Bogner has been writing a bi-weekly column on recycling issues for over 20 years, A Sorted Affair for VALCORE and is published in the Vallejo-Times Herald Newspaper on Sundays. She was a recipient of the Women In The Environment Award in 2003. She is an avid hiker and also currently works part-time as an administrative assistant for Touro University and resides in Vallejo with her husband.

—Kayden Coburn

Redwood Needles
April 1, 2012
3
Instructs to hikers
Outings will start not later than 15 minutes after scheduled meeting time. The leader is in charge of the outing. Safety is for your welfare and the good name of the Club. He/she must have the opportunity 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 interesting 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 consent of the leader. Extinguish all fires 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 responsibility for passengers. Reimburse the carpool driver. Carpoolers are not part of the outing but are means of conserving natural resources.

All Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to receive the waiver please go to: http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/ or contact the Outings Department at (415) 552-5388 or send an email to: outings@sierraclub.org.

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. Please call the leader to make sure the hike is in 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 5,000
S - Strenuous D - over 5,000
**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 know to the cumulative gain, please contact the leader.

To submit outings write-ups
Sierra Club of Berkeley, Chair, Outings Committee (via email) at: sboutings@gmail.com (the 8th of the month. All members must coordinate their outings with their Group Chair Outings.

Sequoia Paddlers - Canoe and kayak roll practice.

Ridgecrest Ranch Campground is in Santa Rosa Thrus. 7:15 pm - 8:30 pm. The pool is located on Ridgecrest Ave off Mendocino right off of Lakeville Hwy. 

What is the water warm but the air is often cool, so wetsuits are recommended as the beaches are rocky and paddlers must bring their own booties and gear. Instruction is not provided although advice and tips are available for the asking. Showers are available. Cost $25. Co-sponsored by the Sequoia Paddlers and the Santa Rosa Parks, Rec. Dept. Info: Sig.poolcoord@sequoia.org or 292-4946.

Sequoia Paddlers Section.
The canoe, kayak and rafting section of the Redwood Chapter. Outings are often dependent on river conditions and do not have long lead times. Please check the Activities Page of our website under Sequoia.org, for upcoming trips.

Sat, Mar. 31 - Napa Group Mt. Tam Day Hike & Beach Walk. 

Mt. Tamalpais, from Mountain Home Inn to Stinson Beach, one-way, with a West Marin Stagecoach shuttle, about 7 miles, almost entirely flat or down to the beach.Dedicated to the memory of Sallie Hall Beals. Contact: Paul 707-253-9606 or contact the leader.

Sat., April 1 - Mendo Group-Blue Oak Trail, Lake Mendocino Hike.

The trail is a high mountain oven south-east side of the lake. Wear sturdy shoes, bring your water, snacks. Class E-3 A-Carpools 8:30 am at Lake Mendocino parking lot RSVP Leader: Yvonne Kramer (707) 463-0342 or kramergetsab.net

Sat, April 7 - 8 - Mojave National Preserve.

Saturday morning we will meet at Teutonia Peak trailhead on the South Ridge of the Sierra Nevada for an enjoyable hike. Bring a picnic lunch and either the leader 707-235-9606.

Sat., April 14 - Mendo Group-Blue Oak Trail, Lake Mendocino Hike.

At Waterbird Way Bridge 16, hike to top of Fiske Peak. Views of Mt. Lassen, Lassen Volcanic National Park, Lake Catay Valley Mtn. St. Helena, Cobb Mt., Mt. Kincourt, Walker Ridge, Snow Mtn. and Mount Lassen. Bring lunch. We will seek signing gain. We will sign the peak diary, lunch on top of the world. Bring lunch, liquids. Class H-Carps 8:30 am Lower Lake trailhead RSVP Leader: Yvonne Kramer 707-928-5423 or kramergetsab.net. 

Sat., April 14 - Hiddenbrook hike.

Thursday April 20, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm at the Bay Area Ridge Trail near Valley Meet at the Park and Ride on the east side of the American Canyon Rd. on to Hiddenbrook Maple Meet: 8:15 am Class E-A. Leader: John 707-731-2711 or john-leslie@superlogin.com. Encourage bringing short hopping shoes for occasional removal of invasive morning starthike.


This springtime rambling winds through incense-cedar groves and Roop's Mountain State Forest Hike. Various trails. Appropriate attire, footwear required, water/snacks advised. Neatly/Snared dogs on leash possible. Class M-A.6-Volunteer leaders: Steve & Mary Maguire at Forestry Road 1.3 miles north of Cobb Village on Hwy 173. Leader BOone lodge@boltonmediacomb.net (707) 928-5819. Bad weather canges.

Sat. April 8 - Lake Group, Fiske Peak, Loon Lake and BLM land on lower Cache Creek. 

Start at Low Water Bridge Hwy 16, hike to top of Fiske Peak. Views of Mt. Lassen, Lassen Volcanic National Park, Lake Catay Valley Mtn. St. Helena, Cobb Mt., Mt. Kincourt, Walker Ridge, Snow Mtn. and Mount Lassen. Bring lunch. We will seek signing gain. We will sign the peak diary, lunch on top of the world. Bring lunch, liquids. Class H-Carps 8:30 am Lower Lake trailhead RSVP Leader: Yvonne Kramer (707) 463-0342 or kramergetsab.net

Sat., April 17 - Lake Group Perkins Creek Ridge Hike.

This is a fun hike near the Lake County land and then fill mostly follows the ridge above the main stem of Cache Creek. Neatly/Snared dog permitted. Bring lunch, water, binoculars and your favorite wildflower guide. On a previous hike we identified 27 different wildflowers and a variety of raptors present. Contact leader for information and sign-up: Craig User @707-667-10, or craig.dueth@calmail.com

Sat., April 15 - Lake Group Perkins Creek Ridge Hike.

This is a fun hike near the Lake County land and then fill mostly follows the ridge above the main stem of Cache Creek. Neatly/Snared dog permitted. Bring lunch, water, binoculars and your favorite wildflower guide. On a previous hike we identified 27 different wildflowers and a variety of raptors present. Contact leader for information and sign-up: Craig User @707-667-10, or craig.dueth@calmail.com

Sat., Apr. 22 - North Group, Flint Ridge Trail/Mouth of Klamath River, Redwood National Park.

This loop hike follows Klamath Beach Road to the Klamath River mouth, where seagulls, seals and other wildlife are often seen. The trail is a trail past Flint Ridge trail, past old growth redwoods, trillium and water-washed-covered form mountain pond Bring lunch and water. No dogs. Rain cancel. Class S-11-A. Carpools meet at the McKinley Safeway parking lot for a trip on 2.5 miles. Contact: Yvonne Kramer (707) 463-0342 or kramergetsab.net.

Sat., Apr. 5-9 - Escalante River Canyon - Service Trip/ Backpack.

We will work with National Park Service Ranger Bill Wolverson on this ongoing Russian olive eradication project. Rain or shine, the Escalante River has been cleared. This project will clear more, using loppers, small hand saws, and other equipment. Meet by Escalante Sunday morning, caravanning to the trailhead and hike in about 7 miles. Expect to kneel to deep river crossings, and some bushwhacking. Meet Sat. day 9:00 am, Drop off at parking lot Sat. morning. Participants must follow work requirements, clothing, equipment, and safety guidelines on the trail, and travel expenses to the trailhead. For more information please contact: Bill Wolverson at 707-476-1498. Delta-Sierra Group/Mother Lode Chapter.


A loop hike around the central peninsula at Lake Sonoma, from Rodpiepe Road to Burnt Creek peak to lake level and back up the ridge. Wear good hiking shoes, dress in layers for the weather, bring sunscreen, water, and coffee. Meet 8:30 am at the trailhead.

Bradley Hut Winter BackPack Trip. Simon and Jim fit right back on the trail. We have little snow for melting. Old snow was on the ground, and they were able to get most of their water from the meadow creeks with a few holes in the ice. The creeks were quite low, but the snow water was in question so they filtered it for drinking. Leaders Jim Gannon and Don Anderson.
Outings Chair Report

I set a goal to meet the Sierra Club leader from Sacramento who is keeping the hikes at Mare Island going since Ken Brown left so suddenly a few years ago. I met Jeff and Kathy Pooley and I attended the Mare Island Flyway Festival. We joined Brian Collett (see photo below) for one of his wonderful interpretive walks. Brian knows so much history of the area from war times up to now. I learned so much just from the one walk we did with him. I highly recommend his walks. For the rest of the day there was so much going on. New trails dedicated that day were some of the hundreds of shoreline birds were a highlight.

The Rush Ranch volunteers had a display that included hands-on projects for children and Native Americans were displaying their handworks. Solano is lucky to have many active volunteer programs in their county.

David Keller (see photo to right) was nice enough to volunteer his time to meet my club. He is a native of Shollenberger Park in Petaluma to talk about the location of the proposed Dutch asphalt plant. David is a former Petaluma city councilman and active with Friends of El Pulouta & Petaluma River plus many other organizations. My goal was to familiarize the knowledge David has of the county. We thank David for his work.

Last winter many backpacking trips to the high Sierra had to be cancelled due to the depth of the snow or the storms. This year the leaders experienced the exact opposite weather conditions. We had new snow in May. In July of last year there was only early February in this year. Our leaders are highly trained and always watch out for the safety of the group. So they knew to bring water filters as was the usual new snow to use for water. (See photo on page 4.) On the news recently was that the mountains were stories from California and the snow was being saved by the new technology of avalanche airbags. Others on the same trip perished as they couldn’t dig out as time. As our climate changes everyone needs to be mindful of the challenges of backcountry outings. Water might not be available at the usual springs, dust storms might come up due to droughts, etc.

All Redwood Chapter groups are looking for new leaders to train in the outings programs. The training required is done by the group outing chair and part can be done through the Computer Course. Due to the large geographic area of our county it is a challenge to coordinate outings. Many thanks to all our volunteers.

Devoto greymare56@gmail.com   Leader Steve
9:30 picnic area at the park at 9:30.
Sun. May 6 - Lake Group Highland
Park kiosk and park along road. Leader
Carol 530-220-3122.

Sun. May 13 - Mendo Group
Montgomery Woods State Park Hike.
A three mile loop through magnificent
giant redwoods forest with the floor*
covered in ferns. Bring sturdy shoes,
water snacks, bring water, snacks.
Class E-3: A
Carpools: 9:30 Ma parks parking lot. Lark,
in Ukiah, from Kragen’s Auto. RSVP
Leader, Yvonne Kramer (707) 465-0342
(Small fee)

Mothers Day at Tuteur Ranch.
Join our extended guide John Tutaisa
for this years annual hike through the
East Napa rolling hills and ranchlands
to a spectacular overlook of San Pablo
Bay. Class H-B.
Bring clothes for the change in weather,
and water. This hike is co-sponsored
by the Land Trust of Napa County.
By wearing shorts you’ll be more likely
707-944-2058 csbourn@naplanet.

Sat. May 12 – Napa Group Jack
London State Park Day Hike.
This may be our last chance to hike
Jack London State Historic Park before
it closes. After a drive through
scenic Sonoma Valley, we’ll go
downtown to the plaza, and then
near to Santa Rosa, featuring historical
sites, shady trails, spring wildflowers,
and two beautiful lakes! Bring water.
Class M-9-B.
RSVP online, at http://www.
matacare.com/Sacramento-
Club/events/3000552/ or contact
Carol carolvsr@sonic.net or call
707-253-9606 kowsoi@juno.com.

Sat. May 19 - Sonoma Group
Single Potluck in Cotati.
Join us at our home in Cotati for
our May potluck. Social hour from
5pm dinner 6.. Bring a dish and beverage
of your choice to share and $1 for the club fund.
If space setting is needed you of the
wishes provided. From 101 in Santa Rosa,
head south to exit 116 in Cotati. Turn
left under the freeway, then right
trail head & time call leader. Bring
lunch, liquids or purchase there.

Sat. June 2 - Sonoma Group
National Trails Day Hood Mountain Regional
Park.
This will mark Sierra Clubs 30th year of
participation in the National Trails
Day co-sponsored by Sonoma County
Regional Parks. It also marks the
reopening after 30 years as an organized
event Co-leader Elisa Stancil will
take over. Sierra Club volunteers built
the Campbell Trail. We need your
help to keep it in good repair. Work
sites depend on the trail conditions,
the weather, the environment, and water.

Outings Chair Report

How fast or slow do you go?

Wonder if an outing leader walks fast or slow? Keep in mind that the leaders speed is part one 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 about the hike, please ask the leader. 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 no stops a fast pace hiker must hike slower to accommodate the rating. Fast-pace with few or no stops:
Jim Gannon Paul Bourj Carol Magill
Moderate-pace with few stops:
Carl Inglin Penny Postea Don Anderson Steve Devoto
Isabelle St-Guily Lorrie Lagasse Boone Lodge Val Nordeman
Chip Board Dave Frasier
Moderate-pace with more frequent stops:
Bill Amarder Pete McG Tim Bartice Bill Knight Susan Whiteside
Carol Vallieres Yvonne Kramer Martin Ferrel Brian Collett
Jean Crossley Ken Roberts Melinda Groom Tim MecFaring
Nanette DeDonato
Slower-pace:
First 100 feet of the hike is a grade up hill, and we “walk” with a slower pace. Fast-pace with few or no stops:
Nanette DeDonato
Slower-pace:
First 100 feet of the hike is a grade up hill, and we “walk” with a slower pace.

Outings Chair Report

How fast or slow do you go?

Wonder if an outing leader walks fast or slow? Keep in mind that the leaders speed is part one 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 about the hike, please ask the leader. 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 no stops a fast pace hiker must hike slower to accommodate the rating. Fast-pace with few or no stops:
Jim Gannon Paul Bourj Carol Magill
Moderate-pace with few stops:
Carl Inglin Penny Postea Don Anderson Steve Devoto
Isabelle St-Guily Lorrie Lagasse Boone Lodge Val Nordeman
Chip Board Dave Frasier
Moderate-pace with more frequent stops:
Bill Amarder Pete McG Tim Bartice Bill Knight Susan Whiteside
Carol Vallieres Yvonne Kramer Martin Ferrel Brian Collett
Jean Crossley Ken Roberts Melinda Groom Tim MecFaring
Nanette DeDonato
Slower-pace:
First 100 feet of the hike is a grade up hill, and we “walk” with a slower pace.
North Group Report

Long-time North Group secretary and publicity chairperson Sue Leskiw recently stepped back from most of her duties with the North Group. In recent years Sue has been largely responsible for the North Group’s work with young people including members serving as judges for science fairs and managing the Vinyard/Van Kirk Environmental Education Fund, which sponsors young people for their environmental endeavors. Sue is an expert in natural history, efficiency and attention to detail will be missed; thanks Sue for all you have done and continue to do for the Earth and the community.

The North Group Executive Committee’s annual planning retreat took place on September 11th. We reviewed goals for and accomplishments during 2011 and set goals for 2012. The North Group’s 2012 goals include:
• Work in coalition with Healthy Humboldt and other partners to monitor and influence county planning and development issues including climate change adaptation.
• Continue to work with other stakeholders on the Richardson Grove Highway 101 project.
• Continue to advocate for dam removal, sound science, and restoration on Klamath River issues.
• Work with other groups to develop a resilient habitats and national forest regional plan for the Klamath Mountains Bioregion; use that regional plan to guide work on individual national forest plans and local climate change adaptation plans in our region.
• Work with allies on Lower Trinity RD, Six Rivers NF trails and trail planning.
• Monitor the North Region MLPA issue; support the Unified proposal.
• Develop and present a North Group position on the wind turbine proposal for the Ferndale area.

Concerning the national forest planning goal, the U.S. Forest Service recently adopted regulations for a new round of national forest plans. National Forests dominate Northern California’s landscapes. While plans for the Mendocino, Six Rivers, Trinity and Klamath National Forests are at least a couple of years away, Northern California forest activists are already beginning to prepare.

Among changes from previous rounds of national forest planning, new regulations mandate planning for climate change across administrative boundaries. This fits well with Sierra Club’s Resilient Habitats campaign which has established the California Coast as one of several focus areas. While we don’t tend to think of the “coast” when considering Northwest California’s national forests, most of our coastal watersheds extend to headwaters deep into the Klamaths. That is why North Group leaders have been in conversation with national campaign director Fran Hunt.

Join Sierra Club and help protect all creatures, great and small.

Sonoma Group Report

We had a successful result in our efforts to change the county zoning board’s approval of the Carneros Ranch/Port Sonoma fill project. The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors voted to require an EIR for the project.

In January we received a donation of a car. Tom Devlin, our Sonoma Group Secretary, found a buyer among the ranks of our local members, and the sale is keeping our budget in the black.

Outgoing Group Chair Steve Birdlebough received the 2012 SCCC Environmental Awards Dinner. Congratulations, Steve!

Our Political Committee has been active, interviewing candidates for 1st District and 5th District Supervisor. We sent a letter to the Sonoma County supervisors supporting the moratorium on vineyard conversions; a letter to California Land Stewardship for their efforts to develop an independent science panel to test the effectiveness of Russian River watershed management; and one to ABAG requesting that rural areas in the county not be designated as Priority Development Areas in the One Bay Area plan, and given their own designation of transit needs.

We will host an Environmental Forum on April 11 at 7 p.m. to discuss strategies to prevent State Park closures and keep them open. Visit the Sonoma Crew website: http://www.sonomacrew.org/ for information about the location.

We will be holding our Sonoma Group Retreat on Saturday, March 24 at Diana Nasser’s house in Sebastopol.

Suzanne Doyle has started a Sonoma Group blog site.

Napa Group Report

Napa Pipe Decisions Loom.

Rulings on the controversial Napa Pipe Project are due soon, first from the Planning Commission, then from the County Board of Supervisors. Napa Sierra Club opposes the project, which would plant 2000 units of high-density housing along the Napa River south of Kennedy Park. This high-rise urban-sprawl development suffers from several disadvantages. It would create an isolated neighborhood which would force residents onto already-congested Highway 29 for most basic needs, including jobs, shopping, and schools. It would depend on ground water, which according to our General Plan should be reserved for agriculture. An alternative plan, drawing water from Tehama County is likely not feasible.

Within 30 years it is predicted that sea level rise will flood access roads every day during high ride. Earthquake vulnerability is extreme, since buildings would be constructed on deep fill, which liquefies during severe shaking. Supporting the infrastructure for this ill-verified scheme would likely work taxpayers in the cost of the county for millions of dollars. We could go on. Sierra Club believes that this land is best kept in its current designation, set aside for industrial development. New housing belongs within our current city boundaries. We are joined in our opposition by local labor unions and other environmental groups. If you can help “Clog the Pipe” by making phone calls, or allowing a sign to be placed in your yard, contact Nancy Tamarisk at nancy@aya.yale.edu.

Candidate Environmental Forum.

Sierra Club, Friends of the Napa River, CanDo, and Get a Grip on Growth will question Board of Supervisors Candidates on their environmental policies on Monday, April 9th at 7 p.m. at the Napa Public Library.

Earth Day, Saturday, April 21st.

Drop by to say hi at the Napa Sierra Club Table at the Earth Day festivities.

Adopt-A-Park Volunteers.

Free outdoor exercise, protecting and cultivating the new native plants at Trancas Crossing Park in Napa. Contact Nancy at nancy@aya.yale.edu.

Help us save money & go green, by sending us your e-mail address for our bulletins! We will not share the address with any other organizations.

– NANCY TAMARISK, NAPA GROUP CHAIR

Redwood Needles

June Deadline: Due May 3rd

Please Note: This deadline is early so that political endorsements will reach members before the June election.

Submit Articles/Reports/Ad Copy via e-mail to: odavison@comcast.net
Send Outings to Carol Vellutini via e-mail: carolvr@sonic.net
Send Meetings to Carl Inglin via e-mail: chinlin@sonic.net
Drug Cartels vs Public Lands

As this edition of the Needles was going to press, Lake Group was planning a March 21 general membership meeting on the shocking ways that our public lands are being degraded at the hands of criminal foreign drug cartels. Representatives from the Bureau of Land Management Ukiah Field Office will show pictures and tell the story of land and water pollution, destruction of wildlife, and threats to the safety of legitimate recreational users, all on a massive scale. Attendees will also learn how local volunteers have been helping to clean up the mess, and the ways that Club members and other concerned citizens can become involved in the future.

Lake Group Supports Trail Signage

For quite some time the Lake Group has been strongly supportive of ongoing efforts to restore and improve the multiuse trail network on county parkland surrounding Highlands Springs reservoir. A dedicated group of industrious volunteers has been working wonders in the area, but some essential improvements can’t be supplied by hard work alone, and trail signs plainly fall into that category; on February 14 the Group was proud to step forward to offer a $500 donation to this good cause.

Lake Group Offers Scholarships

As has been previously mentioned, the Lake County Sierra Club is offering $1000 scholarships to two graduating seniors from local high schools who are planning careers that will support the Club’s mission to “enjoy, explore, and protect” the planet, with emphasis on safe and healthy communities, strategies to combat global warming, and preserving America’s wild places. Applications (available from school guidance counselors, at Watershed Books in Lakeport, or at redwood. sierraclub.org/lake) are due on April 7, 2012. Winners will be announced at the “We Love Tules” film festival gala on April 18.

Third Annual Film Festival Coming Up

The Sierra Club is collaborating with the Lakeport Main Street Association and Watershed Books to sponsor the third annual “We Love Tules” Wild and Scenic film festival all about the wonders of Lake County. Submissions of short (two to four minute) films will be accepted until April 7 at Watershed Books (305 N Main) in Lakeport. Cinematographers of all ages and all levels of skill are invited to participate, with the limitation that films MUST be playable on a standard DVD player. A panel preview showing will be held at the Lakeport Yacht Club on the evening of Wednesday, April 18. For applications, information, and submissions, drop by Watershed Books or contact Cheri at 263 5787 or cheri@watershedbookco.com.

Willits Bypass

The Army Corp of Engineers has given out the final permit and CalTrans is ready to present the proposal for funding of the Willits Bypass to the California Transportation Commission. “As currently proposed, the project will lead to the destruction of hundreds of acres of wetlands and require the largest fill permit for wetlands in Northern California in the last fifty years.” (Private Legal Document). The matter of the adequacy of the Mitigation Plan and in fact the appropriateness of the entire project will be challenged in a court of law.

Georgia Pacific Mill Site

In Fort Bragg, public comment has closed for the EIR on the former Georgia Pacific Mill Site. The Mendocino Group has submitted comments and will continue to closely follow this matter.

Who’s Watching the Owls?

As our members may know, the protection of the Northern Spotted Owl on privately-owned land where timber harvesting occurs, was, until recently, entirely under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Service has now given over that responsibility, almost completely, to California’s forestry department, recently renamed “CalFire.” CalFire now determines not only which trees may legally be cut but also how those timber operations may affect the owl, as well as what restrictions might be needed to protect the owl. In order to help CalFire perform in its new role the Service handed down a lot of instructions and helpful advice, including a new set of rules (a “protocol”) for surveying for the owls. The protocol is used to find out exactly where the owls are on the land, whether they’re single birds or a pair, if they’re nesting, and so on. They’re pretty good rules of but Mendocino Group is monitoring CalFire’s implementation of the rules to help ensure that the owls are adequately protected. If you have any questions about timber plans near you and their potential to affect the northern spotted owl, please contact us. Linda Perkins 937-0903, lperkins@mcn.com.

Mendocino Group Report

Built by Sierra Club members in 1934, this rustic, hostel-style lodge stands atop historic Donner Pass, just an hour and a half from Sacramento.

Springtime in the Sierra is a magical time. In early spring you can take advantage of all the cooler and warmer days with extended ski and snowshoe tours or using the Lodge’s own groomed trails. Later in the spring you can experience the explosion of wildflowers as you hike miles of trails behind the Lodge or on the Pacific Crest trail just 1.5 miles from the Lodge.

Guests enjoy excellent family style meals, a friendly staff and a casual and communal atmosphere.

See you on Donner Summit...

For more information about these programs or to receive a full schedule and description of Clair Tappaan programs please visit our website at www.cti.sierraclub.org or call (800) 679-6775.

Redwood Needles
April 1, 2012

7
**2012 Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park,**
**3-Day, Live-Aboard, Multi-Island Cruises: May 6-8; July 8-10; September 9-11**

Explore the wild, windswept islands of Channel Island National Park. Enjoy the flocking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on rare sea and land birds. Hike trails bordered by blankets of wildflowers and plants found in no other place on earth. Kayak or snorkel the pristine waters—or just relax at sea. All tours depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68’ twin diesel Truth. Fee for all tours, $590, includes all meals, snacks, beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes, call attention to items of interest and present evening programs. Proceeds from this fundraiser benefit Angeles Chapter Political Committee. To make a reservation mail a $100 check, payable to Sierra Club to leader: Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. Contact leader for more information (626-443-0766; jholtzhf@aol.com)

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**Climate Ride 2012**

Eureka to San Francisco • Sept. 9-13 • 5 days • 320 miles

You can enjoy an incredible 5-day bicycle ride in Northern California while supporting Sierra Club California. Climate Ride is a fully supported bicycle ride from Fortuna to San Francisco under towering redwoods, through the Russian River Wine Country, and along the Pacific Coast Bicycle Route. Climate Ride is more than a bike trip. It’s an inspiring journey with 150 like-minded people who are united by their passion for sustainability, renewable energy, and bicycles—the ultimate carbon-free form of transportation. Climate Ride also features an acclaimed nightly speakers series, known as the “green conference on wheels”, where we hear bright minds in policy, advocacy and innovation.

Please Sign Up for Climate Ride 2012 and Support Sierra Club California

Registration for Climate Ride is $75 (which includes a beautiful jersey and more), and then you raise at least $2400 to participate in the five-day, all-inclusive event. The ride is fully-supported by a team of talented leader-hosts, bike mechanics, medics, and massage therapists. When you sign up, you’ll be joining many other people who want to do something to help create a better future for us all. Climate Ride is a great way to get involved and experience an amazing adventure, powered by your own energy. The best bet is to sign up early not only so you have time to train and raise funds.

Visit www.climateride.org to find out about the route, tips for getting in shape, and finding sponsors for your trip.

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**No Nukes Summit: May 4-6**

The Sierra Club’s No Nukes Team invites Club members who want to help develop a national anti-nuclear campaign to gather in Washington, D.C., May 4-6, 2012. The Summit will feature presentations from national nuclear experts including Kevin Kamps from Beyond Nuclear and Ariun Makhijani, author of Carbon Free Nuclear Free. Other highlights include:

- The True Cost of Nukes — Why the Economics is the Industry’s Achilles Heel
- Nuclear Waste: Reprocessing, Transportation and Storage
- Living in the Nuclear Neighborhood
- Creative Strategies for Stopping Nukes
- Developing a National Strategy to Replace Nuclear with Renewables and Efficiency
- Harnessing Online Tools and Social Media to Communicate, Collaborate, and Organize

The Summit will be at the Western Theological Union in Washington D.C., where there are 90 low-cost rooms available. A grant from the Activist Network is covering some of the conference costs, but there is a modest conference fee of $35. To register, and find out more about lodging and transportation, go here. (You can find other lodging options here.)

Please forward this invitation to other Club no-nuke activists who might be interested. There are a limited number of scholarships available for conference volunteers. Contact Leslie March to find out more.