“Preservation Ranch”: Preserved!

BY VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

When eight years ago, as newly elected Lake Group Chair, I paid my first visit to the Redwood Chapter Executive Committee, much of the discussion focused on a campaign to protect a vast acreage of coastal forest and rolling oak woodlands near Annapolis from a project ironically called “Preservation Ranch.” This development proposal, the largest forest-to-agriculture conversion in modern California history, would have resulted in nearly 2,000 acres of the 20,000 acre property being cleared for vineyards, augmented by scattered luxury housing. In an added irony, vineyard development on this massive scale was also predicted to have adverse effects on Sonoma County’s small-family-owned winemakers.

Genuine—not ironclad—preservation of our forests, woodlands, and coastal rivers lies at the heart of the Chapter’s conservation mission, and both the scale of this project and the dismal precedents it would establish have made Preservation Ranch our number one priority throughout the intervening years. While readying ourselves to participate in the dialog surrounding its environmental review, we did all we could to raise public awareness of the issues involved—including the filing of a trenchant video under the direction of former Forestry Committee chair Jay Halcomb—and also tried to persuade its primary funder, CALPERS, California’s giant state workers pension fund—that its resources would be more properly invested elsewhere.

The year 2013 began with the expectation that a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) would soon be released for comment, followed by a grueling series of hearings topped off by a controversial debate before the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. Depending on the decision of the Board, the possibility of extended litigation also loomed before us.

Now I am thrilled to be able to announce that none of those events will take place. Late in February a consortium of conservation buyers led by the Virginia-based Conservation Fund in partnership with the California Coastal Conservancy, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, and Sonoma Land Trust have concluded a deal to purchase the property for $24.5 million, with the intention of using it for sustainable timber production with a focus on forest health and wildlife habitat restoration. This development proposal, the largest forest-to-agriculture conversion in modern California history, called “Preservation Ranch,” was foiled.

Save the Date!

On Wednesday May 15 at the Glaser Center (547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa) Redwood Chapter and Sonoma Group are partnering with the Unitarian Universalist Advocates for Social Justice to host a public forum on our magnificent coastal forests. The meeting will feature a presentation by University of California Extension Forest Advisor Greg Giusti on the Ecology of the Coastal Redwood Forest, and also include discussion of the threat they face from things such as sprawling residential development and vineyard conversion. Right now we’re rejoicing about the preservation of “Preservation Ranch” (see the article on page one in this issue of the Redwood Needles for details) but our forests still need lots of help to survive into the future.

Most Sonoma and Mendocino Sierrans live along the 101 corridor, and many are not fully aware of the marvels to be found just a little way to the west. This is your chance to find out about the plants and animals of this unique ecosystem—and also find out what we can all do to make sure that these remarkable places are still here for our children and grandchildren.

For more information contact Sonoma Group Chair Dan Kerbein at 707 481 3903 or visit redwood.sierraclub.org to download an event flyer.

Our Best Environmental Protection Law Is Under Attack

BY GARY PATTON

Sierrans have been hearing a lot lately about reforming the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Don’t be fooled by that nice word “reform.” The bill proposed last year would have gutted California’s most important environmental protection law. Leading legislators backed by a strong business and developer coalition continue to regard CEQA reform as a top priority. Moreover, Governor Brown is strongly sympathetic.

With widespread fracking on the horizon, with global warming and its impacts increasingly obvious, with water supplies diminishing, and huge infrastructure projects proposed, this is not the time to weaken the laws that protect our environment.

CEQA does three critically important things. First, it makes government agencies stop and think before they act. Often, officials decide that they know a good project when they see one and want to push it through. For instance, the Governor has a high-speed train plan, and big plans for Delta tunnels. Many assume that proposals such as large-scale wind or solar energy projects are automatically good for the environment. CEQA makes them submit any proposed project that might have a significant adverse impact on the environment to a full analysis, to “stop and think.”

That word “might” intentionally sets a very low threshold, that applies even when the government and project proponent can make a pretty good case that the impacts from the proposed project would basically be good. Sometimes the government changes its mind about a project, at least in part, precisely because of the new information generated through the environmental review that CEQA demands. Often, the changes are improvements, so projects (even good projects) are made better. That has been happening for more than forty years, all over the state, thanks to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Second, CEQA gives ordinary individuals real power in the approval process. Without CEQA, members of the public may get two or three minutes at the lectern, to make remarks that are then routinely ignored by the local or state officials who will make the decision, and who may not even be listening to the public comments as they are being made. If you have ever sent a thoughtful letter to an elected official, and not even gotten an answer, you get the picture. CEQA provides the ordinary person a way to make their comments known to all comments received on a Draft Environmental Impact Report. Time after time, the courts have found an agency’s EIR inadequate if substantive responses are not provided to well-founded and substantive comments. CEQA is the only California law that makes governmental agencies respond to public concerns in a substantive way, before the government takes action.

Third, when an EIR identifies a way to eliminate or lessen a negative impact, the responsible agency is required to implement that measure. For instance, if an EIR says that adverse impacts on wildlife habitat can feasibly be reduced by permanently protecting similar habitat, then CEQA requires that this mitigation measure be funded and implemented. This substantive mandate—unique to CEQA—costs developers money, and makes sure that the true cost of projects is borne by those who get the benefits, not the public at large. Reluctance of business and development interests to pay for required mitigations is probably the main reason they are attacking the California Environmental Quality Act.

If you want your government to stop and think before it acts and to provide substantive responses to public concerns before making a project decision, and if you want developers and other project proponents to pay for feasible mitigation measures to reduce impacts, then watch out for those so-called CEQA reforms. Obviously, almost any law could be made to operate better and more effectively, however, where CEQA is concerned, current reform efforts are not really about “reform.” They are trying to take away one of the best laws we have ever had.

“ Beware CEQA Reform” cont. on page 3
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 • Wildlands Chair
Victoria Brandon* 994-9113 victoria@sierraclub.org

Vice Chair • Sonoma Group Delegate to Chapter • Regional Conservation Committee Delegate Alternate
Steve Bedell/ought* 576-6632 affk@friendshouse.org

Secretary
Jill Hunter redwood@comcast.net

Treasurer
Tom Davis 963-4466 tommy@rapidweb.com

At Large - Legal Chair • Council of Club Leaders Delegate
Keith Kadu 538-5518 klkadu@sonic.net

At Large - Conservation Committee Chair • Public Land - North Group Delegate Alternate
Diana Dmyers 445-2609 dfbeck@northcoast.com

At Large - Water Chair
David Myers 859-3887 dmoyer@parts.com

At Large - CEL Alternate
Leonard, Hult* 527-7516 hult@sonic.net

Lake Group Delegate to Chapter
Ed Robby* 894-3034 edroby@rapidweb.com

Lake Group Delegate Alternate
Wim Stiles 262-1242 wisme_x.com

Monterey Group Delegate to Chapter
Mary Walby* 937-0572 bell@mcn.org

Monterey Group Delegate Alternate
Lori Lee/agen* 964-3071 loriel@yahoo.com

Napa Group Delegate to Chapter
Nancy Tamarian* 257-3121 nancy@e-pa.org

Napa Group Delegate Alternate
Marc Pandolfo 966-1902 mpandolfo@at.net

North Group Delegate to Chapter - Climate Change Chair
Greg Goldberg* 826-3740 greggold@coосновир.com

Sonoma Group Delegate Alternate - Regional Conservation Committee Delegate Alternate
Dan Kerbein 535-0326 dkerbein@sonic.net

Solano Group Delegate Alternate
Duane Kronen 580-7321 dikronen@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant - Publication Rep
Tom Davids 544-7610 tdavids@sonic.net

Finance Committee
Jill Seltz 829-5356 jseltz@comcast.net

Fundraising Chair - Defined Gift Fair - Volunteer Coordinator • Environmental Education Leader
Carol Davison 546-1338 cdavison@comcast.net

Redwood Needle Editor
Mary Davison 874-3704 sdavison@comcast.com

Chapter Webmaster
Melanie Mayman 703-8823 amayman@att.net

Lake County Group

Chair - Chapter Delegate - Political Chair
Ed Robby 994-8104 edroby@rapidweb.com

Secretary
Secretary - Chapter Delegate Alternate
Karen Stick* 262-1242 kensy@emse.com

Vice Chair
Chair Holden* 263-5787 kmowen@lsu.edu

Sonoma Group - Local Government Liaison
Victor+Torsch@kaiser.com

Chair • Chapter Delegate Alternate
Wim Stiles* 262-1242 wisme_x.com

Treasurer
Steve O’Donnell 987-9040 stakjak@att.net

Mendocino County Group

PO Box 522 937-6093

Mendocino 95460

Chair - Treasurer - Newsletter Editor - Membership Chair - Chapter Delegate
Mary Walsh 937-0572 bwalsh@lsc.org

Vacant-Coastal Trails - Coastal Committee
Karen Webster* 937-2709 kmacnally@gmail.com

Secretary - Conservation Chair - State Forests
Linda Perkins* 937-0060

Environmental Education - Endangered Species-Wildlife - Chapter Delegate
Lori Lee/agen* 964-3071 loriel@yahoo.com

Chair - Natural Resources - Energy - Global Warming - Trees Committee
Bernie McDonald* 937-4352 bernie@msn.com

Political - Water Quality/Habits
Daniel Meyers 895-1887 dmoyer@parts.com

Outings Chair
Vic Stiles

Webmaster
Suzanne Doyle 984-1426 suzannedo@frontiernet.net

Napa Group Delegate Alternate
Box 644, Napa 95659

Chair
Marine Talley* 252-4854 mtalley@comcast.net

Vice Chair - Chapter Delegate Alternate
Marc Pandolfo* 966-1902 mpandolfo@at.net

Operations Chair
Nancy Tracy nancy@nnglobal.com

Conservation Chair
Roger Hartman* 257-3121 rhoit@friendshouse.org

Chapter Delegate
Brian Collett 535-220-3123 bcollett@bcollett.com

Secretary
Karen Stick* 257-3121 kmowen@lsu.edu

Treasurer
Mary Davison 580-7321 dikronen@gmail.com

Meeting Coordinator
Carl Inglis 538-8271 chin@sonic.net

Address Corrections: address.change@taherclub.org

Sierra Club, PO Box 12998, Boise, ID 83702-0986 (208) 977-5653

Redwood Needle

Non-member Subscriptions: $6.00 per year. Send requests to: Redwood Needle Subscriptions, PO Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

This Redwood Needle is published six times a year on recycled paper using soy-based ink. Circulation: 7,400. An additional 300 newsletters are distributed electronically. Printing: Heidelberg Printing, Inc. Submit articles by deadline via e-mail facsimile or mail to: Redwood Needle, e-mail: redwood@comcast.net PO Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 Ph (707) 544-7051 Fax 707-544-9861

Redwood Needle Deadlines

Issue Deadline
June/July May 8
Aug/Sept. July 8
Oct/Nov. Sept. 8

Redwood Needle Online

Redwood Chapter

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club of California

Editorial Board:
Mary Walsh, Becky Frank, Sue Leskie, David Chock, Victoria Brandon

Editor:
Mary Davison (707) 874-3704 odavison@comcast.net

Advertising Manager:
Maureen Strain (707) 544-7651 mstrain@aol.com

Classifieds:
$5/10 words. Send check and ad copy by the 8th of the month.

Outings Chair:
Carol Vellutini (707) 544-6038 carolv@sonic.net

Meetings Coordinator:
Carl Inlgs (707) 538-8271 chin@sonic.net

Address Corrections:
address.change@taherclub.org

Sierra Club, PO Box 12998, Boise, ID 83702-0986 (208) 977-5653

Redwood Needle

Women’s trips - Yosemite, Kings Canyon, Sequoia - Visit sierrastars.org, or call Janet at (707) 874-2126

Redwood Chapter & Sonoma Group Office

Location: Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa

The Office is staffed most weekdays 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 Website:
http://www.redwood.sierraclub.org

For Groups Websites, add: /north, /northern, /lake, /mendocino, or /solano

Sonoma Groups Website:
http://www.sweiglobal.com

Redwood-Sonoma Alerts Listserve: Instructions at Sonoma Group Website

Redwood Chapter

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 of Cleveland Ave, to the west of Hwy 101)

Redwood Needle

Sonoma County Group

Box 466, SR 5402

954-7651

Sonoma Roadway, Santa Rosa (West off of Cleveland Ave, to the west of Hwy 101)
“Beware CEQA ‘Reforms’”
continued from page 1

What can concerned citizens do to sustain the California Environmental Quality Act, as it comes under legislative attack? Get involved! Sierra Club California is working very hard to protect CEQA, but needs help from the grassroots. We need to communicate directly with our State Senators and Assembly Members, telling them that protecting CEQA is our highest priority and that they should not be fooled by supposedly plausible arguments for “reform.” Emails are good. Letters are better. Telephone calls are good. Office visits are better. Tell your representatives that we need CEQA to make governments stop and think, to make agencies respond to substantive public comments, and to require the elimination of negative impacts whenever feasible. We can also make the same arguments in letters to the editor, and speak out in public whenever possible.

Because the California Environmental Quality Act is such an excellent law, we can protect it from damaging “reforms” that will destroy its benefits. But we will have to get involved.

Gary Patton is an environmental attorney who practices law in Santa Cruz, a former Santa Cruz County Supervisor, and a current member of the Sierra Club California Executive Committee.

What You Can Do:
Contact your Assembly Member or State Senator and ask them to protect CEQA. Information for contacting your representatives in Sacramento is included below. Go online to determine your representative, to find local contact information, or to send an email.

1st Assembly District: Brian Dahle
State Capitol, Suite #2174
Sacramento, CA 95824-0001
Phone: 916-319-2001
Fax: 916-319-2101 Suite #2174

2nd Assembly District: Wes Chesbro
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94284-0002
Phone: (916) 319-2002
Fax: (916) 319-2102

4th Assembly District: Mariko Yamada
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94284-0004
Phone: (916) 319-2004
Fax: (916) 319-2104

10th Assembly District: Marc Levine
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Room 2137
Sacramento, CA 94284-0010
Phone: (916) 319-2010
Fax: (916) 319-2110

11th Assembly: Jim Frazier
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94284-0011
Phone: (916) 319-2111
Fax: (916) 319-2111

1st Senate District: Ted Gaines
State Capitol, Room 3070
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900
Phone: 916-651-4001

2nd Senate District: Noreen Evans
State Capitol,
1303 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916-651-4002
Fax: 916-323-6958

3rd Senate District: Lois Wolk
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916-651-4003
Fax: (916) 323-2304
E-mail: senator.wolk@senate.ca.gov

Chapter Chair Report

In February I had the pleasure of representing Redwood Chapter at the annual joint meeting of the Sierra Club California/Nevada Wilderness and Desert Committees. This gathering was held, as usual, at a unique hamlet called Shohone, in far eastern Inyo County in the heart of the Mojave Desert. To get there from here you drive through Death Valley and out the other side—in other words, it’s another world.

In February I had the pleasure of representing Redwood Chapter at the annual joint meeting of the Sierra Club California/Nevada Wilderness and Desert Committees. This gathering was held, as usual, at a unique hamlet called Shohone, in far eastern Inyo County in the heart of the Mojave Desert. To get there from here you drive through Death Valley and out the other side—in other words, it’s another world.

For another example, quagga mussels. In graphic detail, the human and financial resources needed to meet their mandate.

Even in the desert, and everywhere they struggle to find the resources...
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 safety of the Group. The Leader must have your cooperation to make the trip safe, pleasant and rewarding. Never change ahead of the leader and keep within sight or shouting distance of the person ahead of you so you do not miss an interesting tract. Do not lag behind rear leader if you need help, the rear leader may 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 requires 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. Carpoolers are not part of the outing but a means of conserving fuel and travel costs. 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 Director at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version.

Visitors are welcome

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

DIFFICULTY ELEVATION Actual 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 M - Moderate

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

Oufings

Sat. April 6 - Lake Group. Highland Springs Wildflowers and Carquinez Strait. Meet 9:30 am at the winery, Carquinez Strait. Wildflowers include California poppy, golden mariposa lily, campion, California anemone, and Clark’s monkeyflower. Also carob and oak woodlands to the lake. Wear good hiking boots, bring lunch and plenty of water. Class: M-6. Contact: Jonah Freedman (707) 467-1877 johannesf@gmail.com Rain cancels. Carcamps from Santa Rosa RSVP Carol Vellutini 546-6308 carolv@sonic.net meet at the Road Kill Café and have lunch. 9:30 am Cottontown meeting. Hike 11 am leave after short hike. Sat., Sun. May 4-5 - Birds, Fences, History in the Carizzo. A moderately strenuous hike from the south end of the parking area, up a ridge through a lush pine forest to Hearts Desire Beach. Pebble Beach will be our lunch stop. Then we return to trailhead. Bring layered clothes for coastal weather, lunch, liquids, sunscreen and good hiking boots. Parts of the trail may be muddy. Class: M-B-A. Carpool to Cottontown meeting. Jonah 9:30 am Cottontown parking lot in front of the library. Call/email to meet at Potemuka 1 Hwy 101 Hwy 116 right in parking lot. By reservation only. Leader Carol Inglin chinglim@sonic.net 707-538-8271.

Sat., Sun. May 4-5 - Birds, Fences, History in the Carizzo. This is an opportunity to visit and to assist an outstanding and relatively unknown national monument. On Saturday we will assist monument staff in the removal of fence wires to allow pronghorn antelope free access to the range. Sunday is reserved for sightseeing. The views from the beautiful ridge line views and wildflowers. At the end of the day, tour the brand new Road Ship Meeting center, an incredibly green building that is acorn woodpecker friendly. Carcamps. Meet 8:30 am CVS Pharmacy in Orchard Shopping Center off Perkins or 9 am. Hike will be from the Russian River and learn about the Russian River. Our walk takes us along a historic road with wine vineyards that make these wines and the monument is known for the number and variety of raptors present. Contact: Jonah Freedman 467-1877 johannesf@gmail.com or carolv@sonic.net.

Sun. April 14 - North Group. Redwood National Park, Skunk Cabbage Trail Hike. The trail begins in damp Sitka forest, passes by some impressive shink oaks and wildflowers, gradually rises to a coastal plain, then descends to the beach. Bring snacks. Class: M-4. We will have lunch by return to the same location by road. No dogs. Class: M-D-A. Carpool: 9 am NE corner Arcata Ardena Ave in Eureka. Leader: Melinda 706-647-2593 or mgorameron@gmail.com. Rain cancels.

Sat-Sun. May 4-5 - Birds, Fences, History in the Carizzo. This is an opportunity to visit and to assist an outstanding and relatively unknown national monument. On Saturday we will assist monument staff in the removal of fence wires to allow pronghorn antelope free access to the range. Sunday is reserved for sightseeing. The views from the beautiful ridge line views and wildflowers. At the end of the day, tour the brand new Road Ship Meeting center, an incredibly green building that is acorn woodpecker friendly. Carcamps. Meet 8:30 am CVS Pharmacy in Orchard Shopping Center off Perkins or 9 am. Hike will be from the Russian River and learn about the Russian River. Our walk takes us along a historic road with wine vineyards that make these wines and the monument is known for the number and variety of raptors present. Contact: Jonah Freedman 467-1877 johannesf@gmail.com or carolv@sonic.net.

Sun. April 21 - Mendo Group. Ridgewood Ranch Hike to White Deer. Ridgewood Ranch allows public access to this beautiful area with a conservation manager. We will visit a small part of the ranch that is part of oak woodlands to the lake. Good hiking boots, bring lunch, bring plenty of water. Class: M-6. Contact: Jonah Freedman 467-1877 jonahfreedman@bcsglobal.net Rain cancels. Carcamps from Santa Rosa RSVP Carol Vellutini 546-6308 carolv@sonic.net meet at the Road Kill Café and have lunch. 9:30 am Cottontown meeting. Hike 11 am leave after short hike. Sat., Sun. May 4-5 - Birds, Fences, History in the Carizzo. A moderately strenuous hike from the south end of the parking area, up a ridge through a lush pine forest to Hearts Desire Beach. Pebble Beach will be our lunch stop. Then we return to trailhead. Bring layered clothes for coastal weather, lunch, liquids, sunscreen and good hiking boots. Parts of the trail may be muddy. Class: M-B-A. Carpool to Cottontown meeting. Jonah 9:30 am Cottontown parking lot in front of the library. Call/email to meet at Potemuka 1 Hwy 101 Hwy 116 right in parking lot. By reservation only. Leader Carol Inglin chinglim@sonic.net 707-538-8271.

Sat., Sun. May 4-5 - Birds, Fences, History in the Carizzo. A moderately strenuous hike from the south end of the parking area, up a ridge through a lush pine forest to Hearts Desire Beach. Pebble Beach will be our lunch stop. Then we return to trailhead. Bring layered clothes for coastal weather, lunch, liquids, sunscreen and good hiking boots. Parts of the trail may be muddy. Class: M-B-A. Carpool to Cottontown meeting. Jonah 9:30 am Cottontown parking lot in front of the library. Call/email to meet at Potemuka 1 Hwy 101 Hwy 116 right in parking lot. By reservation only. Leader Carol Inglin chinglim@sonic.net 707-538-8271.

Sat., Sun. May 4-5 - Birds, Fences, History in the Carizzo. A moderately strenuous hike from the south end of the parking area, up a ridge through a lush pine forest to Hearts Desire Beach. Pebble Beach will be our lunch stop. Then we return to trailhead. Bring layered clothes for coastal weather, lunch, liquids, sunscreen and good hiking boots. Parts of the trail may be muddy. Class: M-B-A. Carpool to Cottontown meeting. Jonah 9:30 am Cottontown parking lot in front of the library. Call/email to meet at Potemuka 1 Hwy 101 Hwy 116 right in parking lot. By reservation only. Leader Carol Inglin chinglim@sonic.net 707-538-8271.
**Constance Agnes Menzies**

*February 9th, 1914 - February 12th, 2013*

Connie was a life member of the Marin Chapter of the Sierra Club. Connie had been a member of the Sierra Club for over 10 years. She was instrumental in founding the Sierra Club chapter in Marin County. Connie was a dedicated volunteer and a leader in the Marin Chapter. She was a ardent advocate for environmental conservation and was a strong supporter of the Sierra Club's mission to protect the natural environment.

Connie was a active member of the Sierra Club's outings program, leading hikes in the Marin area and beyond. She was a experienced hiker and had a deep knowledge of the local trails. Connie was a mentor to many young hikers and helped to guide them on their hiking journey.

Connie was a active member of the Sierra Club's environmental action committee, working to protect the natural environment and promote conservation. She was a member of the Sierra Club's climate change task force and was a active advocate for renewable energy.

Connie was a active member of the Sierra Club's chapter council, serving as a member of the council for many years. She was a dedicated leader and was always willing to help others.

Connie was a active member of the Sierra Club's conservation committee, working to protect the natural environment and promote conservation. She was a member of the Sierra Club's climate change task force and was a active advocate for renewable energy.

Connie was a active member of the Sierra Club's chapter council, serving as a member of the council for many years. She was a dedicated leader and was always willing to help others.

Connie was a active member of the Sierra Club's conservation committee, working to protect the natural environment and promote conservation. She was a member of the Sierra Club's climate change task force and was a active advocate for renewable energy.

Connie was a active member of the Sierra Club's chapter council, serving as a member of the council for many years. She was a dedicated leader and was always willing to help others.

Connie was a active member of the Sierra Club's conservation committee, working to protect the natural environment and promote conservation. She was a member of the Sierra Club's climate change task force and was a active advocate for renewable energy.

Connie was a active member of the Sierra Club's chapter council, serving as a member of the council for many years. She was a dedicated leader and was always willing to help others.
Endangered Species Act Update

As previously mentioned, the Center for Biological Diversity has petitioned to list the Clear Lake tule elk (Cervus canadensis nannodes) under the ESA. Although no action has been taken on the federal petition, in mid-February the California Department of Fish and Wildlife released a report concluding that there is insufficient scientific information to begin a year-long formal status review by the California Fish and Game Commission, and on March 6, the Commission formally accepted the tule elk as a candidate species for listing. A year-long scientific evaluation will now begin. Whether the listing petition is eventually accepted or rejected, this extensive review may provide the best chance yet of producing the detailed factual data that has been lacking so far, and is desperately needed if effective methods for fostering the recovery of this iconic species are to be devised.

To learn more, and to download the DFW staff report, visit www.lakefire.info/circos.

Berrysessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area Moves Forward

The enabling legislation for this exciting proposal introduced in Congress by Representatives John Garamendi, Jared Huffman, and Ami Bera, with co-sponsorship from Representatives Garamendi, Huffman, Bera, and others, expired at the end of the session, but the National Conservation Area Moves Forward.

The enabling legislation for this exciting proposal introduced in Congress by Representatives John Garamendi, Jared Huffman, and Ami Bera, with co-sponsorship from Representatives Garamendi, Huffman, Bera, and others, expired at the end of the session, but the National Conservation Area Moves Forward. If effective methods for fostering the recovery of this iconic species are to be devised.

To learn more, and to download the DFW staff report, visit www.lakefire.info/circos.

Berrysessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area Moves Forward

The enabling legislation for this exciting proposal introduced in Congress by Representatives John Garamendi, Jared Huffman, and Ami Bera, with co-sponsorship from Representatives Garamendi, Huffman, Bera, and others, expired at the end of the session, but the National Conservation Area Moves Forward.

The enabling legislation for this exciting proposal introduced in Congress by Representatives John Garamendi, Jared Huffman, and Ami Bera, with co-sponsorship from Representatives Garamendi, Huffman, Bera, and others, expired at the end of the session, but the National Conservation Area Moves Forward. If effective methods for fostering the recovery of this iconic species are to be devised.

To learn more, and to download the DFW staff report, visit www.lakefire.info/circos.

Berriesessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area Moves Forward

The enabling legislation for this exciting proposal introduced in Congress by Representatives John Garamendi, Jared Huffman, and Ami Bera, with co-sponsorship from Representatives Garamendi, Huffman, Bera, and others, expired at the end of the session, but the National Conservation Area Moves Forward. If effective methods for fostering the recovery of this iconic species are to be devised.

To learn more, and to download the DFW staff report, visit www.lakefire.info/circos.

Berriesessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area Moves Forward

The enabling legislation for this exciting proposal introduced in Congress by Representatives John Garamendi, Jared Huffman, and Ami Bera, with co-sponsorship from Representatives Garamendi, Huffman, Bera, and others, expired at the end of the session, but the National Conservation Area Moves Forward. If effective methods for fostering the recovery of this iconic species are to be devised.

To learn more, and to download the DFW staff report, visit www.lakefire.info/circos.

The enabling legislation for this exciting proposal introduced in Congress by Representatives John Garamendi, Jared Huffman, and Ami Bera, with co-sponsorship from Representatives Garamendi, Huffman, Bera, and others, expired at the end of the session, but the National Conservation Area Moves Forward. If effective methods for fostering the recovery of this iconic species are to be devised.

To learn more, and to download the DFW staff report, visit www.lakefire.info/circos.
Coastal Commission Decision Protects Marine Mammals

The very good news is that the California Coastal Commission, said “no” to the Navy’s request for a Sonar Training program proposed for off the Southern California Coast. Commissioners said that the Navy did not have enough information to back up its claim that the threat to marine mammals would be negligible.

Willits Bypass Still Unsettled

In Willits the young woman is still in the tree. A 24 year old woman, “Warbler”, has been 50 feet up in Ponderosa woods since the 28th of January while informational tours are being conducted for any and all who want to become educated on the route of the Willits Bypass and the giant set of impacts that will accompany it. On the ground new bird nests have been discovered which has brought Migratory Bird Treaty Act provisions into play. The work is on hold until the Cal Department of Fish and Wildlife can conduct surveys and locate nests that contain at least 6 old trees per acre will be managed by “shunning from below”. The plan discloses, too, that Bishop pine and pygmy forests, rocky outcrops, grasslands, oak woodlands, and coastal salt marsh, as well as some patches of young hardwoods will be “conserved” by limiting activities affecting those areas. But all of this combined covers only about 7000 acres, and this is not land available for coastal salt marsh, as well as some patches of young hardwoods will be “conserved” by limiting activities affecting those areas. But all of this combined covers only about 7000 acres, and this is not land available for timber production anyway.

The management of the remaining 200,000 acres is, of course, the issue – an issue that doesn’t have a short or simple answer and about which we have many concerns. Among these are the continued destruction of tan oak forests, largely through the use of herbicides; the inadequacy of riparian protections needed to protect fish and aquatic species; and the destruction of older forest habitat in some watersheds – the Albion and the Navarro, for example, where older forests are currently being clear-cut and in promised re-growth in other watersheds so that it will be, in 80 years, more evenly distributed across the ownership.

If you’d like to help, call us! The plan can be found online at www.fws.gov/arcata. Hard copies are available distributed across the ownership.

Sierra Club Mendocino

If you wish to use your bequest to be used locally, be sure to specify "Sierra Club Mendocino Chapter" or the name of your local Group in your bequest.
John Sealy Livermore
April 16, 1918 - February 7, 2013

Exploration geologist, mining executive, civic leader, philanthropist, conservationist, John Sealy Livermore passed away Thursday, February 7th. He was 94. John lived modestly. Tall, lanky and fit, he had no pretensions, dreaded giving speeches, deflected attention from himself, and avoided the public spotlight. His father, Edward Putnam Livermore, was involved with the Knoxville Quicksilver Mine. John’s mother, Caroline Sealy Livermore, was a noted Marin County conservationist whose many projects included saving Angel Island. John became a significant benefactor of Stanford University and of the University of Nevada’s Mackay School of Earth Sciences. He served on the California Academy of Sciences Board. His four brothers, Norman, George, and Mackay School of Earth Sciences. His four brothers, Norman, George, and John was an honor to have both John and participants to observe or discuss with you as you wish. Meetings are located in Sonoma County unless otherwise noted. Visitors should call the committee chair to verify time and place. The Sonoma County Environmental Board is located at S5A Ridgeway 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 Coddingtown). The last time I saw John was May 7th, 2011 at the centennial celebration of the dedication of the Robert Louis Stevenson plaque. John hiked with us to the plaque. Put Livermore was also there. It was an honor to have both John and Put Livermore at the celebration. I remember my first time scouting my Oat Hill Mine road hike and driving the rocky, bumpy, dirt Montesol Road over to the Oat Hill Mine Road. I was impressed with the area, the old Corona Mine, the rock caves, the palisades, and the wildflower bloom in spring. Because of the remoteness, I felt like I was back in the early 1800s. I led one hike I called the Livermore Loop to show Sierra Club hikers my favorite deep, dark red/purple giant trillium blooming close to Ike’s corral. I would speak about the legacy of the Livermore family. Today part of their property is the Palisades trail. The Livermore’s also donated the land to form Robert Louis Stevenson State Park. I led hikes to Marin County to view the areas Caroline Sealy Livermore saved. I located the Caroline Sealy Livermore bench overlooking the Richard Bay Sanctuary. The dedication inscription, in recognition of her efforts to save the area roads “With Deeds. My Life Was Walled” (Ovid). Mt. Livermore on Angel Island is also named after her. I am privileged to have known of the Livermore family. Sierra Club leaders have been leading hikes on property that was donated or saved by the Livermore family for many years. John, I will never forget you. Thank you so much for being so generous and humble.

-Carey Velltini, REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR

Reduce Your Carbon Footprint in 2013!

To receive future copies of the Redwood Needles via email send a message 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”.

Obama’s Biggest Climate Test

The clock is ticking. April 15 is the deadline for the most important policy decision yet for stopping the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline. The State Department released its latest report on the pipeline in March, and it utterly downplays the profound impact Keystone XL would have on the climate.

Last summer, activists like you sent 75,000 comments against the tar sands. This time, it will take 100,000 to show President Obama how fast our movement is growing. Take action now. Tell President Obama and Secretary of State Kerry that they cannot fight climate change while simultaneously investing in one of the dirtiest, most carbon-intensive fossil fuels on the planet.

Contact President Obama by April 15:

Comment Phone: (202) 456-1111
Fax: (202) 456-2461

Contact President Obama by April 15:

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Sierra Club Volunteer/Activist Opportunities

Sonoma Group Hike Leaders: Sonoma Group outings leaders training. Always a need for more leaders for outings. If you would like a training, please email Carol carolbrsr@sonic.net or call 546-6308 for info. People are requesting families with children, camping and easy hikes.

North Group Hike Leaders: North Group is desperately seeking hike leaders. Please contact Bill Knight, the Outings Chair, at bill.knight16@gmail.com.

Help the Sonoma Group Water Committee! Come to our meetings at 7:00 PM at the Environmental Center held on the third Wednesday of most months. The Water Committee is working on issues related to measures to conserve, save, and reuse this valuable resource. Our goal is to preserve and improve the natural water environment, the responsible use of water by people, and the safe reuse or disposal of our wastewaters. Help promote quality of our water for people, wildlife, fish and other aquatic life, promote water conservation and intelligent reuse. Check for our meeting dates in the Needles. To get on our Water Committee e-mail list, ask Len Holt at lholt@sonic.net. Come to our meetings with your suggestions and to help in this enterprise. To confirm meeting dates or if you are not able to attend our meetings, you may e-mail Len Holt at lholt@sonic.net.

The Climate & Energy Committee is gettingamped up! Join us on the 1st Monday/Month at 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa, get charged about community renewable energy programs. Contact Shirley Johnson-Foell Climate & Energy Committee Forum Chair. Email: shirlgft07@yahoo.com, home 206-1138, or call the office 544-7651.