Sierra Club Supports Path To Citizenship For Undocumented Immigrants

On April 25th, the Sierra Club announced its support for an equitable path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. The Sierra Club’s strong stand on this issue was made in May. “Your solution is to build something big,” the group’s director, Kathryn Phillips, told the Governor. “And your administration is relying too heavily on an old-fashioned approach to resolving California’s water demands. A month of controversy surrounding the Brown Administration’s proposal to develop two giant tunnels, and massive accompanying infrastructure, to draw water from the Sacramento River before it arrives in the Delta.”

Based on recently released chapters of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), the tunnel proposal “will be disastrous for the environment, the cultural resources and the economy in the Delta,” the letter states. “Whereas the Delta Reform Act speaks to dual goals of ecosystem restoration and reliability of Delta supplies, in the context of programs for long-term sustainability.”

“The 20 million Americans with family members whose legal status is in limbo, the 11 million undocumented immigrants living in America today, we can empower those in our society who are most vulnerable to toxic pollution to fully participate in our democracy, fight back against polluters and demand public health protections and clean energy solutions,” said Allison Chin, Sierra Club president.

“By establishing an equitable path to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants living in America today, we can empower those in our society who are most vulnerable to toxic pollution to fully participate in our democracy. This is our climate crisis. The Sierra Club is committed to partnering with all who share our urgent concerns about advancing our democracy and fighting the climate crisis.”

For more information, visit: http://sierraclub.typepad.com/michaelbrune/2013/04/immigration.html

We’re On Facebook!

Redwood Chapter is delighted to be able to announce that we have officially joined the digital age by inaugurating a Chapter Facebook page, with a Twitter feed planned for the near future. This innovation gives us the opportunity for flexible interaction with our members and other supporters on an ongoing basis, not only by posting announcements, action alerts, and photographs but also by giving you an opportunity to share your perspectives with us and with the whole Sierra Club community. Anyone can see the page (which contains lots of photographs already) by going to www.facebook.com/SierraClubRedwoodChapter, so we encourage you to check us out. Better yet, if you’re a Facebook member and “like” us, regular updates will appear in your news feed and you’ll have an opportunity to provide comments and to share postings with your own social network. We’re looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Sierra Club California Condemns Governor Brown’s Out-of-Date Delta Policy

Sierra Club California, the advocacy arm of the largest and oldest environmental organization working on water policy in the state, called on Governor Jerry Brown to abandon his out-of-step position on the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta this week.

“You and your administration are relying too heavily on an old-fashioned approach to resolving California’s water demands. A month of controversy surrounding the Brown Administration’s proposal to develop two giant tunnels, and massive accompanying infrastructure, to draw water from the Sacramento River before it arrives in the Delta.

Based on recently released chapters of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), the tunnel proposal “will be disastrous for the environment, the cultural resources and the economy in the Delta,” the letter states. “Whereas the Delta Reform Act speaks to dual goals of ecosystem restoration and reliability of Delta supplies, in the context of programs for long-term sustainability.”

“Club Condemns Delta Policy” cont. on page 3
Chapter Chair Report

Refuges. This interlocked collection of waterways provides crucial habitat for a vast number of migratory and resident birds. 353 bird species have been observed here, including the largest concentration of bald eagles south of Alaska and three of the few remaining breeding colonies of white pelicans left in the West. It is also home to several species of endangered fish. The watershed straddles two states and three Sierra Club Chapters, and so Oregon Chapter’s local Rogue Group took the initiative to invite representatives from all three to tour the Refuges and hear about their dire condition first hand from the Refuge manager. We found low water levels and a prediction that the wetlands would dry up altogether by August, as they have during three of the past four summers. Last year more than 20,000 birds died from a cholera epidemic while crowded together in low water conditions, and the same risky conditions prevail this year too. The basic problem seems to be that more water has been allocated than is available in all but the wettest years, and that other users—primarily subsidized agriculture—take precedence over the fish and birds even on land like this that has been dedicated for habitat preservation and comprehensive direction on water supply policy.

for more than 100 years. To see a sampling of photos from the visit, check out the Chapter’s Facebook page at facebook.com/SierraClubRedwoodChapter— you don’t have to belong to Facebook to look at the page. The following weekend brought a complete change of pace, when I attended the first-ever Chapter Chairs Assembly at Sierra Club headquarters in San Francisco. More than fifty Chairs and Vice Chairs from all over the country met for two and a half days, learning a great deal about national conservation campaigns, hearing from Executive Director Michael Brune and (via webcam) Club President Allison Chin, meeting with staff both as a group and individually, and exchanging tips on the best ways to build our volunteer base and acquire the funding needed to strengthen our clout locally, regionally, and nationally. Best of all, we had the chance to meet each other and form the relationships that make the Club such a truly formidable advocate for the environment. After churning out all those miles it would be great to stay home here in Lake County for a while and work in the garden, but next weekend I’m off again to the bi-annual California-Nevada Regional Conservation Committee meeting in San Luis Obispo, and then on May 22 will fly to Washington DC to lobby our Senators and Congressional representatives on behalf of the wonderful Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area proposal. Expect a report on all that in the next Redwood Needles!
Sat. June 1 - North Group Pratt's Park Picnic
Join us in celebrating the Pratt's Park Native Plant Garden’s 40th anniversary by visiting Park highlights including the Native Plant Garden, Sunnyside Village, Ceremonial Rock, Wedding Rock, Pratt’s Point and Palmer’s Point before looping back to the Visitor Center. Bring a picnic and snacks. No dogs. Class M-3-A. Carpools: Meet 10:15 am McKinleyville Safeway parking lot, 10:45 am at Pratt’s Point Visitor Center. Leader Bill 707-639-5971. Rain cancels.

Sat. June 8 - Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve in Vallejo.
Our walk takes us along a historic road to the highest point on Mare Island with spectacular views towards the Carquinez Strait, San Pablo and San Francisco Bays. Baby ospreys might be spotted. Health and weather permitting, we hike up the gradually inclined paved road from 9:30-11:00. Class: E-4-A. Take U.S. 101, 40 miles north of SF and take the Mare Island exit just west of Vallejo. Follow Walnut Ave. south to 'S' at 1st stop sign and turn left. Take the 2nd right at Nimitz and go to 5th S. stop sign and turn right. Go to Railroad Ave. and turn left. Follow Railroad through the South Gate to the Park kiosk where there is ample parking space. Leader Brian Collett 530-220-3121 Participants are free to bring lunch and eat at the Preserve picnic tables and then explore other trails on Mare Island. There are also museums.

Benson Hut work party involves hiking 3 miles to the Benson Hut Saturday morning, but maintenance Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, then hiking back Sunday afternoon. Maintenance involves stock the hut with wood, repairs, staining and cleanup. Good exercise, wonderful setting and great fun. Friday night stay at Clair Tappaan Lodge included with work party (Dinner Friday night and breakfast Saturday am). Contact leader Jim Gannon (707)-525-1052 jgannon99@sbcglobal.net for signup or questions.

This is a moderate hike in the Cache Creek Wilderness with possible sightings of bald eagles or other raptors. Bring water, binoculars and snacks. Class: M-S-A. Meet 9:30 am parking lot off Highway 20 just before the bridge over the North Fork of Cache Creek (eight miles to the east of Clear Lake Oaks). By reservation only. Leader Jacqueline Farley jfarley108@gmail.com.

Experience coastal views, old-growth, flowers, ferns galore, waterfalls, and probable elk along this loop starting at Fern Canyon. Some rough spots and soggy terrain likely. Bring food, water, and hiking footwear. No dogs. Class M-B-A. Carpools: Meet 9 am Arcata Safeway parking lot. 10 am Elk Meadows parking area (off Davison Rd). Leader Melinda 707-668-4275 or mroogmaster@gmail.com. Rain cancels.

Sat. June 15 - Mendo Group Angelo Coast Range Reserve Hike.
The ACRR is a historically interesting property originally purchased by The Nature Conservancy and then transferred to UC Berkeley, which now serves as a UC Berkeley research facility set along the headwaters of the S. Fork of the Eel River. It is stunningly beautiful along the Eel River and Elder Creek with riparian, meadow, and oak, Douglas fir, and redwood habitats with tall coast range mountains overlooking all—all a truly magnificent place that we will experience on our hike ending at one of the historic residences. The group will be mostly level hiking on the gravel path that bisects the Reserve but depending on water level in the Eel, we may have to wade across near the beginning of the hike. Bring lunch, snacks, adequate liquids, rain gear, and wear layered clothing and sturdy boots. Class M-B-A. No dogs. Carpools: Meet 8:30 am Riley's parking lot, Ukiah or 10:15 am ACRR parking lot. Take Branscomb Rd. 1 mile west for 2 miles to park. Lot of tiny Branscomb, then right turn at unpaved, paved, and only road you will see on right, and drive about 4 miles to visitor center and meet. Leader Jonathon Feemead. By reservation only. 4671877, jonathafeemead@sbcglobal.net. Rain cancels.

This trip heads into some of the best red rock in Utah, with sheer high-walled canyons and cathedral-like rock formations. Meet and gear up noon at the Escalante visitor center where we will obtain our permits. Hike 4 miles a day, possible lay-over day. Most of the hike is fairly easy, but requires wading back and forth across the creek. This is definitely the summer warm season, but I have generally found it quite pleasant in the canyons this time of year. Limit 12. David Hardy, 702 875-4828, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com. S. Nevada Group/CNRC Desert Committee.

Camp near Bowman Lake, north of I-80. Bring your boat and we’ll go exploring. Group potluck Saturday night. Details are still being worked out. By RSVP only. Leaders: Isabelle Saint-Guil 707-253-2293 izstguily@gmail.com or Carl Inglin 707-538-8273 chinglin@sonic.net.

We will set up a base camp after backpacking 5 miles into the Yolla Bolly Wilderness in the Mendocino National Forest, located west of Covelo. We will stay at the same site for 3 nights, using the 2 middle days to take day hikes, or hang around camp. There is a good chance of us being able to use a variety of trails to explore. Bring all your own meals for 4 days and 3 meals during the 1st day. Be prepared for up to 6 hours of hiking the 1st day. Be prepared for up to 6 hours of hiking the 1st day. Bring your own canoe/kayak to a primitive camp on the lake. Bring your own canoe/kayak to a primitive camp on the lake. Class 1-B. Meet 9 am at a point 3 miles from Hwy 101. Leader is very familiar w/ the area and can find plenty to do up there. Sorry, no RV’s or Dogs. Dogs on leash. LNT. Great Basin Group/CNRC Desert Committee.

Sat. July 13 - A Walk at Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve in Vallejo.
Our annual outing to Mare Island, in the Sierras northeast of Placerville. We’ll enjoy a couple hours of hiking on the east end of the lake. Bring your own boat. Group potluck on Saturday. Great for artists and photographers. By RSVP only. Leaders: Leaders: Melinda Saint-Guil 707-253-2293 izstguily@gmail.com or Carl Inglin 707-538-8273 chinglin@sonic.net. Rain cancels.

We’ll hike 5 miles to the boat camp on the east end of the lake. Bring your own boat. Group potluck on Saturday. Great for artists and photographers. By RSVP only. Leaders: Leaders: Melinda Saint-Guil 707-253-2293 izstguily@gmail.com or Carl Inglin 707-538-8273 chinglin@sonic.net. Rain cancels.

Instructions to hikers
Outings will start not later than 15 minutes after scheduled meeting time. The leader is in charge of the trip and is responsible for your welfare and the good name of the Club. He/she must have your cooperation to make the trip safe, pleasant and rewarding. Never charge ahead of the leader and keep within sight or hearing distance of the person ahead of you so you do not miss an interesting trail. Do not lag behind real 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 shoes appropriate for the outing. In most cases this would be hiking boots.
Guard against fire. Do not smoke on Sierra Club outings. Build fires only with the leader’s permission, and extinguish them completely. Guns, pets, or radios are not to be brought on hikes.
The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Participants assume the risks associated with travel. Reimburse the carpool driver. Carpools are not part of the outing but a means of conserving natural resources. All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to receive the liability waiver please go to: http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/channel/forms/m, 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. You are free to bring members of your family and guests. Children are usually welcome, but please call the leader to make sure it is an appropriate hike.

DIFFICULTY     MILEAGE     ELEVATION GAIN
            EASY      A - Less than 1,000
            MODERATE  B - 1,000 to 2,000
            HARD       C - 2,000 to 3,000
            STRENUOUS  D - over 3,000
            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 need to know the cumulative gain, please contact the leader.

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

CST 807786-48 Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

Benson Hut winter outing. Photo by Pierson Bourquin.
Granton Wilderness south of Ely, the Highland Ridge just south of Great Basin National Park, and the Becky Peak Wilderness in the Schell Creek Range north of Ely. Where will it be this time? Sign up and find out. We do know—it will be useful, enjoyable, hard work for wilderness with pleasing camaraderie in a wild, scenic area. Central commission for usual exorbitant fee, contact Vicky Hoover, 415-977-5527, or vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org.

Sat. July 27 - North Group Ma-le’l Dunes Cooperative Management Area, Ledik Trail to Duk’ Loop Trail. Come with your kids and explore this BLM and Fish & Wildlife Service Cooperative Management Area and experience a biologically diverse dune community, one of the most pristine in the Pacific Northwest. We will see a coastal forest, sand dunes and the beach. Wear sturdy shoes and bring liquids and lunch. No strollers. Contact: Class: E-1-5-A. Meet 10 am at Ma-le’l Dunes South parking area, turning off Samoa Blvd (Hwy 255), onto Young Lane, make a left and follow sign to parking lot (park near rear of the historical Ledik Trail parking lot). Leader Alison 707-268-8767. Rain cancels.

Mon.-Fri. July 29 - Aug. 2 - Mendon Group Backpack Yolla Bolly. Let’s hike a 30-35 mile loop into the heart of the Yolla Bolly averaging 7 miles each day and ending each night at a different, beautiful spring. We can explore different trails, even change the route if the group chooses to. We may take a layover day on the third day to day hike or hang out in camp. Bring all your own food for 5 days and 4 nights. Must have water purification and backpacking stove. Bear canisters optional. Must carry 3 quarts of water. This is a dry area and a dry time of year. Need to be an intermediate backpacker and have backpacked within the last 2 years. Good boots are a must, walking sticks are helpful. Class: S-35-B. Meet 8 am Mon. July 29, Covelo turnoff from Highway 101, 10 miles north of Willits. We may leave a car at the trailhead. By reservation only.

Leader Val Nordeman cell phone 707-477-4199, nordeman@willitsonline.com Leader in training Brenda.

Sat.-Sun. Sept 7-8 - 2nd Benson Hut Work Party. Benson Hut work party involves hiking 3 miles to the Benson Hut Saturday morning, hut maintenance Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, then hiking back Sunday afternoon. Maintenance involves stocking the hut with wood, repairs, staining and cleanup. Good exercise, wonderful setting and great fun. Friday night stay at Clair Tappan Lodge included with work party (Dinner Friday night and breakfast Saturday am). Contact leader Jim Gannon (707)-525-1052 jgannon99@sbcglobal.net for signup or questions.

Fri.-Sun. Sept 27-29 - Service and Hiking in the Carrizo Plains. This is an opportunity to visit and to assist an outstanding and relatively unknown national monument. There will be an optional and scenic hike in the Caliente Mountains on Friday. Others may join us for National Public Lands Day on Saturday when we will participate with other volunteers doing trail maintenance. On Sunday we will tour a number of the historic, prehistoric, and geologic sites in the Monument. Leader Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670. CNRCC Desert Committee.

Silver Lake & Carson Pass
Come relax and enjoy the beauty. Fish, hike, or wander along the many lakes and mountain trails abundant with wildlife. After a hike, refresh in the cool water, lounge on our beach, or glide on the pristine Silver Lake waters, very peaceful and quiet. Then join us for a gourmet meal at our restaurant or spend the evening in your comfortable lakeside room or cottage, ending your day star-gazing from your deck or meeting others at the cranking camp.

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Redwood Needles June 1, 2013 5

Interested in Becoming an Outings Leader?

Contact your Group Outings Chair (see page 2) or Carol Vellutini at 546-6308 or carolvsr@sonic.net for information.

Ratings for Outings Leaders

How fast or slow do you go?

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

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

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

Moderate-pace with few stops:
Penny Proteau Don Anderson Steve Devoto Tiffany MacNeil
Isabelle Saint-Guiy Lorrie Lagasse Boone Lodge Chip Bourn Paul Farley

Moderate-pace with more frequent stops:
Pete McGee Tim Bartice Bill Knight Melinda Groom Val Nordeman Carol Vellutini Yvonne Kramer Martin Farber Brian Collett Jean Crossley Carl Inglis Tom McFarling Nanette DiDonato Jonah Freedman

Slower-pace: Allison Bronkall

Lake Leonard—co-leader Jonah Freedman and guide Kristana Arp.

Silver Lake and Carson Pass

Benson Hut work party involves hiking 3 miles to the Benson Hut Saturday morning, hut maintenance Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, then hiking back Sunday afternoon. Maintenance involves stocking the hut with wood, repairs, staining and cleanup. Good exercise, wonderful setting and great fun. Friday night stay at Clair Tappan Lodge included with work party (Dinner Friday night and breakfast Saturday am). Contact leader Jim Gannon (707)-525-1052 jgannon99@sbcglobal.net for signup or questions.

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Outings

Lake Leonard Hike on April 7th

The Mendocino Group outing co-leaders for this hike were Jonah Freedman and Yvonne Kramer. Kristana Arp, a family member of the current owners of the property, was our guide.

We carpooled nine miles down Reeves Canyon Road through towering old growth redwoods in the midst of a spring morning. When we arrived at the 1895 farm house above Leonard Lake I felt transported out of inland Mendocino. 25 hikers followed a wonderful trail that circled the lake a perfect distance from the shore, providing a view of the lake below. We walked through old growth redwoods with California orchids and sprouting mushrooms, stopping at a meadow for lunch. After lunch we hiked through oak woodlands with majestic views of green hills to the south. Cormorants were Boating in the lake. At the end of the hike we were in front of the farmhouse and heard Sandy, a family friend, tell us the history of the property. The Dukin family bought 400 acres around the house and lake in 1953. The property had never been logged. Continuing to add on to the original property they now have almost 4,000 acres and manage the land in a Conservancy. The farmhouse and a few surrounding houses are rented for special events. We felt grateful to walk the beautiful trails on the private property and thank Kristana Arp for her generosity in arranging our hike.

-Yvonne Kramer
MENDON GROUP OUTINGS LEADER
**Lake Group Report**

Dismal spawning season for the Clear Lake Hitch

Clear Lake continues to keep a close eye on fate of this iconic fish species, which is found in Clear Lake and nowhere else. As previously mentioned, the Center for Biological Diversity has petitioned to list the hitch (Istiusu exilicauda) under the Endangered Species Act, and in March the California Fish and Game Commission accepted it as a candidate species. A year-long status evaluation is now under way. Evidence suggests that the species is reentering on the edge of extinction, and Lake Group intends to submit comments strongly supportive of listing. In the meantime, the 2013 spawning season has come and gone, with very low water and diminished flow in the creeks, and very few sightings of migrating adults. Observers have subsequently seen substantial numbers of juvenile fish in the creeks that may be hitch (it is very difficult to distinguish them from Sacramento suckers at this stage of development), but rapidly falling water level may make it impossible for them to return to the lake.

Anderson Marsh partnership agreement signed

Late in April it was announced that the Anderson Marsh Interpretive Society and the California Department of Parks and Recreation have signed a partnership agreement to keep Anderson Marsh State Historic Park open for at least the next three years. The agreement will take advantage of a special “matching” fund established last year after the discovery of millions of dollars of unaccounted park money, and calls for the Park to be available for public use throughout the week, with the parking lot open on weekends. Besides utilities and maintenance, AMIA funding will be used to restore the McVicar Trail, which has been closed some time due to unsafe conditions. State Parks will also assign a maintenance worker to the Park. Not only does AMISH preserve Clear Lake’s largest remaining wetlandland in a varied habitat that makes it a paradise for birders and other wildlife watchers, it also contains archeological sites of great antiquity and high significance. All those values would be vulnerable to neglect and probable vandalism if the gates were padlocked and no oversight provided. Lake Group, which has given both moral and financial support to the park during the years it has been intermittently threatened with closure, rejoices at this very good news, and looks forward to opportunities for collaboration in the future.

Lake Group again offers scholarships

For the second year in a row, 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. At press time, applications were being evaluated by the Lake Group Executive Committee, with presentations planned during community events.

—VICTORIA BRANDON, LAKE GROUP

**Sonoma Group Report**

On May 15 we hosted University of California Extension Forest Advisor Greg Giusti, Chris Kelly from The Conservation Fund, Friends of the Gualala River President Chris Pohlmann, and Fish Friendly Farming Executive Director Laurel Marcus to our “Bambi vs. the Bulldozer” panel at the Glaser Center in Santa Rosa. The discussion focused on watershed & forest protection in the face of the North Coast’s ever-expanding vineyard monoculture. We organized this event in conjunction with the Redwood Chapter, Sonoma County Water Coalition, Forests Unlimited, and the Unitarian Universalist Advocates for Social Justice.

(Those who have an interest in this subject please note: We have openings on our Forest Protection Committee, and are seeking a Chair to lead that committee.)

We are meeting with policy makers to make clear the importance of implementing a seamless schedule of bus and other transit modes to connect with SMART train stops and keep transit users moving to their destinations without delays.

We also sent the County our comment that the landfill site operator’s agreement should include an annual presentation and report to the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency on the status and results of the operator’s various landfilling and diversion efforts, and for Republic (the operator being offered the contract) to be encouraged to pursue additional renewable energy opportunities.

Sonoma Group ExCom members Dan Kerbein and Shirley Jane met with Supervisor Effen Carrillo to share the above comments, and to update the areas where the Sierra Club and the Board of Supervisors will be able to support each others’ objectives.

Steve Birdlebough met with a 3-Chapter Committee on the MTC’s 30-year Bay Region Transit Improvement Program (TIP). They sent a detailed letter expressing a concern that the TIP will not lead to reduced driving and will not reduce GHGs, since it calls for several hundred miles of new freeway lanes. Instead, the letter calls for improved support for transit operating funds.

The SRJC Alumni & Friends Association honored ExCom member Jessica Jones as the 2013 Recipient of the P. Railer Award, the SRJC Service to SRJC. Jessica is Associated Student President and is involved in several campus task forces and committees. In 2011 Jessica successfully campaigned for SRJC to sign on to the Talloires Declaration, an international sustainability commitment. Her efforts have also led to increasing awareness about alternative transportation, recycling in the Bertolini Student Center, campus kiosks serving fair trade coffee and yearly Earth Day events. The award was presented May 5 at the Day Under the Oaks.

We joined with 350.org in urging the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) to adopt aggressive programs by July 2014 to reduce Bay Area greenhouse gas emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

Steve Birdlebough sent a message to Shirley Zane, Sonoma County’s representative to the BAAQMD, making clear our position. The federal Clean Air Act and the California Health & Safety Code give the BAAQMD broad authority to regulate non-movable sources of air pollution, including GHGs, and to enact more stringent requirements than federal or State law. In our view, it is time for leadership and action.

The Sonoma Group endorsed Sonoma Clean Power as proposed by the Board of Supervisors on April 23. We urge all of the cities to join the Sonoma Clean Power JPA (Joint Powers Authority).

—DAN KERBEIN, SONOMA GROUP CHAIR

**Whales, Wildflowers and Wildlife! 2013 cruises to Channel Islands National Park**

June 2-4; July 21-23; Aug. 25-27; Sept. 15-17

Join us for a 3-island, 3-day cruise to California’s Channel Islands National Park– Galapagos, USA! Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines. Marvel at pristine waters teeming with fucking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on unusual sea and land birds. Watch for the highly endangered island fox. Look for reminders of the Chamah people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or just relax on the deck and look for sea lions, dolphins, and other wildlife. The project was selected for the second year in a row, 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. At press time, applications were being evaluated by the Lake Group Executive Committee, with presentations planned during community events.

—VICTORIA BRANDON, LAKE GROUP

**Science Projects Receive Awards**

For the seventh year, North Group sponsored an award at the annual Humboldt County Science Fair held in mid-March. (The projects were so competitive in 2013 that a second prize of $25 was awarded.) The $50 first prize for the best project dealing with environmental issues went to “Do Bigger Watersheds Have Higher Coliform Concentration?” by Nigella Mahal Baur, a 6th grader at Sunny Brae Middle School. She hypothesized that bigger watersheds would have higher coliform concentrations. She tested five watersheds in Arcata and found that her hypothesis was not supported. She concluded that coliform levels might be more affected by population density, livestock numbers, or topography than water function. Nigella brought her project to our May ExCom meeting. Her project was selected to compete at the California State Science Fair held in April in Los Angeles.

Second prize went to “What’s Keeping Me Cozy and Warm?” by Garfield Elementary School 4th grader Jakyah Adams. She examined what natural materials would best insulate a building or room, hypothesizing that cellulose would work best. She tested denim batting, cellulose, pine shavings, straw, sand, water, pea gravel, and concrete. Her results were that pine shavings heated up fastest, while cellulose and denim held in heat the longest. Jakyah noted that her project could be applied to the real world by informing people that they could use natural or recycled insulation in their homes.

Humboldt County General Plan Update

2013 is shaping up to be a critical year for the long-delayed GPU. Since approval of the draft plan by the Planning Commission, the Board of Supervisors has been holding review sessions, taking comments, reports and recommendations from the public as well as from the “ad hoc working groups,” appointed after several recently-elected supervisors expressed discontent with the complexities of the process. The Board has stated its ambition to conclude the GPU by the end of this year. Currently under consideration is the critical Land Use Element, with at least one evening hearing on the schedule. North Group Sierra Club is part of the Healthy Humboldt Coalition, a project of Northeast Environmental Center’s Sustainable Communities Program. See the GPC website, www.sustainhumboldt.org, to read the draft Plan and EIR, view the current schedule or sign up for e-mail updates, or go to www.healthyhumboldt.org for more information.

**Public Land Grazing Internship**

The North Group would like to call readers’ attention to an internship opportunity this summer with the Project to Reform Public Land Grazing in Northern California. The project is coordinated by North Group Water Chair Felice Face and is sponsored by the Klamath Forest Alliance and EPIC. In the past, North Group provided a stipend for a summer student intern volunteering with this project. If you are interested or want more information call Felice at 707-956-6588.

—NED FORSYTH, NORTH GROUP VICE CHAIR
Volunteer Thanks
Thank you Earth Day volunteers: Tracy Chappelone, Joe Feller and Amy, Bevery Gains, Aaron Kofer and Adam Mangosing.
Thanks to Nancy McCoy, Brian Hoffinan, Adam Mangosing, and Jane for staffing the March and April paper shredding at VALCORE. VALCORE Recycling and Confidential Paper Shredding 2013
Solano Group will be working every 3rd Saturday of the month at 38 Sheridan Street, Vallejo from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (June 15, July 20, Aug 17, Sep. 21, Oct 19, Nov 16, and Dec 21). There is a charge of $10 per twenty pounds of paper shredded. (maximum: 100 pounds). Sierra Club volunteers help tend the money and direct traffic. Once a year is all we ask and you only need work an hour or so.
Volunteers get free shredding!

Mendocino Group Report
We want to thank all of those who spent many hours over the last few months reading and commenting on Mendocino Redwood Company’s Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan. This is the voluminous and convoluted 80-year road map for the future for the 213,000 acres of MRC’s forestland in Mendocino County. It was 12 years in the making. The 4 volumes covering some highly technical information are 3000 pages long. Plant maps, impressive looking. What did the readers make of this behemoth?

There were about 30 individual comment letters submitted to the agencies—long, detailed, analytical—all written by people who had waded through big chunks of the proposal, all volunteering significant time from their busy lives. All found the size of the document and the short amount of time available for review daunting. Most were frustrated with vague proposals, omissions, and internal inconsistencies that had them continually flipping between different parts of the document asking, “Is this what is meant or that?” All of them questioned the curious idea that a permit, good for 80 years, could be locked into place despite obviously accelerating changes in the earth’s climate that might render meaningless many of its assumptions. And, having worked down to the seeming substance of the proposal, the readers raised numerous objections.

A major concern for all is that this is an 80-year (multigenerational!) plan with no allowance for further changes. There might be a whole new world of interactions that the current plan can’t foresee. Another major concern is that the proposal doesn’t even begin to address the problem of climate change and the many interactions we know it will bring to the forest. The proposal seems to assume that the forest is unchanging, when it is not. One reader wrote that the plan, as written, is likely to fall into disuse in just a few decades. And, what will our children think when they have to ask us how we made decisions about something that will affect their children for generations to come?

We continually work at Lori’s Native Plant Garden located at 225 Amador St, Vallejo. We weed, plant, prune and mulch yard-year. If you have an hour, call Jane and she’ll work with you to get you started. 707-319-6398
VALCORE Recycling Board Alternate: You may need to attend one meeting per year.
EXCOM: Come join us for our monthly meetings which rotate between Vallejo, Fairfield, and Vacaville. We meet on the first Thursday of the month and are making a positive impact on our county and need a few more members to help carry the load. Call Jane (707) 319-6398 or Greg (707) 866-6411 for current meeting info.

Help pay for our LANDFILL LAWSUIT. (Our attorney’s fees are 3000 cans per hour)
Please bring your CRV – CA Cash Refund containers down to VALCORE (38 Sheridan St. Vallejo, Mon - Sat, 10am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 4:30pm. OR Cash them in at your local recycle center and send us a check for the refund amount. We recently received donations from Marion Conning, John Kolark, and others.

--CONTRIBUTOR: JANE BODNER
--EDITOR: GREG PETERSON

Napa Group Report
Grassroots Needs Local Activists
As Sierra Club members know, the strength of our grassroots organization relies on the underpinnings of local activists. Napa’s environmental interests are voiced by volunteers who serve on the many community groups and committees. And in addition to protecting the outdoors, we Sierra Club members like to explore and enjoy it. Together, we bring alive the Sierra Club motto: Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the wild places of the earth.

For this, we need your help. You decide how much or little time you have to offer. Got an occasional two hours? Join us each month or so at Trancas Crossing to clear around native plants in this 33-acre open space park. Are you a natural leader and love the outdoors? We think an application will be resubmitted in the near future. The community response was organized and terrific. On the Willits Bypass front, there has been a delay due to CalTrans failure to adequately consult with a Native American tribe regarding protection of its cultural resources. This may involve another lawsuit. There is also a request to California Department of Fish and Wildlife for a stop work order because of violations of incidental take permit conditions. Want to learn more about the Willits Bypass? Check out this ARC news video at http://abclocal.go.com/koj/story?section=news/assignment_7&id=9097038

–LINDA PERKINS and MARY WALSH, MENDOCINO GROUP

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–LINDA PERKINS and MARY WALSH, MENDOCINO GROUP

Upcoming events
Did you see us at the Earth Day celebration in downtown Napa? We’ll again have a table at the Resource Conservation District’s Salmon Run in Yountville on June 15. Stop by and say hello.

The nature of art: The Sierra Club is sponsoring Nature Poetry Reading to be led by Lenore Wilson, Napa’s Poet Laureate. Put the date on your calendar. See you there.

–MARLENE TALLEY, NAPA GROUP CHAIR

Redwood Needles June 1, 2013
Meetings

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

Mon. June 3 - Sonoma Group, Santa Rosa Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway is the site of three related meetings:
• The Climate & Energy Committee meets at 5:00 p.m. Info: contact Shirley, shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, 707-206-1138.
• Sonoma Group Conservation Committee at 5:30 p.m. Info: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net
• Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net

Thurs. June 6 - Solano Group ExCom.
Come join us for our monthly meetings which rotate between Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville. We are making a positive impact on our county and need a few more people to help carry the load. Call Jane for information. (707)319-6398.

Tues., June 11, North Group ExCom.
The public is invited to attend the monthly meeting of the North Group Sierra Club’s governing committee.Join us for a discussion of local conservation issues between 7:45 and 8:45 p.m., following the Executive Committee business meeting from 6:45-7:45 p.m. Meet at Adorni Center Conference Room on Eureka Waterfront. For more information, call Gregg at 707-826-3740.

Tues., June 18 – Napa Group ExCom. 7 p.m. Our location varies; it is generally at a member’s home. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting should contact Carol Vellutini via e-mail: carolvsr@sonic.net.

7:00 PM at the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

Mon. July 1 - Sonoma Group, Santa Rosa Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway is the site of three related meetings:
• The Climate & Energy Committee meets at 5:00 p.m. Info: contact Shirley, shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, 707-206-1138.
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Sat., July 13 - Redwood Chapter ExCom.
Location: Willits Environmental Center. Conservation Committee meets at 10 a.m., ExCom meets 1-3 p.m. Info: Victoria vbrandan@lakeville.info

7:00 PM at the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

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Meet with the Sonoma Group Water Committee!
Your chance to make a difference. Come to our meetings at the Environmental Center at 7:00 PM 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 protect the quality of our water for people, wild life, 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, e-mail Len Holt at lholt@sonic.net. If you are not able to attend our meetings, you may e-mail Len Holt with your concerns and ideas.

Get CHARGED by attending the Climate & Energy Committee. Join us on the 1st month of May at 5:00-5:45 p.m. at the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa, learn about what is going on in our county to fight climate change through renewable energy programs. Contact Shirley Johnson-Foell Climate & Energy Committee Forum-Chair. Email: Shirgirl707@yahoo.com, home 206-1138, or call office 433-7651.

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 by email is online”.

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 envr@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.knight.email@gmail.com.

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