**Celebrate Wilderness 50 Around the Redwood Chapter**

**Visions of the Wild: A Report from the Field**

By Victoria Brandon, Redwood Chapter Chair

In early September Redwood Chapter was delighted to be able to take an active part in Visions of the Wild, a vibrant four-day festival hosted by the U.S. Forest Service as part of nationwide celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the federal Wilderness Act. Held near the San Francisco Bay waterfront in downtown Vallejo, the festival included art exhibits, woodcraft demonstrations, speakers, film screenings, music, and field trips.

With assistance from Nancy Tamarisk and Linda Brown from Napa Group and Amynoel Coughran and Joe Feller from Solano Group as well as national Sierra Club Wilderness,

Amynoel Coughran and Linda Brown chatting with Saturday’s large and lively crowd.

50th Anniversary chair Vicky Hoover and San Francisco Bay Chapter Wilderness 50 coordinator Anne Henny, Redwood Chapter staffed a booth at Vallejo’s Pocket Park on Friday September 5 and Saturday September 6—see photos! We also sponsored a panel discussion on invasive plants in wilderness, with participation from the Solano Land Trust, California Invasive Plant Council, East Lake Resource Conservation District, and Tileyome. Besides all that, Napa Group Chair Marc Pandone was one of the artists whose work was exhibited at the Vallejo Maritime and Historical Museum as part of this event.

Nationwide Wilderness 50 celebrations will continue until the end of 2014. For more information, visit www.wilderness50th.org.

**Napa County Celebrates Wilderness 50**

On August 18 Napa County became the fourth in Redwood Chapter to issue a formal proclamation celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the landmark federal Wilderness Act. Napa Group Chair Marc Pandone holds a framed certificate from the Board of Supervisors, accompanied by executive committee members Isabelle St-Guily, Phil Blake, Nancy Tamarisk, Linda Brown, and Christine Bent.

**North Group 50th Anniversary Party**

North Group Sierra Club was founded in 1964, the same year as the Wilderness Act was passed. We will be celebrating these two milestones at a members-only reception on Thursday, November 6. The event will be held at the Humboldt Area Foundation on Indiana Cut-off between Eureka and Arcata from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Join us to reminisce about the five decades of conservation work that North Group members have performed on the North Coast. Space is limited to the first 60 people that RSVP to sueleskiw@suddenlink.net or 707-442-5444 before November 5. Be sure to give the name(s) of the attendees and their drink preference (beer, white wine, red wine, apple cider).

**Wilderness Guidebook Available**

As mentioned previously, to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the landmark federal Wilderness Act, Redwood Chapter has published a Guidebook to the 21 officially designated wildernesses in our territory. Copies are available at the Environmental Center (55A Ridgeway) in Santa Rosa and at Watershed Books (304 N. Main) in Lakeport for a suggested donation of $5, and may also be ordered by mail by sending a $6 check (to cover postage and handling) made out to Sierra Club Redwood Chapter to Victoria Brandon, 15995 Lucy Circle, Lower Lake CA 95457.

**Russian River Documentary to Preview in September**

A new feature-length documentary, The Russian River: All Rivers—the Value of an American Watershed, is scheduled to preview in Sonoma County in late September and various venues in the coming months.

This exciting film takes a lyrical look at the river itself, and portrays its complex, often unfortunate history with a theme of industry “boom and bust.” In doing so, it conveys a story common to rivers everywhere. The film is also a call to action, bringing together information and commentary that can be an invaluable tool for further environmental action, especially during this time of drought.

The Russian River: All Rivers includes interviews with renowned water activist and author, Maude Barlow; Jim Lichatowich, author of Salmon Without Rivers; Don McIntosh, Executive Director of Russian Riverkeeper; David Keller, Bay Area Director of Friends of the Eel River, legendary environmentalist Marty Griffin and other key stakeholders from the agricultural, governmental and environmental communities.

Redwood Chapter is proud to have been able to offer a financial subsidy to this enterprise, which dovetails perfectly with many of the Sierra Club’s ongoing conservation campaigns on the North Coast. We’re also hoping to sponsor a showing in Santa Rosa this fall or winter—please stay tuned! This film was created by filmmakers living in the Russian River watershed. For more information, including ways that individuals can help, please visit their website: http://russianriverrivers.com

Please Vote on Nov. 4th

By Victoria Brandon, Redwood Chapter Political Chair

As the November 4, 2014 election approaches, Sierra Club activists have been engaged in the painstaking task of identifying the best candidates in local races such as county supervisor and city councilor. The results of these grassroots contests often have momentous consequences, with the question coming down to this: do we want to foster the best qualities of the North Coast—abundant open space, towering forests, free-running rivers, charming, friendly small towns with a rural atmosphere—or do we want to become like the rest of California?

We think the choices are clear, and that the election of candidates endorsed by the Sierra Club offers the best hope of making those choices wisely. So please examine the endorsement list on the back page of this newsletter, and give your vote to the individuals named there that appear on your ballot. Please also consider making a personal endorsement, volunteering a few hours of time, or donating money: the future of all our communities hangs in the balance this November, and action by Club members can potentially tip that balance.

The Club has officially taken a “no position” stance on Proposition 1, the California Water Bond. “No position” does not in any way imply “no opinion”: please see the detailed explanation on page 3 in this newsletter for the reasons behind our action.

Other local endorsements were in progress as this issue of the Needles went to press. The names of additional endorsed candidates will be posted to http://redwood.sierrclub.org/Committees/Political/ as they are approved.
Statements of 2014 Sierra Club Endorsed Candidates

State Senate  
Mike McGuire, District 2

I want to thank the Sierra Club for the endorsement of our grassroots campaign for State Senate. As a Sonoma County Supervisor, I’ve been privileged to work closely with local members on a variety of issues and I’m grateful for their invaluable input and guidance. I’m honored by the Sierra Club’s support and I’m excited to start working on the state issues that the Sierra Club and our current Senator, Noreen Evans, have championed for many years.

The beautiful Second Senate District runs from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Oregon border comprising 40% of California’s coastline, and includes both Lake and Trinity counties. I will be the voice of the coast in Sacramento, and I fully recognize that the coast must be protected for future generations.

As your state senator, I will work tirelessly to pass legislation to ban fracking in California. As a founding member of the Regional Climate Protection Authority and Sonoma Clean Power, I know there is no greater environmental concern facing California than climate change. I will continue to be outspoken on this important issue and ensure California is a national leader on proactive climate change and GHG reduction policy.

Water and drought related issues will be at the top of my agenda for action in the Senate, and I will strongly support comprehensive conservation measures and a complete review of water supply.

Together, we’ll continue to oppose the Delta Tunnel proposal which will cost taxpayers billions, impose irreversible environmental damage to the Delta and only add to Los Angles’ ability to sprawl.

The Second Senate District is home to more state parks than any other district in the entire State of California, and we must re-open these public lands and get residents back into their parks.

I will always continue my long practice of proactive engagement with the Sierra Club on all of these issues and truly appreciate your support over the many years we’ve worked together.

State Assembly  
Jim Wood, District 2

Jim Wood is running for the 2nd Assembly District, which includes Del Norte, Trinity, Humboldt and Mendocino Counties, plus northern and coastal Sonoma County.

We need proven leadership in Sacramento. Jim served on the Healdsburg Planning Commission for four years and was elected to the City Council in 2006. Currently serving his second term as Mayor he focuses on environmental protection, increasing energy efficiency, conserving water, and expanding Healdsburg’s renewable energy portfolio.

Jim co-founded the Healdsburg Green City Committee to implement green building principles, increasing water conservation standards, and expanding energy efficiency rebate and education programs. Healdsburg is a member of the Northern California Power Agency and has the highest renewable power of any city in Sonoma County and committed to grow green power for the community. As Chair of the Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency he is focusing on waste diversion and composting. Jim worked with Sonoma County Supervisor Mike McGuire and the Sonoma County Agriculture and Open Space District to preserve 288 acres on Finch Mountain as public-access open space within city limits. During this historic drought, Healdsburg has taken a leadership role in the region in efforts to conserve water.

Jim is also active in state and national health care causes. He serves on the Board of Advisors for the Pediatric Dental Initiative, a dental surgery center for children with severe dental problems. He is a nationally recognized expert in forensic dentistry.

In the State Assembly he will continue to fight for natural resource protection, greater access to quality healthcare, job creation, and education. Jim is proud to have earned the support of Congressmen Jared Huffman and Mike Thompson, State Senator Noreen Evans and Assemblymember Wesley Chesbro. Jim would be honored to have your support for State Assembly.

Why Sierra Club California Takes a “No Position” on Prop. 1: The Water Bond

The $7.5 billion Water Bond (Prop 1 on the November ballot) passed the legislature with near-unanimous votes and has been signed by the Governor.

Sierra Club California does not normally take a neutral or “no position” on major ballot measures that have an environmental impact. However, in this case, a “no position” stance is the only feasible position for the Club to take at this time.

This “no position” stance on the water bond is not intended to muzzle our voices on this important issue. We encourage all our members to engage in the debate. The “no position” on Prop 1 will allow staff and volunteers to freely discuss and acknowledge the benefits in the bond, while also pointing out the major concerns we have about the large portion of the bond money that could potentially be used to build one or more dams in the State. The Club is not, however, urging either a “yes” or a “no” vote on Prop 1.

We Support the Good Programs in the Water Bond

There are some very substantial environmental benefits outlined in the bonds. These include about $1.5 billion for watershed restoration, $810 million for regional water management, storm water management, and efficiency, $900 million for groundwater treatment, planning, and management. We strongly support these conservation and restoration programs. The bond will allocate more than $500 million to ensure safe drinking water for low income disadvantaged communities in the southern San Joaquin Valley, and provide funding to clean up groundwater pollution in the Los Angeles basin.

But We Hate the Dam Funding in the Bond

Sierra Club California cannot support Proposition 1 despite our support for certain aspects of the bond, because it also appropriates more than one-third of the total bond package—over $2.7 billion—to storage projects, including three projects Sierra Club has opposed: to raise Shasta Dam, and to build two new dams, one off-stream using Sacramento River water at Sites in Colusa County, and one on the San Joaquin River at Temperature Flat. These projects could be enabled by the bond, depending upon how the Brown Administration chooses to interpret the language as the bond is implemented.

We recognize that the final bond package has many positive elements for Californians and our state’s natural areas. But spending $2.7 billion—more than one-third—of the $7.5 billion bond funds on an old-school, unsustainable approach to water management just doesn’t make sense.

Betty Yee: The Right Choice for State Controller

The race for State Controller is shaping up to be one of the most exciting and hotly contested this November. While the office can tend to fly under the radar, there are several key reasons that environmentalists should be excited to have the opportunity to elect a true environmental champion to this position.

Betty Yee, currently a member of the State Board of Equalization, is prepared from day one to tackle Climate Change. Yee knows Climate Change is the overarching environmental problem of our time, and will, for instance, promote clean and renewable energy standards for public works projects throughout California.

Furthermore, she will use her office to alert public officials around the state that climate disruption is not only an environmental disaster, but also a disaster that will cost taxpayers a lot of money. As Controller, Yee will have a seat on the State Lands Commission, giving her an opportunity to address uncontrolled fracking, water conservation, landfill waste and recycling, and income inequality.

Sierra Club urges you to vote for the only candidate who has promised not to accept campaign contributions from oil companies: Betty Yee.

~AMANDA WALLNER AND MATT WILLIAMS

December Deadline: Due Nov. 4

Send Outings to Carol Vellutini via email: carolvrs@sonic.net

Send Meetings to Carl Inglis: chinglin@sonic.net

Redwood Needles

October 1, 2014

Redwood Needles  
3
Sonoma County
4th District Supervisor
Deb Fudge

Deb Fudge is an experienced leader and environmental advocate who will work to protect and preserve our natural resources on the Board of Supervisors. As the fourth generation of her family to live in Sonoma County, Deb knows that our natural resources, farmland and open spaces are what set our community apart, and she is committed to protecting this unique environment. That's why Deb has spent the past two decades here in Sonoma County, working to transform Windsor from a sprawl model of development to an award-winning, transit-oriented, smart growth town.

Deb has been active on the Russian River Watershed Cleanup Board for 25 years. As a Windsor Town Councilmember since 1996, and Windsor’s only 5-time Mayor, she worked to implement a 20-year voter mandated urban growth boundary around Windsor to protect adjacent farmland. Deb was also instrumental in the creation of California’s first Pay As You Save program—a national award-winning water conservation pilot program working to fight our historic drought conditions.

Deb worked with the first citizens’ group to start forming what is now Sonoma Clean Power, and helped Windsor become the first city to sign on to the clean power agency. She has also served on the SMART Board for the past nine years, working to bring the SMART train to Sonoma County to reduce traffic, cut pollution, and create a greener county and thousands of local jobs.

Deb is a change agent—always looking ahead to make Sonoma County a model of innovative environmental protection. On the Board of Supervisors, she will continue to preserve and protect our natural resources, while planning for a smarter future of conservation in Sonoma County.

Petaluma City Council
Teresa Barrett

I am extremely honored to have the endorsement of the Sonoma County Chapter of the Sierra Club. Both as a councilmember and as a past member of the Petaluma Planning Commission, I have voted to promote long-term values of sustainability in every project. I will continue to make projects better and support those that promote the principles of smart growth, respect our Urban Growth Boundary, and are supported by existing infrastructure.

I currently serve as a Director of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), representing the cities of Sonoma County. BAAQMD is a leader in promoting strict standards to eliminate air pollution throughout the nine Bay Area counties. As a Director, I also serve on the Climate Protection and the Public Outreach Committees.

In addition, my eight-year tenure on the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) allows me to focus on well-planned growth and promote sustainable, efficient government in Sonoma County.

I am proud to have once again earned an A/A environmental “report card” from Sonoma County Conservation Action (SCCA). Being endorsed a third time by this organization and receiving the SCCA’s Upstream Swimmer award (2013) are among my distinct honors.

Working hard to grow our community in a thoughtful and sustainable way that provides a good place to live, to work and to play is my goal. Together we can continue to achieve those goals, distinguishing the Redwood Empire as an environmental leader.

Mayor of Petaluma
David Glass

As Mayor of Petaluma, I am honored to once again be endorsed by the Sierra Club. The choice in the Mayor’s race is clear.

I also received the endorsement of Sonoma County Conservation Action, am a past recipient of the Up Stream Swimmer Award (given annually to the elected official in Sonoma County who has been effective against long odds in fighting for the environment) and have the endorsement of Congressman Jared Huffman.

My record reflects one of leadership to implement smart growth, transit oriented development within our Urban Growth Boundary.

I have been instrumental in achieving the use of recycled waste water for irrigation which has allowed Petaluma to conserve potable water for human consumption. With the effects of climate change we need to conserve resources rather than flagrant consumption to provide for our future.

Petaluma’s transit oriented development model will enable us to grow our economy and create affordable housing options in an ecological manner as we strive to continue to enhance our community in a pedestrian friendly manner.

We do not have to choose between the economy and the environment. The city’s economic strategic plan calls for re-populating existing buildings and retaining existing businesses. As a retired municipal securities principal with two four year terms as your Mayor I am the best choice to lead us into a better future for you and our children.

I greatly appreciate the Sierra Club’s continued support and endorsement and look forward to continue to work on your behalf.

Thank you for your vote for re-election.
Curtis Byrd

We need less conflict, and greater cooperation on the Santa Rosa City Council. Our community needs a peacemaker, and problem solver.

The life-long lessons learned from Little League, Cub and Boy scouts, my high school and college education, competing on a National Track and Field team, business experience with small and large companies, Fellow Class 2011 of the Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy and serving on the Santa Rosa Planning Commission support my qualifications to serve on the Santa Rosa City Council.

As a native Santa Rosan, those qualifications include:

• Preparation means studying the rules and understanding the culture of the community in its historical, institutional and environmental framework.

• Practice means individually, and as a team member, continued development of my skills, and belief in the highest values and intent to serve; and

• Performing to the best and highest within me and making a meaningful difference for the team (community).

Along the way, the most important lessons were learned within family, particularly Grandpa Gilbert Gray who required Sunday school and teaching about giving, sharing, service, and excellence.

I understand the diverse needs of Santa Rosa and commit to the work that lies ahead and I will follow through with the courage of my convictions to make tough budget decisions to create sustainable living wage jobs, improve our roads, and support our parks!

Join with Neighborhood Leaders, Clergy, seniors, Santa Rosa teachers, North Bay Labor Council, Sonoma County Democratic Party, and numerous elected officials in supporting an experienced leader with new ideas and A Fresh Vision of Leadership.

Together we can Make a Difference! www.votebyrd.com

Santa Rosa City Council

Lee Pierce

Santa Rosa is a special place to live. We are a city with a strong sense of community that prides itself on a shared set of core values.

I am running for City Council to further these values and make Santa Rosa safer, more just, more economically prosperous, and more environmentally sustainable.

For my part, I know what it takes to bring people with diverse political and philosophical beliefs together for a common purpose. I had the privilege of serving on the Santa Rosa City Council from 2004 to 2008, acting as Vice Mayor from 2006 to 2007. During that time, I worked alongside fellow environmental advocates and Councilmembers: Steve Rabinowitz, Veronica Jacobi, and Former Mayor Susan Gorin.

While on the Santa Rosa City Council, I made it a priority to listen to you. I fought to deliver real results that positively shaped our city, including:

• Established a Green Building Program

• Tightened and expanded the city’s no-smoking ordinance

• Voted to establish countywide goals for reduction of greenhouse gases (GHG) to 25% below 1990 levels

• Opened the Prince Memorial Greenway.

If elected to the Council, one of my top priorities will be to promote environmental sustainability and work to implement a Zero Waste policy in Santa Rosa. As the current Government Affairs Manager for a local recycling business, Global Materials Recovery Services, I know how important it is to work with both businesses and environmental groups to increase access to recycling and composting in the County of Sonoma.

Together, I know we can bring responsive and effective government to Santa Rosa!

Lee Pierce www.PierceforCityCouncil.com

Pacific Coast

SunTrail™ Route

Electric Vehicle Charging for the Pacific Coast

The First EV Charger Network to use 100% renewable Energy

Chargers are Open at 4th and B street, Point Reyes Station

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 Tiffany at tiffany.macnelis@sonic.net or call 696-3387 for info. People are requesting families with children, camping and easy hikes.

Work with the Sonoma Group Water Committee! Help conserve water and develop ideas to best use our scarce water resources. Come to our meetings at the Environmental Center at 7:00 PM on the third Wednesday of most months. The Water Committee develops and promotes measures to conserve, save, and reuse our water resources. Our goal is to preserve and improve the natural water environment, by promoting the responsible use of water 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. Check for our meeting dates in the Needles. To get on our Water Committee e-mail list, e-mail Len Holt at lbholt@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 of the month at 5:00-5:45 p.m. at the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa, learn about what is going on in our community to fight climate change through renewable energy programs. Contact Shirley Johnson-Feoli Climate & Energy Committee Forum/Chair Email: Shirljdf307@yahoo.com, home 206-1138, or call office 433-7651.

Statements of 2014 Sierra Club Endorsed Candidates

Chris Coursey

Santa Rosa’s city government has lost its way. I will bring new leadership to help get our city back on track.

Since 1980, when I started as a reporter with the Press Democrat, I have been deeply involved with our community’s institutions and its neighborhoods, its people and their concerns. As a news columnist who offered strong opinions that often challenged the status quo, I was open to diverse arguments and respectful of other perspectives— even if I didn’t agree with them.

I have a record of working cooperatively toward a common community goal. As a senior staffer for the SMART Rail Project, I helped maintain a broad coalition of interest groups and elected officials who didn’t always agree with each other, but who worked together to create a transportation system that will do lasting good for our region’s environment, economy and quality of life.

That is my goal on the Council: to make our city a better place for every resident to live, work, play and retire.

I’m proud to be endorsed by hundreds of our neighbors who care about Santa Rosa, including many of our community’s top elected officials. For a complete list, visit www.chris4santarosa.com.

I ask for your vote.
Sat. night at the Manchester State Recreation Area with mostly steep, chaparral-covered slopes with scattered stands of pines, firs, and oak. Hike on Scotts Valley Road 8 miles from Hwy 29. Bring lots of water, lunch & sturdy shoes. Class H-B. Carpools: meet 8:00 am Lower Lake Coffee Co. on Main Street, off junction of Hwy 29 & 53 or 9:00 am Glen Eden Trail head. By reservation only. Leader Julie Kreis 707-987-9040 or 707-671-5947. Rain cancels.

Sun. Oct. 12 - Mendocino Group, Stornetta Lands and California Coastal Nat'l Monument Walk. Spend a day leisurely walking through the newest acquisition to our public lands. Investigate tide pools, sheer cliffs where cormorants have their young, flat lands and forested areas, and even a research facility (from afar). This will be a day of wandering and even a research facility (from lands. Investigate tide pools, sheer cliffs where cormorants have their young, flat lands and forested areas, and even a research facility (from afar). This will be a day of wandering and even a research facility (from lands. Investigate tide pools, sheer cliffs where cormorants have their young, flat lands and forested areas, and even a research facility (from lands. Investigate tide pools, sheer cliffs where cormorants have their young, flat lands and forested areas, and even a research facility (from lands. 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Hiking the John Muir Trail
2014: Rain, Snow and Fire

By Teri Shore

I was half way up Pinchot Pass when it got bad. The morning sky had started dark with clouds. Soon serious rain began to pour down. Then, cold wind and hail. Thunder and lightning spooked me as I climbed up, up, up toward the hulking red peaks and steel skies. And now, snow.

It was my Day 14 on the John Muir Trail when a snowstorm hit at about 7:30 a.m. below the 12,130-foot mountain pass. I crouched down next to a boulder and tried for safety, deliberating what to do next: Turn back, sit it out, or keep going.

Everyone backpacking the John Muir Trail in the High Sierra this summer got deluged by rain and hail. Monsoon-driven rainstorms dumped far more than the usual afternoon showers over the Sierra Nevada. The snow falling at sunrise took most of us by surprise.

Thankfully, three other wet and cold hikers came up behind me. I asked to hike with them and we chanced it to the top. The snow, wind and cold followed us up and over. After two hours of mayhem, we dropped down below tree line and the sun came out. We made hot water and warmed up. Turns out that anyone on a high pass that morning got peled— and survived. But the bad weather sent many folks home.

After leading Sierra Club backpacks for nearly 20 years, I decided to finally through-hike the JMT this year in honor of the 90th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. The JMT travels through three magnificent wilderness areas: Yosemite, Ansel Adams and John Muir. Before the trip, I raised about $1,500 to split between trip costs and wilderness protection, specifically to help pass a new federal bill to expand wilderness areas in California. I plan to deliver a check to the Sierra Club at the wilderness conference in Albuquerque in October.

I took 21 days to cover 185 miles of the 211-mile JMT starting in Tuolumne Meadows on July 7 and summiting Mt. Whitney on July 27. I’d say that about 50 percent of the hikers I met planned to finish the trail in 14 to 17 days; another 25 percent were taking three weeks; and the rest up to a month or in sections.

My pack weighed about 30 to 35 pounds with food and water. I ate lots of oatmeal, Krave jerky and string cheese, and instant mashed potatoes. My food drops were at Red Meadows and John Muir Ranch, and I paid a packet to carry in my last resupply over Kearsarge Pass. Like most people, I lost my appetite due to the altitude and had to force myself to eat chocolate and nut butter that I usually loved eating.

I don’t have any bear stories, but one family told me that bears ripped open three of their packs at the bottom of Half Dome. My Pinchot Pass friends said that one night a bear slashed a hole in a pack to get at a fishing rod reel that still smelled of fish. All were able to duct-tape the damage and finish the JMT.

I was impressed to see so many solo women hikers like myself out on the trail. We all seemed to get the same questions before we left, such as, “Won’t you be scared?” and “What happens if you get hurt?” and even “Are you carrying a gun?” We all agreed that we felt safer on the JMT than walking downtown anywhere. For me, the evenings alone in camp were far too long, so I started hiking out on the trail. We all seemed to get the same questions before we left, such as, “Won’t you be scared?” and “What happens if you get hurt?” and even “Are you carrying a gun?” We all agreed that we felt safer on the JMT than walking downtown anywhere. For me, the evenings alone in camp were far too long, so I started hiking out on the trail.

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After the terrifying snowstorm on Pinchot, I started worrying about 13,152-foot Forester Pass. A 6,000-foot drop to the floor of Tuolumne Meadows! I was impressed to see so many solo women hikers like myself out on the trail. We all seemed to get the same questions before we left, such as, “Won’t you be scared?” and “What happens if you get hurt?” and even “Are you carrying a gun?” We all agreed that we felt safer on the JMT than walking downtown anywhere. For me, the evenings alone in camp were far too long, so I started hiking out on the trail.

In the morning, we climbed three hours to get to the top, where we said goodbye and I went on toward Mt. Whitney and home.

See Teri’s photos, trail journal and JMT links at https://johnmuirtrail2014.krainandfire. shutterfly.com/

Teri Shore is an avid backpacker and wilderness advocate who has led Sierra Club backpack trips for the San Francisco Bay Chapter BackPack Section since 1996. She adores Yosemite, the Sierra Nevada and Trinity Alps. She has climbed Mt. Shasta and many non-technical Sierra peaks over 9,000 feet including Mt. Conness, Mt. Dana, and Mt. Hoffman. She has also completed long treks in Australia, New Zealand and Canada.
Deepening Honeybee Crisis and Our Food Supply

BY SIERRA CLUB’S GENETIC ENGINEERING ACTION TEAM (GEAT)

What is the Honeybee about Honeybees?
When people think of honeybees, honey comes to mind. Most people are not aware that honeybees are a major pollinator for crops that produce one third of American food, including over 140 fruits, vegetables, seeds and nuts. Yet honeybee populations are in significant decline.

What is the Science Behind the Dwindling Honeybee Populations?
There is a strong body of scientific peer reviewed papers linking the decline in honeybee populations to a widely-used class of neonicotinoid pesticides called neonicotinoids (‘neonics’ for short). This new class of pesticides has been registered for use since the early 1990’s. Commonly used neonics are imidacloprid, clothianidin, thiamethoxam (and others).

Traditionally, pesticides are applied directly to the soil or plant. In 2005, Monsanto received patents to “expose” their proprietary genetically manipulated seeds with neonics, primarily manufactured by Syngenta and Bayer.

Since 2005, seed treatments became the new norm, in order to protect emerging seedlings from pests. These neonic coated seeds are encapsulated with a material which releases the pesticide slowly (www.epa.gov/registers/registrof.pdf; www.epa.gov/restrict/forTheHoneybees.php; www.s-ix.org.uk/SmartSeedCorporationWarOnBees.php; www.s-ix.org.uk/MysteryOfDisappearingHoneybees.php)

Neonics are systemic pesticides that are taken up through roots and leaves and distributed throughout the entire plant, including pollen and nectar. They are even present in the tiny drops of fluid which form on the plant’s surface. Neonics are slow to break down. They contaminate surface water, ground water, and soil. The entire food chain becomes contaminated.

Neonics endanger not only pollinators, but also other beneficial species that inhabit these ecosystems, such as butterflies, earthworms and birds. Many are calling this critical situation the next Silent Spring.

Neonics are used extensively as seed dressings on corn, soy, sunflower, canola, as well as on horticultural crops. Most conventional corn seeds and virtually all genetically manipulated corn seeds are now treated with a neonic seed treatment. Corn is grown not only for human consumption, but also to feed animals raised in livestock factories and feedlots and to drive our cars.

What is Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)?
The surge in seed treatments coincided closely with the crash in honeybee populations. In 2006, David Hackenberg, former president of the American Beekeeping Federation, and other beekeepers discovered their foraging bees left the colony in search of pollen and nectar but did not come back, which is highly unusual for a social insect to leave a queen and its brood or young behind.

This finding of behavioral disruption is a significant distinction of Colony Collapse Disorder. Other responses include disruptions in bee mobility, navigation, feeding behavior, foraging activity, memory and learning, and overall hive activity. Neonics also impair the bee’s immune system, leaving it much more susceptible to attacks by parasitic fungi and other disease agents.

Exposure to neonics has both lethal and sublethal effects on honeybees. Lethal effects occur when bees die within a few hours from exposure to a high dose. Sublethal effects, measured at very low doses in parts per billion or even parts per trillion, result in various harmful symptoms. (www.purdue.edu/newsroom/research/2012/2012-1212-neonicotinoids-insecticide.aspx)

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Registration Of Neonics
The U.S. EPA has allowed the very rapid and ubiquitous expansion of neonic application to most farmland in North America. EPA registration was based solely on the data submitted by the companies manufacturing their proprietary pesticide (primarily Bayer Crop Science). In addition, the EPA did not consider sublethal effects on honeybees in the approval process.

Does Multinational Agribusiness Suppress the Science?
Numerous independent scientists signed a statement which included: “When those with a vested interest attempt to sow unreasonable doubt around inconvenient results, or when governments exploit political opportunities by picking and choosing from scientific evidence, they jeopardize public confidence in scientific methods and institutions, and also put their own citizenry at risk. Safety, testing, science-based regulation, and the scientific process itself, depend crucially on widespread trust in a body of scientists devoted to the public interest and professional integrity. If instead, the starting point of a scientific production approval process never puts the public interest in favor of the applicant, backed up by systematic suppression of independent scientists working in the public interest, then there can never be an honest, rational or scientific debate.”

Letter to the Editor
I was one of the happy campers on Joan Holz’s Channel Island three day cruise – the travel bargain of the year. The ‘Truth’ was a tidy ship with a competent and caring crew, well kept, clean heads, welcoming lounge and ample deck berths (I’m not very comfortable with water lingo). Captain Davey was right there when needed, with his fully vetted second in command, we were safely transported to the day’s hiking, snorkeling, kayaking, seal watching, cave exploring, etc. all and then came back to gourmet meals (I was expecting spaghetti and instead we had three course meals with wine), full breakfasts and lunches to take ashore as needed. The park naturalists filled in the blanks on this precious resource taking us back to what California must have been like when the first explorers first landed. This trip truly “exceeded my expectations” on all fronts—thanks.

-Gail Ellestad, Santa Rosa, CA.

October 1, 2014 Redwood Needles
Redwood Chapter Election Schedule
August 8, 2014: Appointment of Chapter Nominating and Election Committee

September 3, 2014: Appointment of Nominating Committee by Groups

October 3, 2014: Receipt of all candidates’ applications (statement of intent to run) with contact information, for consideration by Group Nominating Committees.

October 10, 2014: Group Nominating Committees inform all potential candidates of their status and submit list of candidates, with contact information, to their respective ExComs and Chapter Election Committees.

October 24, 2014: Nominating Candidates submit ballot statements to Election Committee.

October 24, 2014: Statements are sent for December Needs.

November 4, 2014: Receipt of ballot petitions and Petition Candidate ballot statements by Election Committee. Approved statements sent for December Redwood Needles.

December 30, 2014: Ballots due in office.

January 3, 2015: Ballots counted. Notify all candidates, Chapter ExCom and Redwood Needles Editor of results.

Nominating Committee Chair
Contact Information
Solano Group - Jane Bogner/Amynoel - 644-9183
Lake Group - Victoria Brandon - 994-1931
Napa Group - Marc Pandone - 966-1902
Mendocino Group - Mary Walsh - 937-0572
Sonoma Group - 823-4293
North Group - Ned Forsyth - 826-2417
Redwood Chapter - Diana Nasser - 823-4293

Bioneers Offers Discount to Sierra Club Members for its 25th Anniversary Conference
Bioneers was founded 25 years ago to focus on developing solutions for our world’s wicked problems. Their annual conference is a world famous convening of global experts. Bioneers beautifully weaves together environmental topics such as food and farming and climate change with programs such as Indigenous Culture and women’s empowerment. Bioneers has been at the forefront of ideas that have evolved into movements. Michael Pollan first drew attention and inspiration for his work on food through Bioneers. Bill McKibben was an early Bioneers speaker. The Precautionary Principle was a concept that arose from conversations that began at a Bioneers Conference.

As write this the air outside at Klamath Glen is full of unhealthy smoke. Last night the wind shifted from Northwest to southeast bringing wildfire smoke, which had been choking inland valleys and canyons for weeks, to the Coast. While no one likes the smoke, attitudes toward wildfire are changing in Northwestern California. Many folks now understand that fire is a natural part of western forest ecosystems; these forests are going to burn sooner or later. That has shifted thinking from “will they be able to keep fire at bay” to “how can we protect the community so that fires can be allowed to play a more natural role in forest ecosystems.”

Attitudes toward cultural burning are also shifting: Indigenous natives burned portions of these forests for uncounted generations and many of us believe tribal efforts to restore cultural burning should be supported.

At the same time, concerns about the high cost of fire suppression have grown in Washington, DC, within the Forest Service and with taxpayers. In the Klamath Mountains we’ve had those concerns for a long time because, in spite of spending many millions of dollars, fire suppression on the national forests in these rugged mountains is rarely effective once a fire has grown large.

Too often Forest Service and fire managers order costly and questionable suppression actions which trigger landslides and damage watersheds but which are not cost-effective. Forest Service “thinning” projects actually increase fire risk down the road because they stimulate sprouting of small trees and brush. Salvage logging, which reestablishes highly flammable tree plantations, is also a detriment to restoring fire to a more natural, and therefore sustainable, role in Klamath forest ecosystems.

Faced with Forest Service policies that are not working, those living in forest communities within the Klamath Mountains have begun moving toward a more enlightened and effective approach to living with wildfire. Led by local restoration and fire safe councils, citizens are working to construct shaded fuel breaks around towns and residences and on strategic ridge tops so that natural wildfires can be allowed to burn naturally without threatening human habitats.

Because so much of the Klamath Mountains is national forest land, restoring fire to a more natural ecological role will require substantial changes in Forest Service management practices. A more strategic approach to fire risk reduction, restraint in deploying fire suppression actions which cause environmental damage, and fire risk reduction projects which are not just timber sales with a new name remain the exception rather than the rule.

Still Forest communities, tribes and environmental groups have made a great start and even some Forest Service managers are beginning to change business as usual. When it comes to wildfire suppression and fire risk reduction, the winds of change are blowing both locally and nationally. Hopefully that will lead to reduced suppression costs and greater reliance on natural and cultural fire as appropriate and cost-effective tools to restore forest ecosystems. Stay tuned.

-FELIX PACI, NORTH GROUP
Redwood Needles
October 1, 2014

Meetings
Send all Meeting events by the 8th of the month to Carol Inglis: 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 of Oakville Ave, South of Coddingtown).

Thurs. Oct. 2 - Solano Group ExCom.
Come join us for our monthly meetings which rotate between Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville. We are making a positive impact on our county and need a few more people to help carry the load. Call Jane for information. (707)319-6398
Mon. Oct. 6 - Sonoma Group
Santa Rosa Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway is the site of this three related meetings:
- The Climate & Energy Committee meets at 5:00 p.m. Info: contact Shirley, shirlgi707@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

The public is invited to attend the monthly meeting of our governing committee. Join us for a discussion of local conservation issues between 7:45 and 8:45 p.m., following the ExCom business meeting from 6:45-7:45 p.m. Meet at Adomi Center Conference Room on Eureka Waterfront. For more info, call Gregg at 707-826-3740.
7:00 PM at the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Contact Len Hult: 707-527-7516 or hlott@sonic.net
7 p.m. Our location varies; its generally at a member’s home. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting should contact the chair, Nancy Tamarisk at nancy@aya.yale.edu
Mon. Nov. 3 - Sonoma Group
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- The Climate & Energy Committee meets at 5:00 p.m, Info: contact Shirley, shirlgi707@yahoo.com, 707-206-1138.
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Restoring Natural Wildfire
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- MICHEL LERNER, PRESIDENT, COMMONWEAL
Lake Group Report

Sierra Club Supports Measure S
Lake Group is actively engaged in the effort to pass Lake County Measure S, another attempt at a special half cent sales tax to protect and restore Clear Lake. Like Measure L, which received 65.2 percent of the vote and was defeated by barely more than 200 votes in June, Measure S would fund invasive species/wildlife and algae control higher quality programs, with all revenues devoted to projects benefiting our lakes and their watersheds, especially Clear Lake.

Measure S ballot language has been changed slightly to include a provision making it clear that the proceeds could fund a variety of projects to strengthen our defenses against invasive mussels (not mechanical ramp controls alone), and basing oversight committee membership on geographic balance rather than organizational affiliation.

Specifically, Measure S revenues will be used to improve the quagga and zebra mussel prevention program; provide the county's share of the Middle Creek wetland restoration project funding; conduct a number of specific studies that besides from and predation by non-native fish, and other contributing factors. The bad news is that this unique, iconic fish is in such deep trouble, but there's good news too: first, listing opens the door for the California Department of Fish and Game to conduct a number of long overdue studies that besides benefiting the hitch are likely to increase our knowledge of the lake's complicated ecosystem. Second, eligibility for a number of different funding sources just got a dramatic boost upwards—something else that is likely to produce conservation benefits that go far beyond the hitch alone.

VICTORIA BRANDON, LAKE GROUP

Napa Group Report

PCT Adventure Featured at Next General Membership Meeting
Join us Thursday, November 20th, 6:30 pm, at the Napa Library, when Darlene Scott of Yountville will share beautiful photos and amazing stories from her 6-month hike this summer on the Pacific Crest Trail. This meeting was postponed from September, due to the library's Community Room being taken over by the County after the earthquake for emergency office space.

Planned Vineyard Raises Water Concerns
Neighborhood groups are expressing concern about the Walt Ranch proposal to develop over 500 acres near Atlas Peak for vineyards. Local residents are asking what will happen to their wells when the project starts pumping over 69 million gallons of groundwater annually. The project practically surrounds the 180-home community of Circle Oaks, and there are hundreds of additional residences scattered about the surrounding area. The project would destroy more than 28,000 trees, which, along with loss of wild habitat and carbon sequestration, could contribute to erosion and land instability, raising the threat of landslides onto roads and homes.

Challenging this project to make sure that it only goes forward with strict protection for the environment and the community will require hiring environmental consultants to submit expert comments to the county. Donations are needed to supplement our limited resources. If you can contribute, please write a check to the Sierra Club Foundation, with “Napa Group” on the memo line, and mail it to Napa Sierra Club, PO Box 664, Napa, CA 94559.

Napa Pipe – Part of the City of Napa?
On Election Day, voters residing within the city of Napa will be asked to decide whether the Rural Urban Line (RUL) should be expanded to embrace the Napa Pipe Project, south of Kennedy Park. This would be the first step toward eventual annexation of the property into the city. Sierra Club and other community activists have steadfastly opposed this project, feeling that it is the wrong place for residential development complicated by many unresolved environmental and traffic problems. However, opinions differ on whether annexation into Napa proper is desirable. Therefore, Napa Sierra Club, along with Greenbelt Alliance, has decided to remain neutral on this vote. We would encourage all Napa voters to examine the complex issues surrounding annexation of Napa Pipe, and vote your best judgment.

Keeping in Touch
Receive our monthly e-bulletin for the latest news on Napa events and environmental issues by sending your e-mail address to napavalleysierracub@gmail.com. Join our outings by accessing the Redwood Chapter Sierra Club Outings Group on Meetup. And be sure to Like us on Facebook!

--NANCY TAMARICK, VICE-CHAIR, NAPA GROUP

Mendocino Group Report

Linda Perkins prevailed upon the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors to reconsider a vote to hire Mendocino Redwood Company (MRC) to log the property county owns near the Little River Airport. Linda is concerned about a core of Old Growth, and that trees will be taken right up to the Old Growth, leaving no buffer zone and she fears that the old trees will not survive. She has been talking with conservation groups to get one of them to purchase the whole property, much of which is in pristine pygmy and Bishop pine forest. Linda has taken lots of tour groups of local citizens as well as elected officials and conservation group reps out to the property.

Mary Walsh sought assistance from the Sierra Club Parks Committee as regards the convoluted land swap which is part of the Solid Waste Transfer Station proposed to be sited in the pygmy forest on Highway 20 in Fort Bragg. The land swap sees Jackson State Demonstration Forest (JDSF), which owns the property the transfer station is to be sited upon, trading that property to the county, while Russian Gulch State Park will transfer 12.6 acres of protected recreational second growth to JDSF and Parks will get the old Caspar Dump and the current Transfer Station. The DEIR is due out Nov 6.

--MARY WALSH, MENDOCINO GROUP CHAIR
North Group Report

Campsers Learn & Enjoy Themselves

“Amazing,” “wonderful,” and “fun” were among the adjectives used by the four campers North Group members supported to attend a Towering Trees & Tidepools Camp for grades 4-5 and a Redwoods Ecology Camp for grades 6-8 this July in Redwood National & State Parks. We were able to underwrite a girl and two boys from Eureka (one of them living in a family shelter) and a boy from Weaverville. This marked the 20th year that our Lucille Vinyard/Susie Van Kirk Environmental Fund provided a camping experience for children in our membership area of Humboldt, Del Norte, and Trinity counties.

“Cappy” McKinney Memorial Trail Dedicated

By Sue Leskiw

On a gorgeous late summer day, approximately 60 people gathered along the Eureka waterfront to pay tribute to the late Cappy McKinney. The September 4 ceremony, eceived by Eureka mayor Frank Jaeger, featured short speeches by Sue Leskiw (North Group Sierra Club), Jim Clark (Redwood Region Audubon Society, RRAS), Dan Ehresman and Jen Kalt (Northcoast Environmental Center), and Maggy Herbelin (close friend).

Signs erected on both ends of a shoreline loop segment of the Hikshari Trail south of the main Hikfier parking lot now proclaim it the Melvin “Cappy” McKinney Loop. The proposal to honor Melvin in tribute originated with North Group and RRAS, two groups to which he dedicated many hours as a volunteer. The Eureka City Council had voted unanimously in August to approve the naming, following a recommendation from City staff and positive votes by Eureka’s Space, Parks, and Recreation Committee and Planning Commission. Representatives of North Group and RRAS had attended all three meetings to testify in favor of the recognition.

Cappy, who passed away in June 2013, spent much of his retirement protecting the Elk River Wildlife Sanctuary. He was a long-time member of North Group’s Executive Committee, serving as its political co-chair and wetlands committee head. He worked with various agencies to identify appropriate uses and preserve the natural habitat, patrolling the area on a regular basis to report problems. Mel’s persistence led the City of Eureka to upgrade what had been the Elk River Wildlife Area to Sanctuary status in 2003.

Richard Sachen, a sustainable transportation activist and electric vehicle entrepreneur, received our appointment as interim member of our Executive Committee, to fill a seat left by the resignation of Annabel Ascher, who served with us for 3 years. We also bade farewell to Jessica Jones, who is moving to UC Davis to complete her baccalaureate studies. We have an opening on the ExCom for a person willing to join us and commit to Sonoma County’s environmental future.

At our Spring meeting, the Sonoma Group committed to join the Ohlson Ranch legal action, as a plaintiff. At our August meeting, we committed to pay a portion of the attorneys’ costs incurred.

We got results from the letter we sent in August to the Supervisor Board of Supervisors requesting that a portion of their upcoming sales tax ballot measure go to transit, and not just to road repair. In September, we got word that the measure includes a provision that 10% of the revenue will go to transit.

In September we co-sponsored Drive Electric Day North Bay, an EV (electric vehicle) show at Coddingtown in Santa Rosa. This event was organized in part by ExCom member Richard Sachen. Shirley Johnson-Foell, Climate Chair, coordinated a flash mob performance at the event, in solidarity with 350 and the climate marches taking place the same day.

In September we made a donation of support to the Wild & Scenic Film Festival. Suzanne Doyle, Conservation Chair, and Shirley Johnson-Foell tabled at the event.

Chair Dan Kerbein gave the Group’s position on riparian habitat protection at a hearing of the PRME regarding updates to the Riparian Ordinance. Rue Furch, a member of the Redwood Chapter ExCom and former member of the Planning Commission, has served on the Citizens Committee which made recommendations for improvements, along with some takeaways that favor agriculture. The Commission approved the new ordinance.

Sonoma County’s Living Wage Coalition released its draft ordinance (LWO) to raise the pay of County workers and County contract workers. The Coalition also released an economic impact report prepared by the University of Massachusetts. Dan Kerbein spoke at the Coalition’s Sept. 8 press conference, explaining that the Sierra Club’s support of LWOs across the country is important to the advancement of environmental justice. Those comments will also be published in the October Sonoma County Gazette.

Dan and fellow ExCom member Jessica Jones spoke at the Rohner Park Planning Commission, calling for walkable local business areas and fewer carbon-spewing superstores like the one proposed by Walmart, with a track record of driving our local businesses and replacing their employees with minimum wage workers who commute long distances. The Council approved the project, in spite of Sierra Club legal action and a majority of public testimony against it. Next is a vote by the City Council.

After a review by Dan and Suzanne of the new Russian River documentary film (which is currently in post-production), the Chapter gave $1000 toward its completion and release.

We have endorsed several candidates for local office, subject to interviews by our Political Committee, chaired by Suzanne Doyle. Among these are candidates for SJC/Board of Trustees. We will be providing input to the college as they submit their bond measure. Measure H, to the voters. We will campaign for sustainability provisions and a pedestrian overpass near Coddingtown.

Evelina also led a team on Coastal Cleanup Day in September, removing debris from the North Jenner Beach.

Michael Thornton, Sierra Club’s National Organizer for wilderness protection and its campaign to end fracking, presented a stunning overview of the issues and effects of the fuel extraction process termed hydraulic fracturing of underground rock formations to extract flammable gases. Earthquakes and water contamination accompany the practice known as “fracking”, and companies are legally protected from revealing what is in the fluids they use to crack through subterranean rock. Shirley and Dan pledged to push for a fracking moratorium in Sonoma County as well as support one statewide.

–DAVE KERBEIN, SONOMA GROUP CHAIR

Sonoma Group Seeks ExCom Member

We have an opening on our Executive Committee for a person with some environmental knowledge, and a desire to bring some tangible results for the quality of life in Sonoma County’s rural and urban habitats. Call the Ecology Center office at 707- 544-7651, or Goup Chair Dan Kerbein, 707-921-6646. If you prefer, you can message us on the Sonoma Group Facebook or send an email to dkerbein@sonic.net.
Sierra Club Endorsements

National Candidates:
✓ Jared Huffman
Congress, District 2
✓ John Garamendi
Congress, District 3
✓ Mike Thompson
Congress, District 5

State Candidates:
✓ Mike McGuire
Senate, District 2
✓ Jim Wood
Assembly, District 2
✓ Dave Jones
Insurance Commissioner
✓ Tom Torlakson
Superintendent of Public Instruction
✓ Kamala Harris
Attorney General
✓ Alex Padilla
Secretary of State
✓ Betty Yee
State Controller
✓ John Chiang
State Treasurer

Proposition 1 (Water Bond): No Position
(For information, see page 3)

See pages 3 - 5 for Candidate Statements

Local Candidates and Measures
Sonoma County:
✓ Deb Fudge
Sonoma County Supervisor, District 4
✓ Mark Landman
Cotati City Council
✓ Teresa Barrett
Petaluma City Council
✓ David Glass
Petaluma Mayor
✓ Curtis Byrd
Santa Rosa City Council
✓ Chris Coursey
Santa Rosa City Council
✓ Lee Pierce
Santa Rosa City Council
✓ Sarah Glade Gurney
Sebastopol City Council

Lake County:
✓ YES on Measure S

Changes to Redwood Needles Delivery

If you have received via email the notice that the October issue of the Redwood Needles is available online, and would rather receive a paper copy in the mail, please send a message to: ERedwoodNeedles@gmail.com.

Alternatively, if you have received a copy of the newsletter in the mail and would prefer to receive the emailed notice that the newsletter is available online, please send a message to: ERedwoodNeedles@gmail.com.

Please Vote on Nov. 4th