New Potential Wilderness in Redwood Chapter

BY VICTORIA BRANDON,
REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

In August Congressman Jared Huffman held a series of well-attended public meetings in the northern part of Redwood Chapter to gather input on new legislation he is considering introducing. The draft bill, which the Congressman describes as “a balanced approach to land management” would designate new federal Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River segments, and also promote stewardship and trail-building.

Specific provisions include:
- Protection of over 526,000 acres of pristine federal public lands by expanding nine existing wilderness areas and establishing ten new ones.
- Protection of over 480 miles of streams on federal land as “wild and scenic rivers.”
- Establishment of a 700,000-acre South Fork Trinity-Mad River Special Restoration Area in the heavily logged South Fork Trinity River watershed and the Forest Service-portion of the Mad River watershed in southern Trinity and western Humboldt counties.
- Establishment of a partnership of federal, state, and local entities to restore public lands affected by illegal trespass marijuana grows.
- Authorization of the construction of an interagency visitor center in Trinity County.
- A requirement for federal agencies to coordinate fire management in northwestern California’s wilderness areas.
- Exploration of the possibility of establishing a long-distance “Bigfoot National Recreation Trail” similar to the Appalachian and Pacific Coast trails.
- Direction of federal agencies to conduct a trails study to improve motorized and non-motorized recreation trail opportunities.

It will NOT limit hunting or fishing, close any legally open roads or trails to vehicles, or affect access to or the use of private property.

Although no firm date for the introduction of this legislation has been set, a draft is available for public review on Congressman Huffman’s website [link: https://huffman.house.gov/rep-huffmans-legislation-to-protect-the-north-coast-s-spectacular-wild-places-and-rivers-6], and written comments are invited: just send an email to ca02publiclands@gmail.com to share your views.

The Sierra Club’s national Wildlands Team is reviewing the proposed bill, a necessary prerequisite to taking a position on the legislation itself, but in the meantime we applaud Congressman Huffman for his pro-active approach to the protection of our public lands, a very refreshing change of pace from the defensive mode that the hostility of the Trump administration has demanded in recent months.

Protecting our Monuments: Where We Stand

BY VICTORIA BRANDON,
REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

On August 24 Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke presented the long-awaited results of his “review” of 27 national monuments, including our own Berryessa Snow Mountain. Instead of the specific details that had been expected, Zinke instead issued a report that lacked any actual recommendations or decision-making metrics. The national Sierra Club has filed a Freedom of Information Act request to get the information Zinke is attempting to keep from the public.

This secrecy should probably not be surprising given the intensely political nature of the whole capricious charade. At the time of Zinke’s announcement multiple press accounts based on inside information suggested that cuts would be made to the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments in Utah, and to the Cascade-Siskiyou national monument straddling the Oregon/California border. Reductions to another unspecified monument were also rumored.

The threat to Bears Ears is particularly outrageous, since its designation represents the consensus of five sovereign native nations, who responded: “The Bears Ears region is not a series of isolated objects, but the object itself, a connected, living landscape, where the place, not a collection of items, must be protected. You cannot reduce the size without harming the whole. Bears Ears is too precious a place, and our cultures and values too dignified and worthy, to backtrack on the promises made in the Presidential Proclamation.”

As the Redwood Needles was going to press a more detailed list of reductions was issued, and it’s even more appalling than we thought. Cuts are now intended not only to Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante, and Cascade-Siskiyou, but also to Gold Butte in Nevada, Katahdin Woods in Maine, and Organ Mountains and Rio Grande Del Norte, both in New Mexico, and also to Northeast Canyons and Seamounts, Pacific Remote Islands and Rose Atoll marine national monuments. No specific information about the scope of the reductions is available. Taken as a whole, these actions represent an unprecedented attack on our public lands, and on the values and priorities of the American people as expressed in more than 2.7 million public comments submitted in response to this irresponsible proposal, with more than 98 percent supporting the continued protection of these special places for the sake of posterity.

Although it appears that Berryessa Snow Mountain will be spared (for now) the proposal to close a portion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument is of particular regional concern. These protected lands anchor the northern end of the Klamath-Siskiyou ecological region while Berryessa Snow Mountain anchors the southern end. Connectivity throughout this region is important for the plants and animals throughout, and will become more so as effects of climate change exacerbate ecological havoc.

For more Redwood Chapter information: http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood
Redwood Chapter SierrA Club Directory

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95402, Phone 544-7661, Fax 544-9861
Office Address: Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa (West of off of Cleveland Ave., to the west of Hwy 101)

Redwood Chapter

The Redwood Chapter is governed by an executive committee, with one (1) member delegated by each of six (6) regional groups and six (6) members elected at large. Each group elects its own executive committee.

Chair - At Large • Political Chair • RCC Delegate - Wildnerness Chair
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Vice Chair • Lake Group Delegate to Chapter
Ed Roby* 994-8304 edrobey@blue Nile.com

Secretary
Jill Hunter* redwood@ilcmcast.com

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55A Ridgway Ave., Santa Rosa
Executive Committee Members
Richard Sarich* 327-8298

Redwood Chapter Facebook: www.facebook.com/SierraClubRedwoodChapter

Edgar F. Hoef er

The family of Sierra Club member Edgar F. Hoef er recently made a memorial donation of $1,000 to the Sonoma Group. He passed away on June 8, 2017. Edgar was a longtime resident of Sebastopol and Santa Rosa. He was an environmentalist and avid hiker, backpacker and cyclist. He had many friends in the Sierra Club. He is survived by his loving wife Margaret Hoef er of Sebastopol. We thank the family for the generous contribution. His obituary was in the Press Democrat on June 15, 2017. www.legacy.com/obituaries/pressdemocrat/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=185818273

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Mary Walsh, Becky Frank, Sue Leskiw, Victoria Brandon

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Redwood Needles
Labor Day 2017: Good Jobs and Zero Waste Now!

By MARTIN J. BENNETT

Sonoma County residents have an historic opportunity to address two of America’s most critical 21st century issues: one is soaring economic inequality and the explosion of low-wage jobs paying less than $15 an hour; the other is global warming and the imperative to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions by ending our reliance on fossil fuel. California communities have addressed both crises with good jobs and zero waste policies.

Two May 2017 events spotlight this opportunity for Sonoma County. First, after a five-month organizing drive for waste management workers, 400 drivers and recycling and clerical workers employed by the Ratto Group—North Bay’s largest waste management company—voted overwhelmingly to join Teamsters 665. North Bay Jobs with Justice supported the drive, working closely with the Teamsters to build a broad coalition of labor, environmental, and community organizations.

Second, more than 100 business, environmental and labor organization representatives attended the first Zero Waste Symposium in the County, organized by representatives attended the first Zero Waste Symposium in the County, organized by Marinij.com. There was a strong message that Marin County residents have an historic opportunity to address two of America’s most critical 21st century issues: one is soaring economic inequality and the explosion of low-wage jobs paying less than $15 an hour; the other is global warming and the imperative to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions by ending our reliance on fossil fuel. California communities have addressed both crises with good jobs and zero waste policies.

“SMART GUIDE”

continued from page 8

How frequently will it run?

The schedule has 34 trains per day, with intervals of about 30 minutes during commute hours, and a mid-day train in each direction. A morning southbound train leaves the Sonoma County auditorium at 4:19 a.m. and arrives in San Rafael at 5:26 a.m. Northbound, the first morning train leaves San Rafael at 5:59 a.m. and arrives at the airport station at 7:06 a.m. On weekends, the first morning train leaves Airport Road at 10:13 a.m. and arrives every train leaves San Rafael at 5:50 p.m. A full schedule is available here: http://www.sonomamarintrain.org/schedules-fares .

What’s the ride like?

SMART train cars are well-appointed, with cushioned seats, bright lighting and a coffee bar. Some seats face each other across a table. Others are rows of two with an aisle down the middle. “The ride is smooth and quiet. WiFi is available.

What are the policies on bringing bikes on?

Bikes are a great way to enhance your SMART experience and go carless. They are welcome on board the trains and each car has spaces for 24 bikes. Stations have bike parking and secure bike lockers. SMART is also exploring partnerships to provide bike sharing near some of its stations.

How do I get from the San Rafael terminal to the ferry terminal?

Until the train service expands to Larkspur (planned for 2019), SMART riders can get a free bus from the San Rafael station on Golden Gate Transit’s Route 31 to the Larkspur ferry terminal. There is also a return trip from ferry to train. The shuttle is about 10 minutes. Read more here: http://www.marinij.com/article/NO/20170411/NEWS/170410910 .

When are extensions of train service expected?

Extension of service to the Larkspur ferry terminal is due in 2019. Extensions north to Windsor, Healdsburg and Cloverdale are planned but are dependent on funding. Future train service could extend to Sacramento via the Capitol Corridor.

“Good Jobs & Zero Waste Now” continued on page 8

If you wish your bequest to be used locally, be sure to specify “Sierra Club Redwood Chapter” or the name of your local Group in your bequest.
Outings

Join various N. Nevada outdoor groups for an as yet undetermined volunteer project in the Black Rock Desert about 100 miles north of Reno. Current plans are for a project at Soldier Meadows Hot Spring. Most food provided, but you’ll have to work for it! There’s usually a work day and a play day. Call David Book 775/843-6443 for more info as we get closer to the event. Great Basin Group. Fri.-Oct. 6 - Cave Group. Full Moon over Clear Lake
A fun little hike to obtain a spectacular view of the sunset as the full moon rises over the lake. We will hike a steep two miles to the top of Elephant Mountain with breathtaking views of Clear Lake from high above the north shore between Lucerne and Glen Haven. The first two thirds is up a Konoctee subdivision street. We will meet in the early evening. Bring food for dinner and drinks. Class: MAA. Call the leader Steve Devoto 209/365-2827 or devוטo@mac. com to find out the time and place of the meeting. Limit 15.
Sun. Oct. 8 - Sonoma Group. Gun sight Rock Hike
Experienced hikers only; this trail is steep with loose footing in some sections. Starting out at Sugarloaf State Park. Good speed for trail work all can see the fall colors from Gun sight Rock. Bring water, snacks, lunch, wind parka, hat and sturdy hiking boots. The Natomas Trail for Sierra Club Trail. Constructed in 1982-1985: Meet: 9:15 Goodspeed trailhead Sugarloaf State Park first parking area on the left on Adobe Canyon Road (2.2 miles from Hwy 12). Parking is $8; exact change only. Class: S-T1-2-N. Leader Dave 849-1111 Rain Care will be abandoned for more stable inland terrain. With luck, we can descend to the beach below. We will see how the main roadway is evolving with the latest round of slope failures. Bring water and lunch. No dogs. Class: M-6-A- Carpools: Meet 8:30 am Ray’s Valley Way, 9:15 am Eureka Kmart Hwy 101 S. or trailhead 10 am Rockefeller Grove. Leader Melinda 668-4275 or mrgroosmer@gmail.com Rain, strong winds cancel.
Join us for this easy going trek through luscious, old growth forest along a stretch of Redwood Highway replaced in the 1930s by the present 101 route, the trailhead will be abandoned for more stable inland terrain. With luck, we can descend to the beach below. We will see how the main roadway is evolving with the latest round of slope failures. Bring water and lunch. No dogs. Class: M-6-A- Carpools: 9 a.m. Valley Way (Ray’s Shoppes Center), 10:15 a.m. Dannison Creek trailhead (3.3 mi. north of Wilson Creek bridge, west side Hwy 101) leader Ned, nedforsyth84@gmail.com, (707) 825-9652. Heavy rain cancels.
Enjoy an invigorating hike through woodlands and open ridgelines with views of Napa Valley. On this 5 mile hike we will be taking the Skyline and Buckeye trails to Lake Marie, return to the parking lot on Marie Creek Trail hike is moderately strenuous with a 500 foot elevation gain, mainly at the beginning of the trail. Be prepared with clothing layers, hat, sunscreen, snacks and water. Class: M-S-B. Meet: 9am, Skyline Wilderness Park parking lot. Located at 2201 Imola Avenue off Sosbal/Hwy 221. Parking is free. Leader Doug Tracey 925-366-9612 dbtracey@gmail.com Fri.-Sun. Oct. 27-29 - Wilderness Restoration in Death Valley National Park.
Join us as we continue the clean-up of a grow site in this beautiful National Park! We will hike about 3 miles up a rugged canyon to gather and carry out the trash left behind in an illegal grow site. Participants should bring an old backpack if they have one. Sturdy trash bags will be supplied to pack out. Details on meeting time and camping location have not been finalized. Potluck Saturday night. Leader: Kate Allen, kjallen66@gmail.com, (760) 611-4405.
Thurs. Nov. 9 - North Group. Prairie Creek State Park Hike.
We will make a loop on the West Ridge and Prairie Creek Trails: out through towering ridge forest, returning creekside past autumn maples and bottom-land giants. Bring lunch, water, hiking footwear. Meet: 9am Ray’s Valley West. All meet 10:15am porch at Prairie Creek Visitor Center. Leader Melinda 668-4275 or mrgroosmer@gmail.com. Steady rain cancels.

Furch Joins Water Advisory Committee
Furch, a member of the ExCo team, has been appointed to the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Sustainability Agency’s (GSA) Advisory Committee. The California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires GSAs be formed where basins have been identified as at risk in order to secure groundwater sustainability. Rue has served on the Basin Advisory Panel since its inception, and been active in surface/groundwater issues including quality and quantity locally and statewide for decades. The purpose of the advisory committee is to provide informed recommendations to the Agency Board on the Sustainability Plan, implementation and policies.

Sierra Club Volunteer/Activist Opportunities
Help Wanted: Chapter Secretary and Outings Chair
Redwood Chapter is actively seeking applicants for two important positions. After eight years of exemplary service Chapter Secretary Jill Hunter is retiring and moving to the Gold Country. A full job description for this vital post is available at http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/volunteer-redwood-chapter, but the main responsibility is to take minutes at chapter meetings, which are held six times annually in either Santa Rosa or Willits.
We are also looking for a Chapter Outings Chair or (alternatively) an Outings Coordinator. After more than 30 years of outstanding service to the Club, Carol Vellutini is also taking a well-earned retirement as of the end of the year. Job descriptions for both positions are also posted at http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/volunteer-redwood-chapter. Familiarity with the Sierra Club Outings program or willingness to learn is an essential component of either of these jobs, but please note that qualification as an Outing leader is not required.
Interested? Please contact Chapter Chair Victoria Brandon, 707 994 1931 or vbrandon@lakelive.info

All Sierra Club trips are open to the public unless otherwise announced. You must be a member of the Napa Valley chapter to participate in outings. Napa Valley is proud to have a large and active chapter (451 members 10/1/17) with a variety of hikes and activities scheduled throughout the year. Job descriptions for both positions are also posted at http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/volunteer-redwood-chapter, but the main responsibility is to take minutes at chapter meetings, which are held six times annually in either Santa Rosa or Willits.
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Interested? Please contact Chapter Chair Victoria Brandon, 707 994 1931 or vbrandon@lakelive.info

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 hike starts, the total mileage and elevation gain (up hill) and loss (down hill) greatly affect the difficulty of a hike, regardless of how fast or slow you walk. If you have any doubts about being able to do a hike or have other questions, 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 with few or more frequent stops a fast pace hiker must hike slower to accommodate that rating.

Varies, see hike description for details: Jim Gannon Phil Kohlmetz Doug Tracey
Fast pace with no or few stops: Carol Magill
Moderate pace with few stops: Don Anderson Lorrie Lagasse Julie Kreis Paul Farley David Oliver
Moderate pace with more frequent stops: Tom McFarling Melinda Groom Val Nordeman Carol Vellutini

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

CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

Redwood Chapter and all local Groups have a variety of volunteer opportunities. Visit www.sierraclub.org/redwood/get-involved-for details or contact vbrandon@lakelive.info
Climate Change: This Time, it’s Personal

My husband and I have been considering switching to an electric car for the past few years. Our feeling of urgency has ramped up since the current administration took office. First, Scott Pruitt was picked to gut the EPA. Then the U.S. pulled out of the Paris Climate Accord. Now hurricanes are battering eastern states and Caribbean islands. Since our national leaders won’t step up to address Climate Change, it’s up to us as individuals to take charge.

Once we read about the amazing rebates, we realized how painful it was to have to pay a hefty price. The rebates and incentives make it cheap and easy to do the right thing!

There are nine models this year to choose from, each with different rebates and incentives. In August, we opted for a three-year lease of a 2017 Nissan LEAF, since the technology is likely to improve by 2020. The local dealer and manufacturer gave substantial reductions for the LEAF lease, including the value of the $7500 federal tax credit (an incentive which may not last forever in the current political climate.) Since we are a Sonoma Clean Power customer, we also qualified for their $2000 rebate. With $5000 down (which will more than be reimbursed by further incentives I list below), our payments will be around $100 a month. We’ve already received a $590 rebate from PG&E, are on the waiting list for $2500 from the California Clean Vehicle rebate (likely to be funded in the near future, though not guaranteed.) North Coast Air Quality Control District (NCQAQD) residency provides another incentive of $3000. Low to moderate incomes qualify for further incentives from each of these programs (except from PG&E.)

But wait, that’s not all! Sonoma Clean Power also provides a free 240 volt charger (it should take only 4 to 6 hours for a full charge of our LEAF) to customers – you just pay sales tax and a $50 handling fee. Our LEAF arrived within a week of signing up online. If you also sign up for JuiceNet, (a system that monitors the electricity grid to reduce the charger’s draw during high demand times, although you can override it) you’ll receive a $150 rebate. It cost about $700 for us to have the charger installed, including the permit. That’s no problem other, since the NCQAQD also provides up to $1000 for costs of the charger and installation.

Jim Bone Nissan also gave us a card for 2 years/$1200 worth of free charging at select public chargers. In a half hour, these chargers deliver up to 80% of the full charge. I tested it out yesterday and it worked great.

According to Sonoma County’s website, “The fossil-fuel transportation sector accounts for about 65% of the state’s greenhouse gas emissions. It also emits fine particulate and other pollutants that form smog in the air we breathe. A transition to an EV community protects our air quality and fights climate change.” Federal, state and local incentives are designed to move us more quickly away from the internal combustion engine. The future needs to be now. You can find the details about rebates, incentives, and links to the various programs available at https://sonomacleanpower.org/drive-everyday/ . The Sonoma Clean Program and credits will only be available until Oct. 31, or as long as vehicle inventories last.

--MARY DAVISON, REDWOOD NEEDLES EDITOR

Outings Chair Report

Mother Nature seems to be bringing our planet extreme changes. Personally I haven’t adapted to heat spells, muddy humidity, and thunder & lightning storms.

We had the brutal drought followed by heavy snows in the Sierra. Throughout many regions this produced a lush growth of grasses thicker and taller than I have ever seen. Then there was a very hot spring. This happened so fast that the deep snow melted much faster than expected. The rapid melting and raging rivers caused many Pacific Trail backpackers to abandon their plans for through hiking. All the grass that grew high dried out and so did forests at the higher elevations. This was fuel for wild fires so now we have raging fires in some locations. Summer lightning storms and humans caused 76 large fires burning in nine Western States. We had suffered smoky skies for weeks, and thank goodness for the wind today at my house as now I have clean air to breathe.

One of my favorite areas is the Columbia River Gorge trail system. The trails go to beautiful waterfalls and lush forests with fern grottos. The Eagle Creek Fire (started by teenagers) jumped from Washington to Oregon by 200 mile an hour wind gusts. This resulted in impacting the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and evacuations.

Many other beautiful areas have fires including Pasadena Wildfire’s (crossed the border into Canada last month) and in Montana fires are near Lake McDonald Lodge in Glacier National Park.

Mendocino County has wildfires sparked by lightning as we had several waves of thunderstorms from the Bay Area to Northern California. By the 13th there were more than 1,700 lightning strikes in the region.

I am thankful that we have not had the tragedies that Texas, Florida, Virgin Islands, and Mexico are dealing with. Mother Nature must be telling us that the earth that I knew as a child is not the earth of today. Our populations are not sustainable. Our climate has changed.

Please take care when leading and scouting hikes. Your familiar trails, water sources, and camps might not be there. After the Lake County fires I was amazed how the landscape had changed. You saw what our Benson Hut looked like this winter completely covered over with snow. I have not had a work party report from Jim Gannon yet as he just did a work party trip up there to fix winter damage.

Today feels like Fall already. Where did my year go? I spent so many days indoors due to the rain outside. Will there be always next year.

--CAROL VELLUTINI, REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR

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Non-Sierra Club Outings & Events

The following activities and events are not sponsored nor administered by the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has no information about the planning of these activities and makes no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of such activities. They are published because they may be of interest to the readers of this publication.

Sonoma County Regional Parks trail work days.

On the day of the project you can call 707-548-4424 for an update on if you must come to the park. Your support and dedication to our County’s trails really makes a big difference. To RSVP for any of these projects please call John at 707-565-3356.

Parks/volunteer@sonoma-county.org

Garden Volunteer Days: First Friday of the Month, 9am – noon. Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa. Enjoy our native plant garden! Volunteers are essential in beautifying our site. Share your expertise or learn new skills by getting involved today! http://lagunafoundation.org/volunteer_garden.html

Laguna Stewardship Days: Once a month on a Saturday from 9am – noon.

Details of the site location announced 2 weeks in advance of the workday (various sites along the Laguna) Help care for the Laguna and restore critical wildlife habitats! Joining the Laguna Stewards is a fun and meaningful way to volunteer while enjoying the outdoors. http://lagunafoundation.org/volunteer_lagunasteward.html

October 1, 2017

Redwood Needles
Sonoma Group Report

Climate Action

The Summerfield moved us to the biggest theater due to demand for Sierra Club’s premiere screening of Al Gore’s “The Inconvenient Sequel” in Santa Rosa. After the viewing, the audience stayed seated for a lively discussion with our Climate Panel: City Councilmember Chris Rogers, Climate Reality Leader Laurie Gallian, and Climate Protectors Chair Tom Conlon. The Q & A session became heated over the recent court decision to uphold the legal challenge to the environmental review of Sonoma County’s Climate Action Plan.

To help clarify the issues, Sonoma Group hosted attorney Jerry Bernhaut of RiverWatch in a briefing on the legalities of the court decision at our Climate and Energy Committee meeting in August that packed the Environmental Center. He explained that the County basically needs to revise the baseline for countywide greenhouse gas emissions to more fully include wine industry and tourism activities. He also needs to look at additional environmental alternatives such as slowing or putting a moratorium on increased emissions. Or appeal the case.

It is clear that the legal action does not stop the county or cities from taking action to reduce climate change gases as specified in the Climate Action Plan. Our Climate Action Committee is growing and looking for more volunteers to become Climate Protectors. Their work continues to press for local measures to be implemented.

Regional Parks 50th Anniversary

The Sierra Club saluted the 50th Anniversary of the Sonoma County Regional Parks with a Meet and Greet with Parks Director Bert Whitaker. A resolution from the California State Legislature was presented to him by district staff from our state delegation. Bert provided an inspiring vision for protecting and expanding our regional parks. He is excited about expanded public access at Tolay Regional Park near Petaluma. He announced a Park Summit on Sept. 21 designed in part to gauge interest and support for a possible park measure in 2018. Read more about Bert here: http://parks.sonomacounty.ca.gov/About_U/s

News/Supervisors_Appoint_Regional_Parks_Director.aspx

Connect the Dots

Steve Birdlebough and Tom Conlon attended a workshop by the National Sierra Club on Leadership Training. They plan to show us all how to use personal narratives and storytelling to better connect with members and potential new members. We are going to practice these skills at upcoming committee and ExCom meetings, so come join us!

Zero Waste

ExCom member Theresa Ryan is providing input on development of a Zero Waste policy for Sonoma County. She recently shared a draft policy developed by the Zero Waste Coalition for review and input by Sierra Club.

Sonoma Group Chair Teri Shore joins Parks Director Bert Whitaker as Callum Weeks of Assemblyman Marc Levine’s office and Logan Pitts of Senator Bill Dodd’s office present a resolution commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Sonoma County Parks.

She also shared the information on the Zero Waste website and the current plastic straw ban campaign and suggested a possible Sierra Club Forum event on the subject of Zero Waste. Representatives from Sonoma Compost will share prospects for a new City of Santa Rosa composting site. October 2 Conservation Committee meeting that starts at 5:30 pm.

Toxic Free Future - Endorsed

Sierra Club’s Sonoma Group has endorsed a Toxic Free Future campaign recently launched by Sonoma County Conservation Action. The goal is to limit and eventually phase out the use of glyphosphate to kill weeds in public parks, schools, libraries and other public places. The campaign is already making strides with the Santa Rosa City Council moving to require contractors to reduce or eliminate use of harmful weed killers. The campaign seeks to ensure that all of our public agencies are in compliance with existing laws for reporting and use. Ultimately, the campaign seeks to ensure that all government agencies have Integrated Pest Management Plans (IPM) that require using least toxic methods first with a goal of “getting to zero” pesticide use in the next five years (exceptions for public health and safety).

Read more here: http://www.conservationaction.org/news/toxicfree/

North Group Report

North Group Underwrites Two Campers

In July, North Group sponsored two 10-year-old girls—one from Eureka and one from Crescent City—to attend a week-long “River & Adventure” session at Lost Coast Camp near Petrolia. This represented a new venue for campers sponsored through donations to the Lucille Vinyard/Susie van Kirk Environmental Education Fund.

In 2016, the Oregon Museum of Science & Technology discontinued its overnight camp sessions in Redwood National & State Parks near Orick, where North Group had been sending local children for a number of years. So, I began searching for a new local overnight camp with an environmental emphasis and discovered Lost Coast Camp in the Mattole Valley. The facility’s mission is to “provide youth with a dynamic summer camp experience, which promotes self-esteem and positive friendships, individual expression, and fostering an appreciation for the natural world.”

In exchange for their tuition, the girls agreed to submit an essay to North Group about their experience. Below are excerpts:

Camper 1: “My experience at camp brought out the best in me and that makes me proud of myself. I stepped up to help and was brave when I needed to be. One day I earned a medallion because I was willing to talk about my goals, about how I wanted to act as a person when I left camp. Now, I’m confident and sure I can do anything when I put my mind to it. Some of my most memorable moments include the mouth-watering, healthy meals; evening campfires where we would sing and tell stories; and our counselor reading us a story before bed. I met unique girls and formed strong friendships and bonds and will never forget my cabin mates. But the really amazing moments were walking to the river through pastures and fields and seeing the beautiful mountains. The colors were so vibrant and bright and they inspired me to be curious and happy. One night we slept under the stars on the sand lining the shore of the Mattole River.”

Camper 2: “This truly was an exceptional, amazing camp experience, like no other I’ve had. This is my first time getting to explore the Lost Coast and this camp was an easy way to do that, through visiting its forests, mountains, rivers, and beaches. We spent almost all of our time outdoors. Every day we took a trip to the river. One day we went canoeing; another, we went to the beach and played in the woods. My favorite part of camp was our overnight at Strawberry Rock, a big rock on top of a mountain. The other best part of camp was the beach day, where you could do so many things: play on the sand, swim in the water, or play games in the woods.”

–Sue Leskow, North Group Treasurer

Vital Lands Initiative Public Meetings

Sierra Club urges all members to mark your calendars for a series of community meetings to provide input on the draft goals, objectives, strategies, and performance measures of the Vital Lands Initiative of the Sonoma County Agricultural and Open Space District. The meeting schedule is as follows:

Oct 12 – Petaluma Veterans Memorial Building 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Oct 14 – Location TBD (West County) 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Oct 16 – Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Oct 17 – Villa Chanticleer (Healdsburg) 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Oct 18 – Sonoma Veterans Memorial Building 6:00pm – 8:00pm

*Note this meeting is on a Saturday in the morning.

To register and learn more about this important open space program, go to this website: http://www.sonomaoeparkspace.org/projects/vital-lands-initiative/
Mendocino Group Report

A man called me up from Sebastopol this morning. He wanted to tell me about a Reuters article that had him quite alarmed. It said that there were 50,000 illegal marijuana growers in California and that at most of them there was evidence of chemicals (including pesticides and rodenticides) banned here due to health and environmental reasons. He said that there was evidence of chemicals (including blue-green algae). He had done some research and found that the problem is far worse north of the Mendocino Group's jurisdiction. He had done some research and found that the problem is far worse north of the Mendocino Group's jurisdiction.

Linda Perkins and Bill Heil have been honored as the 2017 Outstanding Volunteers of Sonoma County. The award was presented at a ceremony held at the Sonoma County Administration Building.

Solano Group Report

Volunteer Hotline

Coordinating Benicia, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun, Vacaville and Vallejo

sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com 707-319-6398

by Jerry Bernhart. He has threatened litigation against the Napa County CAP as well if it is not strengthened. He has threatened litigation against the Napa County CAP as well if it is not strengthened.

Sierra Club Shines Spotlight on California Water Politics

On Sept 8th, over 70 people attended our showing of the film, Water & Power: A California Heist, which tells the tale of privatization of California's water, primarily by corporate agricultural interests. Co-sponsors include the League of Women Voters, and the Unitarian Universalist Church.

ARG fires a shot over the BOS' bow

A mystery group "Association for Responsible Government" has sent a letter to the Board of Supervisors charging that the County has routinely flouted State environmental law (CEQA) in their approvals of winery projects over the years. The County responded via the Napa Register, rejecting these claims.

Keep Informed on Napa Environmental Activities!

Get our monthly e-newsletter, by contacting us at srapapam@gmail.com, and follow Napa Group on Facebook.

Wild and Scenic Film Festival October 28

Lake Group has been gearing up to present our first-ever Wild and Scenic Festival, to be held from 4-10 p.m. (with a dinner break) at the Super Reese Community Theater in Lakeport. Besides a series of prize winning films from last January's acclaimed Wild and Scenic Festival in Nevada City, the event will feature some local films and a live performance—a presentation with musical accompaniment by ecology professor Dr Harry Lyons. Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association, Big Valley Rancheria, Lake County Land Trust, Middletown Arts Council, Redbud Audubon Society and Watershed Books are among our local sponsors. Refreshments and socializing too! Tickets $15 ($13 for Sierra Club members) available online at superreeseattheatre.com, at The Travel Center - 707.263.3095, at Watershed Books 100 N. Main in Lakeport, and at the door. Proceeds will benefit the Middle Creek Marsh wetlands restoration project.

We're also getting ready for our first community meeting of the fall season, which will be held at the Round Room of Mendocino Community College at 6:30PM on Monday, September 25, and feature a talk by Randal MacDonald of the Citizens Climate Lobby on 'Climate Change and What We Can Do About It.' He will report on the latest findings in climate science and then compare and contrast CCL's Carbon Fee and Dividend plan with other leading climate solutions, such as Cap and Trade. It all seems more relevant than ever in the days of hurricanes, wildfires, and floods. As always the event is free and open to the public.

Send Outings to Carol Vellutini via email: carolvsr@sonic.net Send Meetings to Carl Inglin: chiniglin@sonic.net

Redwood Needles October 1, 2017

December 2017 Deadline: Due Nov. 4th

Submit Articles/Reports/Ad Copy via e-mail to: odavison@sonic.net
Environmentalists have long urged a Zero Waste Policy for cities and counties. Zero waste is a goal and a vision for reducing what we put in landfills and incinerators to zero. Much that we now throw away can be safely and economically recovered, recycled, reused, or composted to yield biogas. Getting to zero will require mandatory recycling and composting for all residents and businesses, and implementation of a three-bin customer system for separating recyclables (glass bottles, paper/cardboard, aluminum cans, hard plastics) from organic waste (food scraps and yard trimmings), and trash (plastic bags, paper, glass, etc.) to optimize recycling and a clean waste stream. Recycling of construction waste and debris also must be mandatory. Implementing a highly efficient three-bin system won’t occur overnight; it requires years of consumer education.

Composting is essential for reaching zero waste. Compostable food wastes are as much as 53 percent of trash sent to landfills, which produce methane, accounting for 17 percent of all greenhouse emissions according to the EPA. Sustainable agriculture requires composting to add precious organic nutrients back to the soil and to sequester carbon in healthy soils.

Due to a lawsuit settlement and environmental concerns, Sonoma Compost, the County’s only large compost producer, ceased operations at the County landfill in 2015. Recology’s six compost facilities in California manufacture a billion pounds of compost each year and the company has the capacity and resources to fill the void left by the closure of Sonoma Compost.

Zero Waste and the Circular Economy

Getting to zero requires much more than the three-bin collection system. The May Zero Waste Symposium discussed the need for fundamental change in product manufacturing and design, in order to develop a ‘closed loop clean recycling economy.’ State and local government can lead the way by requiring higher recycling content in public-sector procurement—and by providing economic incentives for both business investment and innovation in a clean recycling economy, and for manufacturing new products made with locally recycled materials. A 2011 Tellus Institute report, “More Jobs Less Pollution,” stated that increasing U.S. recycling 40 percent by 2030 could create 1.5 million good recycling-reliant manufacturing and reuse jobs, while cutting greenhouse gas emissions in half.

AB 341, approved by California’s legislature in 2014, mandates a 75 percent waste-diversion rate from landfills by 2020. Cal Recycle, charged with overseeing the State’s waste management programs, identifies 5 counties and 21 cities that have implemented zero waste policies exceeding the mandate. For example, a 2014 Los Angeles zero waste policy requires a 90 percent diversion rate by 2025.

The unionization of Sonoma County’s waste management industry this year’s first Zero Waste Symposium, and now the arrival of Recology, indicate a turning point for the local zero waste movement.

This is the moment for a broad coalition of labor, environmental, business, and community organizations to develop a comprehensive policy on good jobs and zero waste for every city and the County—and to engage elected officials and County residents in an informed dialogue about policy that can improve job quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Sierra Club Sonoma Group member Martin J. Bennett is Instructor Emeritus of History at Santa Rosa Junior College and co-chair, North Bay Jobs with Justice. This article originally appeared in the September 2017 Sonoma Gazette.

“Good Jobs & Zero Waste Now” continued from page 3