



Sierra Conservationist Newsletter

July 2024

Celebrating Our American Heritage—Embracing Conservation This 4th of July

ON THIS 4th OF JULY we, as Americans in Placer County, have much to be grateful for. Amidst the constant clamor of negative news, it's essential to pause and reflect on the positives at the local, state, and national levels, and recognize the strengths of our American culture.

From our earliest days as a nation, the American landscape has been an integral part of our heritage. Our forests, rivers, creeks, open spaces, and parks are treasures that have been preserved for everyone to enjoy. From the bustling town squares to the serene woods and rivers, and the majestic expanses of our National Parks and Monuments, these natural wonders are a testament to our commitment to conservation.

Let us be conservative in the truest sense, by practicing conservation.

Throughout history, nature has been seen as a bridge to the divine, a sentiment echoed in the writings of saints, scholars, and beloved authors like J.R.R. Tolkien and

C.S. Lewis. Their works reflect a deep reverence for the natural world and highlight its power to bring us closer

to God. This belief is woven into the fabric of our nation, emphasizing that our natural environment is not merely for economic use but to be preserved for our spiritual and communal enrichment.



Our love for the outdoors is evident in the diverse range of groups dedicated to preserving it. Groups

like the Evangelical Environmental Network, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Sierra Club and many others work tirelessly to protect our natural heritage. Despite their varied focuses, they all share a common goal: preserving our forests, rivers, plants and animals for generations to come.

Let's remember our Founding Fathers, their dedication to representative government, respect for science, and their wisdom in creating a framework that allows us to safeguard our natural resources. Let us be conservative in the truest sense by practicing conservation, ensuring that the beauty and bounty of our natural world remain intact for future generations. Happy Independence Day!

Heads Up For Fall Photo Contest

Start choosing your best photos of native plants, native wildlife, California landscapes and conservation topics. There will be a **\$100 prize in each category!** Stay tuned for contest details in the next issue of the Sierra Conservationist Newsletter.



Save the Date for **Pizza Palooza 2**

- July 18
- 6-8pm
- Free Pizza

Old Town Pizza
120 Church St.
Roseville

Program: Bringing Salmon Back to Auburn Ravine

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Sagehen Creek Hike on June 8

TWENTY THREE ENTHUSIASTIC HIKERS enjoyed the 5.2 mile Sagehen Loop Trail on June 8. Age ranged from early 20s to 80-something years young. The route was at 6000 ft. elevation in Tahoe National Forest near Truckee. Placer Group’s Outings Co-Chairs Kathy Verrue-Slater and Trish Kness led at a moderate pace on a blue sky Sierra day. From the Highway 89 trailhead the route to Stampede Reservoir was never far from Sagehen Creek—named for the Greater Sage-Grouse.

There is evidence of beaver dams and ponds.

The group enjoyed the yellow-blooming Mule’s Ears and



other wildflowers. There is evidence of beaver dams and ponds. Below the beaver-wetland we heard a multitude of bird calls, including woodpeckers.



Near Stampede Reservoir, we crossed Sagehen Creek on two beams—likely old trestle beams from the logging operation that was active until the 1930s. Tom Schillers jumped right in to help folks that were not comfortable with the narrowest beam.

After a snack and a rest—while listening to the rustle of quaking aspen by the lake—we returned via the same route since the north side of the creek is the prettiest portion of the loop.

Opportunity to Support Urban Forests

OUR PLACER GROUP networks with a wide range of environmental and outdoors organizations, as we all share a common interest in preserving nature. One such group is the Roseville Urban Forest Foundation (RUFF). They have planted over 18,000 trees, working

with the city of Roseville to add to our tree canopy. Most of the tree planting is done in the spring, but re-mulching of previously planted trees occurs through the summer on early mornings. If you'd like to assist, please check out their website at <https://rosevilletree.org/>

Biomass Supply Symposium

EXCOM CHAIR HARRY WHITE attended a June 26 Biomass Symposium sponsored by Placer County Water Agency.

Roseville’s Maidu Community Center was packed with people from government agencies, utilities, private companies, plus environmental groups from Placer, Nevada, El Dorado Counties and beyond.

A primary concern of the Sierra Club is that biomass harvesting should not be used as an excuse for excessive logging and increased carbon emissions.

It was represented that the biomass facilities being planned for our area are small-scale plants, perhaps with

cutting-edge technology that could result in carbon sequestration.

We will be reviewing the speaker’s presentation materials, and asking follow-up questions in order to keep you informed.

Biomass harvesting should not be used as an excuse for excessive logging and increased carbon emissions.

We are also considering an outing to view fire-damaged areas, and areas treated with brush removal or subjected to prescribed burning.

Forest health and how to decrease the risk of wildfires is a

complex issue. If you are interested, please send us an email at placersierraclub@gmail.com.

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Roseville Sustainability Summit

To CAP OFF THEIR SCHOOL YEAR, Ms. Nicole Valencia’s 6th grade class celebrated completion of their Sustainability projects with donuts and hearty congratulations from Roseville Mayor Bruce Houdesheldt. Sierra Club was also invited and Barry Grimm represented the Placer Group.

Clearly, these NextGen scholars from Warren T. Eich Middle School were enormously proud as they explained their projects in detail—and answered questions with enthusiasm. Some of the 3 member teams adopted United Nations sustainability goals as a framework for their project development. One team conceived an air conditioner that recycles waste

ONE TEAM conceived an air conditioner that recycles waste heat



heat expelled from the building—rather than add it to an already overloaded atmospheric heat burden.

Ms. Valencia hopes to roll out the Sustainability Summit to all 6th grade classes in Roseville school district.

Homegrown National Park

YES YOU CAN have a national park in your yard! The Sierra Club is known for fighting to prevent land from being developed and natural areas destroyed. Just by using native plants in our yards we can create significant habitat for beneficial insects, birds and animals. Here are two references for inspirational reading and viewing.

<https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/HomegrownNationalPark/>

Outreach at Farmer’s Markets

On June 22, Placer Group’s Chair Harry White and Membership Chair Barry Grimm staffed a booth at the **Rocklin Farmer’s Market**.

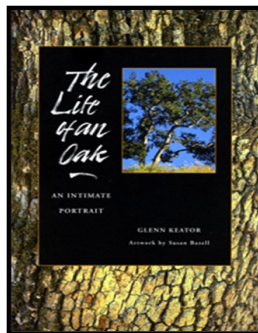
Emphasis was on recruiting new members, plus outreach to folks wanting help with a conservation issue.

Next up, a booth at **Granite Bay Farmer’s Market**.

A Memorable Summer Read for Conservationists

COMPARED TO GIANT SEQUOIAS, oaks are understated, but are a pivotal part of an intact ecosystem’s processes. **The Life of an Oak – An Intimate Portrait** (256 pages) by Glenn Keator is a fine summer read when 3 digit temperatures linger.

Clear lyrical language is paired with beautiful color renderings of botanical details, plus subtly artistic photography that establishes con-



text, plus a modern page layout that is uncrowded. You will enjoy excellent coverage of many “big picture” topics – for example, an oak’s end-to-end life cycle, or its specific role in local and worldwide ecosystems.

And you are treated to “zoom-in” coverage of fascinating related topics, like the stunning array of wasp-induced oak galls or the inner workings of mistletoes – all with “who knew” details and engaging graphics.

Support Clean Creeks

CONSERVATION CHAIR Paul Comiskey leads a group every Saturday at 9:30 a.m. to clean a three mile Roseville stretch of Miners Ravine Trail plus the bed of

Dry Creek. The crews include local men and women who are doing community service to work off traffic tickets or other minor offenses, **Continued on Next Page**

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Support Clean Creeks *continued*

but volunteers usually also come along to help clean-up. You are always welcome to join us.

We have removed tons of plastic and other trash that would otherwise destroy the creek habitat on it's way to the ocean to join Texas-size patches of plastic. The re-

moved trash includes items as large as a mattress and as small as cigarette butts. We leave **promptly** at 9:30 from Paul Comiskey's law office at 205 Jefferson St. in Roseville. We work until 11:30 a.m. and always feel that we spent our morning doing something worthwhile.

Biden Enlarges Nearby National Monument

YEARS OF ADVOCACY BY SIERRA CLUB and its partner National Parks Conservation Association brings a win with President Biden's enlargement of Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. In winter the 7000 ft Coast Range peaks are covered in snow and visible up and down the Sacramento Valley.

Created in 2015 by President Obama at 330,780 acres, President Biden has just expanded our local national monument by almost 14,000 acres. Berryessa Snow Mountain is a big win for both biodiversity and environmental justice, as it protects wildlife habitat, bolsters collaboration with tribes, and increases access to green spaces closer to California's urban population centers.

Sacred to the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, the expansion

IN WINTER the 7000 ft Coast Range peaks are covered in snow and visible up and down the Sacramento Valley.



honors local Indigenous people by renaming Walker Ridge as "Molok Luyuk," or Condor Ridge.

The monument now stretches from the Mendocino National Forest to Bureau of Land Management land just north of the Bay Area and metro-Sacramento. The new designation comes with co-stewardship between tribes and the Department of the Interior.

Take The 5 Minute Trails Survey

PLACER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGENCY is designing a regional network of walking and bike trails to provide safe, convenient access to work, schools, shopping and recreation — to reduce vehicle usage.

Where do you want to go! Take the survey at: tinyurl.com/PlacerATP

Repurposing a Sanitary Landfill in Lincoln

THE FRIENDS OF AUBURN RAVINE (FOAR) are in talks with the city of Lincoln about restoring the old Lincoln sanitary landfill to an open space park, possibly including a nature center.

Our Placer Group is working with FOAR to see how we

can help, including getting a tour of the proposed site. If you would like to come along, please contact our group at placersierraclub@gmail.com. In particular we are hoping that Sierra Club members, and others, who live in the Lincoln area will get involved!

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