



SIERRA
CLUB

FOUNDED 1892

explore,
enjoy,
and protect
the planet

Sierra Club Lake Group

May-June 2016 Newsletter

Next Meeting: "Life in the Lake"

The next Lake Group general meeting will take place at **7PM on Tuesday May 17**, in the Board of Supervisors chamber on the first floor of the Courthouse in Lakeport. Lake County Vector Control District Vector Biologist Bonnie Ryan will guide us through a "living tour" of the complex microscopic life at the base of the food chain in Clear Lake. The program will include live samples of both phyto and zooplankton as well as algae blooms, and promises to provide an unusually fascinating look at a little-known and uncommonly important subject. When a similar presentation by LCVCD was offered in 2010 every seat was taken and an overflow crowd had to listen from the lobby, so please mark your calendars and plan to arrive early for a good seat.

This presentation had originally been planned for last September, but had to be cancelled because of the Valley Fire. As always the event is free and open to the public. For more information contact chair Ed Robey at edrobey@wildblue.net or 994 8304.

Inner Coast Range Conservancy Moves Ahead

Lake Group worked for years to ensure the permanent protection of federal lands in the Berryessa Snow Mountain region, a goal met last summer by the designation of the BSM national monument. Now it's time to take the next step to provide the resources needed to maximize good stewardship and recreational opportunities in the region, both inside and outside monument boundaries.

On February 19 Senator Lois Wolk, with co-authors Senator Mike McGuire and Assemblymen Bill Dodd and Marc Levine, took a big step towards achieving those objectives by introducing SB 1396, a bill to create an "Inner Coast Range Conservancy" modeled on the highly successful Sierra Nevada Conservancy, and thus create a structure to channel state bond funds

into our region for on the ground conservation work, including projects to protect and restore Clear Lake. Recognizing the benefits that a conservancy can bring to Lake County, on March 1 the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a resolution of support.

Conservancies such as the Sierra Nevada Conservancy or the Coastal Conservancy are a major conduit for state allocations, bond funds, and grants with a proven track record of advancing environmental preservation and restoration while promoting a thriving local economy -- but the northern Inner Coast Range region is unable to take advantage of these benefits, because it lies almost entirely outside the boundaries of existing conservancies. We are the hole in the donut. SB 1396 will (con't)

(Conservancy, con't) rectify that omission.

The Sierra Club wants to make this great proposal a reality: it's good for the land, good for the people, and good for our communities -- so we are delighted to be able to report that on Tuesday April 12 the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water voted to approve SB 1396, which will now move on to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Please stay tuned for further developments, including ways that we can all help.

Planning Commission Rejects Middletown Dollar General

On April 28, more than a year after the proposal was first made public (and months after overwhelming opposition from the community led the Commission and Board of Supervisors to reject a similar application in Kelseyville), the Lake County Planning Commission considered an application from Texas-based Cross Development for a Dollar General outlet on Highway 29 just north of central Middletown. Two other Dollar General stores, in Nice and Clearlake Oaks, were approved last year and are now doing business.

Sierra Club comments submitted a year previously reflected our serious doubts about the desirability of this project. Not only does it threaten to impair Putah Creek water quality, interfere with traffic in an area that is already at near gridlock during commute hours, and pose a safety hazard by its location directly across the highway from several schools, many features of the design are profoundly inconsistent with General Plan and Middletown Area Plan policies.

Speaking on behalf of the Club, Lake Group conservation chair Victoria Brandon reiterated those considerations at the April 28 meeting, with support from many members of the community -- and after more than two hours of testimony the Planning Commission denied every one of the requested entitlements by a unanimous vote. An appeal to the Board of Supervisors is anticipated.

Lake Group Executive Committee

Ed Robey (Chair, Treasurer, Political Chair): 994 8304, edrobey@wildblue.net
Cheri Holden (Vice Chair), 263 5787
cherisierraclub@gmail.com
Win Stiles (Secretary): 367-1593, win@w-s.com
Victoria Brandon (Conservation Chair, newsletter editor, webmaster): 994-1931,
vbrandon@lakelive.info
Tricia Evans (Membership Chair),
tricialouevans@gmail.com
Carolyn Ruttan (Water Chair), 295-0333,
caninoridge@digitalpath.net

Other contacts:

Steve Devoto (Outings): 279-8308,
sdevoto@mchsi.com

ExCom meetings are held at 7PM on the third Wednesday of every other month, at locations that vary. All members are cordially invited to attend, but requested to contact the Chair first to confirm time and location

Rent This Space

The Lake Group now accepting (in other words, selling) advertisements in this newsletter: a two-inch (business card size) ad like this costs \$25 per issue, or—Great Bargain—\$100 for a year (six issues) To submit an ad send an email to vbrandon@lakelive.info or call Victoria at 994-1931.

KONOCTI POST

www.konoctipost.blogspot.com

a lake county naturalist's blog

TAKE A RAMBLE. IT'S FREE.

Let's Go Digital

Lake Group members are invited to help fight deforestation by receiving this bimonthly newsletter electronically rather than on paper. To get it as an email attachment in pdf format instead, send a request to join the "Lake Group Paper Free" list to vbrandon@lakelive.info—not only does this save some trees, it also benefits the Group financially.



Outings

* MAY 8 -- California Native Plant Society **Mothers Day Walk at the McLaughlin Natural Reserve**, led by Reserve co-director Cathy Koehler. The Reserve protects and manages serpentine ecosystems, including serpentine "grasslands" and "barrens" dominated by native forbs. Fine wildflower displays are common, and this year are anticipated to be stunning in the aftermath of the Rocky and Jerusalem fires followed by a wet winter. Bring water, sunhat, lunch, and walking shoes. Advance registration REQUIRED: To register, contact Gail at 707-462-2018 or sanhedrincnps@gmail.com.

MAY 14 --**Mt. Konocti**. We will hike to the top of Wright peak on Mt. Konocti, then ascend the fire lookout tower at the top for stunning views of Clear Lake and surrounding mountains. The hike is only 6 miles round-trip, but gains 1600 feet in just half that distance. The other half is back down, of course. M-6-B. Meet 8:30 AM at Studebakers Coffee Shop in Kelseyville, right on Main Street, or trailhead on Konocti Road by 9:00. Reservations only. Leader Tom McFarling (707) 994-5490 tom.mcfarling@gmail.com rain cancels.

*MAY 14, 8:30AM -- AMIA nature walk at **Anderson Marsh State Historic Park** led by park docent Nicola Selph. The easy walk should last about 2 hours; no Ranch House tour following. Free parking for participants. More info: info@andersonmarsh.org or (707) 995-2658.

JUNE 4-5 -- Sierra Club **Yolano Group Snow Mountain hike/car camp**. Snow Mountain is the northern anchor of the newly created Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. As one book describes it, "The trip to the twin summits of Snow Mountain offers scenery that includes serene forests of pine and fir, a psychedelic assortment of multihued rocks, and sweeping vistas of mountains and valleys stretching to the far horizons." The 8+ mile roundtrip hike climbing 2200' to the twin peaks above 7000' certainly provides breathtaking views. Due to the long drive to trailhead, we will drive to Letts Lake Campground on Saturday, car camp overnight, and climb the mountain from the Summit Springs trailhead and drive home Sunday. No dogs, rain or snow cancels. Trip limited to 12 hikers. For logistical details (food etc.) contact the leader, 530-756-3973 or cramerjc@gmail.com.

*JUNE 11, 8:30AM -- AMIA nature walk at **Anderson Marsh State Historic Park**. The easy walk should last about 2 hours; Ranch House tour following. Free parking for participants. More info: info@andersonmarsh.org or (707) 995-2658.

* Not a Sierra Club hike

Help Wanted: Outing Leaders. No experience needed, just a love for brisk exercise in the out-of-doors. There are many good reasons to become an Outing leader, including an opportunity for autocracy: as leader *you* get to choose where to go, and when. Interested? Get in touch with Outing Chair Steve Devoto at 279-8308 or sdevoto@mchsi.com.



**SIERRA
CLUB**

Sierra Club Lake Group

PO Box 1686

Lakeport, CA 95453