RETHINKING THE Rs

RECYCLING ISN’T A SOLUTION

CHANGING OUR RELATIONSHIP TO PRODUCTION, RECYCLING, AND WASTE

NEC Member Survey Results | Are You Recycling Wrong? | Public Lands Bill Success
Godwit Days | Kin to the Earth: Carol Ralph | Samoa Fish Farm Proposal | Headwaters’ Birthday
News From the Center

Larry Glass, Executive Director, and Bella Waters, Admin & Development Director

2019 is starting out to have a much different feel to it than 2018 did. Following the fall mid-term elections, there is a widespread feeling of hope that we have a chance to begin to turn things around from the dangerous direction we’ve been headed in over the last couple of years.

We have a new progressive majority on the Eureka City Council; an ally and friend of the NEC as Mayor of Arcata, Brett Watson; and a strong new voice for the environment on our County Board of Supervisors, Steve Madrone. Steve has already had a big impact on the Planning Commission, with the appointment of Peggy O’Neill, Planning and Community Development Director for the Yurok Tribe, and having a hand in the appointment of Melanie McCavour. With these new members, the Planning Commission may no longer offer an automatic rubber stamp of approval for the powerful developers and HumCPR. At least on the local level, things are looking up.

Of course there’s always new challenges with every change of the tide. First on that list is Nordic Aquafarms. The owners requested a meeting with NEC representatives, which was well-attended. They conveyed lots of assurances and claims, but did not provide many supportive facts. This appears to be yet another pie in the sky proposal targeting the old pulp mill site, owned by the Harbor District, for development. These projects always promise lots of employment and no environmental downsides, but that’s not how things pan out. Be assured that the Northcoast Environmental Center and our member groups will be closely scrutinizing every detail of potential plans to supposedly raise steelhead, or some other type of fish, on the peninsula.

Second: the City of Eureka has come forward with a plan to reduce congestion on the 4th Street and Broadway corridor. There are some elements of this plan that seem straightforward and so obvious that one wonders why they weren’t done before—like eliminating parking along 4th Street at the northern entrance to Eureka, to create an extra traffic lane to reduce the bottlenecking effect as vehicles enter the city from the north. However, another element of the plan looks like a complete nonstarter to us: the City is once again bringing back the discredited concept of punching 4th Street through the contaminated wetlands known as the Balloon Tract, site of the failed Arkley Marina Center project, and connect it with Koster Street. That project was appealed and litigated over ten years ago. We’ll keep you updated as this moves forward.

• Wilderness bill •

We are eagerly awaiting the reintroduction of the Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation and Working Forests Act, authored by Congressman Jared Huffman, the Congressman introduced this bill last July, followed by Sen. Kamala Harris’s introduction in the Senate in December. With the new congress, we hope for a coordinated reintroduction in the House with Senator Kamala Harris’s companion bill in the Senate. Given that Sen. Harris is on the presidential campaign trail that might be difficult, but either way we expect reintroduction in the Senate and House within the next couple of months. This is exciting news for all who have worked on this for the last five-plus years. This time, it will actually go through committees. As always, we’ll keep you posted!

• Humboldt Bay •

Once again we are witnessing Mother Nature trying to reclaim the entrance of the breached lagoon that we call Humboldt Bay. Vast amounts of sediment have always been delivered to the mouth of Humboldt Bay since the entrance was forced open over a 100 years ago.

 NEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To contact NEC Board Members, please write to board@yournec.org

President - Larry Glass, Safe Alternatives for our Forest Environment
Vice-President - Dan Sealy, At-Large
Secretary - Jennifer Kalt, Humboldt Baykeeper
Treasurer - Chris Jenican Beresford, At-Large
Gary Falxa, California Native Plant Society
CJ Ralph, Redwood Region Audubon Society
Richard Kreis, Sierra Club, North Group
Alicia Hamann, Friends of the Eel River
Tom Wheeler, Environmental Protection Information Center
Margaret Gainer, At-Large
Jim Test, At-Large

 NEC STAFF

Executive Director: Larry Glass, larry@yournec.org
Administrative & Development Director: Bella Waters, bella@yournec.org
EcoNews Editor/Graphic Coordinator: Morgan Corviday, morgan@yournec.org
Coastal Programs Coordinator: Casey Cruikshank, casey@yournec.org
Office Assistant: Rhiannon Lewis-Stephenson, rhiannon@yournec.org
Office Support: Tiffany Perez, tiffany@yournec.org
Bookkeeping Assistant: Anita Gilbride-Read, volunteer

 NEC AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Friends of Del Norte www.fodn.org
Zero Waste Humboldt www.zerowastehumboldt.org
Californians for Alternatives to Toxics www.alt2ox.org
Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities www.transportationpriorities.org

 NEC MEMBER GROUPS

Humboldt Baykeeper www.humboldtbaykeeper.org
Sierra Club, North Group, Redwood Chapter www.sierraclub.org/north/
California Native Plant Society www.fnps.org
Redwood Region Audubon Society www.rras.org
Friends of the Eel River www.eelriver.org
Safe Alternatives for our Forest Environment (SAFE) www.safealt.org
Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) www.wildcalifornia.org

 NEC AFFILIATE MEMBERS
News from the Center
Continued from prior page

...primarily due to extensive clearcut logging practices. Sediment continues to be delivered—in what appears to be increasing amounts—due to the heavy winter rains washing sediments from illegally-graded roads and unpermitted grow sites. This continuing set of circumstances dashes the unrealistic delusions of those who wish to portray Humboldt Bay as some sort of deep water port for industrial shipping.

The Harbor District has declared an emergency because of the current conditions. Without a modern, high-volume dredge dedicated to Humboldt Bay, it will be difficult to continue to keep the entrance of the bay open even for safe passage of our fishing fleet, let alone to keep the marinas deep enough to park boats. This would require the Army Corp of Engineers to invest in a dredge for Humboldt Bay. Under the current administration, don’t hold your breath.

• Comments •

So far this year, the NEC has submitted input calling for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the Pacific fisher as threatened. We also submitted input to the State of California about its statewide vegetation treatment program. We agree with most of what has been proposed, but requested that chemical poisons not be used as part of the treatments. We also submitted comments in support of the Karuk tribe’s petition to protect Klamath-Trinity spring-run Chinook salmon under the California Endangered Species Act.

• New board members •

We want to extend a big welcome to two new at-large NEC board members who are well known in the community: Margaret Gainer and Jim Test. Margaret Gainer has joined the board to provide her zero waste and non-profit organizational expertise. Jim Test will be assisting the NEC’s Finance and Personnel Committees, bringing his decades of management and financial experience to the organization. Thanks Maggie and Jim!

• Internships •

We also want to welcome Reanne Lopez, an HSU Environmental Studies senior, as our Special Projects Intern, and Ryan Call, HSU History senior, as our EcoNews Archivist. We’re excited for their enthusiasm and assistance.

This summer we will have five intern positions open: Coastal Cleanup Day Media, Coastal Cleanup Day Planning, Special Projects, EcoNews Archive, and EcoNews Journalism and Production interns. If you know of anyone who might be interested, tell them about these opportunities! More information is also available on our website.

• April events •

We’ll be partnering with two HSU students to kick off April with a Pints for Non-Profits night on Friday, April 5 at Arts and Drafts in Old Town Eureka, with a portion of the proceeds benefitting the NEC. We’ll also be celebrating Earth Day with a beach cleanup on Saturday, April 20. See the back page of this issue for more information.

In This Issue

NEC Member Survey Results
Have You Been Recycling Wrong?
Public Lands Bill Success
Green New Deal
Getting to the Roots of Capitalism
History of Humboldt Recycling
24th Annual Godwit Days
Eye on Washington
Casey’s Coastal Column
Kin to the Earth: Carol Ralph
Student Climate Strike
Humboldt Baykeeper
EPIC
Sierra Club, North Group
California Native Plant Society
Zero Waste Humboldt
Center for Responsible Transportation Priorities

Volunteer Spotlight
Barbara Reisman
Event volunteer

I started volunteering with the NEC at the annual Spaghetti Dinner FUN(d)raiser three years ago. I had planned to be a kitchen assistant, but when Chris was unable to come, I stepped up to the job of kitchen manager. With everyone’s help, we carried it off! Since the NEC is such a great organization and one I love to support, I have continued to assist with the summer house parties and again this year with the recent spaghetti dinner. I really value the role of the NEC in our community for its advocacy for the environment, for providing critical information through the EcoNews, and for serving as a coalition of several environmental organizations in our region.

Volunteering is a way for me to feel connected to my community and to contribute to the betterment of our planet.

Barbara Reisman. Submitted photo
Third Annual Spaghetti FUN(d)Raiser was a success!

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CAME OUT, AND MANY THANKS TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS WHO HELPED US MAKE THIS A FUN, SUCCESSFUL EVENT!

Aidan Belleau
Alchemry Distillery
Alicia Hamann
Alondra Kash
Anne Braak Katz
Aris Bakery
Barbara Reisman
Beachcomber Cafe
Bacio Breadworks
Bubbles
California Native Plant Society
Caravan of Dreams
Carla Catalán
Casey Cruikshank
Catherine Holloway
Chris & Richard Beresford
Dan Sealy
Dave Impe
Deborah Boni
Denise Jones
Dutch & Dewey Distillery
Eel River Brewery
Eureka Natural Foods
Food is Love, Love is Food
Garden Gate
Gary Falxa
George Van Hook
Hailey Quinnett
Heart Bead
Henry’s Olives
Holly Yashi
Hot Knots
HSU Center Activities
Humboldt Chocolate
Humboldt Distillery
Humboldt Herbs
Humboldt Hydro Farms
Humboldt Jiu Jitsu Academy
Indigo McGinnis
It’s Alive Kombucha
Jacob Y Land Trust- Koke Ranch
Jasmin Segura
Jay Ryan
Jayson Ranier
Jazmyne Galang
Jim Test
Johnsteen Company
Kayla Garcia
Kingfoot
Kunal Mehta
Larry & Kitch Eitzen
Lisa Robinson
Liscom Hill Pottery Works
Loleta Cheese Factory
Luna Farm
Mad River Gardens
Madison Peters
Maggi Draper
Maggie Gainer
Marlee Mansfield
Megan Bunday
Megan Sandstrom
Minor Theater
Morgan Huber
Murphy’s Market
Nancy Stephenson
Natalia Boyce
Natural History Museum
Northtown Books
Northtown Coffee
Orion Waters
Patricia Sennott
Pierson's Building Supply Center
Plaza: Be Inspired
Raoul Salas
Reanne Lopez
Richard’s Goat
Rumiano Cheese Company
Russ Cole
Ryan Call
Sarah Schaefer
SCRAP Humboldt
Shakefork Farm
Shelby Crawford
Shohei Morita
Six Rivers Brewery
Slice of Humboldt Pie
Sue Leskiw
Tatiana Garcia
Taylor Greytak
Tofu Shop
Tomaso’s
Turtle Rocks Inn
Violet Green Winery
Wildflower Specialty Foods
Yolanda Diaz
Zen

FIFTH ANNUAL TIM MCKAY MEMORIAL BIRDATHON
MAY 4 - 12, 2019

• Register as a team or as an individual
• Collect pledges (donations) for the number of bird species seen in 24 hours
• Participate from anywhere in the world!

For more information or to register, visit
www.yournec.org/birdathon
or call the NEC at 707-822-6918
Sponsored by the Northcoast Environmental Center and the Redwood Region Audubon Society
What's on our Members' Minds? 2018 Survey Results

Dan Sealy

The NEC recently conducted an online survey to identify our members’ highest priority issues and programs. This is the third survey the NEC has conducted over the last 10 years to assess which conservation issues are of most concern to our members. Seventy-two active members responded to our online poll that included 52 questions on a variety of issues. We would like to express our thanks for all those who took the time and effort to help us by filling out the survey!

The NEC will use the survey results to guide decisions on some issues, and to identify future topics for EcoNews and EcoNews Reports. Surveys are helpful to identify priorities, but it is important to note that different people may read the same question in different ways, and results are representative of only the portion of NEC members who responded.

It comes as little surprise that some of the signature issues the NEC has been active in for decades—such as wilderness, watershed protections, and wildlife protections—still rank as our highest priorities for current members. The environmental health of our rivers, Humboldt Bay, and all watersheds are also of primary concern. The 2018 survey showed a renewed priority concern for the use of pesticides and herbicides on our lands. Public land use planning to assure protection of open space and livable communities moved up in priority, as did recycling and waste reduction.

Below, in italics, are a few examples of what the NEC members had to say in their written comments:

A third of individual comments pointed to climate change as their number one concern: “All other victories will be erased without confronting this issue [climate change].” “It [climate change] points the finger squarely at the perpetrators: fossil fuels, capitalism, and our collective need to revamp human living and energy systems.” “There is no planet B.”

Wilderness and Old-Growth Protection: “We need to “monitor the protection of old growth redwood and general old growth forests...we need to be a watchdog on decisions...” “Protection of roadless areas with wilderness status.”

Watershed/Humboldt Bay Protections: “Water is Life. It cannot become a capitalist commodity.” “You have little effect on the national and global issues but on local issues you have real leadership and expertise opportunities.”

Endangered Species and Habitat Protection: “Animal habitat is decreasing, poisoning destruction—we share the world with them!”

Salmon/Salmon Habitat Protection: “Land and water use that causes reductions in salmon and steelhead populations.” “Salmon protection through river restoration, protection, and cleanup.”

Forest Management: “Deforestation and poor logging practices concern me the most. Removing trees has far-reaching impacts as does building logging roads and spraying herbicides...Not against small-scale thoughtful logging practices but I am concerned that most timber companies are not particularly environmentally conscious...”

Pesticide/Herbicide Use: “Pest/ herbicides getting into our soils & waterways, because toxins affect the entire web of life...”

Federal Environmental Regulations: “Trump administration rollback of environmental regs.” “Assault on public lands by Trump Administration including rollback of CA clean air rules.”

Recycling and Waste Reduction: “It is getting harder to find buyers for recycled materials. We need to have a reliable source for plastics and other waste stream items...including changing the packaging concepts in this country.”

Public Land Use and Transit Planning: “Land Use planning to consolidate development and protected open spaces and working landscapes such as timberlands and agriculture.” “Transit service needs to be radically increased.”

Effects of Cannabis Cultivation: “Black market and legal marijuana growers. The effect both of them have on water diversions and its effects on fisheries and river ecosystems.” “Clean-up of illegal grows. I’m afraid our Board of Supervisors isn’t making it a top priority.”

Overpopulation: “Too many people!”

Environmental Education: “Educating people about the essential protection of our fragile earth, always beginning with where we live now.”

For more results, visit https://www.yournec.org/2018-survey-results/.

Issues ranked by highest score

The top 28 issues are shown below, the complete list will be available on our website.

Wilderness Protection in Northwest California
Support River/Watershed Protection & Restoration
Endangered Species, Native Plant & Wildlife Protection
Salmonid Restoration & Protection
Climate Change/Sea Level Rise/Wildfires, etc.
Protecting Open Space (Farms, Forests, Wetlands)
Energy: Offshore Oil
Local Land-Use Planning & Policy
Trash/Pollution in Waterways & Ocean
Forestry: National Forest Land Management
Resistance to East-West Railroad Proposal
Pesticide/Herbicide Use
Water Conservation/Water-Wise Action
Energy: Solar/Renewable
Sustainable Agriculture & Forestry
Public Lands: Protect the Integrity of National Monuments
Educate About Important State & Federal Legislation
Energy: ONShore Wind
Energy: OFFshore Wind
Promote Waste Reduction
Fire Education & Action in the Wildland Urban Interface
Community Outreach/Education/Workshops
Addressing Impacts of Cannabis Grows
Coastal Cleanup, Adopt-A-Beach & Adopt-a-Block
Internship/Volunteer Opportunities for HSU/CR Students
Local Sustainable Economic Development
EcoNews: Available in Print (bi-monthly)
Public Lands: Fire as a Management Tool
Reconsidered in order to effectively reshape how aspects of the traditional "Rs" (from the familiar Reduce EcoNews covering other, arguably more important, exponential, wasteful resource use on a finite planet.

Recycling alone isn't a solution to our waste woes. Many of us have been religiously recycling glass, aluminum, paper, and plastics for most of our lives, having been taught from a young age that it's the green, responsible thing to do. To a large degree, though, recycling has been a greenwash—providing a feel-good bandaid to the festering cancer of unchecked, capitalist, profit-focused production models.

Recycling alone isn't a solution to our waste woes. As several articles in this issue discuss, even though as individuals we may have the best intentions, we can't recycle our way out of a problem that grows from exponential, wasteful resource use on a finite planet.

Look for future articles in upcoming issues of EcoNews covering other, arguably more important, aspects of the traditional "Rs" (from the familiar Reduce Reuse Recycle theme) that need to be fundamentally reconsidered in order to effectively reshape how we live on our one Earth. As we face the risks of catastrophic climate change, reality requires us rise to the challenge.

**Have You Been Recycling Wrong?**

Susan Nolan

In the early 1970s, the environmental movement began to surge. Inspired by concerned citizens, grassroots recycling centers started popping up, including here in Arcata (read more on page 7).

In the early days, cleaning and sorting each item was required, because they were going straight to mills and smelters and different materials went to different processors. Glass bottles and metal cans had to be washed, with labels and rings removed to avoid contamination during processing. There was no market for plastic in the early years of recycling (and plastic bottles were not common yet anyway). Mixed material items like bimetal cans, with steel bottoms and sides and aluminum pop-top lid (now seldom seen), weren't accepted because they couldn't be processed.

The rise in single-stream processing eliminated the need to pre-sort recyclables. Most materials are collected mixed together to be sorted en masse in large facilities via a variety of methods and machinery (with human helpers). The single-stream process was developed to increase convenience and efficiency for both the consumer and the facilities, but as a result, the quality of the end product (clean, marketable bales of source material) has suffered greatly.

Having "done their part," by putting items in the bin, most people haven't thought much about where their recycling was going or what happened to it. We just assumed it was all (or mostly) being recycled.

Over the years, the U.S. became reliant on overseas markets, particularly China, to buy our recycling for processing. However, because single-stream facilities have failed to prevent contamination, and because the quantity of materials increasingly exceeds demand, large amounts of otherwise good recycling were increasingly being rejected, and therefore rendered trash.

As the world’s rejected recycling (garbage) began to accumulate in China, with increasing air pollution problems from toxic processing industries, their government decided to make a drastic change. In January 2018, China reduced the percentage of allowed contamination and tightened restrictions on what materials they would accept, effectively slamming the breaks on the market.

"Hopeful" or "magic" recycling—putting items in the recycling bin under the assumption or hope that it’s recyclable when it’s really not—has been a primary contributor to this massive problem. Presumably well-intentioned people drop styrofoam, food waste, miscellaneous plastics, dirty diapers, and all sorts of other random items into recycling bins, thinking “oh, they’ll figure out what to do with it.” Unfortunately, this can overwhelm sorting facilities, resulting in unacceptably high contamination rates.

Plastics are notorious offenders. With so many different types of plastic, and even with the variety of recycling arrows imprinted on them, the reality is that only some specific types of plastics are readily recyclable. Too much of the wrong kind can contaminate bales.

Contamination also occurs by contact with foods, liquids, grease, dirt, and oils. Glass, for example, is easily cleaned (and should be) before being put in the bin, but cardboard and other paper products are rendered unusable by contact with beverages or greasy foods because it soaks into and degrades the fibers.

The change in China’s policies has resulted in a recycling crisis in the U.S. and other countries, with materials piling up with nowhere for it to go. Unfortunately, in many places, most of it has been ending up going to landfills for lack of a better option. Some localities have stopped or drastically cut back their recycling programs, leaving residents with no alternative but to throw the items away, after decades of trying to convince people that recycling was important.

While some materials are being diverted to other markets, and development of new recycling facilities might be on the eventual horizon, the situation has thrown some sharp light on the underlying problem: we’re producing and using far too much stuff, particularly single-use items made from long-lasting materials.

Even at it’s best, recycling has never been an end-all solution. It’s an industrial process, consuming energy and water, and creating waste which can pollute water and air. Long-distance (often international) shipping of the materials also uses resources. In addition, most materials degrade with repeated processing.

We’ve come a long way since the 70s, but the basics remain true: recyclable materials need to be clean and separated to go to separate processors with different needs. If no one can process it, it’s trash. What can we do? Learn how to recycle properly, and find out what your recycling hauler actually wants (more information on this is provided in the continuation of this article, on page 22). Recycling is good, but not producing or purchasing items needing to be recycled is better. Read more from Zero Waste Humboldt on page 17.

_A Note from the Editor_

Morgan Corviday

Ah, Spring. As the winter rains start to subside, we are finally beginning to see green leaves budding and flowers blooming. Birds are singing in the trees, preparing nests for offspring soon to come. April also brings Earth Day—a day designated as a time to reflect on the importance of our planet and the life-support systems we all rely on.

While it would be ideal for Earth Day to be "Every Day," as the saying goes, the ever-increasing amount of garbage our culture produces is evidence enough that consideration of the planet is the last thing on the minds of most consumers going about their daily lives.

Many of us have been religiously recycling glass, aluminum, paper, and plastics for most of our lives, having been taught from a young age that it’s the green, responsible thing to do. To a large degree, though, recycling has been a greenwash—providing a feel-good bandaid to the festering cancer of unchecked, capitalist, profit-focused production models.

Recycling alone isn't a solution to our waste woes. As several articles in this issue discuss, even though as individuals we may have the best intentions, we can't recycle our way out of a problem that grows from exponential, wasteful resource use on a finite planet.

Look for future articles in upcoming issues of EcoNews covering other, arguably more important, aspects of the traditional "Rs" (from the familiar Reduce Reuse Recycle theme) that need to be fundamentally reconsidered in order to effectively reshape how we live on our one Earth. As we face the risks of catastrophic climate change, reality requires us rise to the challenge.
Massive Public Lands Bill Becomes Law

Includes good news for California

Ryan Hansen
Policy Director, California Wilderness Coalition

A massive collection of Republican and Democratic natural resources bills called S. 47, the Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, was signed by the president on March 12, 2019.

The bill stands out as unique in a number of ways. First, in this highly partisan age, it is a bipartisan measure that passed overwhelmingly in both houses. Second, it is not filled with a multitude of anti-environmental provisions so heinous that conservationists must oppose it (although there were some compromises—read more on page 9). Lastly, it is the first bill to pass in nine years that protects public lands and waters in California. Golden State conservationists struggled for nearly a decade to pass bills through a historically-dysfunctional Congress. The passage of S.47 is a welcome end to this long drought.

What will it do for California? First and most importantly, the bill permanently reauthorizes the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which Congress had allowed to expire in 2018. The U.S. government earns billions of dollars every year from royalties on the sale and extraction of oil and gas from public lands and waters. $900 million of these royalties are supposed to be put into the LWCF. National parks, national wildlife refuges, national forests, rivers and lakes, community parks, trails, and recreation facilities in every one of our 50 states were set aside and lakes, community parks, trails, and recreation facilities in every one of our 50 states were set aside and are supposed to be put into the LWCF. The LWCF also provides grants to protect wildlife habitat, critical drinking water supplies and disappearing historical resources. California has received approximately $2.5 billion in LWCF funding over the last 50 years. Now, conservationists must fight to get as much of the $900 million every year as possible until the day comes when our nation weans itself off of fossil fuels. Continued on page 21

Morgan Corviday

“The plan has been called a “progressive manifesto” and is essentially a call for an ecological revolution via innovative financing and a massive shift away from fossil fuels. Ambitious? Yes. A pipe dream? Maybe. Anything less, however, would fail to protect current and future generations from catastrophic climate consequences—arguably far more concerning than any industry or economist complaints about how disruptive to the status quo or how expensive this dramatic shift would be.

Climate science states we have only until 2025 to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Doing so requires bold, aggressive action. There is no time to waste. The Republican controlled Senate, however, is expected to block the vote on the resolution.

The Green New Deal - Five Goals

1. ACHIEVE NET-ZERO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS through a fair and just transition for all communities and workers.
2. CREATE MILLIONS OF HIGH-WAGE GOOD JOBS AND ENSURE PROSPERITY AND ECONOMIC SECURITY for all the people of the United States.
3. INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE AND INDUSTRY of the United States to sustainably meet the challenges of the 21st century.
4. SECURE A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL with clean air and water, climate and community resilience, health food and access to nature.
5. PROMOTE JUSTICE AND EQUITY by stopping current, preventing future, and repairing historic oppression of frontline and vulnerable communities.

"Climate change and our environmental challenges are one of the biggest existential threats to our way of life, not just as a nation, but as a world."
-Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Getting to the Root

Max Hosford
Cooperation Humboldt

Environmentalists are well-versed in articulating the ecological crisis. We can speak of rising sea levels, topsoil loss, vast gyres of garbage in every ocean, loss of habitat and biodiversity, and much more. We also know that hundreds of years of extracting and burning the Earth’s resources is what is causing this crisis. So why haven’t we been able to stop it?

I think the answer is simple. We haven’t gotten radical enough yet. This isn’t some sort of call-out or condemnation of all the organizers and activists who have spent decades working tirelessly to protect the environment. This essay is an appeal to be real, and to get radical—in the literal sense of the word. “Radical” comes from the Latin radix, meaning the root. No matter how much we may try to legislate and manage extractive industry and resource consumption, we’ll never achieve sustainability until we get to the root causes of the destruction. And the root cause is the economic system that has come to dominate the world: capitalism.

The logic of capitalism is simple: do whatever it takes in order to make a profit, and make sure your profits grow larger and larger. No matter how you attempt to manage capitalism, that fundamental drive remains. And that cannot be reconciled.

We must restructure our economic system if we are going to survive. We need a new system that puts people and planet over profits. We need and deserve a world based upon cooperation, caring, and regeneration rather than exploitation and extraction.

Some may accuse me of being an idealistic, pie in the sky Millennial. But there are folks all across the world who understand this, and there are groups here in Humboldt working to create that new system.

Cooperation Humboldt is a group of people dedicated to the radical and simple idea that we can meet all our needs to not only survive but to thrive, and can do so without exploiting anyone or harming the ecosystems we are a part of.

We have created multiple program areas (Housing, Food, Education, Energy, Arts/Culture, Finance), each designed to plant the seed of this new system right here where we live, work, play and pray.

At Cooperation Humboldt, we know it is necessary to resist oppression and exploitation, and we must also build new institutions and systems that meet our needs. We are dedicated to educating and equipping ourselves with the skills and tools to do so. Our theory of change integrates resisting, building, and empowering. In doing so, we hope to inspire others to join us in creating the world we deserve.

It is daunting to think about the changes we are going to experience in the coming years. We must confront this sobering reality; without a concerted and radical effort to change our course, the forces of capitalism will continue to push us towards complete climate collapse.

In 1916, Rosa Luxemburg said that society stood at a crossroads. She said the path forward was either socialism or regression into barbarism. Today the stakes are infinitely higher than they were in her time. In 2019, it’s socialism or extinction. It’s time to make our choice.

You can learn more about concrete projects like Little Free Pantries, converting lawns to gardens, creating a local Food Forest, Public Banking, Housing Cooperatives, worker-owned cooperatives, etc. online at www.cooperationhumboldt.com.

From Recycling to Reducing: A Brief History of Waste Management in Humboldt County

Ryan Call
NEC, EcoNews Archive Intern

Waste management is a crucial and often overlooked part of everyday life. Although the recycling model that has developed over the decades has been far from truly sustainable, recycling has been an important pillar of waste management and environmental consciousness. Humboldt County, and Arcata in particular, has a reputation for being a leader in progressive waste management beginning with efforts to kickstart recycling in the early 1970s. Today, active organizations continue to push for innovative waste management solutions that prioritize the environment.

Previously, all solid waste in the county would end up in various scattered unregulated dumps. The main dump, located outside of Eureka on Cummings Road, was privately operated and used the “open burn” method from 1933 through 1969. In 1971, the Cummings road dump became a regulated landfill owned by the Eureka Garbage Company. In 1999, Humboldt Waste Management Authority (HWMA) bought the landfill, closed it within a year, and has since been in charge of rehabilitating the area.

Another major local milestone was the creation of a community recycling center as part of the fledgling Northcoast Environmental Center in 1971. This grew to be the Arcata Community Recycling Center (ACRC) — one of the first non-profit drop-off recycling centers in the United States. We might take “blue bins” for granted now, but in the early 1970s recycling operated entirely on a grassroots level. ACRC became a proud staple of environmentalism in Humboldt County during the forty years it was in operation.

Through the 1980s, recycling became more commonplace across America, though even today there is still a significant percentage of the country that does not recycle at all or has limited options. The California Redemption... Continued on page 21
Godwit Days is an annual spring migration bird festival that celebrates the marbled godwit and all birds of Redwood Coast forests, bays, marshes, and mudflats. The festival provides a perfect opportunity to see tens of thousands of migrating shorebirds, the occasional rarity, pelagic birds, and spotted owls in the redwoods. You can learn bird calls, photograph birds at all elevations, identify dragonflies and damselflies, search for amphibians, recognize coastal flora, view children’s artwork, learn from renowned keynote presenters and numerous government and non-profit organizations, see 100+ birds on the Big Day trip and add to your life list.

The Arcata Community Center serves as the departure hub for most trips and houses an art show and Bird Fair. Choose from nearly 100 field trips, lectures, workshops, and boat excursions. Pre- and post-festival trips can extend your experience from April 17 to 23. Some trips have already been filled; for the most current information, visit [www.godwitdays.org](http://www.godwitdays.org).

The festival again offers two featured speakers. On Friday night, following the free opening reception, Noah Strycker, an associate editor of Birding magazine and author of four bird books (who set a world Big Year record in 2015) will speak on “Birds of the Photo Ark.” Other sessions where you can interact with Noah include an all-day trip on Thursday to Del Norte County, a 6-hour birthing trip on Saturday with a catered lunch, and a 1-hour workshop on Sunday.

The Saturday night keynote speaker is Dr. Peter Marra, director of the Migratory Bird Center at the Smithsonian’s National Zoo in Washington, D.C., and author of “Cat Wars.” He will enlighten attendees about how outdoor cats have contributed to declines in wild bird populations. Other sessions where you can interact with Peter are a half-day trip to the Blue Lake cottonwoods/Mad River Fish Hatchery on Saturday, a 6-hour birthing trip on Sunday with a catered lunch, and a 1-hour workshop on Sunday. All Basic Festival registrations include a keynote ticket, while the cost is just $10 for non-registrants.

**Free Events**

Free events for everyone include an opening reception, Friday night lecture, presentation of the sixth annual Humboldt County Bird of the Year award, Bird Fair vendor booths, an art show, family nature crafts sponsored by Friends of the Arcata Marsh (FOAM), and some field trips (price noted as $0.00 on event list, but require sign-up to reserve a spot). All entries in the 16th Annual Student Bird Art Contest by Humboldt County students in grades K-12, which is cosponsored by FOAM and Redwood Region Audubon Society (RRAS), will be on display, with awards for it and the RRAS Children’s Nature Writing Contest presented on Saturday, April 20.

**Godwit Goodies: Buy & Bid!**

Look over Silent Auction goodie on display in the main hall. To donate, call 707-826-7050. Come into Registration to purchase 2019 Godwit Days T-shirts featuring marbled godwit photos by David Price of Laughing Frog Photography.
Looking for someone not on this list? Make your voice heard

SAVE THIS LIST OF CONTACTS FOR YOUR REFERENCE

HUMBOLDT COUNTY SUPERVISORS
825 5th Street, Room 111
Eureka, CA 95501
1st District - Rex Bohn
707-476-2391
rbohn@co.humboldt.ca.us
2nd District - Estelle Fennell
707-476-2392
efennell@co.humboldt.ca.us
3rd District - Mike Wilson
707-476-2393
mike.wilson@co.humboldt.ca.us
4th District - Virginia Bass
707-476-2394
vbass@co.humboldt.ca.us
5th District - Steve Madrone
707-476-2395
smadrone@co.humboldt.ca.us

U.S. SENATORS - CALIFORNIA

Senator Diane Feinstein
https://feinstein.senate.gov/public
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20510
Phone: 202-224-3841

Senator Kamala Harris
https://harris.senate.gov
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20510
Phone: 202-224-3553

Look up other senators here:
https://www.senate.gov/senators/index.htm

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE - CALIFORNIA DISTRICT 2

Congressman Jared Huffman
https://huffman.house.gov
1406 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20515
Phone: 202-225-5161

Look up other representatives here:
https://www.house.gov/representatives

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR

Governor Gavin Newsom
https://www.gov.ca.gov
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916-445-2841
An email contact form can be found at https://govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov40mail/

Look up other California state legislators here: http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE NOT ON THIS LIST?
WWW.U.S.A.GOV/ELECTED-OFFICIALS

Questions? Contact the NEC at 707-826-6918
or nec@yournec.org.

The New 116th Congress

Dan Sealy, NEC Legislative Analyst
assisted by NEC Environmental Policy Intern, Tatian Garcia

After a significant delay caused by the government shutdown, the 116th congress kicked off with a new Democratic majority in the U.S. House. New members of the U.S. Senate were sworn in, committee chairs appointed, and hearings started with a bang. The House, determined to get climate change back on the agenda, started with a round of hearings to identify the various areas of concern and government responsibility for addressing the threats posed by climate change. These are primarily oversight or information-gathering hearings, but new legislation is expected to grow from them.

Our own Rep. Jared Huffman was appointed to this reinstated House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, chaired by Rep. Castor of Florida. As stated in the Press Democrat in February, “If Americans needed more proof that elections matter, this committee provides it. There had been a climate change committee launched back in 2007, but Republicans disbanded it when they took over the House in 2011. Under the GOP, climate change was a nonissue in Congress even as the dangers and impacts became ever more evident.”

It is a new day. Let’s get started.

Pushback on Offshore Oil Drilling

Early in his term, President Trump issued an executive order to open all of the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) for energy development (offshore oil and natural gas drilling). In January, 2018 then-Interior Secretary Zinke released the five-year Draft Proposed Program—which included leases along the entire length of the Pacific Coast. An announcement on the next stage is considered imminent.

Representatives of some coastal states, including California, have proposed legislation prohibiting oil and gas development in both state and federal waters. The first bill introduced by Rep. Jared Huffman in this congress, H.R. 310, the West Coast Protection Act of 2019, is one such bill. H.R. 310 would amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act by prohibiting oil and gas leasing in the outer continental shelf off the coasts of California, Oregon, and Washington. Huffman also introduced H.R. 309, the Stop Arctic Ocean Drilling Act of 2019, to extend closure of the OCS to the U.S. Arctic.

Huffman, along with 109 members of Congress, also introduced H.R.1146 the Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act to repeal the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) oil and gas program. While Huffman’s intentions are clear, congressional support for his cause is difficult to predict. Huffman introduced similar legislation in 2017, and though the bill garnered the support of many cosponsors, it died in the Senate Subcommittee of Energy and Mineral Resources. Senator Murkowski (R-AK) fought hard for her signature bill to open up ANWR to energy development and it is unlikely she will allow Huffman’s bill to pass in the Republican-controlled Senate nor is it likely President Trump would sign the bill if it reached his desk. Regardless, Rep. Huffman should be thanked for pushing back on this egregious attempt to expand the serious threat oil spills cause as well as the desperate attempt to feed the world’s insatiable appetite for oil and gas.

S.47 - Public Lands bill

The sweeping legislation had broad bipartisan support and was signed by President Trump in March (read more on page 6).

It is important to acknowledge, however, that the bill is, in fact, a compromise bill. The bipartisan desire in Congress to permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)—which skims proceeds from offshore oil profits to fund local and national conservation and recreation projects—was the driving force of the bill. However, key members of Congress were allowed to add projects to legislation that are important to their local constituencies, especially if they will soon be up for reelection.

Many of those projects are high priorities for conservationists such as the new designated wilderness acres in Southern Utah but, significantly, the legislation failed to address the reduction of acres in Bears Ears National Monument and the Grand Staircase of the Escalante by Trump and his henchman Sec. Zinke.

Also included was a significant victory for the National Rifle Association (NRA) and Safari Club International—two organizations that promote increased public hunting on federal lands and oppose most gun safety proposals. Our public lands (except National Parks) are now open for hunting unless the managing agency goes through a NEPA process to close the area to hunting.

More Federal Agency Musical Chairs

People move in and out of office at a staggering rate in the current administration. The latest include a new Secretary of the Interior (DOI) after Sec. Zinke resigned in disgrace due to unethical land dealings, and Scott Pruitt’s less repugnant but equally damaging replacement, Andrew Wheeler.

Visit this article on our website to read more about the new federal agency directors: www.yournec.org.
5th District Supervisor Steve Madrone: Putting Vision into Action

Terrika Zimmerman
NEC Policy Intern

Humboldt County’s new 5th District County Supervisor, Steve “Sungnome” Madrone, attended the Northcoast Environmental Center’s March Conservation Committee meeting to discuss some of his important conservation goals. Present at the meeting were representatives from numerous local environmental organizations, including several who also serve on the NEC board, as well as some NEC staff and student interns.

Madrone won the 5th District race by just a little over 100 votes last year. His mostly-rural district has a history of narrow margin elections.

As an active community member for over 40 years, his dedication to conservation efforts has had numerous positive impacts in Humboldt County.

Over the decades, Madrone has been an integral part of several conservation organizations including the Emerald Creek Committee (formed to work on the Redwood National Park expansion) and forming the Northcoast Rehabilitation Group. Working with these groups, Madrone has helped create more protection for old-growth forests and increased watershed restoration.

I did not have the opportunity to take a class with Madrone while he was a lecturer at HSU, so hearing him speak at the committee meeting was a privilege. One of the first things he mentioned was that through getting people to work together, all things become possible. I was instantly intrigued to hear more.

Madrone emphasized that the future of conservation relies on working as a team to resolve issues. He identified some of his core conservation priorities, including better county planning, ethical government, transparency in government (work without hidden monetary interests influencing outcomes), the impacts of cannabis grows on our communities, and the importance of fair consideration in the cannabis permitting process. He ended by returning to his overall theme: if we work with new alliances and cross ideological divides, we can achieve the county’s important environmental goals.

Madrone’s years of experience in conservation, organizing, and working with people of many different backgrounds allows him to connect with people and see eye to eye on issues relevant to them, the community, and the county as a whole. In becoming a county supervisor, he can apply his knowledge and real-world experience to a variety of situations affecting Humboldt County and its future sustainability efforts.

You can read more about Madrone’s background in the Kin to the Earth feature from the Oct/Nov 2018 edition of EcoNews, available on the NEC website here: https://www.yournec.org/kin-to-the-earth-steve-madrone.

Casey's Coastal Column: Earth Day Every Day Get Involved in NEC Coastal Programs!

Casey Cruikshank
NEC's Coastal Programs Coordinator

An Overview of the NEC's Coastal Programs

In 1979, Joe Abbott and his wife Ann Morrissey wrote a grant for what was called the “Beach Beautification Project.” It was a two-year project targeting Humboldt County’s coastline to clean debris from the beaches. They approached Tim McKay and Sid Dominitz at the Northcoast Environmental Center to help coordinate and sponsor the program. When grant funds ran out, the NEC began to work with other local businesses to allow community members to “adopt” a beach area and continue the cleanup efforts.

Adopt-a-Beach

These cleanups eventually became the Adopt-a-Beach program we know and love today. We offer guidance, cleanup supplies and an Adopt-a-Beach sticker to those who sign up and participate. It’s easy! Sign up on our website or swing by the NEC office to chat with Casey, the NEC’s Coastal Programs Coordinator, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Then, just check in once a month to log your volunteer cleanup hours and pounds of trash collected. Please tag us (@your_nec on Instagram or Northcoast Environmental Center on Facebook) in your beach clean photos on social media, or if you are not on social media send us your photos via email to casey@yournec.org.

Coastal Cleanup Day

After the California Coastal Commission learned of the beach cleanup successes in Humboldt County, they organized the first ever state-wide Coastal Cleanup Day in 1985. One year later, the Ocean Conservancy caught wind of it and jumped on board and the event quickly became an international sensation! The NEC is proud to have nurtured its humble beginnings right here in Humboldt County, and continue to coordinate local Coastal Cleanup Day efforts every year.

Coastal Cleanup Day 2019 will take place on Saturday, September 21. This year marks the NEC’s 40th beach cleanup anniversary! Mark your calendars for this important occasion and come on out to join in on the fun. Keep your eyes peeled for more information and new Coastal Commission poster and shirt designs for this year’s cleanup, to be announced later this summer. Updates will be posted on our website.

Adopt-a-Block

Adopt-A-Block was inspired by the Adopt-A-Beach program and also works to remove waste from our watershed. Much of the trash that we see on our local streets ends up in our waterways sooner or later. Our team of trusty volunteers works hard to keep the streets of Arcata and Eureka clean. Last year alone Adopt-a-Block volunteers removed over 2,500 pounds of trash and 21,000 cigarette butts.

The program has a heavy focus on cigarette butts because they are environmentally toxic and an important local issue. The NEC participates in a cigarette butt recycle program through TerraCycle. Participants pack up collected cigarette butts and bring them to the office where they are counted and shipped off to TerraCycle to be turned into park benches. Participants in this program report their hours, weight of debris collected, and cigarette butt finds to us once a month.

Earth Day

On Saturday, April 20, the NEC will be hosting an Earth Day cleanup event. Details will be announced on our website and our social media pages. Check for more information soon!

If you have any questions about our Coastal Programs just give us a call at the NEC office at 707-822-6918, or email Casey at casey@yournec.org.

More information on all these programs can be found on our website at www.yournec.org.

Avid local beach cleaner Aly Krystkowiak. Photo: Casey Cruikshank.
Kin to the Earth:

Carol Pearson Ralph

President of the California Native Plant Society Society, North Coast Chapter

Dave Imper

Carol Ralph lives and breaths the natural world, and delights in sharing her immense knowledge with a great many in our community and beyond. She is also a natural-born teacher. Many of you will recognize Carol as the face of the local chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) for nearly two decades. As chapter president, she is the spirited and welcoming host of our monthly programs. She also has led hundreds of CNPS field trips over the years, and for those partaking in the Annual Humboldt County Wildflower Show, she frequently has been the first person to greet visitors at the door. Carol’s sustained contributions locally to environmental education and public enjoyment of our natural surroundings on the North Coast are legendary, and in my view without equal. But that’s just part of her fascinating story.

While Carol wears more hats for CNPS than she cares to admit, or probably would like, her husband CJ can attest to the fact her first love is field trips, and sharing our incredible botanical diversity on the North Coast with others. Some of that love I’m sure can be traced to her rather unusual childhood. Her father was Oliver Payne Pearson, noted mammologist and Director of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at UC Berkeley. Like Carol, Dr. Pearson was an avid field biologist, as well as a self-described “original hippy,” who in the early 1950s outfitted a van and packed his young family off on collecting forays across the backcountry of South America. One of those trips even provided Carol with inspiration for a later scientific paper—a treatise on a cushion plant, *Azorella*, native to the high Andes. The paper includes a delightful picture of Carol, age 4, perched atop a 3,000-year-old, house-size cushion plant. Her mother, Anita Kelley Pearson, was also a mammologist and herpetologist at U.C. Berkeley, and well-published in her fields of expertise.

Not surprisingly, Carol pursued a science education, receiving her PhD from Cornell University, working with the large milkweed bug. During grad school she published multiple papers on the milkweed bug, bird distribution and ecology while in Colombia, and on sparrows at the Point Reyes Bird Observatory. Her extensive record of technical writing in many of the best scientific journals came as a surprise to me, both in the wide subject matter (wow, she’s not just a botanist!) and the fact that, until now, I had only appreciated her gift for elegant, lay writing style that she uses to great advantage in our CNPS newsletters.

Carol and CJ Ralph started their family in Hawaii in the early 1980s, and in 1983 purchased the Lanphere homestead on the coastal dunes west of Arcata. Hortense Lanphere was a local celebrity known for her early efforts to protect the fragile coastal dunes from marauding vehicles. She later deeded the dunes to The Nature Conservancy (eventually added to the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge). Lanphere’s recollections from her days wielding a shotgun in the dunes were put into popular book form by Carol and CJ, entitled “Bedlam on the Slough.” Still, for many of us in the botanical community in the 1980s, well aware of CJ’s ongoing bird research, Carol remained somewhat of a mystery. For many years Carol was preoccupied raising two sons—Peter, currently a professor at the University of Oregon, and Duncan, a research biologist. All that changed in 1998 when her eldest son turned 18, and Carol joined the CNPS board.

By 2003, she was our chapter president, and remains so to this day (comprising a full third of our chapter existence, but who’s counting?). She has led us through a period of unprecedented success in fulfilling our mission as the premier, non-profit advocate for science-based conservation and management of our native flora.

Some of the other CNPS activities Carol has helped spearhead include our native plant gardening consultation service, community native plant gardens, our native plant nursery and annual plant sales, and a group working to establish hiking trails at Horse Mountain. She not only leads most of our monthly field trips, but also follows up with several field trip reports in each of our bimonthly newsletters, the Darlingtonia, along with frequent articles highlighting native species, conservation, and other topics.

In 2005, she joined with others in acquiring land in rural Humboldt County that supported the entire global population of a threatened species of wild (two-flowered) pea (*Lathyrus biflorus*). Now covered under a conservation easement, continued on page 21...
Students Demand Climate Action

Millions of Students Walk Out to Demand Planetary Transformation

Julia Conley,
Staff Writer, Common Dreams

This article was originally published on CommonDreams.org under Creative Commons 3.0.

All over the planet on Friday, March 15, millions of youth walked out of their classrooms in an unprecedented collective action to demand a radical and urgent shift in society's energy and economic systems in order to avert the worst impacts of human-caused global warming and climate change.

With demonstrations in more than 100 countries and tens of thousands of schools, the worldwide Climate Strike is the largest since 16-year-old Greta Thunberg sparked a wave of increasingly huge marches and walkouts with her one-person strike outside the Swedish Parliament last year.

Since then, Thunberg has admonished and appealed to world leaders at COP24 and Davos, successfully securing a commitment from the European Union to fight the climate crisis while inspiring strikes all over the world.

“`We have been born into this world and we have to live with this crisis, and our children and our grandchildren,” Thunberg told a crowd of her peers in Stockholm. “We are facing the greatest existential crisis humanity has ever faced. And yet it has been ignored. You who have ignored it know who you are."

On social media, supporters posted images and videos of students chanting, marching, and waving signs demanding action from their elected officials as well as rebuking some leaders who have criticized the students for skipping school. As one sign in London read, “I’ll do my work when you do yours.”

Are you interested in providing feedback to guide Humboldt County’s multi-agency Climate Action Plan?
Take an online survey on their website at https://humboldtgov.org/2464/Climate-Action-Plan
Fish Farm Proposed for Former Pulp Mill in Samoa

Jennifer Kalt, Director

In February, the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation, & Conservation District voted unanimously to approve a $20,000/year, 3-year “Option Period” for Nordic AquaFarms subsidiary California Marine Investments, LLC to secure all the necessary permits, and a 30-year lease agreement with two 10-year options for its former pulp mill site in Samoa, giving Nordic AquaFarms’ subsidiary California Marine Investments, LLC site control while it develops plans and pursues permits for a land-based fish farm. The day after the lease agreement was signed, the Harbor District applied for a U.S. EPA Brownfields grant to assess soil contamination at the site.

Nordic AquaFarms, a Norwegian-based corporation, proposes to build a land-based fish farm at the former pulp mill in Samoa to raise 33,000 tons of steelhead or Pacific salmon. Company representatives say they would use a mixture of fresh and salt water, discharging up to 6 million gallons of treated wastewater per day through the existing ocean outfall, which extends 1½-miles offshore. Refurbishing the former pulp mill would also include removing the smokestack and other unused structures at the site along with other improvements.

In addition to committing to raising locally native species—no Atlantic salmon, for example—company representatives have promised to stay away from genetically engineered (GMO) fish and growth hormones. They have also said that they plan to use fish feed with less than 10 percent fish content to minimize consumer health concerns related to PCBs, dioxins, and mercury exposure. Minimizing the fish content in the feed is also essential for preventing harm to wild forage fish stocks, which are being overharvested all over the world.

Other than these verbal commitments, Nordic AquaFarms’ proposal is in the beginning stages, with no concrete details available at this time. Numerous permits and public review processes will be required by various state and local agencies. The project appears to be highly speculative so far, since it would be far larger than the company’s “Sashimi Royal” facility in Denmark, which produced 1,200 metric tons of yellowtail mackerel in 2017.

Besides questions related to the sheer size of the operation, many concerns will need to be addressed as this proposal moves forward, including:

- Confirming fish species that would be raised and the source of fish stock.
- Verifying ingredients and sustainability of the fish feed.
- Researching and monitoring potential legacy contamination associated with ground disturbance during demolition and construction.
- Assessing risks of disease, parasites, and any chemicals used to treat them that could affect the farmed fish and effluent discharge.
- Water quality impacts related to effluent concentrations and volumes to be discharged into the ocean.

Humboldt Baykeeper is in contact with Friends of Penobscot Bay, a Waterkeeper affiliate group that is opposed to a similar Nordic AquaFarms’ proposal in Belfast, Maine, which has been in process for the past year. Reviewing the company’s permit applications for the Maine proposal will provide a helpful preview of their proposed operations.

We will continue to research and review Nordic AquaFarms’ proposal, and will keep our members and the community informed of opportunities for input.

Long-time Baykeeper champion Charlie (Weasel) Butterworth recently passed away after a brief illness. Charlie has been an over-the-top dedicated Baykeeper supporter and mega-volunteer since the very beginning in 2004—stepping up to fill just about every volunteer role we had, plus some that he invented. He staffed the Old Town office on Fridays for years, faithfully monitored his neighborhood waterways, tabled at fairs and festivals, poured wine at Arts Alive (and also donated most of it every month!), and spent an afternoon every November making us all laugh while we stuffed our annual fund appeal envelopes. He was a generous donor and one of our most outspoken advocates. I am particularly grateful for his steadfast support through some difficult times for the organization, as well as giving times debating local politics, whether at his dinner parties, rolling bocce balls, or out on the town. His distinctive laugh will be dearly missed at Arcata Farmer’s Markets, Chamber mixers, barn dances...and pretty much every community social gathering around these parts.

Fare thee well, old friend.

Charlie reveling in a sunny day with good company on Humboldt Bay aboard his sailboat, June 2014. Photo: Jennifer Kalt.
Happy 20th Birthday to the Headwaters Forest Reserve

Rob DiPerna

Happy 20th Birthday to the Headwaters Forest Reserve! The 7,472-acre Headwaters Forest Reserve—located just south east of the City of Eureka, CA—was established on March 1, 1999 as part of the landmark Headwaters Forest Agreement between the U.S. government, the State of California, the MAXXAM Corporation and its subsidiaries, the Pacific Lumber Company, the Salmon Creek Corporation, and the Scotia-Pacific LLC.

The Headwaters Forest Reserve was created to protect the last large, intact, old growth coast redwood forest that remained in private ownership on the planet, punctuating a 13-year campaign that involved mass demonstrations and acts of non-violent civil disobedience, lawsuits filed by EPIC and others, and a huge network of groups and volunteers working to get the word out and influence lawmakers.

Only about 40 percent of the 7,472-acre reserve contained old growth or residual old growth at the time of the land transfer in 1999. There were clearcuts, landslides, and thousands of miles of roads and skid roads. Hundreds of old, failing stream crossings, and millions of tons of earthen material needed to be stabilized. Most of the previously-logged areas now contain even-aged stands thirty-years-old or less.

In addition to the congressional mandate to maintain existing old growth forests in the Reserve in an Ecological Reserve status, a mandate also exists to restore landscapes, watersheds, and forests previously damaged by logging. The BLM has removed roads, restored stream channels, fixed stream crossings, and thinned over-dense previously-logged stands, while it simultaneously monitors the endangered fish and wildlife that utilize the reserve as a last refugia, all as part of its Resource Management Plan for the Reserve.

Marbled murrelets, northern spotted owls, coho salmon, Pacific fisher, black bear, mountain lions, black-tailed deer, great horned-owls, tree-voles, and woodrats, just to name a few, call the Headwaters Forest Reserve home. The Reserve boasts flowers of spring Western trillium, and the serpent-like feted adder's tongue. Douglas iris, rhododendrons, and a barrage of berry blossoms and fruits also call the Headwaters Reserve home.

Twenty years later, the Headwaters Forest Reserve receives thousands of visitors each year. The South Fork Elk River Trailhead, located at the end of Elk River Road, south of Eureka, hosts hikers, runners, bicyclists, baby strolling and roller-blading as it follows the South Fork Elk River through the old logging ghost-town of Falk to the Headwaters Education Center.

The Headwaters Forest Reserve currently only contains two public hiking trails in keeping with the designation as an Ecological Reserve and part of the Bureau of Land Management’s National Conservation Lands Network.

The South Fork Elk River Trail is open for public day-use access, with a trail that runs nearly 11-miles round-trip. The Salmon Pass Trail is restricted access and is only open for tours seasonally with reservations made through the BLM. The Salmon Pass Trail is an approximately 3-mile loop that accesses the Salmon Creek side of the Reserve.

For more info visit www.wildcalifornia.org
State Water Board Rebuke

North Coast Water Board’s permits to control agricultural and forestry pollution are inadequate

Felice Pace
Water Resources Chair

In recent years, I have personally filed numerous requests with the North Coast Water Quality Control Board asking them to control agricultural pollution in the Scott River Basin, Lower Klamath Lake area, Tule Lake Basin, and adjacent to the Smith River Estuary. Clean up plans for water pollution in these areas are supposed to implement the Clean Water Act and are required to control deposition of livestock waste and protect riparian areas to reduce nutrient, sediment, and pesticide pollution in order to restore “swimable and fishable” stream conditions.

The pollution cleanup plans also require that landowners allow natural shade to develop and remain along streams that pass through their property to reduce excessively high stream water temperatures which, along with excess sediments and nutrients, are impairing beneficial uses of water, including culturally and economically important salmon fisheries.

All I have received in response to these requests, however, is lip service. The North Coast Board has refused to actually regulate and control agricultural pollution; staff and board continue to allow bank trampling, plowing right down to stream banks, shade removal, and the deposition of livestock waste directly into our streams.

I also began asking the California State Water Resources Control Board, which has a duty to “review the regional board’s action or failure to act” (Water Code Section 13320), to step in and force the North Coast Board to actually and effectively regulate agricultural pollution. The Karuk Tribe petitioned the State Board to challenge the North Coast Board’s Waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements for the Scott and Shasta River Basins.

The commercial salmon fishermen (Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations/PCFFA) challenged the North Coast Board's plan for “voluntary compliance” without a permit for lily bulb growers on Smith River Plain, adjacent to the Smith River Estuary, where more pesticides are found per acre than anywhere else in California. Pesticide residues and nutrients are present in surface and groundwater at levels toxic to aquatic life and those waters pose health risks for workers and other residents.

Finally, the State Water Board has responded. Rather than directly ordering changes, however, they chose instead to present the “Eastern San Joaquin Precedential Order” to the North Coast Board as an example of what must be included in orders, waivers, and permits to comply with federal and state anti-degradation requirements, as well as the State Board’s Enforcement and Non-Point Source Pollution Policies.

The Water Board’s Non-Point Source Policy refers to so-called “diffuse” sources of pollution including stormwater, pollution from forestry activities, and pollution from agriculture. The policy requires that five key elements be included in all orders to control agricultural, forestry and stormwater pollution (see box at right).

Most of the North Coast Water Board’s agricultural and forestry orders do not contain all required elements. Critically and chronically missing are “evaluation programs” and “feedback mechanisms,” including monitoring actual water quality conditions, needed to ensure “proper implementation and verification” and “all necessary implementation actions to meet water quality requirements.”

What happens now?

Now that the State Water Board has (albeit gently) made clear the North Coast Board’s non-compliance with the Clean Water Act’s requirements, I’ve asked the North Coast Board to identify those orders, permits, and waivers that do not comply and develop a timeline for fixing them. And I have specifically identified the North Coast Board’s so-called “Stewardship Program” for the Klamath River Basin, which amounts to voluntary compliance, as also in violation of key State Water Board policies implementing the Clean Water Act.

The North Group will be attentive to see how the North Coast Water Board and its staff respond to the State Board’s rebuke. The North Coast Board’s recent announcement that it will develop a permit for lily bulb growing adjacent to the Smith River Estuary is a good sign. However, if the Board fails to define a clear path and timeline to bring its agricultural and forestry orders, permits and waivers into compliance with State Board requirements, The North Group and others will once again be petitioning the State Board.

This time we will challenge the non-regulatory and illegal “stewardship” policy, which has failed to control the Klamath River’s agricultural pollution. In some years, the pollution kills most juvenile Klamath River salmon before they can reach the Pacific Ocean. That must end. In addition to dam removal, adequate control of agricultural pollution in the Upper Basin, Shasta, and Scott watersheds is necessary in order to restore the Klamath River and Klamath salmon. Anything less is unacceptable. Stay tuned.

The Water Board's Non-Point Source Policy requires the following five key elements:

- **Key Element 1:** A NPS control implementation program’s ultimate purpose must be explicitly stated and at a minimum address NPS pollution control in a manner that achieves and maintains water quality objectives.
- **Key Element 2:** The NPS pollution control implementation program shall include a description of the management practices (MPs) and other program elements expected to be implemented, along with an evaluation program that ensures proper implementation and verification.
- **Key Element 3:** The implementation program shall include a time schedule and quantifiable milestones.
- **Key Element 4:** The implementation program shall include sufficient feedback mechanisms so that the [Regional Water Board], dischargers, and the public can determine if the implementation program is achieving its stated purpose(s), or whether additional or different MPs or other actions are required.
- **Key Element 5:** Each [Regional Water Board] shall make clear, in advance, the potential consequences for failure to achieve an NPS implementation program’s objectives, emphasizing that it is the responsibility of individual dischargers to take all necessary implementation actions to meet water quality requirements.

Please Join Us!

The North Group’s Executive Committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the first floor conference room at the Adorni Center on the waterfront in Eureka. The meeting covers regular business and conservation issues, beginning at 645 p.m. Members and non-members with environmental concerns are encouraged to attend. When a new person comes to us with an environmental issue or concern, we often place them first or early on the agenda.
Beginners and experts, non-members and members are all welcome at our programs and on our outings. Almost all of our events are free. All of our events are made possible by volunteer effort.

Field Trips & Plant Walks
April 14, Sunday. 1-3 p.m. Botanizing the Hammond Trail Loop. Wildflower author and enthusiast Elaine Allison will lead this one-mile walk along coastal bluffs and coastal prairie, through beach pine and streamside forests. Meet at the west end of Murray Rd. For information: 707-822-2015, theralphs@humboldt1.com.

April 20, Saturday. 12:30-3:30 p.m. Native Plants in Arcata’s Gardens and Forest. Join Carol Ralph, Anna Bernard, and Pete Haggard for a three-mile walk from the Arcata Community Center to Arcata Community Forest and back to see native plants in public and private landscapes and redwood forest. Call 707-826-7050 to register for this free trip sponsored by CNPS at Godwit Days, or register for Godwit Days at www.godwitdays.org.

April 27, Saturday. 10 a.m. to 12 Noon. Ferns of the Dunes. At the Lanphere Dunes Unit of the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Carol Ralph will introduce eight species of common ferns during an easy quarter-mile walk along the riparian edge of the dunes. Meet at Pacific Union School in Arcata and carpool to the protected site. Co-sponsored by CNPS and Friends of the Dunes. Reserve your space by contacting Friends of the Dunes at 707-444-1397 or info@friendsoftheflats.org.

April 28, Sunday. Coyote Creek Basin Day Hike. We will look for spring in the oak woodland and coastal prairie of the southeast corner of Redwood National Park near the Lyon Ranch Trail off Bald Hills Rd. (elevation 1,700-2,900 ft.). We might shuttle cars and walk the 5.1-mile route as suggested in Ken Burton’s Hiking Humboldt Vol. 1, 55 Day Hikes in Northwest California. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 9 a.m. at Pacific Union School to carpool. Tell Carol you are interested: 707-822-2015; theralphs@humboldt1.com.

May 18, Saturday. Pine Ridge Trail Day Hike. This trail in oak woodland of Lacks Creek Management Area takes us past delphiniums, pussy ears, violets, lupines, blue dicks, iris, checker lily, and an oak woodland restoration project. We will hike about four miles on uneven trail with little change of elevation. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Pacific Union School. Bring lunch and water. Carol: 822-2015; theralphs@humboldt1.com.

May 19, Sunday. 1-3 p.m. Rohner Park: a rich history and flora. Join Wiyot Tribe botanist Adam Canter for an easy one-mile walk in a small, rich, old stand of second growth Redwood right in Fortuna. See as many as ten species of ferns, and numerous, dainty, redwood forest flowers. Meet at the Fireman’s Pavilion in Rohner Park. For information: 707-822-2015 or theralphs@humboldt1.com.

Evening Programs
May 10, Wednesday. 7:30 p.m. “Native Plants: the Wild among Us.” Dr. Eva Begley, author of the recently published Plants of Northern California: A Field Guide to Plants West of the Sierra Nevada, botanized for 40 years in the Sacramento region, mostly in suburbia, wildlife areas, and agricultural lands. She will surprise you with the array of native plants she found—from the tiny to the showy.

May 8, Wednesday. 7:30 p.m. “Blue Collar Botany.” Artist and railroader Joey Santore began his journey into botany ten years ago by studying conifers and is currently fascinated with the sunflower family, Asteraceae. His wonderful photos will take us to destinations in the United States and Mexico and share his passions for native plants, the mysteries of plant distributions, the genus Hesperocyparis, desert flora, evolutionary radiations, and street tacos.

Sign up for e-mail announcements: Northcoast_CNPS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
For more details and later additions, visit: WWW.NORTHCOASTCNPS.ORG

Spring Wildflower Show & Native Plant Sale
the North Coast celebration of wild California plants • Free, open to all!
This annual celebration of wild plants is now so big, it is in two places! Visit both sites to marvel at the plants and to mingle with fellow plant enthusiasts.

Show: May 3 2-8 p.m.
      May 4 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
      May 5 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
at the Jefferson Community Center, 1000 B Street, Eureka
contact: Susan 672-3346

Show Features:
• oak woodland displays and lectures
• hundreds of fresh flowers, native and non-native
• speakers on oak woodlands, Karsus and oaks, native plant gardening, and painting oaks
• Wiyot land management
• Wildflower art workshop Friday, 7 p.m.
• experts to identify your wild plant • invasive plant game
• wildflower posters and postcards and plant books to buy
• wild, edible plants • plants of the dunes • and more!

Sale: May 4 (10 a.m.-4 p.m.)
      May 5 (10 a.m.-4 p.m.)
at the Freshwater Farms Reserve (North Coast Regional Land Trust) 5851 Myrtle Ave, Eureka
contact: Chris 826-0259

Sale features:
• thousands of plants from five nurseries
• milkweeds and cheerful annuals • beautiful bulbs
• trees, shrubs, and perennials • ferns and succulents
• experienced gardeners to help you
• cash, check, or credit card

Find updates and details at www.northcoastcnps.org
Maggie Gainer

Malcom Gladwell defined a tipping point as “the moment of critical mass, the threshold, the boiling point.” Indications are that the U.S. public is gradually awakening to the fact that we cannot recycle ourselves out of the increasing problems caused by single use plastics (read more on page 5). For example, the growing concern about the proliferation of disposable items made to be used only once, brought the word “single-use” to the top of Collins Dictionary’s 2018 Word of the Year list.

For too many years, we have seen photos of plastic-littered beaches, dead whales and birds with plastic-filled stomachs, and heard stories of the multiple massive gyres of suspended plastic waste in the world’s oceans. Recent research found microplastics in the bodies of every deep sea creature sampled in the depths of our deepest ocean trenches. Data predicts there will be more plastic than fish, by weight in the oceans, by weight, by 2050.

Taxpayers, ratepayers, and consumers are slowly making the connection between excessive plastic packaging for shelf appearance and fast food, and increasing costs to their household budgets. There is a new feeling among Gen X,Y,& Zers, that the extreme convenience of plastics just isn’t worth the environmental damage. Social media is full of living-without-plastics and lifestyle change advice.

In the past two decades, an over-emphasis on recycling and landfill diversion has sidetracked and distracted our focus from the external upfront costs of resource extraction and the energy used to manufacture and distribute wasteful, single-use packaging and products. We are starting to see a heightened awareness of the need for manufacturers to redesign packaging to use less plastic and produce less waste, which is stirring more conscious consumer advocacy and attention toward life-cycle costs and long-term consequences of packaging.

While it is encouraging that some cities are taking steps to reduce the availability of plastic single-use items like to-go containers, straws, and bottles, we have not yet reached a significant enough groundswell for major change. A recent plastics industry report shows steady annual increases in plastic water and beverage containers. The report projects continued growth.

A real tipping point will come when environmental and consumer activists, governments, and businesses all actively work together toward a drastic reduction in single-use plastics.

Consumer opinion can go a long way toward initiating change. A recent petition, circulated by Greenpeace, gathered over 100,000 signatures, and appealing to grocery chain Trader Joe’s to reduce their plastic waste. The petition was successful, and the chain announced they would take steps to phase out single-use plastics at their stores.

Last month, the California legislature introduced a bill that will require plastic and other single-use materials sold in California to be either reusable, fully recyclable or compostable by 2030. New definitions will be needed for recyclability to include the carbon footprint and affordability for collection, processing, long distance transport, and manufacturing from rural regions.

To assist Redwood Coast local governments, Zero Waste Humboldt research associate, Kelly Fortner, completed a summary of hundreds of U.S. local government ordinances and actions to reduce single use plastic water bottles, bags, straws, styrofoam, and other food service items.

For more information about this summary of local government action and California’s plastics-related bills working their way through the legislature this year, email contact@zerowastehumboldt.org.
Public Transit as a Civil Right

Colin Fiske, Executive Director

Monday, February 4, was the second annual Transit Equity Day, organized by a national coalition of groups ranging from labor unions to the Sierra Club to the NAACP. The date is significant: It’s the birthday of Rosa Parks, who in 1955 famously refused to give up her bus seat to a white woman in Montgomery, Alabama. This courageous act is remembered as a spark that helped ignite major civil rights actions and campaigns across the nation. But the fact that her action took place on a bus and the significance of the following Montgomery Bus Boycott—not just for civil rights, but also for public transportation—is often largely ignored. That’s why the organizers of Transit Equity Day are calling for public transit to be recognized as a civil right in and of itself.

It’s an uncomfortable but undeniable fact that in our nation low-income people and people of color are more likely than high-income people and white people to rely on public transit. A survey of cities across the country demonstrates that the same communities that rely most heavily on transit are the ones most likely to be affected by service cuts and fare increases. Furthermore, research shows that the people who are least likely to own and operate a personal vehicle are the most at risk from the health-harming air pollutants emitted by vehicles and from the effects of global climate change exacerbated by driving.

Recognizing public transit as a civil right is a first step toward addressing these unacceptable disparities and building a transportation system that works for everybody. In practical terms, a right to public transit means more access to jobs, shopping, and social activities, which stimulates local economies. It means a higher-quality transit system, which will draw more people out of their cars and reduce the dangerous tailpipe emissions we all breathe in every day. And because transportation is the biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions in our state and our country, it means a less severe climate crisis for the entire planet.

Talk of public transit can sometimes seem rather distant in a remote, rural area like ours, where options have always been somewhat limited. But the need to view transit as a civil right is just as important here as it is in a big city.

Local agencies on the North Coast are working hard to provide services with extremely limited resources, and there are some promising signs. The Humboldt Transit Authority is making plans for a solar-powered charging station and new electric buses. The Eureka Transit System is exploring the possibility of a new route map that would provide more direct and more frequent service. The City of Arcata is considering high-density housing projects that would provide free bus passes to all residents. Still, so much more needs to be done.

The Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities joins the organizers of Transit Equity Day in calling for critical improvements in our public transit systems both locally and nationally, including: more funding for public transit, more inclusive transit-oriented development, improved transit service in underserved areas, and reducing fares for certain populations. Once we acknowledge the critical role of public transit in supporting local communities, and the devastating effects of disparities in access to transportation, it becomes clear that we must view public transit as a civil right. And once we recognize public transit as a civil right, there are no more excuses.
Wolf Recovery in Crosshairs Again

Joseph McDonald
EPIC, Intern

Once again, gray wolves are in the crosshairs. On March 14, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service formally announced its plan to delist gray wolves across the lower 48 states. Ten years ago, the Obama administration tried to remove gray wolves from Endangered Species Act protections, but enough lawsuits and complaints stopped it from proceeding. Now the Trump administration, which has proven to be no friend to the environment, is trying again.

The return of wolves to some regions should be celebrated and fostered, but the federal government sees the recovering wolf populations in some regions as an excuse to abandon the commitments that it made to protect them across the country, which will leave wolf families vulnerable to trophy hunters, ranchers, and the interests of state governments.

Wolf recovery is still in the very early stages in many places, however. In 2011, gray wolves were spotted in California for the first time in decades. EPIC and others are striving to protect and restore wolf populations and their native habitat in the northwest and throughout America. We will fight to convince U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, either through lawsuits or petitions, that wolves deserve a place in this country just as much as we do. Stay tuned for future action alerts from EPIC and other organizations!

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will accept public comments until May 14, 2019. More information and a link to make formal comments can be found at https://www.fws.gov/home/wolfrecovery/.

Wildlife Care Center Provides Priceless Care on a Shoestring

Monte Merrick
Humboldt Wildlife Care Center/Bird AllyX

Last year, between the 1160 patients treated at Humboldt Wildlife Care Center, and the 440 birds admitted during the botulism outbreak at the Lower Klamath Refuge north of Shasta, life-saving care was provided for 1600 wild animals.

While some patients are more expensive to care for than others, care costs averaged about $70 per patient in 2018. For this meager amount, hundreds of our wild neighbors were successfully treated and released back to the wild. We are proud of being able to do so much on so little.

This remarkable success also feels like a failure, because there’s never more in the bank than is needed to barely get through the month. It is especially challenging to enter the busy Spring wild baby season uncertain of where funding will come from, or if there will be enough. On such a tight budget, with lives on the line, there is no room for cutting corners. We are also trying to expand the care we provide, as well as expand our education and outreach efforts promoting co-existence with our wild neighbors.

When Bird Ally X took over the management of HWCC in 2011, the organization had no full-time staff, a facility that was only sporadically open, and no capacity to provide quality care for more than a few species of raptors and songbirds. Aquatic birds (50 percent of our caseload) were sent 300 miles away to a facility in the Bay Area.

Have You Seen a River Otter?

River otters are important top predators in the North Coast aquatic food chain. You can help track ecosystem health by reporting sightings of river otters in Humboldt and Del Norte counties for an ongoing study.

Record date, time, map location, # of otters, and submit your observations to: otters@humboldt.edu or 707-826-3439.

Bayside Pride, Inc. and the Jacoby Creek Land Trust have partnered to focus on the plight of the iconic monarch butterfly. The Bayside Monarch Project was first inspired by Bayside resident, Richard Beresford, who several years ago began a backyard project growing milkweed to attract monarch butterflies and provide a haven for their eggs. The Bayside organizations joined forces for the project’s two main goals: (1) to learn what we can do and to take action in our Jacoby Creek Valley to save monarchs from extinction; and (2) to mobilize the community—bringing together Bayside residents, organizations, and schools for planting work parties, speaker series, monarch art exhibits, movie nights, and the necessary measurement and monitoring of citizen science.

Just launched this month, local and national resources are being compiled by HSU student, Kayla Garcia, for her senior capstone project. If you want to be informed of this project’s progress and upcoming Bayside events for and about the monarch, email baysidepride24@gmail.com or call Jacoby Creek Land Trust at 707-822-0900.

New Bayside Monarch Project

Every Thursday
1:30pm on KHSU - 90.5FM
Tune in for a half hour of interviews and discussion on a variety of environmental topics on the EcoNews Report!
Featuring a rotating cast of NEC and Member Group representatives.
Listen later on our website or find the podcast on iTunes.
www.yournec.org/econews-report
Spring is springing, and it’s time to start doing yardwork and planting our gardens for the coming year. It’s important to consider whether the plants you choose are helping to support the local native wildlife as well. Pollinators are crucial not just to a variety of flowering plants, but also to our human food supply.

When we think of pollinators, our beloved honeybees often come to mind. While honeybees are one of the most important pollinators for our food supply, there are a number of other native beneficial insects as well. In California, we have thousands of different species of native bees, hoverflies, butterflies, and moths. Hummingbirds are also important pollinators. With such a variety of pollinators its good to keep in mind their different needs in order to encourage all different kinds into our backyards.

**Different needs.** Bees, butterflies, and birds all enjoy nectar, which is why they are attracted to our flowering gardens, but each have different needs and preferences in flower shape due to their particular adaptations. Hummingbirds prefer long tubular flowers. Plants like fuchsias, penstemon, and salvias are perfect for them. Butterflies like tubular plants as well, but prefer clustering flowers with tubular centers which are easy to land on, like lilacs and milkweed, as well as flat headed flowers like echinacea and black-eyed-Susan’s.

Bees, having much shorter tongues, prefer short-tubed flowers with single sets of petals, like peas and clover. They like good landing pads, open bowl shaped flowers, flower clusters, and flat-headed flowers. Bees collect both pollen and nectar so they visit a wider variety of flowers than other pollinators. Many small solitary bees and hoverflies enjoy the open spread of umbel shaped flowers, such as dill and fennel.

**Color** is also a factor in determining which pollinators will be attracted. We all know that a hummingbird’s favorite color is red, but what about bees? Have you ever seen a bee in a red flower? Probably, but bees can’t see the red color spectrum. To attract bees, purple and blue flowers are most attractive, due to the bees’ ultraviolet spectrum vision. Butterflies and moths view a much wider range of color, so shape is typically more important than color. Creating a diverse garden with a variety of color, species, and flower shapes will create shelter and food for a more diverse group of pollinators.

**No matter how large or small your space,** there is always room for a few pollinator-friendly plants. If you only have a small patio or garden space, just tuck in a few extra flowering plants. For larger spaces, planting in mass is best, as that will draw in more pollinators. Honeybees in particular are efficiency-driven, feasting where there is an abundance of food, rather than flying around from one lot to the next.

**Go Native.** It’s best to choose as many native plants as possible. Natives are adapted to thrive with our climate, soils, and insects and will therefore require the least amount of effort with the most benefit. Hybrids, which are bred specifically for their larger showy presence, are not always beneficial to pollinators. A mixture of natives and non-natives can create a nice visual balance and still creates a diverse ecosystem.

**It is always best practice to stay away from insecticides** as pesticide residue often ends up in the nectar and pollen of a plant. Even the most eco-friendly substances can be harmful if used incorrectly, so be careful.

**Another factor to consider is bloom time.** It’s beneficial to both you and pollinators to have plants blooming throughout the growing season, so there is continuous food and flowers to enjoy. Plan ahead and include types that bloom in each season.

---

There are many varieties of flowers that benefit our local pollinators. Below is a short list of plants you might consider adding to your space.

**Early Spring**
- Baby blue eyes/five spot—low growing, native, attracts native bees. Tolerates shade and moisture. Annual.
- Lupine—different varieties bloom at different times, adaptive to many soil types. Attracts all pollinators, full sun, drought tolerant once established. Perennial.

**Midseason**
- Clarkia and California poppies—seed out late winter/early spring in well draining soil. Full sun, drought tolerant, native. Annual/Perennial.
- Beardedtongue (penstemon) and salvias (sage)—large variety of colors and species available. Attracts all pollinators. Full sun for best bloom, drought tolerant once established, prune back each fall. Perennials
- Herbs—thyme, oregano, chives, basil, mint, dill, fennel, sage, borage and rosemary- these flowering herbs are fantastic for bees. A great place to start if you want to enjoy the flavors of your garden while you benefit the bees. Annual/Perennial.

**Late Season**
- Sunflowers/rudbeckia/coneflowers/echinacea/black eyed Susan’s—There are many names and varieties. All plants in this family are fantastic for bees and butterflies. Easy to care for, and a powerhouse of flowers. Full sun, drought tolerant. Perennial
- Lavender and sedums—Once in bloom these flowers will be buzzing. Full sun, drought tolerant, well drained soil or rock garden. Lavender trim back in fall, sedums die back to the ground each year. Perennial
- If you can only plant one plant, borage (bee-bush) is a great one for pollinators and a fantastic plant for many reasons. It can bloom year round in our mild climate. Grow from seed in humus soil rich in organic matter. Plant among squash, cucumbers and tomatoes to attract pollinators to your garden.

**MAY YOUR GARDEN BUZZ WITH POLLINATORS!**
REC YCLING HISTORY
Continued from page 7

...Value (CRV) bottle deposit was created in 1988 to incentivize recycling, although this fee and other related incentives did nothing to reduce the amount of bottles being used in the first place.

Recycling as an environmentall-consciously action caught on at Humboldt State University when the Campus Recycling Program (CRP) was created in 1988. The CRP was a student-run volunteer organization that collected recyclable materials all over campus and brought them to the ACRC. In 2010, CRP evolved into the Waste-Reduction & Resource Awareness Program (WRAP) which handles many sustainable projects.

In 2007, the ACRC built an $8 million state-of-the-art Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) on the Samoa Peninsula, with the expectation that they would continue to process the recyclables that HWMA received, as they had for years at their prior facility. In 2010, HWMA had voted to buy ACRC's facility in Samoa, but then instead signed a contract to send their recyclables to Solid Waste of Willits in 2011. The ACRC saw this move as an attempt to sabotage their business, which ultimately put them in a position of having to sell the Samoa MRF at a foreclosure price.

When Recology, a San Francisco-based company, came to Humboldt, they streamlined curbside recycling collection into a single-stream system, which is more convenient for the public but worse for the quality of the recyclable materials (read more about this issue on page 5).

After the forced closure of ACRC, former members created Zero Waste Humboldt (ZWH) to focus on preemptive waste reduction solutions instead of only dealing with the end products. The NEC is proud to have Zero Waste Humboldt as an associate member group, and is also proud of our long history of cleanup efforts to keep waste out of our waterways (read more on page 17).

While the extreme proliferation of plastics (particularly single-use products and packaging), single-stream recycling systems that result in contaminated materials, and China’s change in recycling policies, waste management has become an urgent global issue. Humboldt, once driven by the passion of grassroots recycling activists in the 70s, is again leading the way with progressive perspectives on recycling and waste management by focusing on waste prevention.

Reducing resource consumption and eliminating single-use packaging, particularly from long-lasting, toxic materials like plastic, is our only way forward.

S. 47 will also greatly benefit the public lands in the California desert. The legislation includes another bill, Senator Dianne Feinstein’s (D-CA) and Congressman Paul Cook’s (R-8th District) California Desert Protection and Recreation Act (CDPRA). CDPRA will protect over 375,000 acres (585 square-miles) of public land as “wilderness” (the most protective designation available for federal public lands), enlarge Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks and the Mojave National Preserve by over 39,000 acres, and designate over 77 miles of streams under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, which means that they can never be dammed or developed in other ways. The bill will also protect vast swathes of the Mojave, Sonoran and Great Basin deserts from all development, including mining, and includes a provision requiring the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to “establish policies and procedures to ensure the preservation of wildlife corridors and facilitate species migration” across the 10 million acres it manages in the region.

The bill also protects specific special places in California’s vast deserts, such as the Alabama Hills in Inyo County. Countless movies, television shows, commercials and other productions have used the superlative Alabama Hills as a backdrop, including Django Unchained, Star Trek, and Iron Man. The legislation will protect these scenic values while maintaining and restoring its important plant and wildlife habitat and recreation values. The bill will also protect and attempt to restore an area in Imperial County known as Vinagre Wash, part of the largest complex of Sonoran Desert woodlands in California and require the government to establish a Desert Tortoise Conservation Center for the purpose of supporting the recovery of this imperiled species.

Of primary interest to Congressman Cook is the fact that the bill will also protect six existing off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation areas from ever being closed to recreation by the military, for mining or for energy development, all of which has happened in the past. The BLM is required to develop management plans for the six areas for the first time. This is important because while they are all popular sites for OHVs (and have been so since the 1950s), these areas have never undergone any formal planning processes to identify and mitigate the impacts of OHV use.

Lastly, the bill also establishes a memorial to the victims of the failure of the Saint Francis Dam in Los Angeles County in 1928 that killed an estimated 400-600 people downstream. The dam failure did not fit with the empire-building narrative in California at the time, so the disaster and its victims were never given proper recognition. Now, a memorial and monument will be established at the now-peaceful and pleasant site of the former dam.

KIN: CAROL RALPH
Continued from page 11

...that property will be managed in perpetuity for the benefit of the pea. While Carol has volunteered for many other local non-profits, she is—to our great satisfaction—CNPS’ prized secret weapon.

If all this weren’t enough, in 1981 Carol and CJ joined wildlife colleagues in what has become a life-long effort to restore Moturoa Island, a severely degraded, 200-hectare isle just off the coast of northern New Zealand. Carol assumed the role of restoration botanist, helping inventory the island species, exotic removal, and native plant propagation and planting efforts. CJ suggests this is really where she honed her botanical skills above all else.

Beyond her immense energy, dedication, patience, and other leadership skills, Carol is all around a really nice person (NOTE: nothing to do with the fabulous campfire berry cobbler she occasionally conjures up on overnight fieldtrips). For so many reasons, she is—“Kin to the Earth, and—lucky for us”—“Kin to the North Coast.”

visualize
Your Ad Here

call 822-6918 or email editor@yournec.org

used redwood
LORELEI LANE, ARCATA
OLDGROWTHTIMBERS.COM 707-834-5340
Is this Recyclable?

Maureen Hart, an Arcata based sustainability consultant who previously ran a large recycling center and processing company in San Francisco, shared her insights with EcoNews about how to be a good recycler:

**Aluminum foil:** Make sure it's clean of food, and ball it up so the material is more substantial.

**Styrofoam:** Not recyclable here. Avoid it in every shape and size. Why hasn't it been banned yet?

**Plastic bags and wrap:** Not recyclable locally. Sometimes grocery stores take plastic bags back and send them as a back haul to their warehouse to be sold out of the regional area. Plastic wrap is also not recyclable and should be avoided (reuseable alternatives are easily available).

**Paper:** Mills need clean, uncontaminated paper, and many can only handle some types of paper. As a rule of thumb, think water soluble—if it breaks down in water, that is okay to recycle; if the glue does not easily break down, then it’s not recyclable. Freezer boxes or waterproofed paper (like disposable coffee or soup cups) are usually lined with plastic and are not recyclable.

**Aseptic cartons** (plant-based milks, soups, etc): Not recyclable. This is a layered material that has paper, foil, and plastic. Special extractors are needed to separate the different components, and are not widely available.

**Milk cartons** are lined and not accepted.

**Pizza boxes:** Usually contaminated with greasy food and therefore not recyclable. One option is to separate clean pieces to recycle and dispose of the rest.

**Coffee cups:** Coffee cups are lined with plastic and not recyclable. Bring your own cup instead.

**Brown box take-out containers:** Also lined with plastic. I composted a few as a test, and it leaves a big clump of plastic. The pressed containers that are made from a plant fiber and not sprayed with plastic are compostable. Bring your own container instead!

**Paper plates:** Not accepted as recycling and are usually contaminated with food. If they are not coated with plastic, they can be composted.

**Banana peels and apple cores:** Compost does not belong in recycling!

**Food in containers:** No! Empty and clean your containers.

**Leave the tops off bottles as a general rule.** Recyclable materials are compressed into bales, so closed bottles require extra energy to pop.

**To find out what's currently accepted in your area,** check with your local waste hauler. Recology serves most of Humboldt County (Eureka location: 707-442-5711; Fortuna: 707-725-5156). Their recycling list can be found at [www.recology.com/recology-eel-river/what-goes-where/](http://www.recology.com/recology-eel-river/what-goes-where/). Recycling is accepted at their transfer stations at 965 Riverwalk, Fortuna, and on Conservation Camp Road in Redway. Recology also runs the Samoa recovery center where curbside recycling is sorted.

Humboldt Sanitation (707-839-3285) serves McKinleyville north to Big Lagoon. Their recycling list is available at [www.humboldtsanitation.com/humboldtrecycling/index.html](http://www.humboldtsanitation.com/humboldtrecycling/index.html). They accept recycling at their transfer station at 2585 Central, McKinleyville, where you can sort it yourself, bypassing the curbside single-stream system.

---

**Found an injured animal?**

If you are in Humboldt, Del Norte, Trinity, or Northern Mendocino counties, call the Humboldt Wildlife Care Center (open every day) at 707-822-8839.
Northcoast Environmental Center
415 I Street, Arcata, CA 95521
MAIL TO: PO Box 4259, Arcata, CA 95518

Help us continue to advocate, educate, and bring you ECOnews

YES! I will help the Northcoast Environmental Center protect our watersheds, wildlands, and communities!

Name
Address
City State
Phone Zip
E-mail

My gift is (check one box if applicable): □ in honor of □ in memory of □ a gift membership

Name of person
Address City

A subscription to EcoNews is included with your membership. Please choose one option:
□ I would like to save resources and read EcoNews online. Do not mail me a print copy.
□ Please mail a print copy of EcoNews to the address above.

I would like to join/renew my annual NEC membership. Enclosed is my payment of:
□ $30 - Trillium (student or low income) □ $50 - Pacific Fisher
□ $100 - Coho Salmon □ $500 - Orca
□ $250 - Spotted Owl □ $1000 - Redwood
□ Other __________

I would like to become a sustaining member! I pledge $__________ per month.
□ Please bill my credit card monthly.
□ Please send me a pack of envelopes.

Save resources, donate online: www.yournec.org. If you prefer, mail this form with a check or fill in your credit card information below.

□ Check enclosed (Payable to NEC)
□ Charge my Visa/Mastercard (Circle the card type)

Credit Card Number ____________________________
Exp. Date _______________

Mail to: NEC, PO Box 4259
Arcata, CA 95518

Thank you! In recognition of your generosity, we will list your name in publications as a donor.
□ Please check here if you would rather remain anonymous.

The Northcoast Environmental Center is a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. EIN 23-7122386.