COASTAL CLEANUP DAY - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

LEND A HAND (OR EIGHT) TO KEEP OUR COASTS CLEAN!

Terra-Gen Wind Project | 101 Corridor Exchange | Climate Strikes | All Species Parade
Trinidad Hotel Project | NEPA Under Attack | Kin to the Earth: Robbin Thorp | Mattole Timber Wars
at risk, threaten natural resource economies, and undermine the original purpose of our public lands. The three primary goals of CROP are to 1) greatly increase federal and state resources for trespass grow reclamation and enforcement; 2) keep the funding local—direct remediation and restoration funding to trained local and regional agencies, tribes, and science organizations; and 3) implement a statewide public education campaign, focusing on public service announcements about human health and environmental impacts of unregulated cannabis use. We’ll keep you informed as this project expands.

Climate Refugees
There is a lot of talk and hysteria around migration these days. One of the main drivers causing people to flee Central America (but receiving little media attention) is a prolonged five year drought in the region—made much more extreme by the climate crisis. These countries have little or no infrastructure for water transport or storage, so in dry times it’s the poorest people that suffer. Combined with repressive governments and criminal organizations—who would not flee under those conditions? Climate refugees fleeing to North America may be the first warning signs of the climate crisis spinning out of control.

The EcoNews Report Rides Again
Good news regarding the EcoNews Report! We have forged a new alliance with Lost Coast Communications and we will be airing a revamped EcoNews Report show on radio station KHUM 104.7/104.3 on Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m. starting in September. Shows will be available on lostcoastoutpost.com and our website.

H.R. 2250 Committee Hearing
On July 10, House of Representatives Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands heard testimony on the NEC-supported “Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act” (H.R. 2250), introduced by Rep. Jared Huffman. This bill would conserve approximately 262,000 acres as wilderness, designate 379 miles of new wild and scenic rivers, and create a special restoration area to protect communities from fire. Six years of input from business leaders, conservationists, anglers, mountain bikers, fire management professionals, and other stakeholders—including the NEC and its member groups—has led to broad public support for the legislation.

Local Trinity County resident Kent Collard, owner and director of the Bar 717 Ranch/Camp Trinity in Hayfork, CA, testified before...
...the committee. While the committee took no action this was an important first step in the long process of the bill moving through Congress. California Democratic House members Judy Chu and Salud Carbajal are original co-sponsors of the bill, along with Presidential candidate and Senator Kamala Harris, who introduced the bill in the Senate. (Read more in the Eye on Washington on page 9.)

Coastal Commission in Humboldt

The Coastal Commission’s August meeting will be in Humboldt County on August 7, 8, and 9. The meeting will be held in Eureka at the Wharfinger Building on Waterfront Drive. The agenda should be available online a week before the meeting. The Humboldt Alliance for Responsible Planning (HARP) expects the Trinidad Rancheria Hotel Project to be discussed during this local session (read more on page 6). There will also be a discussion on CalTrans 101 corridor projects. Read more from Humboldt Baykeeper on this topic on page 13.

Giant Wind Project Comments

TerraGen has proposed a large commercial wind turbine project on Monument and Bear River Ridges south of Ferndale. EPIC and the NEC submitted extensive comments, thanks to the brilliant work of Tom Wheeler. Read more on page 4, or read the extensive comments online at https://tinyurl.com/terragen201907. We’ll keep you updated as this develops.

War on Plastics

There have been a number of bills brought forward in the California state legislature that would put restrictions on plastic packaging (SB 54), cigarette butts that contain plastic (SB 424), and single-use plastics (SB 372). The NEC strongly supports these efforts. Be sure to contact your local state representative and express your support for these bills!

Massive Development in Trinidad

As if the giant hotel on the bluffs at Trinidad wasn’t enough cause for concern, now comes news of the connected action of building a new Highway 101 interchange specially designed for this project. The NEC submitted our concerns to the California Transportation Commission over the wisdom of allocating $775,000 to study this special interest demand versus funding critical highway upgrades and protective measures for sea level rise. Read more about the hotel project on page 6.

Upcoming Exciting Events

We are entering one of our busiest times of the year for fun, and there are ample opportunities for you to get involved. First up, we’ll be pouring wine on August 2 at the Trinidad Art Gallery for Trinidad Arts Night—stop by to say hi!

Next, plans are underway for our Summer Patio Party! This ‘don’t miss’ event will be held Sunday, August 25 at Gary and Jan Friedrichsen’s beautiful residence. Only 60 tickets are available in advance until August 23 for $60. We’ll then have a limited number available at the door for $70. Delicious food, guided walks, local beer and wine, lawn games and more at this highly anticipated NEC fundraiser! Get your tickets and more information here: www.yournec.org/patioparty2019.

September caps off a busy summer with a whole flurry of events! Not only is the NEC pouring wine at the Garden Gate on September 13 during Arts!Arcata, but we’re also hosting a Mask Making workshop at the Sanctuary that same evening in preparation for the All Species Parade! On Saturday, September 14, we’ll be tabling at the Planet Humboldt Resiliency Fair.

The following weekend brings our busiest weekend! Starting on Friday, September 20, we’re hosting another Mask Making workshop at Arts & Drafts in Eureka. Then Saturday, September 21 is both Coastal Cleanup Day and the All Species Parade! More information about these events are on pages 3 and 8, respectively.

Stop by our booth at the North Country Fair that weekend to learn more about our current projects, view art from this year’s Coastal Cleanup Day artist, and support the NEC!

Check out our VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT on page 21

Special THANKS to all our BIRDATHON PARTICIPANTS

the Wondering Talliers (Gary Friedrichsen, Loretta Lawrence, Bill Rodstrom, and Greg Chapman), Rob Fowler, and Bella Waters!

The NEC and Redwood Region Audubon raised $6,371.25 during our annual spring Tim McKay Memorial Birdathon!

**THE NEC IS LOOKING FOR HELP WITH SOME PROJECTS! WE NEED:**

1 - Adjustable Wall Shelving Installed in Our Kitchen. (Materials Cost Will be Covered)
2 - A Sidewalk Sandwich Board Rerovated (Sand and Paint)
3 - A Display Case Made for Our Cigarette Fish
4 - 15 Curtain Rod Installed
5 - Two 8’x8’ Curtain Panels Made

INTERESTED IN HELPING? CONTACT US AT 707-822-6918

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Bouquets of gratitude to groups, businesses, and individuals who have recently helped the NEC or the environmental community, and others who deserve extra gratitude!

- To our summer Interns: Grace Olivia (Special Projects), Jacqueline Holmes (Zero Waste), Marina Storey (Coastal Cleanup Day Media), Blake Fulgham (Coastal Cleanup Day Planning), Ryan Call (EcoNews Archive) and Haley Walker (EcoNews Archive) for their dedication and assistance during the summer months!
- To Trinidad Art Gallery for hosting NEC during August’s Trinidad Art Night!
- To Recology for co-hosting our Plastic Free July event and offering tours!
- To Mad River Brewery for donating $256 to the NEC from our June Pints for Non-profits event, the Neil Young Experience for playing at the event and Sue Leskiw, Barbara Reisman and Chris Beresford for donating baked goods, which brought in $87!
- To Arts & Drafts for co-hosting the NEC’s first monthly Upcycling workshop! Check page 8 to see more of our scheduled upcycling events.
Sept. 21 - NEC’s Zero Waste Coastal Cleanup Day Takes a Stand Against Single-Use Plastics

Casey Cruickshank

On September 21, the NEC is celebrating its 40th anniversary of organizing beach cleanups! What began as a humble beach beautification project at the NEC in the 70s, eventually gained attention and grew into the statewide and then international Coastal Cleanup Day—which is now the largest volunteer cleanup event in the world! This year, we’re taking beach cleanups back to the basics and reframing them to be the educational tools that they are meant to be. At the rate that the plastics issue is growing globally—and now with the recognition that plastics production and use are contributing to climate change—we recognize that in order to really make a difference we must work together to stop pollution at its source.

This is why the NEC is taking a stand against single-use plastics and reframing Humboldt County’s Coastal Cleanup Day. This year our focus will be on educating the public about the difference that every individual has the power to make. We will no longer be accepting single-use plastic bags or single-use gloves for our cleanups. We will also be taking a stand against the corporate plastic water bottle companies that sponsor cleanups to green wash their public image.

In our first year hosting a completely Zero Waste Coastal Cleanup Day, we are figuring out how to support local businesses while avoiding adding to the waste stream through our cleanups. We are asking that our participants bring their own cleanup supplies (such as gloves, buckets, pickers, etc.) if they have access to them. For those who do not have access to cleanup supplies, we will be lending out bags and buckets that have been generously donated by the North Coast Co-op, CNPS, and Redwood Curtain Brewery for our cleanup efforts. We will also be lending out reusable garden gloves, courtesy of Pierson Building Center, to interested parties to eliminate the use of disposable single-use gloves. Last, but certainly not least, we will be using thrifted t-shirts to print our very own Coastal Cleanup Day art by local artist Mir De Silva!

Last year with the help of over 700 Humboldt County volunteers, we cleaned up 45 sites and removed over six tons of debris from our beaches, rivers, bay and estuaries! Now that the NEC has declared war on single-use plastics, we vow to do our best to spread awareness for single-use alternatives and host zero waste events to lead by example. By working together we can better understand how our consumer habits impact our planet and start making the little changes necessary for a brighter and less trashy future.

How To Get Involved:

Become a site captain! Site captains are the main points of contact for the cleanup teams at each site. If you would like to become a site captain, visit our website and fill out our online form at www.yournec.org/coastalcleanupday/forms-signups/

Sponsor Zero Waste Coastal Cleanup Day! Sponsor Coastal Cleanup Day by August 15 to have your business logo included on our posters, banners, and other media. Visit our website to learn more about the different levels of sponsorship, at www.yournec.org/coastalcleanupday/sponsors.

Stand together to End Single Use Plastics! We are all consumers on this planet which means we all have an important role to play. If a product can’t be reused, repaired, rebuilt, refurbished, refinished, resold, recycled or composted, then it should be restricted, redesigned or removed from production.

For more details, visit www.yournec.org/coastalcleanup, email coastalcleanup@yournec.org, or call us at 707-822-6918.

See you on Saturday, September 21!
**Terra-Gen's Humboldt Wind Energy Project Presents Concerns for Wildlife**

*Tom Wheeler
Executive Director, EPIC*

EPIC and the Northcoast Environmental Center submitted comments in June on the draft environmental impact report (DEIR) for the proposed Terra-Gen Humboldt Wind Energy Project proposed for Monument and Bear River Ridges outside of Scotia. Our detailed comments are available on our websites.

The project as described in the DEIR does not meet the environmental standards nor have the environmental protections we demand. Our organizations urge the project proponents and Humboldt County to undertake additional consultation and outreach efforts to fulfill their obligations to the County’s citizens and our wildlife. While we acknowledge the urgency to develop renewable energy projects to limit the harm of global climate change, the environmental costs must still be fully analyzed and understood before this project can be fully evaluated. As it stands, the DEIR does not account fully for impacts to bird and other species, such as risks to bats and murrelets.

**Marbled Murrelets**

The marbled murrelet, a small seabird that nests in the mossy branches of coastal old-growth forests, is one of the most iconic species of the environmental movement. This pigeon-sized bird is identified as threatened under both the federal and California Endangered Species Act and is in alarming decline in both Washington and Oregon.

The project is likely to result in the deaths of some murrelets from collisions. There currently are no operational large-scale wind projects within the murrelet’s range, so there is no data concerning murrelets and wind turbines. Absent better data, the project assumes—by looking at other avoidance rates for other species—that murrelets will avoid wind turbines 98 percent of the time they fly through the project area. Based on this projected avoidance rate, the DEIR concludes that the project is likely to kill about 20 murrelets over the 30 years of the project.

The collision risk model, however, is very sensitive to the avoidance rate. A small change in data makes a huge difference. If the avoidance rate dips to 96 percent, the total number of murrelets killed would double.

Given the high uncertainty of impacts, it is critically important that the project avoid impacts first. There are no known measures to avoid harm to murrelets, except avoidance of areas that are likely within the flight paths of murrelets. Harm could also likely be minimized by the curtailment of blade-spinning operations during high-risk periods. The current project, as outlined in the DEIR, fails to do either.

Instead, the project tries to compensate for murrelets deaths by funding projects that seek to increase murrelet nesting success by deterring corvids that prey on murrelet eggs. Such mitigation measures are important, but the purported benefits of this work is largely speculative. Even if the benefits were certain, this appears to be a Faustian bargain—accepting additional and unnecessary murrelet deaths instead of avoiding them where possible.

At a minimum, the project needs to be reformed to avoid murrelet flight paths, as identified through radar surveys, and include operational curtailment during high-risk periods. A curtailment policy should be developed by a panel of species-specific experts based on the best available information.

**Bats**

Acoustical surveys of the project area found that it is used by numerous bats, including those most frequently killed by wind projects: hoary bats, silver-haired bats, and western red bats. All three are migratory bats that exhibit behaviors that put them at high risk for collision and death from wind projects. This project is particularly worrisome because it is so close to an important bat migration hotspot. Every fall, thousands of hoary bats descend upon Humboldt Redwoods State Park, exhibiting a “swarming” behavior that appears to be unique to this region.

The DEIR correctly recognizes that the wind project is capable of producing significant impacts—including the localized extinction of the population or a species-level population impact—but fails to do much of anything to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the harm. Instead the DEIR kicks the can down the road, requiring the establishment of a technical advisory committee to be formed after impacts are measured to examine what can be done. This is not enough.

Thankfully, there is a growing body of science to suggest what can be done. Study after study has found that operational curtailment during high-risk periods is effective, reducing bat deaths anywhere from 44-93 percent with only minimal impacts to power generation. High-risk periods are those when bats are present and active, moving about the air column used by the spinning turbine blades. Determining high-risk can be predicative, using survey information to create models to predict when bats will be present, or informed, using real-time data about site use to inform when to shut off turbines.

**Horned Lark**

The coastal prairies of Bear River Ridge are home to a unique population of horned larks. Scientists are puzzled over just what subspecies our local population belong to—either the streaked horned lark (recognized as threatened under the Endangered Species Act) or the California horned lark. Regardless of the taxonomic status, this population is important. It is the only breeding population for a long distance—so long that regardless of the subspecies, this population is likely on a unique evolutionary path. The wind project puts this population at risk.
Rekindling Timber Wars in the Mattole

Michael Evenson
Lost Coast League

When Humboldt Redwood Company (HRC) bought Pacific Lumber (Palco’s) timberland, Humboldt County heaved a sigh of relief. The company claimed to be committed to leaving the old growth standing and to reverse the pace of forest depletion of the former bankrupt owner. In the Mattole, we thought that meant no entry in the old stands on Rainbow Ridge, the steep headwalls of the Upper and Lower North Forks, historic home to abundant salmon and plentiful cool water delivered into the estuary.

We discovered, however, that HRC values this landscape primarily in terms of how much they can remove and still be considered “green”—claiming the prestige of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) sustainable certification and the monetary rewards that come with it. The Lost Coast League, along with 100 other individuals and organizations, appealed HRC’s certification by challenging excessive use of herbicides and liquidation of forests valuable for endangered habitat, water quality, and carbon sequestration. HRC was removing High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) before evaluating them for their role in maintaining a rich diversity of endemic rare and endangered species, like northern spotted owl, northern goshawk, golden eagle, Sonoma tree vole, Humboldt marten, and many more.

The formal appeal was made to Scientific Certification Services (SCS), and an investigation took place in September 2018. SCS concluded that the complaint had merit and required HRC to establish a process for designating HCVF areas on their Mattole ownership. SCS also called out HRC for treating some 7,000+ acres with herbicides annually, requiring HRC to draft a plan to phase them out.

SCS, according to FSC principles, is obliged to consult with affected communities in all phases of the process. The Lost Coast League waited in anticipation for HRC to perform these tasks and to have the opportunity, in line with FSC Guidelines, to review and comment on these plans. However, HRC filed their herbicide plan without consulting with LCL and they began logging on Rainbow Ridge before completing a plan for HCVF designation. LCL was surprised and horrified when trees started falling. A tree-sitter, Rook, established herself in an old tree, rekindling the timber wars.

Four older Mattole residents stood at the logging gates on Monument Road (Rio Dell) in early June and asked the fallers not to cut these trees. HRC’s security handcuffed the septuagenarians and detained them for arrest by Humboldt County Sheriffs. More incidents of civil disobedience followed and a second tree-sit began. HRC’s security sent a climber into Rook’s tree and cut away their food, water and supplies. They alternately deprived...

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Obi Kaufmann: Naturalist, Artist, Wanderer

“In my art and writing about ecology, I am more satisfied with the exploration of the best, most simple and elegant question than I am with any righteous, vocational answer.”

Dan Sealy

When Obi Kaufmann wanders into the wilderness of California, it is with as little as necessary—but always with his paints and brush and a love of nature. Through illustrated maps, portraits of wildlife and plant life, and landscapes, he brings readers along a journey of exploration and understanding of California’s natural world. “My books are about California in essence, but the stories are about looking at nature and, more specifically, about me looking at nature. We are a story-telling species. It has been conjectured that the ability to tell a story outside our physical bodies is even more important than bipedalism. Communication through stories and art sets us apart.”

“The State of Water: Understanding California’s Most Precious Resource” (Heyday 2019) is Kaufmann’s second book. His first, “The California Field Atlas,” is a love letter to the state he grew up in and knows well. “The State of Water” tackles a personal understanding of water as the resource that is a defining element of California ecosystems. Water also creates a societal divide as we struggle to protect our native landscapes while trying to meet the agricultural and social demands of a growing population. “I am not trying to convey a story of water policy in California; that is too complex.

I am interested in a particular aspect—surface water, use, storage and conveyance.”

Kaufmann particularly finds the economic struggle with water redirected. “The arrogant idea that a system (water and its use) can keep growing without consequence leads to an ecological revolution. We have been sold this divisive story between urban and rural, northern and southern, blue and red... That dichotomous view is unproductive and is, in fact, destructive” Kaufmann redirects the story to what he witnesses before him. Then he tells that story to himself and to others through his writing.

Kaufmann has a vocation many would envy. He saunters into beautiful...

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Trinidad Rancheria Hotel Voted Down; Project will be Resubmitted

Ted Pease
Humboldt Alliance for Responsible Planning (HARP)

For a third time since last Spring, the Coastal Commission staff report recommends a “No” vote on the Trinidad Rancheria’s proposed Hyatt hotel when the Commission meets to review the project in Eureka on August 8.

The Commission voted 6-3 in June against the five-story, 100-room high-rise at its meeting in San Diego, but commissioners urged the Rancheria “in the strongest possible terms” to make changes to the plan and resubmit, so the development is far from dead.

As the new staff report says, the goal of a new hearing would be progress on the question of where the hotel will get water, and to permit Humboldt residents a chance to express their opinions regarding the hotel project.

So this is your chance, Humboldters. Unfortunately, email comments to the Coastal Commission were due as this issue of EcoNews went to print, but make plans to attend the public hearing on the issue Thursday, August 8, at 9 a.m. at the Wharfinger Building in Eureka.

The new staff report is almost identical to June’s report, which recommended against approval on the basis of the hotel’s adverse visual impact on the Trinidad coast, and because there is no water source.

The staff report concludes that a) the hotel’s five-story height and design are “not visually compatible with the character of surrounding areas”; and b) the project still has no water supply.

But does it?

In an ex parte communication report posted on the Coastal Commission website, former Commissioner and ex-Humboldt Supervisor Ryan Sundberg is reported as telling Commission chair Dayna Bochco in a text message, “Hi, Dayna, we have had [d]rilling rig looking for well water so we don’t have to depend on the City of Trinidad. Today was very exciting, we hit water today and will be able to have well water treated and used for the hotel. Can’t wait to see you all when you come up next Month! Best Ryan”

If true, and if there is sufficient documented flow from the well to supply a projected 14,000 gallons of water per day to the hotel, the central stumbling block standing in the way of the controversial five-story, 100-room Hyatt project may have been eliminated.

Observers wonder if Sundberg’s communication is an ethics/legal violation of Coastal Commission regulations prohibiting former commissioners from lobbying the Commission within a year of leaving office. Sundberg stepped down from the Commission in February after losing his Humboldt District 5 supervisor seat to Steve Madrone last June.

In July, Gov. Gavin Newsom appointed Humboldt District 3 Supervisor Mike Wilson, an environmental engineer, to fill the North Coast seat on the Commission.

Coastal Commission members must file reports of unofficial, or ex parte, contacts with interested parties about pending Coastal Commission matters.

Although Trinidad has not received an application for a water hookup to serve the hotel project, the prospect of a new (estimated) 14,000 gallon-per-day customer has prompted the city to undertake a comprehensive assessment of its water plant capacity, future needs, and policies. The city has various water studies underway in the context of current demand and anticipated buildout from town in its surrounding service area.

Mayor Steve Ladwig has said the city will not rush the decision. “It is the City’s position that we can act on issues only when we have sufficient information,” Ladwig said. “The [hotel’s] water permit certainly fits in this definition.”

At least three Trinidad water studies are in the works, the latest a $60,000, five-part analysis of data on the Luffenholtz Creek watershed by GHD, a Eureka environmental engineering company. Parts of the study are expected to run through the end of August, with a section addressing water storage and distribution due in October.

An earlier study of Trinidad water plant’s maximum capacity found a “theoretical excess” of water above current demand, but only by pumping 22 hours a day. City planner Trever Parker’s comprehensive assessment of Trinidad’s future water needs is still in its early stages, and Parker sees...

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Take Action
Attend the Hearing

The California Coastal Commission’s only North Coast hearing of 2019 is scheduled for August 7 and 8 at the Wharfinger Building, 1 Marina Way, Eureka.

The Trinidad Rancheria is on the schedule for 9 a.m. on Thursday, August 8, and public comment is permitted. The full agenda and staff report are available at https://www.coastal.ca.gov under the “Meetings” tab. Select “Monthly Agenda,” click on the Thursday tab, and scroll down to number 12b (CD-0004-19 Bureau of Indian Affairs, Trinidad).

Above: the proposed five-story hotel would stand in front of the existing two-story Cher-Ai Heights Casino at left, three floors taller than the large Baker Ranch home at right. Photo: Ted Pease.
NEC Supports SB 424
Bill Puts Responsibility of Single-Use Tobacco Waste on Producer

NEC Staff

Cigarette butts are the most common litter item found on beaches and roadways, amounting to over a third of total waste found during coastal cleanup events. SB 424, authored by CA Senator Jackson (19th District), seeks to eliminate plastic waste and pollution due to single-use tobacco products. The bill bans sale of single-use tobacco products, including single-use filters, single-use plastic devices needed for manipulation of tobacco products, and single-use electronic cigarettes. It puts the responsibility of handling the waste back in the producer’s hands, vs organizations and municipalities paying for cigarette butt and other related waste removal. The bill has passed the Senate and is on to the Assembly.

The NEC supports this effort and emailed Assemblymember Jim Woods the letter of support below. We encourage readers to send similar letters to your Assembly Member today.

Assembly Member Jim Wood
State Capitol
PO Box 942849
Sacramento, California 94249-0002
Re: SB 424 (Jackson) – Tobacco products: single-use and multiuse components – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Wood,

The Northcoast Environmental Center is writing you to request that you support SB 424 (Jackson) and continue to make California a leader on fighting plastic pollution and reducing waste. Single-use packaging and products in California generate tons of non-recyclable and non-compostable waste that impacts our health and ecosystems.

Filters in cigarette butts made from cellulose acetate plastic are the most common items that Northcoast Environmental Center volunteers find at street and beach cleanups throughout the North Coast. Cigarette butts discarded in parking lots, along sidewalks and in street gutters miles from the coast inevitably make their way through storm drains, creeks and rivers to the beach and ocean. In 2018 alone, our Adopt-a-Block volunteers picked up 21,162 cigarette butts off of sidewalks and streets in Arcata and Eureka.

It isn't just a matter of unsightly trash and litter. Toxins, toxic chemicals, and carcinogens from cigarettes collect on the filter and are then washed into our waterways and the ocean. Birds and sea mammals often ingest these toxic filters, misinterpreting them for food.

It is time to take action to eliminate plastic pollution from tobacco products in California, please support SB 424.

Casey's Coastal Column
NEC's Coastal Cleanup Day Says NO to Fast Fashion

Casey Cruikshank
NEC's Coastal Programs Coordinator

If you've been following the NEC’s updates about this year’s Coastal Cleanup Day then you're aware that there are some big exciting changes in the works as we put effort into eliminating additional waste for and during the event. One aspect of this relates to our Coastal Cleanup Day t-shirts.

In previous years, we have received t-shirts supplied for free from the California Coastal Commission featuring artwork and sponsors for the statewide cleanup. As part of our focus this year on zero waste education, we have decided to go a different route and source and upcycle shirts locally instead of supporting “fast fashion.”

In the United States alone, 21 billion pounds of textiles are dumped into landfills every year. The fast fashion industry, which encourages cheap clothing intended to be discarded quickly, is second only to oil as the world’s largest polluter. Elizabeth Segran from Fast Company writes “the fashion industry currently relies on 98 million tons of oil to make synthetic fibers, contributes to 20 percent of the worlds water pollution thanks to toxic dyes, and generates 1.2 billion tons of greenhouse gases.” The fast fashion industry also supports a system of poverty for its workers—requiring extremely long hours for minimal pay while being exposed to unsafe production processes, dangerous conditions and hazardous substances.

Rather than using new shirts, we found previously-owned t-shirts locally. Over the last few months, we asked for donations from local thrift stores and received an overwhelming amount of support. Our goal was to obtain 100 plain, solid-color t-shirts, but to our great surprise we have collected over 165 so far—with many thrift shops continuing to collect shirts for us through the month of July. We want to send a huge thank you to the Rescue Mission, American Cancer Society, Tailwaggers, and Angels of Hope thrift stores and to the Clothing Dock for generously donating enough shirts to make our zero waste dreams come true!

We held a contest to find an artist to create a logo for Humboldt County’s first ever Zero Waste Coastal Cleanup Day. We are so excited to present the winning local artist Mir De Silva and her design! Check it out on page 3.

We also found local printing for our shirts. Michael Barker, the owner of Maverick + Haywood (formerly known as Provolt Design) is sponsoring our event by donating his time and ink to get our shirts printed. We are extremely thankful for all of the support from local businesses who are interested in helping us reduce waste in our community!

The best way to avoid being a fast fashion contributor is to buy used instead of new. If you absolutely must buy new, always read labels, steer toward sustainable fabrics, and purchase for quality rather than quantity. Sustainable clothing can be more expensive but, if you buy right, it has a much longer life than the cheaper alternative.

In addition to thrifting clothing, one of my favorite ways to avoid fast fashion is by participating in clothing swaps with friends, neighbors, or community groups. Not only are the clothes free, but it also provides an opportunity to interact with your community and meet new friends while “shopping.”

If you're interested in learning more about transitioning away from fast fashion, visit www.7billion7seas.com for more tips and tricks.
Planet Humboldt - a Summit of Inspiration for Community and a Vital Earth

Press Release, Planet Humboldt

September 14 marks the 250th birthday of Humboldt County’s namesake, Alexander von Humboldt—the Enlightenment polymath, world explorer, and arguably the first ecologist. His work inspired Darwin, Thoreau and John Muir. His words, “All living systems are interconnected and mutually dependent on each other,” stand as a guiding principle for all those who respect the bond between humans and the natural world. The people and places of Humboldt County embody his legacy to this day.

In celebration of Humboldt the man, and Humboldt the place, “Planet Humboldt - a Summit of Inspiration for Community and a Vital Earth” will be presented by Arcata’s Abundant Earth Foundation, with support from Rotary District 5130 and local Redwood Region Rotarians. Inspired by Von Humboldt’s visionary work, Planet Humboldt will bring his place in the history of environmental action into the present with knowledge, action steps, and inspiration.

The event has three elements: a Resiliency Fair, an Ideas Summit, and The Fire of Life Gala Benefit. All profits from the event, which will take place at the Sequoia Conference Center in Eureka, will support local Fire Safe Councils and the Redwood Rotary Disaster Relief Fund.

Visit www.planethumboldt.org for information on participating as a vendor, Summit topics and speakers, volunteering, and purchasing Gala tickets. Service Unites! Be the Inspiration.

Haley Walker, NEC Intern

Back to school time is approaching, and with it comes back-to-school shopping. Unfortunately, many back-to-school necessities come in excessive packaging that ultimately ends up in landfills, or are made from non-recyclable or otherwise non-eco-friendly materials. Reuse is one of the most important ways to reduce waste. This year, rather than purchasing new items, consider buying secondhand! There are a number of local organizations that provide secondhand or new school supplies at a fraction of the cost.

The Reusable Office Supply Exchange (ROSE) located on campus offers free school and office supplies to the campus community. ROSE is open Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. in Warren House 53 on the HSU campus. In addition to picking up needed supplies at ROSE, check out the ROSE donation guidelines to see if you have any extra unwanted supplies that could be donated to help other community members in need. Donated supplies stay out of landfills and help to avoid the packaging waste when buying new items.

If you are unable to find what you need at ROSE, consider checking out one of our many local thrift stores! The Hospice Shop on H St. in Arcata, for example, has a school supplies section with binders, paper, pencils, staplers, and more. Some items are even brand new. Thrift stores also have a wide selection of gently used clothes and household items.

Eco-Groovy Deals is another local sustainability-focused thrift store. Conveniently located on the Arcata Plaza, they have a large selection of backpacks and a wide variety of men’s and women’s clothing. If you are in need of furniture for your dorm room or apartment, Eco-Groovy Deals also has a furniture shop located on Alliance Road in Arcata.

UPCycling Workshops

Every Third Friday
Join The NEC
For Sustainable Crafts and Fun!

August 16
All Species Parade
Mask-Making

September 20
All Species Parade & Halloween Mask-Making

October 18
Sustainable Halloween
Fast Fashion upcycled clothing costume workshop

November 15
Sustainable holidays
with food-themed upcycling ideas.

December 20
Sustainable Holidays
with gift wrap alternatives & upcycled gifts

At Arts & Drafts

More Information on Page 22
ArtsAndDraftsEureka.com
YourNec.org
Hearings, Busses, and Bad Actors, oh my!

Dan Sealy, NEC Legislative Analyst

Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act Hearing

A coalition of local and national conservation organizations that have been working on legislation to address protection of public lands and waters for several years—or “since the dawn of time,” as Congressman Jared Huffman described it—saw that work move forward in July. The subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands in the U.S. House of Representatives heard testimony on seven bills, including Huffman’s Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act. When several bills are heard in one hearing, there is little time for much in-depth discussion on specific aspects of any individual bill. Nonetheless, Huffman’s bill did draw two witnesses. One, Mr. Collard—the owner of Bar 717 Ranch, which his family has run since 1930 to immerse young people in the mountains and forests of Trinity County—who strongly supported the bill. The other, Trinity County District 1 County Supervisor Groves, was invited by the Republican minority to testify regarding concerns with the bill but was somewhat tempered by a recent vote of “neutrality” by Trinity County Board of Supervisors. E&E News, a nationwide conservation and energy news service, however, led coverage of the bill’s hearing with notes that Supervisor Groves opposed the bill—an unfortunate result.

Action Opportunity: Write to Congressman Huffman and tell him why wilderness, wild rivers and outdoor recreation are important to you!

Congressman Huffman was also in the news when he managed to skuttle an amendment that would stop mining in Pebble Bay, Alaska, a major salmon fisheries area. Rep. Don Young, who has represented Alaska for almost half a century, vocally attacked Huffman’s success and vowed to block the previously described Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act. But Huffman’s ability to halt the destruction of this important resource area was widely praised within the conservation community.

Budget: Do we have a Bus to Ride?

Will the government shut down over a partisan budget impasse—again? Will Congress try to avoid such a shutdown with an omnibus budget bill funding most government agencies and work through one large bill where lots of unrelated bills can be attached—like wilderness bills or military budget increases? Or will Congress repeat the last budget strategy through passage of several minibus bills aimed to fund separate departments with little or no riders? Watch for news in September for the answer to these questions before the October 1 bill deadline.

“Acting” Badly

This President has used “acting” designations for the people he chooses to lead departments and agencies, rather than officially making nominations, in order to avoid congressional and public scrutiny and limit public input. Acting appointees are not subject to congressional oversight and dupe the American public. Mark Esper has served as Acting Sec. of Defense since James Mattis resigned last year. Dan Smith, a former National Rifle Association (NRA) lobbyist who was reprimanded by the Inspector General for ethical violations, has been Acting Director of the National Park Service for almost the entire Trump administration. The Bureau of Land Management is being run by an unconfirmed associate director, Casey Hammond. Dr. Neil Jacobs is the Assistant Secretary of Commerce and is acting head of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA.) The recent resignation of the Sec. of Labor Acosta in July, after concerns of improprieties, left a cabinet Secretary position vacant.

How can a member of the public hold an “acting” designee—who can be removed or replaced without any oversight whatsoever, and who may have a history of working against the mission of the agency they now run—accountable? How can chaos serve the public good? This seems to be exactly how this administration prefers to run our nation’s most important conservation agencies, as well as other important national security and defense agencies. “This is the Teapot Dome scandal on steroids,” said Douglas Brinkley, professor of history at Rice University.

If you have questions regarding who to contact with your concerns, or how to write to the head of a conservation agency, don’t worry, the NEC can help! Please email Dan Sealy, NEC’s Legislative Analyst, at dan.sealy@yournec.org for more information.
NEXUS Where human rights, the environment, social justice, and the economy intersect.

Stronger Together - Unions & Enviros Working for the Common Good

Kathryn Donahue, R.N.

As a member of a union, and a delegate to the Humboldt Del Norte Central Labor Council (CLC) I often ask myself, “How do unions—and other common good organizations supporting the environment, healthcare, and the many other social justice issues—provide sustainable support for all?” What do various organizations know of each other or what they work to accomplish? Each type of non-profit organization has its own approach to addressing the multitude of dysfunctional disasters we read about and experience on a daily basis (particularly since 2016).

Our local CLC meets under the general auspices of the AFL-CIO (as all CLCs in California do) and is an affiliation of many different unions. Each CLC has its own flavor and works on issues that impact its local area, but being a union member means working in solidarity with union membership in an understanding that “an injury to one is an injury to all.” Unions rely on strength in numbers to accomplish goals.

As a registered nurse, my affiliated membership to the CLC comes by way of the California Nurses’ Association, and the work I do for social justice and common good issues encompasses healthcare access and health in general. Health is a very broad topic. Like environmental justice, health care justice has many aspects and overlaps with other issues. Organized labor and environmentalists need each other because we work on related problems from different paradigms.

The changes would severely restrict the ability of local areas to participate in decisions that a federal agency makes about proposed projects. The proposed changes would create loopholes to increase the speed and scale of resource extraction including impacts to water, recreation, and wildlife. These changes would create loopholes to increase the speed and scale of resource extraction including impacts to water, recreation, and wildlife.

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As we broaden our perspectives concerning important common good issues on all fronts, our ability to discuss and educate others increases. We become stronger voices together.

Take Action: NEPA Under Attack, National Forests at Risk Comments due August 12

Action Alert from the NEC and the Wilderness Society

The U.S. Forest Service is attempting to eliminate public participation in the vast majority of projects on the nation’s 193 million acres of national forest lands, as a way of fast-tracking clear-cut logging, mining, and road building.

The rule would gut one of the essential bedrock laws that protects the right of the American public to know about and participate in decisions that affect federal public land, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Specifically, these changes would create loopholes that would vastly increase the amount of logging and mining on public lands—while keeping the public in the dark. Take action to oppose these extreme changes by submitting a comment by August 12.

In addition to cutting the public out of the decision-making process and eliminating science-based decisions, the proposal endangers all Americans by putting clean drinking water at risk of pollution, giving extractive industries supremacy on public lands, and reducing backcountry recreation opportunities.

Submit your comment now and stand up for public engagement and science based decision making! Use this sample comment letter from the Wilderness Society:

I am writing you today to ask the Forest Service to REJECT the proposed changes to its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) policies. The proposed changes would allow the agency to move project planning behind closed doors by cutting out the public from the decision-making process and eliminating any science-based review of impacts to water, recreation, and wildlife.

These changes would create loopholes to increase the speed and scale of resource extraction including logging and mining—while eliminating public awareness and input on up to 93 percent of proposed projects. The changes would severely restrict the ability of local communities to weigh in on Forest Service projects impacting them. This is wrong and I urge you to REJECT these proposed changes.

Continued on page 12
Kin to the Earth:

Robbin Thorp, friend of the bees and Kin to the Earth, has moved on to that great bee-filled meadow in the sky on June 7, 2019. He will be missed by all, both human and pollinator. Rich Hatfield, Xerces Society Senior Endangered Species Conservation Biologist and Bumble Bee Lead, offered this tribute to his friend and mentor, originally published on the Xerces website.

Robbin Thorp, Professor Emeritus at University of California–Davis, made lasting contributions to the bee conservation community in ways that might never be measured, but will certainly be felt. Significantly, he made contributions to our understanding of the pollination of vernal pool plants, and the systematics of their pollinators; the role that everything from urban gardens to natural habitat around farms play in providing habitat for pollinators; and bumble bee distribution and conservation. The conservation world is certainly better off due to these specific contributions, but also, Dr. Thorp had an intangible impact that reaches further, in ways we might never completely understand.

The Xerces Society has given presentations on bumble bee conservation all over North America to thousands of people. Because of the contributions Dr. Thorp made to bumble bee conservation, it is hard to give a talk without mentioning his name. So it should come as no surprise that, after our talks, at least one person approaches afterward to sing the praises of Dr. Thorp, how generous he was with his time, and how much they have valued their interactions with him. At times it was an academic researcher that collaborated with Dr. Thorp, but more often it was a layperson that was inspired by Dr. Thorp to get involved in pollinator conservation after talking with him. This kind of contribution was immeasurable and invaluable.

I was lucky enough to work closely with Dr. Thorp, starting with his work with Dr. Claire Kremen, measuring the ecosystem services of native bees. That seminal research inspired and undergirded much of the agricultural work that the Xerces Society has accomplished, and is continuing more strongly than ever. It also helped to launch my career.

I went on to have Dr. Thorp serve on my graduate committee, and I also learned from him at the annual Bee Course at the Southwest Research Station. I continued to collaborate with Dr. Thorp with the IUCN Bumble Bee Specialist Group, and utilized Dr. Thorp’s bumble bee identification expertise for Bumble Bee Watch both directly and indirectly from Bumble Bees of North America, which he co-authored.

Dr. Thorp’s work helped to sound the alarm for bumble bee declines across North America, inspiring further research, and undergirding the successful petition to list the rusty patched bumble bee (Bombus affinis) as endangered. This designation in 2017 ensured protections for this imperiled species, granting it a chance for recovery.

Dr. Thorp’s work also helped to inspire and inform Xerces’ bumble bee conservation programs that I now lead. It was his research in the mid-1990s that served as the “Robbin in the coal mine” for bumble bee populations in North America (credit for this term goes to Dr. Jamie Strange, USDA-ARS—coined at the recent Pacific Branch Entomological Society Meeting in San Diego, CA at a symposium honoring Dr. Thorp). His work served as the basis for our status review of three North American bumble bees, which, in turn, eventually served as the template for the successful petition to have the rusty patched bumble bee listed as an endangered species.

The early work to find populations of these imperiled bumble bees eventually gave rise to our successful community science platform Bumble Bee Watch, which also now also serves as the platform for two more focused bumble bee community science programs. Collectively, these platforms now have tens of thousands of volunteers across North America keeping tabs on bumble bee populations and contributing to conservation science.

Without the foresight and careful work of Dr. Thorp, we might not have understood the plight of North American bumble bees until it was too late. Unfortunately, even with the insight of “Robbin in the coal mine” we still may have reacted too slowly for one species from his study area in northern California and southern Oregon: Franklin’s bumble bee (Bombus franklini). This species has not been seen since 2006, and may now be extinct. Franklin’s bumble bee has the unfortunate distinction of having the most limited geographic distribution of any bumble bee in North America and possibly the world. Historically, Franklin’s bumble bee occurred in an area that was only about 60 miles wide, located in the Siskiyou mountains of northern California and southern Oregon.

Fortunately, Dr. Thorp’s work has contributed to scientific knowledge, helped to secure vital protections for the rusty patched bumble bee (Bombus affinis), and has also helped to support and inspire a trained force of community scientists spread across North America, ready to document any future declines, and help prevent that from happening. The best part? You can share in this legacy by joining one of the community science projects mentioned above. Perhaps it will be you who one day documents the continued existence of the Franklin’s bumble bee, a return gift for which Dr. Thorp would have been most grateful.
FIELD TRIPS

Every Saturday: Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary. These are our famous, rain-or-shine, docent-led field trips at the Marsh. Bring your binocular(s) and have a great morning birding! Meet in the parking lot at the end of South I Street (Klopp Lake) in Arcata at 8:30 a.m. Trips end around 11 a.m. Walks led by: Michael Morris (Aug 3); Rob Fowler (Aug 10); Jude Power (Aug 17); Bob Battagin (Aug 24); Tracy Walker (Aug 31). If you are interested in leading a Marsh walk, please contact Ken Burton at shriketree@gmail.com.

Monthly bird walks at the Southern Humboldt Community Park near Garberville. This is an easy, 2-3 hour walk. Shade-grown coffee and extra binoculars are usually provided. For the date, time, meeting place, and walk leader, contact sohumbirds@yahoo.com, call 923-2695, or text 707-845-1079. Walks resume in September.

For some of our more far-reaching trips we suggest donating gas money to drivers on field trips. A good rule of thumb is $5 per ½-hour drive time to field trip destination.

Saturday, Aug 3: Blue Lake. Meet at 9 a.m. at the bridge over the Mad River on Hatchery Rd in Blue Lake; park along the road. After about an hour we’ll move to the hatchery. Walk ends around 11 a.m. Contact Amaya Bechler at amayabechler0@gmail.com for more information.

(continued on next page)

Program: September 13

The Growing Web of Effects on Forest Wildlife from Cannabis Cultivation on Public Lands

The deleterious impacts on wildlife from cannabis cultivation on public lands have only recently been highlighted as concerns for wildlife conservation. Water diversions, poisonings, and habitat modification are now understood to be common at cultivation sites throughout California’s public lands and adjacent private lands. We are monitoring several groups of forest wildlife to gauge impacts throughout the food web in California’s forests. Collectively, the impacts to forest communities are extensive and likely run deeper and more covertly than previously recognized. Dr. Greta Wengert is the Co-founder and Co-director of Integral Ecology Research Center in northwestern California and teaches at HSU, with over 20 years of research in ecology.

Dr. Wengert with one of the bobcats from her dissertation research on bobcat-fisher interactions at the Hoopa Valley Reservation. Photo by Mourad Gabriel.

Restoration Work Days

Join us for Wigi Wetlands Work Days on fourth Saturdays, August 24th and September 28th. Help restore bird-friendly habitat by removing large swathes of scotch broom and lots of other invasive plant species, as well as trash, from a stretch of the bay trail right behind the Bayshore Mall. Meet us at the back of the parking lot between Kohl’s and Sportsman’s Warehouse (intersection of Christie and Howell Street) at 9 a.m. Tools and gloves will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own. Light refreshments, water, and coffee will be provided, but please bring your own water jug. Work ends at 11 a.m. For more information, contact Jeremy Cashen at 214-605-7368 or jeremy.cashen@yahoo.com.

Doors open at 7 p.m., program starts at 7:30 p.m. at Six Rivers Masonic Lodge, 251 Bayside Road, Arcata. Bring a mug to enjoy shade-grown coffee and come fragrance-free.
An Appeal For Community Engagement

By Alexa DeJoannis

Fifty years ago, Redwood Region Audubon Society (RRAS) was founded by a group of local people concerned about the route of the bay bridge. These bird-lovers successfully persuaded agencies to lay its line further east so as to leave undisturbed a large rookery of egrets and herons. Birds gather there at night for the protection of the flock, and also raise young under that protection in the spring. The rookery is unlikely to re-form elsewhere, and would have been lost as a resource. The rookery is still occupied today.

The mission of RRAS is to protect wildlife and their habitats, and promote wise use of natural resources. In practical terms, that means we sponsor field trips to observe wildlife (see pages 1 & 2) and talks that inform the public on wildlife-related topics (pages 1 & 4). RRAS has an active conservation committee that stays informed on local issues and engages with agency personnel. The committee has recently participated in negotiations over oysterculture expansion in Humboldt Bay, and has commented on Humboldt County re-zoning, and the County’s cannabis-permitting process. We also work directly to restore saltmarsh habitat along the Bayshore Trail in Eureka where we hold a conservation easement (page 1).

RRAS is a volunteer organization, and its activities are based on the presumed common interests of its members. Both members and non-members may participate, and we need participation! If you want to see our natural environment protected, step up; if you enjoy sharing your love of birds and nature, step up; if you want to connect with your community, step up; if you’d like to spend a few hours with congenial neighbors, step up! There are lots of ways to be involved, and not just in RRAS.

I enjoy leading bird walks, since it makes me get out more and see more birds, and people seem to get a lot out of guided walks. Occasionally, I like to join the work crew at Wigi Wetlands for the refreshment of physical labor in good company. It’s important to me that I am not merely "taking", but also plowing back my energy into making a better home for us all. I hope you will take advantage of these or other opportunities to engage with your community, too.

A Swainson’s Thrush pouring out its song in the twilight, June 30, 2019, South Humboldt Bay. Photo by Alexa DeJoannis

FIELD TRIPS (continued)

Saturday, Aug 10: Willow Creek Bird Walk. Meet at Studio 299 (75 The Terrace, Willow Creek) starting at 9 a.m. We will depart promptly at 9:30 for our destination; carpooling available. Walks generally run 2-3 hours. All ages, abilities and interest levels welcome! For more information, please contact Birgitte Elbek at 707-267-4140 or willowcreekbirdwalks@gmail.com.

Saturday, Sept 7: Blue Lake Cottonwoods and Hatchery. See Aug 3rd.

Sunday, Sept 8: Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge. This is a wonderful, 2-to-3-hour trip for people wanting to learn about the birds of the Humboldt Bay area. It takes a leisurely pace with emphasis on enjoying the birds! Beginners are more than welcome. Meet at the Refuge Visitor Center at 9 a.m. Contact Leader Ralph Bucher at 707-499-1247 or thebook@reninet.com for more information.

Saturday, Sept 14: Willow Creek Bird Walk. See Aug 10th.

Sunday, Sept 15: Eureka Waterfront. Meet at 9 a.m. by the concrete fishing pier at the foot of W. Del Norte St., where we will scope for birds off the public dock until everyone assembles. We will then walk the Hikshari’ Trail to the south. Contact Leader Ralph Bucher at 707-499-1247 or thebook@reninet.com for more information.

Sunday, September 15: Del Norte. Meet behind the Chartroom Restaurant on Anchor Way at 8 a.m. to carpool. Expect some easy walking; trip ends around 11 a.m. Contact Alexa DeJoannis at 202-288-5174 for more information.
Grow Food for Wildlife in Your Garden

By Gail Kenny

You should plant local native plants in your yard. Almost every plant in your garden that isn’t native to the natural habitats where you live is a virtual desert for wildlife, especially birds!

Birds and other critters who evolved in the natural ecosystems where we live depend on bugs, especially worms in spring, to raise their families. When you plant species in your garden from places far away, you’re depriving local wildlife of food because native bugs haven’t evolved to eat those plants. As a gardener and a lover of nature, I was shocked to learn that common horticultural plants in my garden and neighborhood such as flowering cherry trees, camellia bushes, red maples, butterfly bushes, and so on, aren’t providing food for birds and other critters.

As a gardener I learned bugs that eat plants are bad. We go to extreme measures to protect our garden plants from being eaten. This is especially true if we grow food in our gardens. Conventional gardening includes using poison to kill garden pests. But as a nature lover, I use wildlife- and pet-friendly, organic measures to control unwanted garden pests. The worst pests in my garden are snails which are an exotic invasive species. I’ve learned to plant flowers snails don’t like.

Bringing Nature Home by Douglas Tallamy is a pivotal book explaining why it’s so important to plant locally native plants in our gardens. So much of the landscape is modified by humans. We remove extensive native habitat just for our houses then add roads and concrete. Then we make it worse for wildlife by planting foreign plants they can’t live on. No wonder bird and wildlife populations are falling!

Tallamy explains that local bugs evolved with local plants over thousands to millions of years to overcome the plant’s defenses to them. When we introduce exotic plants, the bugs can’t stomach their defensive chemicals. Plants such as English Ivy were studied and 0 to 1 or 2 bugs were found on them. Native plants can support over 100 species of bugs and still survive.

My approach to landscaping and selecting plants has now changed drastically! I want to plant natives that will support wildlife. That means planting species that bugs will eat. Even better, there are keystone species that can support more bugs than other native plants. These tend to be trees and bushes. Some of the keystone species in our area are willows, red alder, cottonwood, oak, beach pine, and flowers such as native strawberry, lupine, and goldenrod. If you have a larger yard, it’s recommended that you plant trees around the edges of your property.

I’ve started small with buying native plants from the California Native Plant Society’s North Coast Chapter plant sales in spring and fall. (The next plant sale is Sept. 28-29 at the nursery at Freshwater Farms Reserve.) I’ve planted mostly wildflowers, but I added a few small bushes such as ceanothus and ocean spray. I’m looking at planting more shrubs and encouraging native plants such as strawberry and selfheal in my flower beds. I noticed that colt’s foot in the state park nearby get well eaten by bugs, so I’ll be looking for some to plant in my garden. Instead of despairing over bugs eating my garden I’ll be celebrating helping neighborhood birds to have access to protein in the form of worms which is essential for raising their young.

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Redwood Region Audubon Society is on Facebook and Instagram. Find us!
How Do We Create Bird-Friendly Yards & Communities?
Find out on the Yard Tour: Sunday, August 17, 12-4 p.m.

By Denise Seeger

Birds offer us a richer, more beautiful, and healthful place to live. Each community has a unique ecological and cultural story to tell. Creating bird-friendly communities is Audubon’s commitment to the sustainability of our urban, suburban, and rural places. Over the past century, urbanization has taken, fragmented, and transformed ecologically productive land with sterile lawns and exotic ornamental plants. We’ve introduced walls of glass, toxic pesticides, and domestic predators. The human-dominated landscape no longer supports functioning ecosystems or provides healthy places for birds. We can restore and reconnect these places. We can reestablish the ecological functions of our cities and towns. We can provide an essential, safe habitat for birds. With simple acts of hope, everyone can help make their community bird-friendly.

Join Redwood Region Audubon Society for a Bird-Friendly Yard Tour on Saturday, August 17, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Eureka. Visit six private Eureka yards and Lost Foods Native Plant Nursery at Redwood Acres. Get inspired to make your yard more friendly to birds and wildlife!

See what you can do from simply adding the best plants in pots to your patio and deck, to bigger endeavors such as reducing your lawn. Visit a diversity of beautiful and enchanting residential yards that also provide habitat that benefits birds and other wildlife. Learn which native plants provide seeds, berries, nectar, and insects. Discover different types of vegetation that provide shelter and structure, as well as materials and habitat for nesting. Feeders, water features, and cat enclosures are included in some of the yards.

The yard owners are excited about sharing their stories. In reference to food-chain ecology, yard owner and Conservation Committee co-chair Jim Clark says, “the primary bird-friendly elements in our yard are the plants, which provide primary nectar, fruit, and seed foods, and secondary insect foods. Occasionally there is a tertiary food source called birds, for a skillful Sharp-shinned Hawk! The most recent bird-friendly addition to our yard is the “catio”, an enclosure that will allow future cats access to an outside space without access to birds.”

Yard owner Catherine McNally says, “our feeders are in the middle of our vegetable garden which is surrounded by a small fence, protecting birds on the ground. There are trees around the perimeter of the yard where birds wait before coming to the feeders. On the northeast side of the yard we have brush piles which Golden-crowned, White-throated, Fox, and White-crowned Sparrows all seem to like.”

This is the first in a series of community yard tours being planned around the redwood region. See examples, collect resources, share stories, and visit with some of your neighbors! Participants will receive the addresses of the yards when they purchase a $10 ticket. Yards may be visited in any order between noon and 4 p.m. Funds raised will support Redwood Region Audubon Society’s ongoing educational programs and habitat conservation efforts.

Tickets are available at www.rras.org, or mail checks to RRAS, P.O. Box 1054, Eureka, CA 95502 (please postmark by August 12!) Tickets may also be purchased on the day of the event at Lost Foods Native Plant Nursery located at Redwood Acres in Eureka. Restrooms and light refreshments will be available there as well.

Volunteers are needed as greeters at the yards. Responsibilities include working a 2- or 4-hour shift, checking tickets, and providing printed information to visitors. For more information please contact Susan Penn at 707-672-3346 or susanpenn60@gmail.com.
Elders Arrested in Mattole Protest: Sheroes, Heros, & Lifetime Achievers

Nathan Madsen, EPIC Board Member

Four local elders with long, colorful, and impactful histories were arrested at Monument Gate in June, in defense of old growth forests in the Mattole (read more on page 5). When Tom Wheeler, Executive Director of EPIC, asked if I would write a few words about David Simpson, Jane Lapiner, Michael Evenson, and Ellen Taylor, I said, “Of course; it would be an honor.” Sitting down to do just that leaves me at a bit of a loss for words. What can I say that will do justice to these Sheroes and Heroes? And where to begin?

David and Jane started in the 60’s in the Bay Area, creating a new set of social values where personal value and social capital were defined very differently. Seeking to be a part of the back-to-the-land movement, they bought a truck, built a house on the back, and migrated their way through southern Humboldt on their way to Petrolia. The dynamic duo quite literally danced, performed, and joked their way across the country and back again bringing a smile to every face they met and working tirelessly for environmental values.

Michael Evenson has always been the guy with the big timbers who will stand up for what he believes in or in some cases, kneel down. Michael has pulled more nails kneeling on the roofs of old sagging barns than anyone I know—salvaging all that beautiful old redwood lumber (and some fir) for reuse.

Ellen Taylor—how could anyone miss a sweet woman with an accordion dangling from her neck? If you find yourself taking a shot of whiskey, in a large crowd, standing on a bridge over the North Fork Mattole, getting ready to run/ride some 7 miles, you know have found Ellen in her natural habitat. Creative, insightful, deliberate, kind (and fierce), crafty, and ready to organize a group—or if that does not come together, just do it all herself.

It has been a treat and an honor to get to know these local pioneer legends of sustainable forestry, committed re-use/re-cyclers, restoration initiators, and bio-engagers from the seed of sustainable forestry, to the global market force organization known as the Forest Stewardship Council.

Each of this collective has been honored by EPIC with the Sempervirens Award for lifetime achievement in environmental preservation and restoration work. With their recent arrests and the ongoing effort to continue the work of the Lost Coast League, developing lasting reprieve to the never before logged forests of the Rainbow Ridge Region of the North Fork Mattole River, you know their dedication is steadfast. May we all be so lucky to live such a rich full life toiling for a brighter tomorrow with love in our hearts and a sparkle in our eyes!

The following are some of their many accomplishments:

David Simpson: Founder Mattole Restoration Council, Founder Mattole Salmon Group (including Hatch-box Program), Founder Pacific Certified Ecological Forest Products, Rainforest Alliance (certified Smart Wood), Founder Institute for Sustainable Forestry, Founder Human Nature Theater Group, and the list goes on.

Jane Lapiner: Director/Founder of Human Nature, Member San Francisco Mime Troupe, and advisor to David in all his actions.

Michael Evenson: President Mattole Salmon Group, President and Founder Old Growth Timbers, Drafter of the first “sustainable forestry harvest plan”, Rancher, Logger, Current Vice President of the Lost Coast League, Founder Redwood Creek Project (following suit on the Mattole Salmon Group Hatch-box Program), founding member of Beginnings, Log Walk extraordinaire, and much more.

Ellen Taylor PA: Founder of the Rye and Tide race, Rally Organizer, Health Care Provider, and President of the Lost Coast League.
Coastal Commission to Vote on Major Changes to 101 Corridor between Eureka and Arcata

Jennifer Kalt, Director

On August 7, the Coastal Commission will vote on Caltrans’ Eureka-Arcata 101 Corridor Safety Improvement Project, which includes an interchange at Indiana Cutoff, a left turn signal at Airport Drive, closure of all other medians to prevent cross-traffic turns, extended acceleration/deceleration lanes, and a new bridge over Jacoby Creek.

In a 2013 decision regarding the project, the Coastal Commission required the agency to plan or complete the Bay Trail, remove the billboards, plan for sea level rise (SLR), and develop a wetland mitigation plan. Six years later, Caltrans is back—without a sea level rise plan.

Bay Trail and Billboard Removal

Thanks to the Coastal Commission, the Bay Trail has been partially completed, and many billboards removed. Unfortunately, Caltrans proposes to allow four billboards to remain along the bay side of the highway—excluding three billboards that stand in Humboldt Bay on public trust tidelands. These billboards are on private property, and the owner is not willing to sell them. Caltrans automatically renews permits for them every year, despite conflicting with state and local regulations. Caltrans also issues permits for vegetation removal around the billboards without any review of impacts to wetlands, since CBS Outdoor claims the signs are not in or near wetlands. We will continue to call for removal of the three billboards on public trust lands.

Sea Level Rise Planning Deferred to 2030

According to a Caltrans reported released in May, the section of highway from Eureka Slough to the former California Redwood Company mill is projected to be inundated by 2030. And the Coastal Commission’s staff report for the Aug. 7 hearing states that “significant portions of the highway corridor will be flooded with SLR as little as 1.6 feet, which could occur by 2040.” The entire 101 Corridor is in the 100-year flood zone, and is also vulnerable to tsunami and soil liquefaction. These hazards will worsen as sea level rises, especially during major storms.

Despite these projections and the Coastal Commission’s 2013 requirements, Caltrans has now agreed to develop a plan by 2030, or within a year of the first time the highway is flooded four times in a 12-month period. Of course, by the time that happens, it’ll be too late to begin the decades-long Caltrans planning process.

We’ve consistently raised concerns about Caltrans’ plan to construct a highway interchange in a low-lying area along Humboldt Bay without consideration of sea level rise. However, rather than spending the last 10 years planning for a long-term approach—such as a causeway to elevate the highway and allow the bay to expand beneath it—Caltrans plans to apply 20th century solutions to 21st century problems.

All that stands between 101 and Humboldt Bay is the 19th century system of unmaintained earthen dikes along the former rail corridor. According to Aldaron Laird’s 2013 shoreline vulnerability assessment, the majority of the dikes along the Corridor are moderately to highly vulnerable to breaching with current sea level. Caltrans’ short-term sea level rise plan is to rebuild higher dikes. But the long-term impacts of “shoreline armoring” would be devastating to what little salt marsh remains around the bay—the marshes would basically drown unless there is a plan to allow them to migrate to higher ground as sea level rises. Salt marshes and eelgrass beds are critical habitat for many fish, shellfish, and migratory bird species, and are important for maintaining water quality.

Waiting to develop a long-term sea level rise plan until Highway 101 is closed by flooding four times in a year is unacceptable. Can you imagine Highway 101 traffic being rerouted onto Old Arcata Road/Myrtle Avenue and Highway 255 through Manila four times a year? Caltrans can do better than putting this off for another decade.

Make Your Voice Heard!

The Coastal Commission will give the public an opportunity to comment on the Eureka-Arcata 101 Corridor Safety Project on Wednesday, August 7 at 11:00 a.m. at the Wharfinger Building, 1 Marina Way, Eureka.

The agenda and information can be found at https://www.coastal.ca.gov under the Meetings tab. Select Monthly Agenda, click on the Wednesday tab, and scroll down to number 11a Application No. 1.18-1078 (California Dept. of Transportation (Caltrans), Humboldt Co.)

Visit our website at humboldtbaykeeper.org, like us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter @HumBaykeeper. You can sign up for e-news by emailing us at alerts@humboldtbaykeeper.org.

A crumbling section of a century-old earthen dike along the defunct railroad right-of-way is all that stands between U.S. Highway 101 and Humboldt Bay, Oct. 28, 2015. Photo: Nancy Stephenson.
Sierra Pacific up to the Same Old Tricks

Rob DiPerna
California Forest and Wildlife Advocate

A proposed Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI), was recently released in its draft form by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with a companion Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), to which EPIC submitted extensive comments. The Draft HCP put forth by SPI, the largest non-federal landowner in the State of California, would allow the company to “take” both federally-threatened northern spotted owls (Strix occidentails caurina), and its near-relative, a federal candidate for listing, the California spotted owl (Strix occidentails occidentails), a native species to the Sierra-Nevada. A major part of the package put forth by SPI would be the authorization of experimental removal, collection, and study of yet another owl, the non-native and much larger and more aggressive barred owl (Strix varina) that has made its way from the east and become a major complicating factor to northern and potentially California spotted owl survival and recovery in the wild.

SPI is also offering other incentives, like more clearcuts and fuelbreaks as wildfire mitigation to break up the continuity of the ponderosa-pine plantation riddled landscape the company itself creates with its clearcut plantation forestry methods. Oh, and SPI is dangling the carrot of cleaning up illegal trespass cannabis grows on its property, too. What, you may ask, does any of this actually have to do with northern or California spotted owl survival and recovery? Well, nothing—of course, since that’s not really what SPI is interested in.

Despite over 20-years of ESA protections as a threatened species, the northern spotted owl’s downward spiral toward extinction only continues to accelerate, to the point where an “endangered” classification is obviously now warranted. The California spotted owl receives far less protection during the course of non-federal lands timber operations than does the northern spotted owl, and it now seems clear that this owl also warrants ESA listing and protection. The SPI Draft HCP represents an effort by the company and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to grandfather in poor, outdated, or uncertain measures before the status of either species is officially changed.

EPIC Concerns with Green Diamond’s Sproul Creek Intentions

Rob DiPerna

Green Diamond Resource Company, the local re-branded/greenwashed name for the parent Seattle-based Simpson Timber Company, purchased 9,400-acres of timberland in the Sproul Creek Watershed of southern Humboldt and northern Mendocino Counties late last year from Boyle Forests L.P. Boyle Forests is the remaining successor in interest to the Barnum Timber Company in Southern Humboldt and Mendocino.

Prior to the transaction between Boyle and Green Diamond, Boyle donated a conservation easement to the Northcoast Regional Land Trust that prohibits sub-division, parcelization, and development on the 9,400-acre property. What the conservation easement does not restrict, however, is forest management activities or the types and methods of forest management activities.

Sproul Creek is a major tributary to the South Fork of the Eel River, and a tributary into which massive amounts of money, time, investment, sweat, and effort have gone to try and repair damages done in the past and to restore and support one of the last major salmon-spawning tributaries in the system.

The Green Diamond purchase in Sproul Creek raises significant concerns for the fishery, the water quality, and the health of the forest overall in one of Southern Humboldt and Northern Mendocino’s last largely undeveloped areas.

To date, Green Diamond has only demonstrated its ability to do clearcuts—lots of them—and on very short harvest return intervals called rotations. Believe it or not, Green Diamond seems to think clearcutting redwoods every 45-years at absolute most is a perfectly fine and acceptable thing to do in an era of forest depletion and climate change. This behavior in Sproul Creek could spell disaster for the local fishery and the restoration money, time, and effort invested in the watershed.

EPIC has taken a pro-active and community-orientated approach to informing local residents about their new neighbors, what they are known to do, and what people can do to change what might seem like an inevitable outcome. We have helped to organize and participate in two community meetings with concerned local residents to provide information, share skills, answer questions, and get the community mobilized. True to our roots, EPIC dug deep, and we hope Green Diamond will take notice, and a different path in Sproul Creek.

To stay up to date on these and other issues, go to www.wildcalifornia.org
North Coast Water Board comes to Eureka:
Residents speak up for Elk River & National Forest Water Quality

Felice Pace
Water Resources Chair

Two salient items were on the agenda of the June 19 and 20 North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NC Water Board): proposed adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the forest holdings of Humboldt Redwood Company in the Elk River Watershed and a report on the permit (technically called a “waiver”) that is intended to implement the Clean Water Act on National Forest lands within the region.

Nonpoint Source Pollution
Both agenda items involve what our Clean Water Act calls nonpoint source pollution, which enters waterways from diffuse sources across the landscape, rather than from a discrete conveyance like a pipe from a sewage plant or factory. Agriculture, forestry and stormwater run-off are principal sources of non-point pollution.

Sediment from forestry, including logging and the associated roads on public and private land, is the top reason numerous North Coast streams, including the lower Klamath River and many tributaries, are listed as sediment impaired.

Agriculture has major impacts on private lands but also on grazing allotments in our region’s national forests. Poorly managed grazing in wetland-dominated headwater basins and wilderness streams contributes significantly to high stream temperatures and low fall flows that plague salmon and other cold water fish downstream.

Humboldt Redwood Company’s Elk River WDR
On June 19 Water Board staff finally produced a new draft WDRs, after having missed a State Board deadline. The new draft WDRs is a vast improvement over the previously adopted permit, and now includes reasonable rules for when logging and hauling must shut down due to rain or snow.

The Water Board surprisingly adopted the new WDRs unanimously, but representatives of the Elk River residents were not impressed. They pointed out that because the watershed is listed as water quality impaired for sediment, no additional sediment from logging and hauling should be allowed. They want a moratorium on logging until the watershed recovers.

The residents are correct. The North Coast Basin Plan, which implements the Clean Water Act within the Region, is unequivocal in stating “controllable factors shall not cause further degradation of water quality.” While it will allow some sediment delivery to streams, Humboldt Redwood’s Elk River WDRs sets a new standard for private land logging and log hauling in watersheds that are “sediment impaired.” The North Group and its allies will now insist that CWA permits for other sediment impaired timber industry lands incorporate the same levels of protection found in Humboldt Redwood’s Elk River WDRs. If the Water Board does not deliver, we’ll be back petitioning the State Board.

Controlling Pollution on National Forest Lands
On June 20, Water Board staff and Forest Service officials reported on the implementation of a permit (technically called a “waiver”) the Board issued in 2015 for national forest lands within the Region. Chief among problems reported is that national forest grazing allotments mostly escaped CWA regulation due to a technicality.

In comments from the public, EPIC’s Tom Wheeler highlighted Water Board staff approving salvage logging that delivers massive amounts of sediment to streams which are already sediment impaired—a double whammy to burned watersheds—on both timber company controlled and national forest land. Timber companies often begin salvage logging before the fires are out.

Susan Frick, representing the Karuk Tribe, focused on the massive Westside salvage logging after 2014 fires on the Klamath National Forest, lamenting the failure of the Water Board to back the Tribe’s alternative post-fire action, which would have logged fire-killed timber but stayed off unstable lands and riparian areas, unlike the Forest Service’s plan.

I testified on behalf of the North Group and the Grazing Reform Project (www.grazingreform.org) highlighting the massive sedimentation that recurs when Water Board staff allow the Forest Service to rebuild logging roads that have failed time and again in major storms. No amount of “stormproofing” will prevent those roads from failing with catastrophic sediment consequences during major storms.

These presentations to the NC Water Board rendered crystal clear the fact that pollution from logging, unsurfaced roads, and poorly managed grazing remain major sources of water quality degradation in our region. What was also clear is that the public wants that pollution to end. As one of my presentation slides asked: If we can not get clean water on our national forests where can we get it?

Events
One need not be a Sierra Club member to participate in these outings. Please join us!
Saturday, August 17—South Kelsey National Recreation Trail Hike. Join us in the Smith River National Recreation Area for an 8-mile round trip, exploring a portion of the nascent Bigfoot Trail. From the trailhead just off the never-completed but well-paved G-O Road, we will hike past Buck Creek and the Summit Valley Trail juncture to Eightmile Creek and return. Dress for sunny summer weather and a possible swim. Giant cedars and other wonders await us. Bad weather may cancel. Bring lunch, a hat, and water. No dogs. Carpools: Meet 8 a.m. at Ray’s Valley West shopping center. Medium difficulty, less than 1,000 feet elevation change. Contact leader Ned, 707-825-3652 or nedsbakery2@gmail.com for more information.

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 6:45 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.
Basin Plan, which implements the Clean Water Act, controllable factors shall not cause further degradation. There is a moratorium on logging until the watershed recovers. That because the watershed is listed as water quality impaired. Roughly 40 percent of the north coast remains at risk for sediment delivery that can poison the streams that plague salmon and other cold water fish. Headwaters and wilderness streams contribute to sediment flows that plague salmon and other cold water fish. Part of the explanation for this finding is the pattern of land use sources across the landscape, rather than a discrete conveyance like a pipe from a sewage treatment plant. Calls nonpoint source pollution, which enters waterways from a variety of sources, are the biggest problem. This includes activities like road salt, which erodes roadways, and fertilizer, which washes into streams from agricultural lands within the region. Controlling nonpoint source pollution is complicated by the fact that pollution from these sources is diffuse. Neither the NSP nor the Forest Service’s plan. The Humboldt Redwood Company’s Elk River WDR was up for final review. A new draft WDRs is a vast improvement over the previous one. It is a 203-page document that sets new standards for private land logging and log hauling. It calls on the region’s residents to help reduce sediment delivery.

The residents are correct. The North Coast Water Board does not deliver, we’ll be back petitioning the Board for a new standard for private land logging and log hauling. The North Group and its allies will now insist that CWA permits for the Humboldt Redwood Company’s Elk River WDR incorporate the same levels of protection found in the North Coast’s Clean Water Act permits. The new standard for private land logging and log hauling calls for logging and haul new standard for private land logging and log hauling.

Humboldt Coastal Nature Center, Malel Dunes, and Lanphere Dunes. Almost all of our events are free. All of our events are made possible by volunteer effort. Visit www.northcoastcnps.org for more info.

Field Trips & Plant Walks
August 3, Saturday. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Orchids in the Dunes. Orchids are a very diverse group, including quite rare species. Join Carol Ralph to learn about five species of orchid that live in the Lanphere Dunes. Four might be blooming. Walking 1-2 miles, partly on soft sand. Meet at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata) to carpool to the protected site. Co-sponsored by CNPS and Friends of the Dunes. Attendance limited. Call 707-444-1397 to RSVP.

August 4, Sunday. Lost Man Creek Day Hike. The lower part of the Lost Man Creek Trail in Redwood National Park is through lush, old growth redwoods. The upper part of the trail was clearcut immediately before the park acquired the land in the 1970s. With the book “The Last Redwoods and the Parkland of Redwood Creek” (1969, a Sierra Club-Ballantine book) in hand, we will compare some dramatic photos of the past devastation with what is there now, 50 years later. The first 1.5 mile is almost level; beyond that it goes uphill steeply. We will walk until we are half-tired and return the same way. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata). Dress for being outside all day in a shady forest. Bring lunch and water. Return late afternoon. Contact: Carol, 707-822-2015.

September 15, Sunday. Exploring Stone Lagoon’s North End. On this day-hike from the parking area at the north end of Stone Lagoon we will poke along the water’s edge finding wetland plants, walk along the spit finding sand dune plants, and walk along the base of the bluff finding coastal bluff plants. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata). Dress for the weather, including wind. Bring lunch and water. Return late afternoon. Contact: Carol, 707-822-2015.

Orchids in the Dunes
Shown here are the most common orchids blooming in August in the dune forest along Humboldt County coast. Look for them at the Humboldt Coastal Nature Center, Malel Dunes, and Lanphere Dunes. Elegant Rein Orchid (Piperia elegans), Ladies’ Tresses (Spiranthes romanzoffiana), Rattlesnake Orchid (Goodyera oblongifolia). Artwork by Sonja Hough.

Evening Programs
Evening programs are free, public programs on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May, at the Six Rivers Masonic Lodge, 251 Bayside Rd., Arcata. Refreshments at 7:00 p.m.; program at 7:30 p.m. For information or to suggest a speaker or topic, contact Michael Kauffmann at 707-407-7686 or michaelkauffmann@gmail.com.

September 11, Wednesday. 7:30 p.m. “Astounding Astragalus in Humboldt County and Beyond.” Astragalus (the milkvetches) is a large and particularly diverse genus within the western United States, with a large number of rare and endemic taxa. HSU Professor Kerry Byrne will provide an overview of the genus Astragalus in California and beyond, highlight some of the interesting species found in Humboldt Co., and describe some of the ongoing conservation research with a federally endangered Astragalus species in southern Oregon.

Fall Native Plant Sale
Sat. & Sun., September 28 & 29
10 a.m.-3 p.m.
(CNPS members only pre-sale 9 - 10 a.m.)
Freshwater Farms Reserve
5851 Myrtle Ave., Eureka (near Three Corners Market), a property of the Northcoast Regional Land Trust, where cows and coho live side-by-side.
• over 100 species grown by our chapter
• plants and bulbs from four local nurseries
• many species of perennials, grasses, shrubs, and trees
• ferns and succulents
• experienced gardeners to help you find plants for a variety of planting needs
• cash, check, or credit card accepted
• Please bring a box to carry your plants home in!

For more info or questions, contact Chris at 707-826-0259 or visit: www.northcoastcnps.org

If You Miss the Plant Sale: A selection of our chapter-grown native plants is available to buy every day, 12 noon-6 p.m., at the Kneeland Glen Farm Stand at Freshwater Farms Reserve, 5851 Myrtle Ave. (near Three Corners Market). If you don’t see what you want there, you can ask if we have it by contacting us at northcoastcnps@gmail.com.
Margaret Gainer

A combination of waste reduction legislation, increased manufacturer responsibility and a societal shift in our thinking and our habits will reduce plastic pollution. What happens to your plastic materials after you drop them in a recycling bin?

Recycling has been sold to consumers as a way to be environmentally responsible but, in truth, we cannot recycle our way out of our waste problems. Recent research reports on plastic consumption cannot recycle our way out of our waste problems.

What Really Happens with Plastics Recycling?

In reality, however, the plastics recycling process is often difficult to visually distinguish one resin from the other. Not all plastics are equally well-suited for re-melting and re-forming due to differing chemical structures. The number 7 category is a particularly problematic “miscellaneous” category of resins and resin combinations that are generally not recyclable.

This, combined with overall issues of contamination present in mixed or single-stream recycling systems, results in the need for further sorting beyond what the typical MRF equipment can handle. Sometimes these materials are transported to and handled by a separate plastics recycling facility (PRF) where, after sorting, the materials are pelletized before being transported for melting at a plastics manufacturing plant. These multiple stages (collection, transportation, sorting, additional transportation, additional sorting, pelletizing, and yet more transportation) require significant energy and labor just to prepare plastics for re-manufacture into a new product.

Because of these costs, most U.S. single-use plastics are instead baled and shipped to Southeast Asia and the Philippines where this labor-intensive and sometimes dangerous sorting is often done not by machinery, but by children and whole families for a few dollars a day. This aspect of the recycling process is not well-known, and is certainly not desirable from an environmental justice or human rights perspective. Processing plastics for manufacture is also a toxic, polluting process, which wreaks havoc on the air, water, and health of surrounding communities.

These factors represent the rationale for Zero Waste Humboldt’s emphasis on a shift to non-plastic and reusable options for food and beverage packaging. A growing number of shoppers are experimenting with how to purchase food and beverages by bringing their own containers, avoiding plastics, and buying milk and beverages in returnable containers. Future columns in EcoNews will address options that will help you to reduce reliance on single-use plastics, and on important legislation aimed at reducing plastic waste.

Contact us for more information on what you can do to reduce and eliminate your use of plastics!

Margaret Gainer

Support local, non-profit environmental news!

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Informing the North Coast and Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion on environmental issues since 1971

For more information, contact nec@yournec.org

Zero Waste Humboldt
zerowastehumboldt@gmail.com

REUSABLE BOTTLE DRIVE

The NEC is teaming up with the Raven Project to provide a better alternative to single-use plastic bottles for at-risk youth in need of clean water!

Drop off new or used clean reusable water bottles (with lid) at the NEC during our office hours:
Monday 9am-1pm
Tuesday-Thursday 9am-3pm
415 I St. (Corner of I & Samoa) in Arcata

North Coast Cleaning Services

The Green Cleaning Specialists

Commercial office cleaning, window cleaning, and carpet cleaning services.

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PO Box 177, Eureka, CA 95502

NCCS Inc.
Colin Fiske, Executive Director

We all use public streets, and we all have stories—about the place we almost got hit by a car, or couldn't cross the street safely, or just feel so unsafe that we won't even go there on foot or on a bicycle if we can help it. But most of the time, unless there's a serious injury involved, the people who are in a position to make our streets safer never actually hear these stories.

That has now changed. Road users in Humboldt County now have an easy way to let local decision makers know directly where they feel safe and unsafe on local roads and streets: an online safety tool called Street Story.

Street Story was developed by the Safe Transportation Research and Education Center (SafeTREC) at the University of California, Berkeley. Using Street Story, members of the public can identify locations where they have experienced a collision or a near-miss, or areas they feel are hazardous to certain road users. It is free and easy to use, and is already in use in several other communities across California. CRTP is partnering with SafeTREC and local agencies to promote and use this tool locally.

Traditional sources of road safety information like police reports are extremely valuable, but they don't tell the whole story—especially when it comes to people who are walking or biking. Hazards and near misses generally don't make it into these reports, which can result in decision makers failing to take action to improve safety in dangerous areas. Street Story lets people directly and anonymously report where they're not safe or not comfortable using local roads.

CRTP will be looking at the Street Story reports regularly and using them to advocate for infrastructure and policy improvements to make the roads in Humboldt safer for everyone—particularly the most vulnerable users. We will also be providing updates on Street Story reports in our weekly North Coast transportation news roundup, The Collector.

To submit a report on Street Story, visit https://streetstory.berkeley.edu and follow the simple prompts to enter information about a collision, near-miss, hazard, or safe area in just a couple of minutes. Data from Street Story is publicly available and can be used by members of the public as well as agencies, community groups, and the media.
Trinidad Hotel
Continued from page 6

...a full evaluation of Trinidad water needs and policies as a three- to four-year process.

In any case, as Ladwig has pointed out, it is still unknown exactly how much water the hotel would need. The project’s initial Environmental Assessment last fall set the daily demand at 19,000 gallons per day (gpd)—the equivalent of 45 single-family homes. In June, the Coastal Commission staff estimated hotel demand at 14,000 gpd.

In addition to the wells or springs on Rancheria property, other water sources are also being considered including a combination of recycled grey water for toilets and landscaping, well water, rainwater catchment, and extracting moisture from the air. Sundberg’s revelation to Commission Chair Bochco of a new well would change that equation.

While the focus is on Trinidad’s water capacity, critics of the project are also concerned that the Coastal Commission essentially gave the hotel developers a “bye” on other difficult issues such as traffic impacts, wastewater treatment, and light and noise pollution.

At the San Diego hearing in June, commissioners paid little attention to staff and Trinidad residents’ concerns over the visual impact of a “five-plus”-story high-rise towering on the edge of the bluff 100 feet above Trinidad Bay.

Some 1,349 people signed an online petition that called the proposed hotel design “wrong for the Trinidad coast,” and many offered comments that seem to have been ignored by the CCC, which scarcely addressed the height and visual impact concerns at the June hearing.

At approximately 64 feet, the building would be at least two stories—24 feet—taller than any other structure on the coast. and one of the tallest buildings in the county. Previously, the Coastal Commission has restricted the height of buildings in the local Coastal Zone to 30-40 feet to minimize visual impact, and CCC regulations call for designs compatible with existing character of the community.

Beyond the visual impacts and the ongoing water supply issue, Trinidad residents and visitors scoff at the developer’s traffic study, which concluded that a 100-room hotel would have negligible impact on Trinidad traffic. That conclusion seems based on proposed construction of a major interchange on Highway 101 to serve the Trinidad Rancheria property, its hotel, casino and other possible developments, including a 50-unit RV park, gas station, and minimart.

In late June, the California Transportation Commission approved $775,000 in funding for environmental impact and other work in preparation for the special Rancheria exit 1 mile south of the existing Trinidad exit and 1 mile north of the Westhaven exit. If that project goes forward, it will cost tens of millions of dollars and would not be completed until 2026 at the earliest.

Climate Leaders Urge Massive Turnout for Global Climate Strikes in Sept.

OUR HOUSE IS ON FIRE—LET’S ACT LIKE IT. -CLIMATE ACTIVIST GRETA THUNBERG

GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE
20-27 SEPT

Andrea Germanos
This article was originally published online at CommonDreams.org

Organizers of upcoming global climate strikes hope their demands for a rapid end to business as usual and a swift start to climate justice will be too loud to ignore.

The strikes, which are set for September 20 and 27—with additional actions slated for the days in between—are planned in over 150 countries thus far, and over 6,000 people have already pledged to take part. It has the potential to be the biggest climate mobilization yet, said organizers.

“Our house is on fire—let’s act like it,” says the strikes’ call-to-action, referencing the words of Swedish activist Greta Thunberg. “We demand climate justice... because this is a global issue which actually affects everyone.”

It’s been the world’s youth, though, that have played a driving force in recently calling attention to the climate crisis with protests and school strikes. “Young people have been leading here,” 350.org co-founder Bill McKibben said, “but now it’s the job of the rest of us to back them up.”

The two Fridays of action will bookend a “Week for Future” to sustain the climate call. Nested between

WE NEED EVERYONE

call 822-6918 or email editor@yournec.org
In honor of the late Robbin Thorp, native bee researcher and aficionado.

Rhiannon Lewis-Stephenson

As a beekeeper and self-proclaimed bee nerd, I am often asked about the decline of the honey bees (Apis mellifera) and what we should be doing about it. And while there is a lot to say on that topic, a more dire and much less talked about issue is the decline of native bee populations. Despite there being approximately 20,000 known bee species in the world, with 1,600 native bee species in California alone, the introduced European honey bee continues to dominate research, media attention, and culture to the detriment of its close native cousins.

This comes as no surprise; honey bees have had a close relationship with humans for thousands of years through their production of honey; their ability to be managed due to their unique, large, organized social structures; and their subsequent instrumentality in the last millennia as pollinators of our staple agricultural crops. And while “Save the Honey Bees” has become a popular slogan throughout the world, the alarming decline of native bee populations also needs attention.

The majority of native bees are ground-dwelling and solitary, meaning that they exist without social structures and in many cases one female bee creates her own nest and lays once yearly. Due to their specialized habitat and low birth rate, they are extremely susceptible to habitat loss and fragmentation from human impacts such as monocrops, highways, and housing developments. In addition, certain native bees have been shown to be more sensitive to neonicotinoids and other pesticides than honey bees. Many of the studies surrounding the effects of pesticides on bees, however, continue to focus only on the introduced honey bee, leaving native bees at greater risk.

Studies now show that rogue honey bee hives could be contributing to the spread of invasive plant species through preferential pollination, thereby decreasing wild plant populations. This negatively impacts native bees that rely on regional flora and fauna. Additionally, honey bees in certain areas can create competition for resources and spread diseases among native bees. Honey bees are an introduced, non-native species that must be managed responsibly in order to lessen their impacts on native plant and bee species.

Protecting and restoring native bee populations begins with learning more about them. The incredible variety of native bees that pollinate our wild and cultivated plants deserve their due recognition.

Here is a quick overview of three common native bee species in our Northern California region:

*Bombus vosnesenskii* - Yellow-faced Bumble bee

The fuzzy and semi-social bumble bee belongs to the same family as the honey bee, Apidae. In California, we have several different species of Bombus, in which *Bombus vosnesenskii*, the yellow-faced bumble bee, is probably the most common.

Bumble bees are similar to honey bees in that they do produce small amounts of honey (but only for emergency food rations), and that they exist within small hierarchical social structures with a queen bee.

Bumble bees are important pollinators for crops that rely on buzz pollination, such as tomatoes. Once abundant, their populations have been plummeting in recent years.

The Franklin’s bumble bee (*Bombus franklini*) that the late Robin Thorp kept a dedicated eye on, has still not been spotted in surveys since 2006, but was previously found in our coast ranges.

*Osmia californica* - California Mason Bee

The California mason bee, *Osmia californica*, belong to the family Megachilidae. Efficient and avid pollinators, a single female bee can visit around 20,000 blossoms a day, whereas a honey bee only visits 50-1,000. Despite a common misconception that honey bees are the most efficient pollinators, many native bees like *Osmia californica* pollinate at much higher rates.

Apt to their name, these bees nest in tunnels they create within old wooden structures and old masonry, as well as in trees, logs, rotting wood, and also hollow stems of herbaceous plants and grasses.

*Agapostemon texanus* - Ultra-green Sweat Bee

Green sweat bees, or Agapostemon, are the most strikingly colored members of the Halictinae family. The female bees are found in solid colors of metallic greens and blues while the male bees are colored with additionally striped abdomens. Their common name, sweat bees, comes from their preference during hot days for lapping up human sweat due to the salt it contains.

The majority of Agapostemon are solitary ground-nesting bees. Two to 24 females will sometimes share a single ground nest, but each individual will build and provision its own nest cells.

*Osmia californica* - California Mason Bee

The California mason bee, *Osmia californica*, belong to the family Megachilidae. Efficient and avid pollinators, a single female bee can visit around 20,000 blossoms a day, whereas a honey bee only visits 50-1,000. Despite a common misconception that honey bees are the most efficient pollinators, many native bees like *Osmia californica* pollinate at much higher rates.

Apt to their name, these bees nest in tunnels they create within old wooden structures and old masonry, as well as in trees, logs, rotting wood, and also hollow stems of herbaceous plants and grasses.
**Terra-Gen Wind**

Continued from page 4

The horned lark, named for plumage that resembles horns, is one of the most frequently killed species at wind energy projects in the west. The population at Bear River Ridge can’t afford to lose many more. Surveys of the area suggest that there are only seven breeding pairs left. The only way to avoid impacts to horned larks is not to build wind turbines in areas where they might be impacted.

**Raptors**

Many species of raptors call the project area home, including bald and golden eagles. This project is likely to kill many of them—although just how many is unclear. Based on fatalities at other wind projects, the DEIR provides a large range of potential takes: a lower estimate at four to 29 raptors per year (based on projects in the northwest), or up to 114 raptors per year, if using data from the “Pacific biofaunal biome.”

Even at the lower estimate, the impacts are significant. Raptors are generally long-lived with a relatively low reproductive rate. They are highly sensitive to impacts, and even small increases in mortality can send populations plummeting. Survey work in the project area has identified a number of species of special concern in addition to bald and golden eagles.

Impacts to raptors have historically been one of the most well documented failings of wind energy projects. Consequently, significant effort has been put forth to find ways to avoid and minimize harm to raptors. The “Top of the World” project in Wyoming, for example, uses camera-aided artificial intelligence to recognize raptors as they approach that wind project, shutting down turbines if the bird is at risk of collision. Similar technology should be implemented for this project.

**Necessary Changes to the Project**

We are mindful that renewable energy development is not without ecological costs. That said, it can—and should—be done in a manner that avoids, minimizes, and mitigates impacts to the greatest extent feasible. Based on our review of the project, our organizations have determined that the following changes are necessary under state law:

1. Remove all proposed wind turbines from the coastal prairies of Bear River Ridge. This has been analyzed in the DEIR as the “environmentally superior alternative,” as it presents the least impact while still meeting the project objectives.
2. Incorporate informed operational curtailment or curtailment during high-risk periods for marbled murrelets, raptors (particularly special-status species and bald and golden eagles), and bats (western red, hoary, and silver-haired bats).
3. Create a robust adaptive management program throughout the life of the project to monitor operational impacts and to implement, as technology advances, new mitigation measures.

Stayed tuned to EPIC and the NEC for updates on this proposed project!
Mattole
Continued from page 5

...Rook of food, played loud misogynistic music, trained lights on Rook at night, and then made Rook beg for food and water. These military tactics are designed to break down resistance and gain compliance with the torturer, but have not yet broken Rook.

A public outcry forced HRC to rescind their harsh tactics after protests by elected officials, religious leaders and community members.

Owls are a better judge of High Conservation Values than SCS’s investigators

When the harvest plan was filed in 2012, HRC claimed there were no spotted owls on site, however two owl habitations were discovered when they were on the verge of falling trees. The HRC forester filed routine “minor” amendments, promising to keep fallers away from a few acres around the owl and wait until after August to fall the rest of the mandated 1000’ radius protection zone. CalFire just as routinely approved these changes.

The presence of spotted owls, which are plummeting toward extinction, was “substantial new information” which required a new review, complete with public and expert evaluation. It was also discovered that HRC had begun falling trees around the owl before CalFire had approved the plan’s amendment. This was brought to CalFire’s attention and it alarmed even them. They inspected the area the very next day.

But CalFire shrugged it off, saying the Palco-era Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) covered the owls, therefore HRC could fragment owl habitat. The owl’s continued decline should, however, invalidate the HCP (which was a contract to maintain and increase the population).

In late July, after falling the trees on Long Ridge, HRC finally circulated an HCVF plan, allowing a scant two weeks for review. The plan essentially condemns the Rainbow Ridge forests, sparing only the riparian corridors (narrowed in some cases to 50 feet from the stream) to be conserved as HCVF. Lost Coast League has requested an extension for review, since HRC has all year to complete this plan, and also has hired expertise to give a thorough review of HRC’s conclusions—this process, however, will take more than two weeks.

The public is left with no assurance that sustainable certification has any meaning. Home Depot customers are hoodwinked into believing that they are buying wood harvested without harming the forest homes of creatures in danger of extinction. Additionally, Humboldt County is losing one of the world’s highest carbon sequestering forests, contributing to planet-wide climate chaos.

Throughout it all, Rook, with two Sonoma tree voles as companions, witnesses this destruction, writing: “I sit up in my perch, listening to the thunder of trees falling—close—across the creek on Brushy Ridge. I think about a future without forests. How long can it continue, how long until we create a climate unable to support healthy forests?”

22ND COHO CONFAB
AUGUST 23-25
SANDY BAR RANCH, ORLEANS, CA

Press Release

The Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) is coordinating the 22nd Annual Coho Confab on August 23-25 at Sandy Bar Ranch in the rugged Mid-Klamath region. The Coho Confab is a field symposium to learn about watershed restoration and techniques to restore and recover coho salmon populations. The Confab provides a unique opportunity to network with other watershed restorationists and to participate in field tours that highlight innovative salmon restoration practices. SRF is collaborating with several groups to produce this educational event including Mid-Klamath Watershed Council, the Yurok Tribe Fisheries Program, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

The event features a community dinner, inspiring keynote presentations, field tours, and a forum on Klamath Dam removal.

“'The Confab brings together watershed restorationists, landowners, wild salmon advocates, and watershed stewards in communities that are striving to protect and restore threatened coho salmon populations. The Klamath is a salmon stronghold and an ideal place to convene and confabulate about how to best protect remaining coho salmon populations,” stated Dana Stolzman, Executive Director, Salmonid Restoration Federation.

To register for the Confab or to view the full agenda please visit our website: http://www.calsalmon.org or contact the Salmonid Restoration Federation at srf@calsalmon.org.

Student Focus
Continued from page 8

SCRAP Humboldt is a fantastic local nonprofit organization located on South G St. in Arcata dedicated to creative reuse, also known as upcycling. SRF has an extensive stock of school supplies, all of which are donated by local community members or businesses. At SRF you will find bins of pencils and pens, a wall full of markers and highlighters, binders, computer paper, ruled paper, post-its, sheet protectors, graphing and non-graphing calculators, and more! Most of the school supplies are less than one dollar per item. There is also a large collection of art supplies for art majors, including watercolor and acrylic paints, art pads, paintbrushes, and colored pencils. SRF has already diverted nearly 14,000 pounds of usable materials from the landfill in 2019 alone! You can also volunteer at SRF on Fridays to receive 20 percent off your purchase!

Rather than heading to Amazon.com for your textbooks, check out used book stores such as Tin Can Mailman on H St. in Arcata. Tin Can also buys used textbooks, so if you have some books from last semester Tin Can may help take them off your hands.

This back to school season, attempt to go zero waste. Look through what you have to assess what you actually need before heading out to do your shopping. For those items that you do need, check out some of the places listed in this article, or visit this article on our website for a more extensive list of thrift and reuse stores. There are many local options to help you find what you need for back to school. Reduce, reuse and shop local to help start the school semester off in a sustainable way!
Help us continue to advocate, educate, and bring you ECO NEWS

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

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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 23-7125386.

Northcoast Environmental Center
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Summer Patio Party
Join NEC staff and friends for a Fundraising Dinner!
Sunday, August 25, 3-7pm
Great food, locally brewed beverages, lawn games, guided walks, music, and more!
Space is limited so please RSVP now!

To reserve tickets, visit www.yournec.org/patioparty2019

Hey you!
the All Species Parade is September 21
MAsk Workshop info on Page 8
www.yournec.org/allspeciesparade

Join the NEC at Arts!Arcata
Enjoy live music and drinks with NEC staff!
6-9pm
September 13
Garden Gate

Zero Waste Coastal Cleanup Day
Saturday September 21
www.yournec.org/coastalcleanupday

How to get involved:
1. Visit our website at www.yournec.org/coastalcleanupday
2. Fill out the google form to be a site captain or join an existing team!
3. Bring your own reusable cleanup supplies to assist us in our zero waste goals.
4. Spread the word to family and friends about the importance of marine debris removal and ending single use plastics!