



**SIERRA  
CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892



# Sierra Uplift

**Newsletter of the Sierra Nevada Group of the Sierra Club**

**July - August 2003**

**Issue 7, Number 4**

## **General Meeting**

### **The Sierra Nevada Group of the Sierra Club**

**Annual Picnic  
July 18, 2003**

**Come join us for this fun event at the home of  
Bob and Joyce Regan Goar.**

**Arrive 6pm, mix, mingle, socialize. Eat at 7pm**

**Please bring something to put on the barby, your plate and utensils,  
something to share and a beverage of your choice.**

**Ice for drinks and coals for the fire will be supplied by our hosts**

**Directions to the Goars:**

**14676 Highland Dr, Grass Valley**

**477-5050**

**Turn right on Rattlesnake Rd off Hwy 174 just past Union  
Hill. Go approx. a mile south to the second Highland Dr  
(it is a loop) and turn left. The Goar's are the second  
home on the left.**



# Chair Chatter

by Carolyn Hinshaw

## A Community Divided

The Sierra Nevada Group is a member of the California Wilderness Coalition and has supported local efforts to promote wilderness designation for the Grouse Lakes and Castle Peak areas. Nevada County is one of only two counties in California with no wilderness, depriving our County and its citizens from participating in the social and economic benefits that this designation produces.

Wilderness provides a diverse range of recreational opportunities for anglers, hunters, birders, day hikers, horse-packers, canoeists, kayakers, rock-climbers, photographers, snowshoers, cross-country skiers and others.

The outdoor recreation industry is a substantial contributor to the economy of Nevada County and, in addition, a recent community assessment study indicated that the majority of the residents here cited "opportunity to enjoy our natural areas" as a reason to reside here. Research also suggests that counties containing a higher percentage of wilderness have higher total income, employment, and per capita income growth rates than counties without wilderness.

Personally, I feel that the opportunity to experience the solace and rejuvenation of being out in nature - away from the stress, traffic and noise that is such a fixture of our daily lives is the most significant benefit to be derived from these natural areas.

For the last four years the CWC and local citizens have spent countless hours surveying publicly owned lands in the state and evaluating them for suitability for wilderness designation. These efforts also involved working with many diverse community groups to come to a common understanding as to which areas would be included and which would be omitted. Efforts like these make a community stronger. Last Tuesday's vote by the Board of Supervisors to undo the cooperation that these groups had worked toward just serves to further divide our community. I think it is a sad day for Nevada County when the majority of our Board of Supervisors continues to promote divisiveness in the community instead of trying to find ways we can work together.

# Conservation Committee Report

by Karen Cox



## Fact or Fiction?

The White House-supported Healthy Forest Restoration Act which was approved by the House on May 20 is supposed to solve the problem of delay for the Forest Service. Supposedly meritless, lengthy appeals and lawsuits make it impossible for the Forest Service to implement critical fire protection projects. Fact: A report to Congress recently released by the General Accounting Office (GAO) found that few forest thinning projects have been stalled by citizen appeals or litigation. The report found that more than three-quarters of the 762 wildfire protection projects proposed during the past two years were never challenged by appeals. Only 3 percent of the projects were litigated. The GAO report asserts that the appeals have actually called genuine problems to the attention of the Forest Service. The Healthy Forest Restoration Act would sharply reduce the ability of community members to ensure that wildfire prevention projects actually help protect the natural environment and the local communities.

**Sierra Nevada Framework.** The new revised document has been released and it calls for increased logging from 200 million board feet to 600 million. One of the major changes is to allow cutting more medium-sized trees in the 24 to 30 inch diameter range. By allowing loggers to cut those trees it will pay to cut the smaller trees which have little commercial value. Cutting the larger trees reduces the canopy cover thus drying out the landscape and takes out the trees that probably wouldn't burn anyway. It seems to be a solution that is more helpful to loggers than to wildlife. Written comments on the latest Framework plan are due by Sept. 12. Send to Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment DSEIS, PO Box 221090, Salt Lake City, UT 84122-1090. To read the document and summary, go to [www.fs.fed.us/r5/snfpa](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/snfpa).

**Grazing.** Because we are surrounded by forests the majority of my comments are usually about forestry concerns. Though cattle grazing is a concern in the Tahoe National Forest it is even more of a concern in the large portions of the west which are more arid than we are. Last month I attended a workshop on grazing in riparian areas. It was sponsored by the Great Old Broads for Wilderness (yes, there really is such an organization, [www.greatoldbroads.org](http://www.greatoldbroads.org)). The workshop was led by four scientists who have been working on a tool for activists to use in assessing the health of riparian areas. Our group's purpose was to see whether with training we could

Continued on Page 4

## In Memoriam

Impossible as it may seem, Trieve Tanner, Sierra Nevada Group's dedicated Management Team member and Treasurer, died on May 1. His death leaves a gigantic hole in our community of volunteers here in western Nevada County. We were very fortunate to have captured Trieve's talents and attention in the last four years. His generosity of spirit and willingness to share his time and considerable abilities were recognized by a variety of organizations - Sierra Club, SYRCL, Yuba Watershed Council, Nevada County Land Trust and Children's Advocates of Nevada County. These are just the ones we know about. One could always count on Trieve, and often his wife Barbara, to be on hand for a Club event or meeting, ready to do anything necessary to help make it a success. We will remember him always smiling, energetic, enthusiastic and thoughtful. Trieve cared deeply about our local environment as well as issues on the global scale. We pay tribute to a friend and a friend of the environment



Thursday, June 5, 2003

### Sierra Club Elects New President

#### A Conversation with Larry Fahn

In May, the Sierra Club's Board of Directors elected long-time San Francisco Bay Area environmental and political activist Larry Fahn as the Club's 50th president. Fahn, 49, is an attorney best known for his work on toxics enforcement and organizing shareholders to make corporations more environmentally accountable.

"We face the most environmentally hostile federal government in our nation's 227-year history," says Fahn. "The country is being run by two oilmen, and the Cabinet and sub-Cabinet are salted with representatives of corporate interests and attorneys and lobbyists for mining, timber, auto and oil companies. These interests helped propel Bush to the presidency, and now they're seeking a return on their investment."

Fahn serves as executive director of the As You Sow Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to environmental advocacy and consumer activism. Previously, he spent nearly two decades practicing law in San Francisco, representing individuals, small businesses, environmental and community groups. He spent 15 years as a legislative delegate to the State Bar of California's Conference of Delegates.



Full article at <http://www.sierraclub.org/currents/fahn.asp>



# SNG Outings

**Sunday, July 13, 2003**  
**Hike Rim Trail at Malakoff State Park**

Moderate walk through the woods  
 Seven Miles around the Diggings  
 Explore the Old Town site of North Bloomfield  
 Contact for details: 265-2432

**Sunday, August 24, 2003**  
**Hike - Grouse Lakes Area**  
**Crooked Lakes Trail To Penner Lake**

A very scenic and popular hike with wonderful views of the many lakes along the way. We plan to hike the approx. 6 mile round trip moderate route starting out at Carr Lake. Meet at Rood Center at 9am, return around 3-4 pm. Bring water, lunch and hiking gear. Friendly dogs welcome. Call Jean (477-7902) by Thurs., 8/21 to sign up (must have 4 sign ups or trip cancels).

**Saturday, July 19, 2003**

**South end of Castle Peak  
 proposed wilderness.**

Meet at Nevada County Rood Center at Maidu Ave and Hwy 49 in Nevada City at 8:00 a.m. Alternatively meet on north side of Boreal Ridge at 9:00 a.m. Take Boreal Ridge exit off of Hwy 80 and turn left under freeway and follow road along northside of Hwy 80 1/4 mile to parking area. We will hike the Pacific Crest trail to Castle Pass and Round Valley into the proposed Castle Peak wilderness. Great views of Castle Peak and Basin Peak, and their wildflowers.

Return around 4 p.m. Bring water and lunch.

Co-leaders: Don Rivenes (530) 478-0117

[rivenes@infostations.net](mailto:rivenes@infostations.net),  
 and Don Jacobson

Courtesy of a non Sierra Club organization

**Saturday, July 26, 2003**

**North end of Castle Peak  
 proposed wilderness.**

Meet at Nevada County Rood Center at Maidu Ave and Hwy 49 in Nevada City at 7:30 a.m. Alternatively meet at Forest Service Ranger Station on Hwy 89 just north of Hwy 80 at Hwy 267 exit at 8:30 a.m. We will carpool to Little Truckee summit and the Mt. Lola trail at Coldstream Meadows where we will park and hike up Mt. Lola looking at wildflowers in the proposed Castle Peak wilderness. We will also look for Willow flycatchers along the Little Truckee river in Perazzo Meadows. Return around 4 p.m. Bring water and lunch.

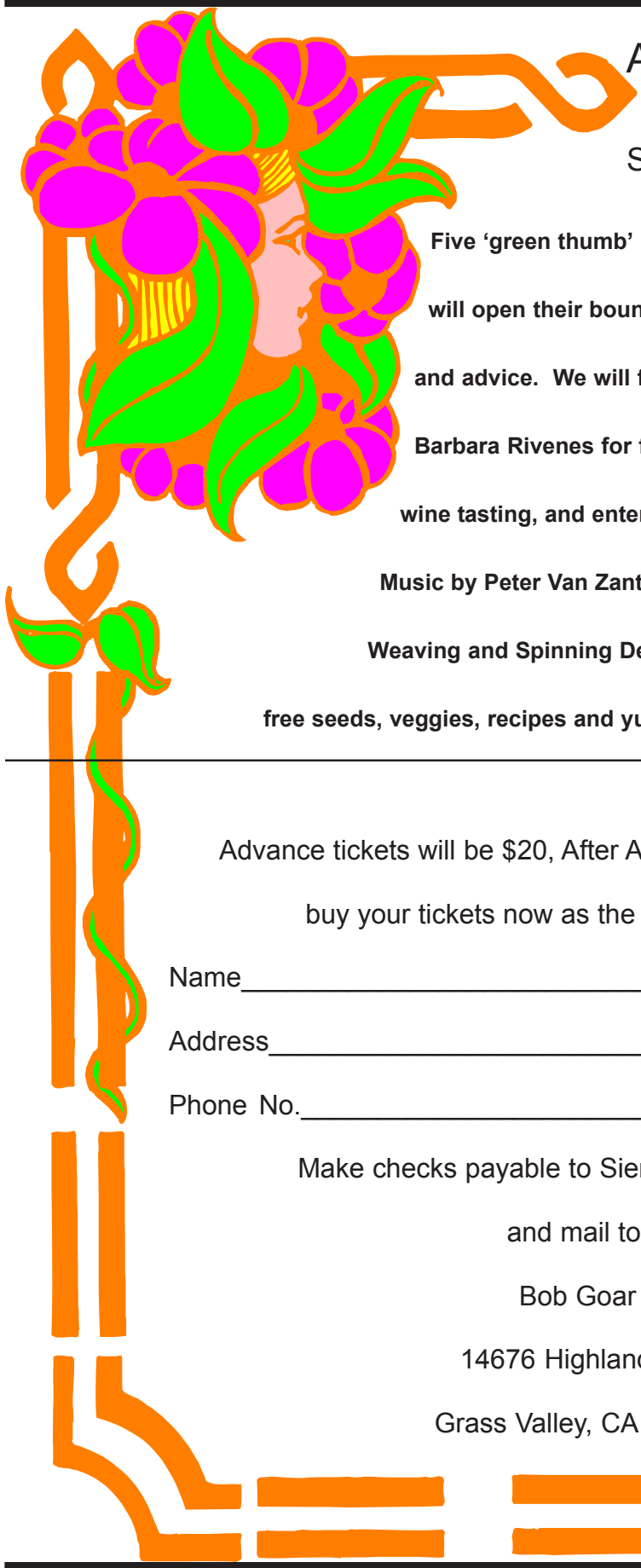
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Courtesy of a non Sierra Club organization

Continued from Page 2

actually use the tool to assess a rangeland riparian area. We camped at a BLM campground in Canyonlands in Utah. The assessment is conducted by taking a number of measurements both in the stream and on the bank. We measured algal growth, bank shading, bank stability, percent of vegetation which was native, amount of large woody debris and many other factors. The first day we took measurements in an area where cows have been excluded since 1988. The next day we went further downstream to an area where cows graze every year. There was quite a difference between the two areas. If you have seen the pictures in Welfare Ranching edited by George Wuerthner and Mollie Matteson you know what an impact cattle can have on a riparian area. The Sierra Club adopted an excellent grazing policy in 2000. I have an E-mail copy and would be glad to send it to anyone who is interested. E-mail me at [Twokyuba@telis.org](mailto:Twokyuba@telis.org).



# A Taste of the Garden

Sunday, August 24 1pm - 5pm

Five 'green thumb' Nevada County gardeners

will open their bountiful vegetable gardens to us for viewing

and advice. We will finish up the tour at the home of Don and

Barbara Rivenes for food, sampling of dishes from the gardens,

wine tasting, and entertainment.

Music by Peter Van Zant and friends

Weaving and Spinning Demonstration

free seeds, veggies, recipes and yummy dishes to sample

Advance tickets will be \$20, After Aug 10 they will be \$25

buy your tickets now as the number is limited

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Sierra Nevada Group

and mail to:

Bob Goar

14676 Highland Dr.

Grass Valley, CA 95945

## Sierra Uplift

The Sierra Nevada Group  
of the Sierra Club  
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Nevada City, CA 95959

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U.S. Postage Paid  
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Grass Valley, CA

## Monthly Meetings

### Conservation and Management Committee

Meets every 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 6:30 p.m.  
at the SYRCL office at 216 Main St.,  
Nevada City.

## Address Changes

Send old and new addresses to  
Sierra Club Member Services  
P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80328-2968

## Web Connections

Find national and local Sierra Club news by visiting  
these web sites:  
<http://www.sierraclub.org> and  
<http://www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/sierranevada>

## Sierra Uplift

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