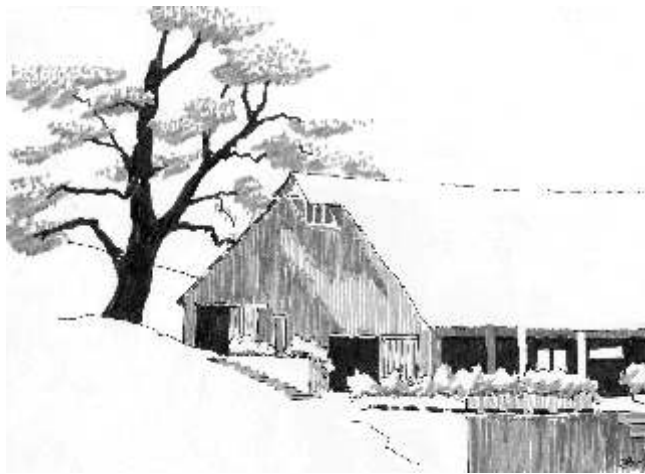


A Day in the Country

A celebration to benefit the Cache Creek Wild & Scenic Campaign - Sunday May 15th, 1-4pm

Support the effort to permanently protect upper Cache Creek as a wild and scenic river by joining your friends and neighbors for an afternoon in the Capay Valley.

The benefit will be held at the beautiful Taber Ranch off of Hwy 16 on County Road 81 (3 miles from Esparto). The day will start off with an optional low stress hike near upper Cache Creek (see yolohiker.org for details), or you can simply join us for the benefit party, featuring great music, light refreshments, and in-depth information about current environmental campaigns in Yolo and Lake Counties.



For less than \$1 per mile of protected river (\$20 pre-purchased, \$25 at the door) you can support permanent protection for upper Cache Creek. Encourage your friends, co-workers, and neighbors to support the campaign goal by attending this event.

You can purchase tickets through paypal on the Tuleyome website, www.tuleyome.org, or mail a check to CCW&S Benefit, P.O. Box 74304, Davis, CA 95617. *For questions or volunteer inquiries please call Maria Tebbutt at 530-753-1125 or email her at funmaria@sbcglobal.net.*

Good News on Mega-Dairies in Solano County

After listening to public testimony at the April 5 hearing on regulations for mega-dairies, the Solano County Board of Supervisors sent staff back with instructions to modify the draft ordinances on Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). The supervisors asked staff to consider 3-mile buffers between large dairies and city growth boundaries and a two mile limit from the planned veteran's cemetery near Dixon; to require dual liners for manure lagoons to minimize leakage; and to require new dairies to post a financial bond. At the hearing, a variety of experts discussed technical issues including leaching of chemicals from manure lagoons, use of manure on crops, and public health effects of the large amounts of animal waste produced by large CAFOs.

This is good news for the Sierra Club, animal rights groups, neighbors of the existing Heritage Dairy, and other concerned citizens of *(Continued on page 2)*

Visit us at the Whole Earth Festival

The Whole Earth Festival is just around the corner! The Yolano Group will have a table at the Festival Friday May 6th through Sunday 8th. We will focus on growth in Yolo County and associated air, water, and agricultural issues. We will also have information, letters and petitions on many issues, including drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, mercury in the environment, global warming, genetic engineering and our food, mega-dairies in Solano and Yolo Counties; and efforts to join the Sacramento Municipal Utility District.

We will share our table with Cache Creek Wild, a group dedicated to protecting Cache Creek, with information on Lois Wolk's bill AB1328 to protect upper Cache Creek as a state wild and scenic river and what you can do to help.

Please be sure to visit our table while enjoying the Festival. Learn all you can about these important issues and TAKE ACTION! See you there!

In this issue:

- *Benefit for the Cache Creek Wild and Scenic Campaign
- *Visit us at the Whole Earth Festival
- *Good news on mega-dairies in Solano county.
- *Mega-dairy update.
- *Burrowing owl consortium meeting
- *Cache Creek bill introduced
- *Why State Wild and Scenic designation?
- *Volunteer for Cache Creek
- *Sierra Club Outings
- *Volunteers needed for County fair

How can I help? Volunteer for Cache Creek.

Solano County. For two years, the Club and others have asked for much stronger regulations for large confined animal facilities. The Club has advocated in public and in writing for a minimum of 3-mile buffers, synthetic and dual liners for lagoons, better measurement and control of toxic air-borne emissions, and other management and operation regulations to minimize the impacts of these facilities on the environment and on human health. At the April 5th meeting, attorney Brent Newell representing the Sierra Club acknowledged that the Supervisors are making some significant steps toward creating good, solid ordinances, though it is too soon to say the Club will endorse the new regulations.

Not everyone was happy with the 3-mile buffer recommendation. City officials from Vacaville and Dixon want dairies far from their borders because of potential foul odors and air pollution. The cities have been advocating for 5 and even 10 mile buffers. Others fear that even a 3-mile buffer makes it very difficult to locate dairies in Solano County. The three mile buffer proposal could leave a strip of land east of Highway 113 that would accommodate no more than 12 to 15 more large dairies.

Air quality concerns are still an issue. Public health officials at the hearing testified that workers on large CAFOs are at risk for developing asthma. The effect on near-by communities is still a subject of research. Some experts believe that 2 to 3-mile buffers might help. Air quality issues and potential for pollution by toxic emissions from large CAFOs are being left up to the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Control District. The district is currently working on new rules to regulate emissions from agricultural sources including large confined animal operations.

Though there is still work to be done to protect communities and the environment from these polluting facilities, stronger regulations (such as increased buffers) restrict the number of large CAFOs that can be accommodated in Solano County, and increase the cost to potential CAFOs considering the move to the county. If the new regulations are adopted, future dairy operators will have to consider not only the cost of an EIR, but also that of posting a financial bond, installing and maintaining synthetic liners, and general increases in construction and operation expenses. This may make potential dairy operators think twice before moving to Solano County.

Contact Solano County Supervisors: Thank them for their work so far and **encourage them to continue with research and discussion on impacts of large confined animal facilities on the environment and human health** and on ways to minimize or eliminate these impacts. *Contact information and other actions are at the end of the mega-dairy update article.* ☒

Mega-Dairy Update

By Pam Nieberg

The Sierra Club has been working in Solano and Yolo Counties to encourage county officials to carefully consider the impacts of new or expanding large concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). These operations are polluting industries and must be strictly regulated to reduce their impacts on the environment and human health.

The Sierra Club has asked Solano County officials not to allow any more large CAFOs, like the nearly 4000-cow Heritage Dairy near Dixon, into the county until strong standards to regulate design, construction, and operation of these facilities are in place. In November 2003 the Heritage Dairy was responsible for a spill of 1.3 million gallons of liquefied animal waste into agricultural drains that empty into the Sacramento-San Joaquin

Delta. This massive spill resulted from pump failure on one of the dairy's waste lagoons. The county required that the dairy owner/operator, Peter Albers, acquire more powerful pumps to help prevent future accidents of this kind.

On February 27 of this year, the Heritage Dairy again spilled animal waste from one of its lagoons.

According to a county employee, the spill lasted 12 to 18 hours Sunday night to Monday morning. A worker for the Reclamation District discovered the spill, not the dairy employees. According to a County Environmental Health employee, the discharge was between 5 and 30 gallons per minute. Over 12 to 18 hours, this could equate to several thousand gallons of liquefied animal waste flowing off-site. Like the previous spill, the cause was pump failure. Though Albers had acquired new, more powerful pumps, he had not yet installed them. County officials are very unhappy with the recent spill and the lack of compliance by the dairy operator. On March 1st the Board of Supervisors discussed the possibility of revoking the dairy's permit.

Mr. Albers received a \$1.5 million, tax-exempt bond loan from a state program that provides financing for private businesses to build pollution-control facilities, but he built a system with no alarms, no back-up pumps, and no redundancy in containment to prevent or contain accidental spills from the waste manure lagoons.

A 4000-cow dairy produces as much organic waste as a city of 80,000 people. That is a lot of waste that can seep into our groundwater or end up in our surface waters through accidental spills or leaks. Large dairies also emit millions of pounds of



smog-forming gases each year. Toxic gases emitted by large CAFOs contribute to increased rates of asthma and other respiratory diseases in the human population. The impacts of these animal factories on the environment and human health can be severe.

The Solano County Supervisors are continuing to work on new standards to regulate CAFOs to prevent incidents like the Heritage Dairy spills, and to address other impacts on air and water quality from these animal factories. Recent drafts of the two proposed ordinances demonstrate that county officials are finally listening to the public and environmental groups. The new language is much stronger and incorporates many suggestions made by the Sierra Club, neighbors of the Heritage Dairy and other members of the public, and by officials from Solano County cities. Recently, county officials also received a letter from the biotech firm Genentech expressing concern about having large dairies near its Vacaville plant. The company fears that bovine viruses and groundwater contamination from the facilities could pose a hazard to the firm. Genentech is one of Solano County's largest employers.

The Sierra Club is still asking Solano County officials to wait for upcoming new state regulations before finalizing the county ordinances. These state rules by the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Yolo-Solano Air Quality District are required by new state and federal air and water quality regulations. The regulations currently considered by the Water Board apply to existing dairies, not to new or expanding facilities. Regulations for new or expanding facilities will come later. The Air District has not even begun a rule development process to regulate emissions at new or existing CAFOs.

Due to continuing concerns on the part of the public and environmental groups, the Solano County Board of Supervisors agreed to conduct one or more public hearings in conjunction with UC Davis scientists to discuss such issues as lagoon liners, buffers, and how future state regulations might affect the local ordinances. The first such meeting took place on April 5. A summary of the meeting can be found on page 1 of this newsletter.

Take Action!

Let Solano County officials know your concerns:

- ☐ Contact the Solano County Board of Supervisors and **ask for a moratorium on permitting** any more large animal factories into the county until the new state air and water quality rules are finalized.
- ☐ **Insist on strong ordinances** with strict guidelines for design, construction, and operation of such facilities and necessary oversight and enforcement.
- ☐ **Insist on extensive public notice and environmental review** for any other animal factories applying to locate in the county. Ask to be put on a list of community members receiving notice of public meetings regarding CAFOs.

To deliver your message to all **Solano County Supervisors**, contact the Clerk of the Board, 675 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA 94533, 707-421-6100, FAX 421-7975.

To receive notices of future meetings on this issue, contact the Department of Environmental Management, 470 Chadbourne Road, Fairfield, CA 94634, 707-421-6765. Attend meetings of the Board of Supervisors. For scheduling and agendas, go to www.solanocounty.com ☒

Visit the Burrowing Owl Preservation Society's booth at Gibson Mansion May Fair

The Burrowing Owl Preservation Society (BOPS) will have a booth with information and Burrowing Owl art at the Gibson Mansion May Fair, **Sunday, May 15th from 10 AM to 4 PM at 512 Gibson Road in Woodland**. Please join us to learn about the Burrowing Owl and to purchase

Burrowing Owl art and other items. BOPS volunteers will be at the booth to talk to you about Burrowing Owls, to answer your questions and to provide literature and other information on the owls. We will also have ornaments on display and for sale: t-shirts, tote bags, mugs, note cards and more, all bearing original Burrowing Owl art work commissioned by BOPS.



Sue Shane

BOPS is a non-profit group dedicated to protecting and increasing Burrowing Owl populations through research,

education, and the protection, preservation, restoration and enhancement of the Burrowing Owl's natural environment. Activities include working with landowners on preservation of Burrowing Owl habitat on their lands and educating the public on Burrowing Owl biology, behavior, habitat and conservation. Burrowing Owl populations have been declining drastically. The number of Breeding Burrowing Owl populations statewide declined 60% from the 1980s to the early 1990s and continue to decline by roughly 8% per year. They have been entirely eliminated in several counties in the state. In Yolo County, the population is estimated to have declined 50% since the mid-80s.

Visit the BOPS booth at the Gibson Mansion May Fair and learn how we can all help in the recovery of Burrowing Owl

populations. Proceeds from the sale of our Burrowing Owl art and other wares will go toward further educational and outreach efforts for the Owl. So come help the Burrowing Owl! Visit the BOPS booth at the Fair on May 15th. See you there!

For more information on BOPS, to volunteer to help us at the May Fair, or to get involved in any of our activities, contact Catherine Portman at 530-666-0882, dragon@cal.net, Ursula Heffernon at 530-661-7149, uheffernon@pacbell.net, or Pam Nieberg at 530-756-6856, pnieberg@dcn.davis.ca.us. Also, check out the BOPS website at www.burrowingowlpreservation.org ☒



Sue Shane

Cache Creek State Wild and Scenic River Bill Introduced

On February 22, 2005, Assembly member Lois Wolk introduced AB 1328 to permanently protect upper Cache Creek as a state wild and scenic river. The designated reaches start below the Clear Lake Dam on the Main Fork of Cache Creek, down to Camp Haswell at the upper end of the Capay Valley, and on the North Fork of Cache Creek from Highway 20 for 2 miles to the confluence with the Main Fork. These reaches are bordered by public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and Yolo County Parks.

Local activists have been working to protect Cache Creek as a wild and scenic river for several years. The initial proposal for a **federal wild and scenic river** was strongly rejected by farmers and the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (YCFCWCD). And, a compromise proposal for a **federal study** of a possible wild and scenic river was also rejected.

Activists reviewed the issues further and decided that a more flexible **California state wild and scenic river bill**, like the one protecting the South Yuba River, was appropriate for Cache Creek.

Following introduction of the bill, however, the YCFCWCD voted to oppose the state bill. They said that they are concerned about the remote possibility that state designation could lead to federal designation (it won't); that they may not be able to change the springtime river flows when they choose, and that they may not be able to turn off the creek in multi-dry years if they choose. These are very important decisions that affect both farmers' water and the environment.

We are indeed fortunate that there are currently good people sitting on the YCFCWCD Board who would probably not vote to dry up the creek. **But, this bill is about the future.** We do not know who will be on that board in 20 or 30 years, and it is clear that even now, with a "green" board in place, many costumers are still agitating for dams and diversions. We much take the opportunity to protect the river now, while there in no drought or other crisis clouding the issues.

A Cache Creek state wild and scenic river designation will provide an important "**check and balance**" to ensure protection for Cache Creek into the future for the plants and animals that live there; and for our children. **Now is the time to act.** ☒

Why State Wild and Scenic Designation?

Assembly member Lois Wolk has introduced AB 1328 to protect upper Cache Creek as a California Wild and Scenic River.

This bill will:

- ☑ **Permanently protect the upper portion of Cache Creek.** There will be no new dams or diversions that would reduce the outstanding natural values of the river.
- ☑ **Keep current management.** The Bureau of Land Management and Yolo County Parks will continue to manage our public lands abutting these reaches of the river and the Water District will continue to manage water flow for farmers.
- ☑ **Generate more public awareness and support** for Cache Creek and our region. The river will be part of a state wide system of special places.
- ☑ **Help our regional economy.** Studies have shown that protecting wild places is good for the economy.



This is an assurance for the future. Currently the 5 members of the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District have sole power and control (subject to court decrees) to determine water flows in Cache Creek. While there are good people on the Board now, we must ensure that Boards now and in the future do not contemplate management strategies that could devastate upper Cache Creek. State wild and scenic designation will act as a permanent "**check and balance**" to ensure protection for Cache Creek into the future, for our children and their children. ☒

Courtesy, Respect and Thank You Notes Are Important

Courtesy and respect are important to a successful campaign. We disagree with our farmer friends on the Cache Creek state wild and scenic river issue. But, we work together on other issues.

The Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 in support of AB 1328, with Duane Chamberlain dissenting. Send a thank-you note for their support of a Cache Creek state wild and scenic river to: Helen Thomson, Chair, Mariko Yamada, Mike McGowan, Frank Sieferman
Board of Supervisors
625 Court Street
Woodland, CA 95695

How Can I Help? Volunteer for Cache Creek!

Your help can make a huge difference in the Wild and Scenic Designation campaign:

- 1 Write letters, email and make calls when needed.** Your representatives need to hear your support. Letters are best and a few moments can make a big difference.
- 2 Attend public meetings.** It is an opportunity to learn about the issues and show support
- 3 Visit Cache Creek.** Take your friends, family members and co-workers out to the creek. Check www.yolohiker.org for guided hikes and maps.
- 4 Sign up to help.** Email Justin at jfalarcon@ucdavis.edu; call to volunteer at 530-304-6215; and visit www.cachecreekwild.org.

Thanks for helping to protect this special wild place.

Yes, I want to join the Sierra Club! My check is enclosed.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Individual \$19 Junior \$47

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are tax-deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1.00 for your chapter newsletter.

Please mail this to Sierra Club,
P.O. Box 52966, Boulder,
Colorado, 80372-2966

1990 **W**

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Sierra Club Outings



Led by local leaders

Saturday, May 7

A visit to the new elephant sanctuary near San Andreas is tentatively scheduled for May 7. Entrance fee and other details are not known at this time. **For information call Ida Bryan at (530) 758-1807 in mid-April.**

Saturday, May 21 (1A)

Bartholomew Winery, Sonoma

Hike 3 miles in "Bart Park", 500 feet total elevation gain, uneven footing and some steep stairs, cross seasonal streams. Views of vineyards and mountains. Testing room and museum open at the Winery. Davis meeting place: Park and ride area at I80 and Mace Blvd. At 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch, water and hiking boots. **Leaders: Peter and Lin Lindert, (530) 758-6418 or llindert@sbcglobal.net. Rain Cancels.**

Other Outings

The Yolano Group is part of the Mother Lode Chapter. To find out about other Sierra Club outings, find them listed at: www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/ and click on "outings". There are outings for people of all ages and at all levels, including hiking, backpacking, kayaking, paddle trips, etc.



Yolano Group Management Committee

- ☼ Pam Nieberg, Co-chair; pnieberg@dcn.davis.ca.us; 530-756-6856
- ☼ Holly Bishop, Co-chair; holly@hollytime.com; 530-753-2773
- ☼ Susan Pelican, Co-conservation chair; susan@beeman.org; 530-668-7940
- ☼ Bob Schneider, Co-conservation chair; verve@dcn.davis.ca.us; 530-758-4315
- ☼ Bern Kreissman; bkreissman@ucdavis.edu; 530-756-2328
- ☼ Don Mooney; dbmooney@dcn.davis.ca.us; 530-758-5433
- ☼ Marc Vayssières; marcv@dcn.davis.ca.us; 530-758-3969

The Management Committee meets on the second Thursday of each month. The public is invited to the meetings. Watch for announcements in the Enterprise for location or you can call Pam at 530-756-6856 for information or to get on our email list.

- ☼ Treasurer: Cedrik Zemitis; crz2x@davis.com; 530-753-5335
 - ☼ Secretary: Pam Nieberg
 - ☼ Newsletter editor and webmaster: Marc Vayssières
 - ☼ Flame Distribution and membership: Ida Bryan; 530-758-1807
- <http://motherlode.sierraclub.org/Yolano/>

Volunteers needed for Yolo County Fair Table



The Yolano Group will have a table at the Yolo County Fair. **Fair dates are August 17th through the 21st.** We will be sharing with other environmental groups again this year and will have a wide variety of information on environmental issues from the local to the national level. See our next Flame for more information, and see you at the fair!

For information or to volunteer to help, contact Pam at 530-756-6856 or pnieberg@dcn.davis.ca.us

**Mother Lode Chapter, Sierra Club
Yolano Flame
P.O. Box 1335
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