



The Sequoia

FALL EXCOM ELECTION IS OPEN

Consider Joining our Group's Executive Committee!

Our local Sierra Club Tuolumne Group functions thanks to the efforts of our Executive Committee (ExCom).

ExCom members meet 8-10 times per year (currently via Zoom), to monitor local environmental issues, plan and host public presentations, plan outings, coordinate our newsletter, and in general ensure that the group operates for the benefit of the local environment. Meetings are fun, informative, and engaging.

In 2023, members John Buckley, Keith Martin, Elaine Hagen, and Gisselle Bournes will each be serving the second year of their two-year term on the ExCom. Members Karen Swanson, Jim Bearden, Joe David, and Betty Chase are ending their two-year terms, but each is willing to continue volunteering to serve on the ExCom for a new term. This still leaves an open position that needs to be filled for 2023. Any local members are eligible to run for the ExCom. *Are you interested in serving?*

If you would like to be a candidate, please contact John Buckley at johnb@cserc.org to find out the details so you can join with others to help the Tuolumne Group to keep functioning effectively.

There are many ways to put your skills and interests to work on the ExCom, all with the knowledge that you are contributing to efforts to protect and preserve our local environment.

Currently we're looking for someone with bookkeeping or secretarial skills, and we always need energized outdoor advocates. We are reaching out to the environmentalists of the future. Your vision and energy can help shape the direction and focus of our Tuolumne Group in years to come.

To learn more about how you can participate in the efforts of our local Sierra Club Group or to make arrangements to attend one of our monthly ExCom meetings, contact our membership chair, Elaine Hagen at elainehagen@att.net.

INSIDE
2022 LOCAL CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS
LOCAL CONSERVATION NOTES

2023 Sierra Club Calendars On Sale Now

The Perfect Holiday Gift - Calendar Sales Help to Support Our Group

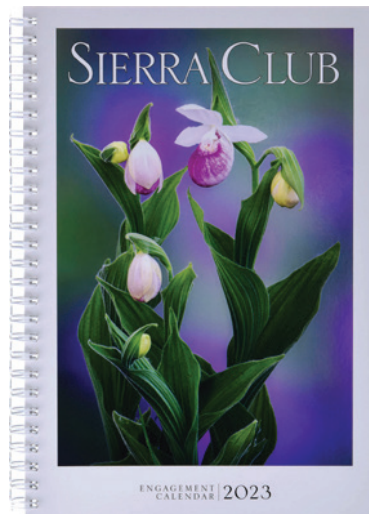
2023 Sierra Club Calendars are now available for purchase. Our Tuolumne group directly benefits from the sale of these calendars because we get to keep 60% of the sale price!

Loaded with the best nature photography, Sierra Club Calendars are both beautiful and functional. They really make great holiday gifts.

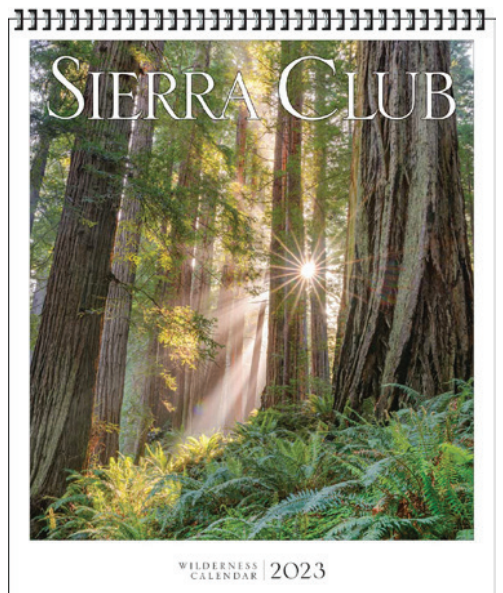
Wilderness (wall) Calendars are \$15
Engagement (desk) Calendars are \$16

To order calendars email **Jennie Moiso** at johnjen47@hotmail.com, or call 209-533-9417.

In Groveland, you can email **Bob Asquith** at bobasquith@gmail.com. We can mail your calendars, or arrange to drop them off in person. Thanks for supporting our 2023 Calendar sales!



Engagement Calendar \$16



Wall Calendar \$15

Sierra Club Tuolumne Group Conservation and Natural Resource Scholarships 2022 Awardees

Sierra Tuolumne Group Scholarship Committee

FIVE STUDENTS from Columbia College were awarded scholarships funded by the Sierra Club Foundation of \$500 each based on academic performance, personal interest, community involvement, and plans to pursue a Bachelor's degree and careers in the environment and natural resources. We asked each to send us a note about their future plans.



Michael DeSilva

“In my studies at Columbia College I’ve done anything from population surveys of our local wildlife to controlled burns and understanding how they help our ecosystems. I’d like to be a field analyst in the future, conducting population surveys on our local river systems in order to protect our native species and keep their ecosystems intact.”



Madelyn Guillaume

“After discovering my love for nature interpretation while sea kayak guiding along the Humboldt coast, I decided to attend Columbia College for the California Naturalist certification. After one amazing semester, I decided to pursue three Associate’s of Science degrees in Forestry, Natural Resources, and Watershed Management. I have also been fortunate enough to continue developing my interpretation skills by volunteering with the Pinecrest Ranger Station’s interpretive department. Because of my classes, my determination for conservation and restoration has grown and I am excited to be helping the Tuolumne River Rangers in their work this summer.”



Trinity Walter

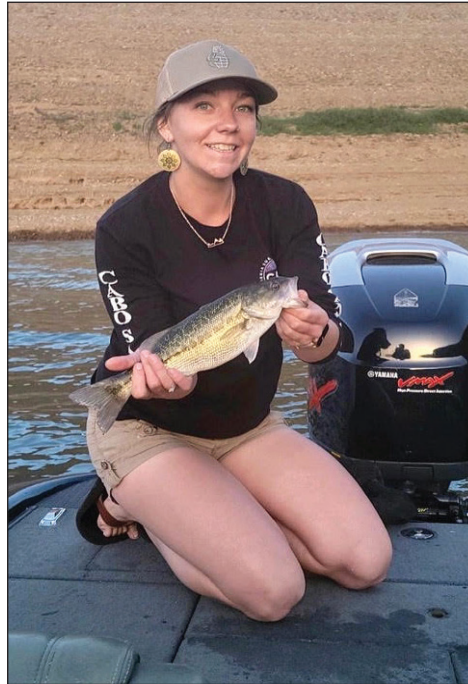
“As a Columbia college student pursuing environmental science, biology, and natural resources, I love the earth dearly and consider protecting it a priority. I’m particularly interested in *phyto-remediation*- using plants and fungi in ingenuitive ways to restore polluted areas. I will continue to attend Columbia college in fall 2022, graduating in spring 2023. I plan on attending UC Davis to obtain a master’s degree in my study. Meanwhile, I pick up trash at local watersheds, work at the biology lab on-campus, and put my energy into absorbing the most I can from my classes. Thank you again for this scholarship award - I truly appreciate it.”



Elias Sands

“I have had a great experience so far at Columbia with natural resources. I feel that all of my professors know a lot about the field and have done a great job at teaching me. One of my favorite things about Columbia is having all of my classes be out in nature rather than a classroom setting. I do not have a specific career in mind yet, but I know that I want to work in this kind of environment.”

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR 2022 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Holly Helseth

“My entire life is outside. I feel most spiritual in nature. I volunteer as much time as I can to help the environment. All my hobbies involve nature – fishing, hiking, backpacking, camping, and many other adventures. My degrees are almost complete in forestry, natural resources, water resources management, and restoration for fire adaptive ecosystems. I plan on making a career out of restoration and teaching these skills and a love for the outdoors to my son and future generations to come.”

LOCAL CONSERVATION NOTES

County Supervisors Reward Conspiracy Theory Critics of Climate Action Plan

At a September 22nd public hearing before the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors, more than 20 local area speakers showed up to oppose a proposed county Climate Action Plan. Some claimed the plan was part of a global plot by the United Nations and Governor Newsome, while others made highly misinformed claims that the plan would “drive people out of the region” or “eliminate burning firewood” or “would take away our individual freedoms.” None of the claims were accurate.

Two county supervisors were openly sympathetic to the conspiracy theory speakers (including some speakers who claimed that climate change is a hoax perpetrated by environmentalists). After lots of discussion, a majority of the Board decided to postpone any action on the Climate Action Plan (potentially delaying action for weeks or months). Sadly, there were only a few speakers who showed up to support the plan and to counter the misinformation. To read the current draft of the plan and more go to the County’s Climate Action Plan page: tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/1332/Climate-Action-Plan.

SERAL Project Treatments Begin in Local National Forest

A surge of forest treatments in the Stanislaus Forest has been moving forward as millions of dollars of federal and state funds are being applied to make local forests healthier and more resistant to extreme wildfires. The giant SERAL project (that was originally designed by the local Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions stakeholder group) recently gained final approval by the Forest Service. Thousands of acres of fuel breaks are now being created in forest areas north of Highway 108. Prescribed burns are being prepped, and selective logging treatments are being prepared to thin dense forest stands in order to reduce wildfire risk, while still protecting all of the larger trees. Much more work is planned for next year.

The Tuolumne Group of the Sierra Club Conservation and Natural Resource Scholarship has supported educational expenses of 5-6 Columbia College students through Sierra Club Foundation funds each year for the past 3 years. It has been our pleasure to share their student profiles with you. However, budget analysis shows waning funds. In order to sustain this program, we need to raise a portion of the funds each year. Please consider a charitable (tax deductible) donation toward this scholarship fund. Your participation in the scholarship process is also welcome. To donate or participate, please email us at TuolumneGroupSecretary@gmail.com.



**SIERRA
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TUOLUMNE GROUP

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TUOLUMNE GROUP

Due to COVID-19, the Tuolumne Group Executive Committee is currently only meeting by phone or with online sessions. For information on how to participate in the next ExCom call, contact Elaine Hagen at the email listed below.

Chair Jim Bearden, jbearden@ieee.org

Secretary-Treasurer

Karen Swanson, tuolumnegroupsecretary@gmail.com

Outings Keith & Beth Martin, keithwmartin@sbcglobal.net

Chapter Delegate Keith Martin, keithwmartin@sbcglobal.net

Climate Action Chair Gisselle Bourns,
tsclimateaction@gmail.com

Webmaster Jim Bearden, jbearden@ieee.org

Membership Elaine Hagen, elainehagen@att.net

News Editor Joe David, jd@daviddesign.com

We welcome your input and feedback.

NOTES & UPDATES

CONNECT WITH YOUR SIERRA CLUB TUOLUMNE GROUP

Want to put your support for the environment into action? Join our Executive Committee! There are many ways to volunteer with our local group. Read more on page one of this newsletter, then contact our Membership Chair, Elaine Hagen at elainehagen@att.net.

LOCAL SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS RETURN!

Official Sierra Club Tuolumne group outings that were curtailed due to COVID are back in action. The local Groveland hikers group has had an active summer and plans more hikes for this fall and winter. For the most current information regarding these trips, click the outings link on our website: www.sierratuolumne.org. To join the hiker group email list, contact Outings Leader, Bob Asquith at bobasquith@gmail.com. Look for photos from recent outings on our “Hiking the 120” Facebook page.

GET INVOLVED • TAKE ACTION

Today, years of hard-fought environmental protections are under threat—and to influence governments and businesses, we need everyone to speak up and shout out. Explore how you can get involved: go to www.sierraclub.org/take-action

RATHER RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL?

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email either instead of, or in addition to our printed edition, email your request to mail@sierratuolumne.org.

The Sequoia Newsletter is designed to provide local Sierra Club members with a trusted source of information on people, events, and issues impacting our environment. Members can also find additional information on our updated web page: www.sierratuolumne.org.

