



# The Sequoia

## Updates on Local Conservation Issues

*John Buckley*

**F**OR THOSE WHO ENJOY RECREATING in our region, this has been a strange “end of summer and start of fall” season – not even considering the pandemic. There have been weeks of smokey air from wildfires near and far, along with periodic closures of Yosemite National Park and the Stanislaus Forest. Here are some local conservation notes:

### Positive, Managed Lightning Fires vs. Out of Control Wildfires

In contrast to the massive, high-severity Creek Fire (300,000+ acres) that has burned so intensely south of Yosemite Park in the Sierra National Forest, a number of lightning fires within Yosemite have been allowed to burn over the past two months. The largest of these “managed wildfires” is called the Blue Jay Fire, which started July 24th and has burned roughly 5,000 acres on the south side of the Tioga Pass Road as this newsletter went to press. That fire and three other lightning caused fires in the Park are mostly creeping around in rocky areas, burning at low to moderate intensity, and are generally helping to consume years of woody litter and fallen logs from trees that died in the recent drought. The fires do put off smoke, but their contribution to overall smoke levels has been very low compared to the much larger wildfires.

### Highway 120 Developments

The last newsletter described the push by developers for two major resort lodging projects that would result in sprawling, leapfrog development along Highway 120 many miles east

of Groveland. The Club continues to strongly oppose the “Terra Vi Lodge” and “Yosemite Under Canvas” projects that are proposed a few miles from the Park boundary at a site far from water, sewer, or other public services. In contrast, a separate new development plan has been proposed for the old “scar” site near Big Oak Flat. This latest proposal may actually be planned for an acceptable location for development because nearly the entire site was previously bulldozed many years ago. This site is also served by both public water and sewer.

### Forest Service Proposes Large Project East of Arnold

The Stanislaus Forest recently released a plan to do forest treatments on 5,688 acres (about 9 square miles) of national forest east of Arnold and south of the North Fork Stanislaus River. Called the Prather-Medusa project, if approved it would allow extensive thinning logging, biomass removal, mastication of brush, and prescribed burning in an area that is mostly upper middle elevation conifer forest. It is too early to know to what degree this project may or may not end up being controversial. ■

**INSIDE**  
**VOTE! - BRYNNE KENNEDY FOR CONGRESS**  
**2021 SIERRA CLUB CALENDARS ON SALE NOW**  
**2021 SCHOLARSHIPS**  
**JOIN OUR EXCOMM!**



*One of several managed fires burning in Yosemite*



*“Scar” site near Big Oak Flat is served by both public water and sewer.*

# Sierra Club Endorses Brynne Kennedy for Congress

Elaine Hagen

**"AS A BUSINESS-WOMAN, I KNOW WHAT'S POSSIBLE WHEN WE BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO SOLVE PROBLEMS. IT'S TIME TO PUT PARTISANSHIP ASIDE AND PUT OUR COMMUNITIES FIRST. THAT'S WHY I'M RUNNING FOR CONGRESS..."**

**– Brynne Kennedy**



Brynne Kennedy

**T**HE SIERRA CLUB strongly endorses California's 4th District Congressional candidate, **Brynne Kennedy**. Brynne grew up enjoying the outdoors, and she loves that our community encompasses some of our country's greatest natural treasures – Lake Tahoe, Yosemite National Park, the Sierra Nevada, and Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties.

Brynne knows that protecting and preserving our Treasures is incredibly important.

#### **Climate Change**

From the Arctic to the Amazon, climate change is here, causing longer, more intense wildfire seasons, severe floods, droughts, hurricanes and more.

Climate Change is destroying our environment, our homes, imposing higher costs on taxpayers in the form of disaster response. Locally, it's increasing our homeowner's insurance costs and utility bills.

#### **We must have a Clean Energy Economy**

Invest in new technologies in forest management, bio-fuels, carbon capture, renewable energy, water storage, farming efficiency and more resilient infrastructure.

Brynne supports tax breaks and incentives targeted at new solutions and technology, and create good, sustainable jobs.

#### **Protecting our Communities**

Brynne believes we need to make it easier for residents to harden their homes; using our tax code to incentivize investments in resiliency, green building and vegetation management (including bio-mass and related technologies).

Brynne supports more active forest management –prescribed burns and building fuel breaks, sustainable harvesting in partnership between the Forest Service and private sector, – to restore our forests to a natural, healthy condition, and maintain fire safety for our communities.

#### **Updating our Water Infrastructure**

Our district is home to 60% of California's watershed, She knows it's important to strike the right balance between conservation, reuse, and upgrading our storage and distribution infrastructure.

We must invest in more modern and cost-effective methods of storage than only dams and tunnels. Restoring wetlands, managing forests for water conservation, and replenishing underground aquifers are essential complements to investments in efficiency, water recycling, and storm water capture, and more effective than surface storage.

Brynne will fight to maintain our water rights and local control that balances the needs of local farmers, fisheries and our communities. We need a true advocate in Washington. **Vote for Brynne Kennedy for Congress.**

★ VOTE ★

 **BRYNNE  
KENNEDY**  
FOR CONGRESS

# Sierra Club Tuolumne Group Scholarships Announced for 2021

Karen Swanson

Our Tuolumne Group is again planning to direct funds from the Sierra Club Foundation to scholarships in 2021.

The Tuolumne Group of the Sierra Club Conservation & Natural Resource Scholarship will benefit students in our region pursuing degrees in environmental studies, conservation, and/or natural resource management with the goal of working in an environmental field. Columbia College Foundation will help us find candidates and accept applications. Awardees will be selected based on their academic record, community involvement, and future goals.

We are excited to provide up to six students with a modest scholarship (\$500), supported by your membership dues.

Interested Columbia College students can learn more about all scholarship requirements and should apply through the Columbia College scholarship page: [www.gocolumbia.edu/scholarships/](http://www.gocolumbia.edu/scholarships/). Deadline for applications is December 18, 2020.

Our scholarship committee is looking forward to reviewing qualified applications and learning more about motivated students attending college in our region. We'll update Sierra Club Tuolumne members in the newsletter when awards are announced.

Questions specifically about our scholarship or to verify an application is in our review pool may be sent to Karen Swanson at her email: [TuolumneGroupSecretary@gmail.com](mailto:TuolumneGroupSecretary@gmail.com)

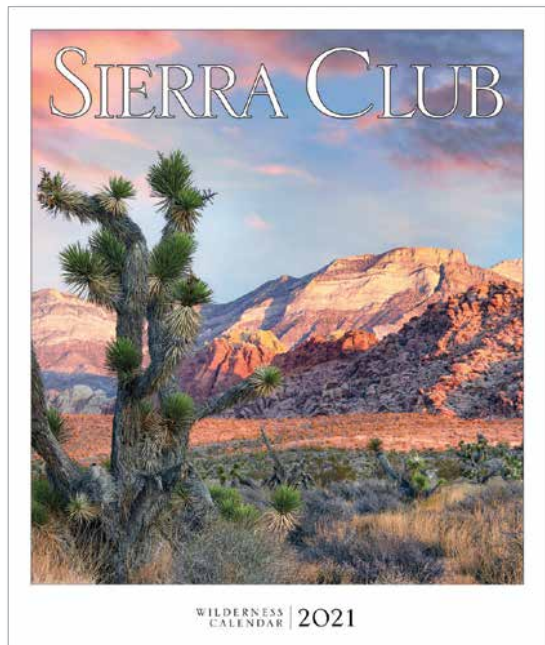
## 2021 Calendars Available

by Jennie Moiso

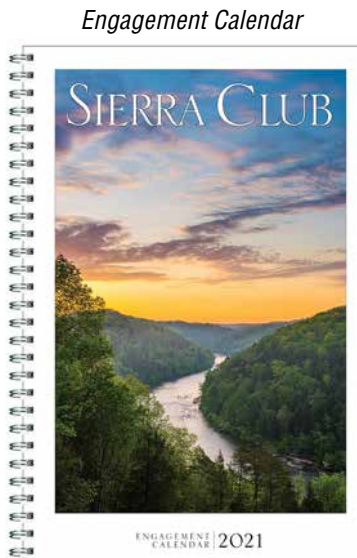
Many things have changed in the year 2020, but not the availability of our beautiful Sierra Club calendars! Our Tuolumne group benefits from the sale of these calendars because we get to keep 60% of the sale price!

Sierra Club Calendars are both beautiful and functional. They make great holiday gifts! The Wilderness (wall) calendar is \$15 Engagement (desk) calendar is \$16.

Since we have no in-person meetings or outings scheduled at this time, I can make arrangements on how best to get them to you, either by mail or meeting up with you somewhere. You can contact me (Jennie) via email at [johnjen47@hotmail.com](mailto:johnjen47@hotmail.com) or by phone at 533-9417.



Wall Calendar



Engagement Calendar



## Tuolumne Group ExComm Seeks New Members

ExComm Committee

Looking for a way to put your mind, energy, and talents to work for a worthy effort? Consider joining our Tuolumne Group's Executive Committee.

The ExComm (executive committee) is the body which is responsible for managing the activities of our Tuolumne Group of the Mother Lode Chapter which includes both Tuolumne and Calaveras counties.

We develop local policies (subject to those that exist at the National, State, and Chapter level), provide guidelines, plan outings, monitor local environmental issues, host presentations, coordinate our newsletter, and in general ensure that the Group operates for the benefit of the local environment. ExComm members meet monthly.

To learn more about how you can participate in the work of our local Sierra Club Group, contact membership chair, Elaine Hagen at [elainehagen@att.net](mailto:elainehagen@att.net).



**SIERRA  
CLUB**  
TUOLUMNE GROUP

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**SIERRA  
CLUB**  
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** Elaine Hagen, [elainehagen@att.net](mailto:elainehagen@att.net)

**Secretary**

Karen Swanson, [tuolumnegroupsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:tuolumnegroupsecretary@gmail.com)

**Treasurer** Kevin Rice, [kjrice@ucdavis.edu](mailto:kjrice@ucdavis.edu)

**Outings** Keith & Beth Martin, [keithwmartin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:keithwmartin@sbcglobal.net)

**Chapter Delegate** Kevin Rice, [kjrice@ucdavis.edu](mailto:kjrice@ucdavis.edu)

**Webmaster** Jim Bearden, [jbearden@ieee.org](mailto:jbearden@ieee.org)

**Membership** Elaine Hagen, [elainehagen@att.net](mailto:elainehagen@att.net)

**Political Chair** Kara Bechtle, [campaignerkara@gmail.com](mailto:campaignerkara@gmail.com)

**News Editor** Joe David, [jd@daviddesign.com](mailto:jd@daviddesign.com)

**We welcome your input and feedback.**

## NOTES & UPDATES

### 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](http://www.sierraclub.org/take-action)

### CONNECT WITH YOUR SIERRA CLUB TUOLUMNE GROUP

Want to get more involved with your local Sierra Club group? Interested in joining our Executive Committee? Have a great idea for a local Sierra Club presentation? There are many ways to volunteer for whatever time you are able to share. Interested members are invited to attend our monthly ExCom meetings. Email your ideas to Membership Chair, Elaine Hagen at [elainehagen@att.net](mailto:elainehagen@att.net).

### RATHER RECEIVE 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](mailto: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](http://www.sierratuolumne.org).

★ ★ VOTE ★ ★

