



SIERRA CLUB

# The Sequoia

## Our Local Sierra Club Group Needs Your Financial Support To Help Meet Expenses

*We're Reaching Out to You – Our Local Members – With This Request for Donations*

INSIDE

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EFFORTS OF OUR LOCAL TUOLUMNE GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB

*Our group's management committee donates their time working together to keep the local Sierra Club functioning. But the Tuolumne Group still needs enough funds each year to pay for basic expenses.*

*Please mail your donation to:  
Tuolumne Group – Sierra Club  
C/O PO Box 947  
Twain Harte, CA 95383*

THE TUOLUMNE GROUP of the Sierra Club represents all of you who live in Tuolumne and Calaveras counties. It is rare that our local management committee for the Tuolumne Group reaches out to our members to ask for a special donation, but here is why we are asking.

Our group's management committee donates their time working together to keep the local Sierra Club functioning. But the Tuolumne Group still needs enough funds each year to pay for basic expenses. Most of Sierra Club membership dues now go to the national and chapter level.

This includes printing and mailing this newsletter (so that we can communicate about local activities and issues), our bulk mailing permit, website hosting, public presentations and program expenses, and other related costs.

Rather than ask you – our members - to hold a yard sale, or to organize a raffle that depends upon getting donated prizes, or to sell candy bars at events to raise money, we are simply asking for a donation. **This newsletter is our “annual fundraiser” request.** Your contributions can help defray our basic costs of keeping the local Sierra Club group active and productive. Thank you for supporting the work of the Sierra Club Tuolumne Group!

**Please consider making a one-time donation (any amount is appreciated).**

**By sending a check made out to:  
Tuolumne Group of the Sierra Club**

**Mail to:  
Tuolumne Group – Sierra Club  
C/O P.O. Box 947  
Twain Harte, CA 95383**





# Our Sierra Club Group Works to Keep Members Informed and Engaged on Local Environmental Issues

**W**HAT are some of the things that our local Sierra Club provides?

## **Adding the Sierra Club's Voice in Local Conservation Matters**

In our region, there are often projects, plans, and policies that determine how public and private forests are managed. The Tuolumne Group of the Sierra Club networks with the Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center, the Tuolumne River Trust, and Central Sierra Audubon to provide public input for local issues of importance.

In particular, the Tuolumne Group in recent years has emphasized the Club's opposition to the logging of large trees in the national forest. Both the national Sierra Club and the local group support the establishment of a National Old Growth Forest policy to protect large old trees on federal forest lands.

Our local Group has also taken a very clear position that opposes the widespread spraying of herbicides in the national forest. There is a highly diverse range of views about the purported safety or the potential health risks of chemical treatments, but the Tuolumne Group supports a policy of avoiding chemical use on public forest lands.

Our local Club periodically submits comments for other environmental issues that periodically arise in order to reflect the national policies of the Sierra Club. Individual members of the management committee also donate their time to attend local area collaborative stakeholder groups that work to get grants and congressional funding for recreational facilities, watershed projects, fuel reduction treatments, and other broadly supported local needs.

When public input is requested on a local environmental issue, we alert our membership, and use our website and newsletter to direct and enable members to make their voices heard.

***Please consider making a one-time donation to help support our local Sierra Club group.***

***Make Check to Tuolumne Group of the Sierra Club***

***Mail it to Tuolumne Group – Sierra Club C/O PO Box 947 Twain Harte, CA 95383***

***Thank You for Your Support!***

## Bringing Together Those Who Love the Outdoors, Holding Programs, Contributing Scholarships, and More...

Since COVID, our local Group has not had formally designated outings scheduled. We are working with the Chapter to gain outings leader certifications to enable a return to regular outings. But thanks to years of past outings leadership by Bob Asquith, many Sierra Club members have enjoyed group outings or have built personal connections with others who share a passion for hiking. (Photo at right is from a past Asquith-led outing in the National Forest).

Our Tuolumne Group has worked with Columbia College to provide Sierra Club Foundation funding for scholarships for stu-

dents who have a passion for natural resources and our local region. With your support, we hope to continue.

Our local Sierra Club has also begun offering periodic programs again at the main Tuolumne County library to enable our members and the general public to enjoy conservation-connected presentations. We featured best-selling author Andrea Lankford last fall, and National Geographic photographer Phil Schermeister in April. The number of programs is directly limited by having sufficient funding to advertise upcoming presentations with Tuolumne Group newsletters and to pay associated costs.

## Sierra Club Tuolumne Group Conservation and Natural Resource Scholarships 2022 Awardees

Sierra Tuolumne Group Scholarship Committee

**F**IVE 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.



**Madelyn Guillaume**

"After discovering my love for nature interpretation while on back packing along the Humboldt coast, I decided to attend Columbia College for the California Naturalist certification. After one amazing semester, I decided to pursue three Associates 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 Placer 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 and I consider protecting it a priority. I'm particularly interested in phyto-restoration using plants and fungi to improve sites with no recent published 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 waterfalls, work at the hiking job 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 inspired 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."

The Tuolumne Group of the Sierra Club Conservation and Natural Resource Scholarship has supported educational expenses of 14 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 waiving funds, to cover

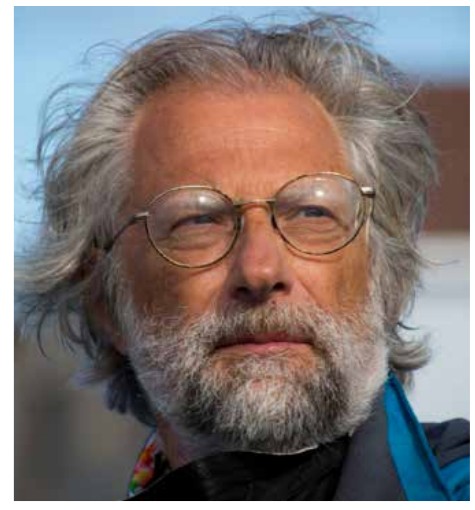


**Michael DeSilva**

"In my studies at Columbia College I've done everything 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



◀ The Tuolumne Group's **Sierra Club Conservation and Natural Resource Scholarship** has helped to pay educational expenses for eligible students at Columbia College.



Our group hosts **guest speakers** for public presentations at the Sonora Library, including National Geographic photographer Phil Schermeister in April of this year.

◀ **Advocating** for environmentally safe methods that protect and conserve water, trees, and wildlife in our national forest is a critical part of our work.

TUOLUMNE GROUP NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2023

## The Sequoia

### Yosemite Asks for 2nd Round of Public Input on Improving Park Visitor Experience

**INSIDE**  
A TRIP TO LAUTERBRUNNEN VALLEY IN SWITZERLAND  
HOW THE SWISS MANAGE THEIR HEAVILY VISITED TOURISM SITES

**This 2nd round of public comments ends SEPT. 6TH and comes on the heels of a disastrous no-reservations required spring and early summer season in the park.**

**For a link to NPS public comments page visit: [sierratuolumne.org](http://sierratuolumne.org)**

**TAKE ACTION**

To read more about Yosemite's Visitor Access Plan, and for a link to the public comments page where you can add your own input on this issue, visit our group's home page at [www.sierratuolumne.org](http://www.sierratuolumne.org).

Member donations help pay for our **newsletter** containing useful information on environmental issues of concern in our region.

◀ Former **outings** leader Bob Asquith has led hundreds of hikes in Yosemite and the Hwy 120 corridor.



SIERRA  
CLUB  
TUOLUMNE GROUP

P.O. BOX 947 · TWAIN HARTE, CALIFORNIA 95383

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Sacramento, CA  
Permit #2106



SIERRA  
CLUB  
TUOLUMNE GROUP

The Tuolumne Group Executive Committee meets on Zoom eight times a year.. For information on how to participate in the next ExCom meeting, contact Elaine Hagen at her email: [elainehagen@att.net](mailto:elainehagen@att.net)

**Secretary-Treasurer**

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

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

**Chapter Delegate** Keith Martin, [keithwmartin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:keithwmartin@sbcglobal.net)

**Climate Action Chair** Gisselle Bourns,  
[tsclimateaction@gmail.com](mailto:tsclimateaction@gmail.com)

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

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

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

**We welcome your input and feedback.**

## NOTES & UPDATES

### CONNECT WITH YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB TUOLUMNE GROUP

Want to put your support for the environment into action?

Consider joining our Executive Committee. **Have a great idea for a local Sierra Club presentation?** There are many ways to volunteer with our group. Interested members are invited to attend one of our ExCom meetings.

Contact Membership Chair, Elaine Hagen at [elainehagen@att.net](mailto:elainehagen@att.net).

### 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)

### 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](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).

