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## David Maule-ffinch Died Saturday, June 2

The Pensus Group is very sorry to announce that David Maule-ffinch, President and CEO, died suddenly but peacefully at his home on Saturday afternoon. David served as President and CEO of the Pensus Group since he founded the company in 1983. Since that time he has directed the growth and prosperity of the organization.

While this is obviously a personal tragedy for David's family and all those who knew him, the Pensus Group would like to provide its assurances that the company operations will continue as normal. While this is a tragic loss, our employees and professionals are committed to continuing on in the same tradition that was established by David almost 30 years ago.

The Pensus Group and the Maule-ffinch family would like to request that everyone respects its privacy during this difficult time.

Sincerely, The Pensus Group and the Maule-ffinch Family

## REP. MIKE THOMPSON SECURES BIPARTISAN COMMITMENT TO ADDRESS BOR PROBLEMS AT LAKE BERRYESSA

Washington, DC, Jun 1 - Last night, on the Floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Mike Thompson (CA-1), explained the Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) shortcomings at Lake Berryessa and secured a commitment from Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) and Ranking Member Peter Visclosky (D-IN) of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water

Development to address BOR's management problems at Lake Berryessa and at other sites around the country.

Frelinghuysen and Visclosky serve as the top two representatives on the House subcommittee that oversees all funding for BOR activities.

The agreement was secured during a colloquy on the House floor during consideration of H.R. 5325, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2013. A colloquy occurs when Members of Congress identify and discuss a problem, state an agreement to fix that problem, and then place that agreement in the Congressional Record.

MAY 31, 2012 – HOUSE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

Mr. THOMPSON: I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise for the purpose of entering into a colloquy.

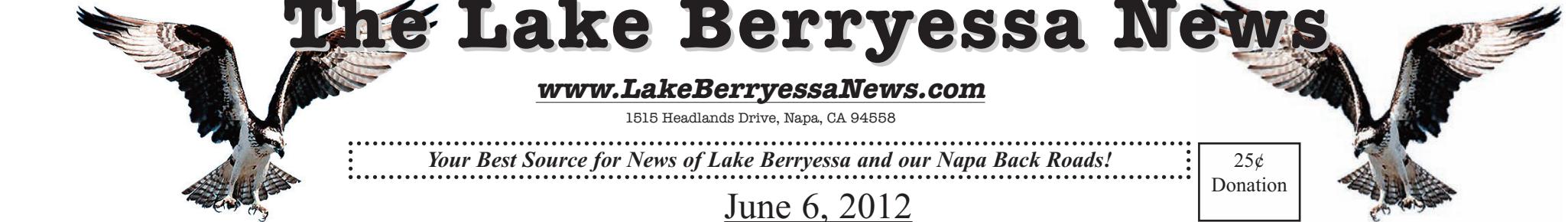
I also want to thank the chairman and his staff, the ranking member and his staff for the help that they've provided on this very important issue.

Mr. Chairman, and Members, the Bureau of Reclamation manages Lake Berryessa in my district. They manage it for the purposes of recreational access, and they ensure that the facilities are safe and accessible to local residents and visitors. As part of this, they award concessions to third-party bidders for resort operations.

Since the Bureau of Reclamation began the most recent bidding process in 2007, their performance has been disappointing, at best. The concession contract was finally

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June 6, 2012

## Seasons, Cycles, and Radical Change: Chaos Theory - Lake Berryessa Style

by Peter Kilkus

Summer is here again. With the change of seasons it's time to unwrap the boat and refill the pool. Seems like I just winterized the boat and drained the pool yesterday - but it was a whole Winter ago, a whole cord of wood ago - the annual cycle of country living.

After six years of looking at the same walls and floor, I've started ripping out the rug and repainting my living room to add more color. Radical change for me, but it was time. How can anyone go six years without radically changing something?

Positive change may also be coming to the Berryessa Highlands now that the Napa Berryessa Resort Improvement District (NBRID) is moving forward with the required upgrades to its water and sewer system.

This change comes with a relatively high cost to NBRID ratepayers in the form of a bond issue. Residents are now in the process of voting for the proposal. Some are very frustrated and upset with the cost, but after many years of trying, and apparently getting it right this time, there is really not much choice for the future but to vote yes.

It's probably immaterial if the concessioner is Pensus or if the Lago Group had won. The situation would likely be the same now with any concessioner trying to work with the Bureau of Reclamation.

Other change has come very slowly this season/cycle at the lake. Much of this is due to the bureaucratic constipation of the Bureau of Reclamation. It is difficult to be even moderately objective when discussing a bureaucracy that has consciously done so much damage to the Lake Berryessa community.

The biggest mistake the BOR made was to choose Pensus. They really had only two motivations in the Visitor Services Plan. One was to get rid of all the mobile homes. The other was to remove all the previous concessioners and get one company to run the lake.

If they had chosen the Lago Group's bid (the Whites and Spanish

Pensus) probably none of this would have happened. But they disqualified the White's bid on a technicality and didn't even review it. They refused to let the White's revise that one item to meet the bid requirement.

The biggest mistake Pensus made was to play hardball about the value of the existing facilities. They convinced the BOR to declare that all the facilities had no value and must be removed - even though the BOR's own appraisers put the value of all the facilities at the resorts at about \$12M. No one, including the judge in one legal case, thought that any new company would do that.

Pensus could have had working resorts for pennies on the dollar. But they believed it was better to start from scratch with new facilities in a 40-year contract than pay for old facilities that would have to be replaced anyway within a short time. Maybe a reasonable business decision, but a terrible strategic one, in my opinion. And very bad for our community.

I had a reasonable working relationship with David Ffinch and believe he was an honorable man with his own vision for Lake Berryessa. In the end, although he always refused to publicly criticize Reclamation, he became convinced that they were acting in bad faith. (See definition on Pg. 10.)

In one of his final statements Ffinch said, "The stated reasons for termination are either unsubstantiated or blatantly false. For reasons unknown to Pensus, Reclamation has made it almost impossible to make any progress over the last two years which has resulted in substantial financial losses. Be assured that we do not intend to acquiesce and we will continue to move forward."

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Crying "incompetence" seems too simple a reason for this chaos. If Reclamation disagrees with some of the Pensus plans, (they do have more real experience with the lake than does Pensus) why didn't they just say so?

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Lake Berryessa - The Map - Page 6

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Vasconi's Pharmacy has occupied this corner of  
Main Street, St. Helena, for decades.



## **2 Attack of the Mutant BORs: How Bureaucrats Change Something Good into Something “Bad”!**

The Americans with Disabilities Act is one of those emotional hot-button issues that is hard to criticize without being considered mean-spirited. It can also be used as a club. The Bureau of Reclamation is painfully familiar with the law since several years ago they built a wheelchair ramp up to the Lake Berryessa Visitor Center only to discover that the ramp was too steep and had to be jack-hammered out and the concrete re-poured.

Reclamation used ADA “non-compliance” against Pensus in their recent contract termination notice. Although Pensus had made most of their campsites ADA-compliant, Reclamation cited them for not having specific sites designated as ADA sites. Reclamation is raising the Catch-22 Double Bind Theory to a new art form!

Reclamation Assertion: In Section 6 of the Noncompliance Letter, USBR raises numerous concerns with Pensus’s compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101, et seq., and the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines, 36 CFR Part 1191 (collectively, ADA). Among other things, USBR asserts that: (1) Pensus has provided no ADA compliant campsites; (2) the entrance stations, stores, parking at Chaparral Cove and Lupine Shores are non-compliant with the ADA; (3) restrooms at Chaparral Cove are non-compliant with the ADA; (4) courtesy docks at the launch ramps are not in compliance with the ADA; and (5) the 2012 IMP failed to provide accurate site plans for each facility showing the numbers, types, and locations of ADA compliant facilities.

Pensus Response: The Non-Compliance Letter represents the first time USBR has raised any concerns with Pensus’s compliance with the ADA and its implementing regulations. Reclamation presented no factual support for the allegation. Pensus has provided factual information to Reclamation that camping sites are ADA compliant.

Reclamation lied to Pensus when it said it had received multiple complaints from the public regarding the ADA facilities. When Pensus asked for these complaints Reclamation admitted it did not receive any.

Our facilities are ADA compliant. All

BBQs rings are 18 inches above ground as required by ADA – spec drawings were provided to Reclamation showing this before installation. Pensus does not pre-establish ADA sites and force disabled individuals to rent those sites.

We allow disabled individuals to select their site of choice and then set up the site with ADA requirements such as table extensions and ADA rated porta-potties. Plywood table overlay extensions were available on request during 2011.

For season 2012 sleeved extensions will be available. By providing table extensions and moving ADA compliant restrooms Pensus has provide disabled individuals with free choice of site selection rather than forcing them to specific locations.

In order to save disabled people from having to unload and open their wheelchairs, get out of their vehicle and into their wheelchairs, wheel themselves to the stores to buy whatever they need, then have to return to their vehicle, load their merchandise into their cars, get into their cars and reload their wheelchairs into their vehicles, Pensus staff greet all disabled guests in their vehicles.

Pensus staff asks all disabled guests to inform Pensus staff of any stocked items they may need and Pensus staff will ‘immediately’ bring requested merchandise to their vehicles. Additionally Pensus staff provide their cell phone numbers to disabled guests so they may contact staff, at any time during open hours, to place an order for any stocked items needed for delivery to their campsite. This significantly exceeds any ADA legal requirement for service or accessibility requirements.

### **Catch - 22: Double Bind Defined**

A double bind is an emotionally distressing dilemma in communication in which an individual (or group) receives two or more conflicting messages, in which one message negates the other. This creates a situation in which a successful response to one message results in a failed response to the other (and vice versa), so that the person will be automatically wrong regardless of response. This type of action is also called “crazy-making” and often can promote schizophrenia in susceptible people.

For example, a double bind occurs when a person in a position of authority imposes two contradictory conditions but there is an unspoken rule that one must

never question authority.

### **Catch-22: The Bureaucratic Double Bind Theory in Practice**

The series of actual emails below is emblematic of the dysfunctional approach the Bureau of Reclamation is taking to any actions proposed for the redevelopment of Lake Berryessa. The resorts have existed for more than 50 years. No items of cultural or historical importance have ever been discovered within the resorts or at Oak Shores or other Bureau-maintained facilities.

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Reclamation demolished more than 1,000 mobile homes and resorts facilities, and is still digging and scraping away at the remaining residue, without any substantive environmental or historical studies to support their actions. They simply filled out a short form called CEC 743, which was approved on October 11, 2007 concluding:

“Reclamation has determined that the proposed action is appropriate for Categorical Exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act 011969 (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] 4321, et seq.) based on the following information: The removal of all existing trailers and associated appurtenances within existing and developed sites at Lake Berryessa resorts involves only minor construction activities on previously disturbed land and there will be no impacts to waters of the United States.

Further, Reclamation has reviewed the proposed action and determined that there is no effect to Federally-listed species or critical habitat. A consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office has concluded that there are no affects to cultural resources under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.”

Now the BOR wants detailed studies for any action taken by Pensus, even digging a hole for a power pole, moving fence posts originally hammered in by Reclamation to eliminate dozens of campsites from use, and just about anything else. They even deny approval of the same type of Categorical Exclusion they used themselves to undertake massive demolition and ground disturbance over hundreds of acres of shoreline.

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## Better Know a Bureaucrat: The Peas in a Pod?

Although not as entertaining as The Colbert Report's "Better Know a District", as a public service during these times of trial here at the lake, I thought it would be appropriate for people to know with whom they're dealing within the Bureau of Reclamation hierarchy. The following biographical information comes primarily from Reclamation press releases over the years.

Michael R. Finnegan: Area Manager for the Region's Central California Area Office.

Mike "Seamless Transition" Finnegan is responsible for the operation of Folsom and Nimbus Dams, the Folsom South Canal on the American River, New Melones Dam on the Stanislaus River, and Lake Berryessa.

He began his position on February 9, 2004. He replaces former Area Manager Tom Aiken who retired. Aiken had been responsible for the initial implementation of the Lake Berryessa Visitor Services Plan. Finnegan has served as Regional Business Manager since September 1996, directing the Region's business support functions including budget, water and power rate-setting, economics, finance, information technology, contracting and financial assistance, and property.

Finnegan served in the U.S. Army from 1967-70, including two tours of duty in Vietnam with the 82nd Airborne Division. He began his Federal career in 1975 as a Human Resources Specialist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), Sacramento District. In 1984-85, Finnegan served as a Staff Action Officer at COE Headquarters in Washington D.C., performing cross-functional assignments in support of COE's hydropower and dredging programs and other civil works and military programs.

From 1986-89, Finnegan was on special assignment to Headquarters, Department of the Army, in the Pentagon where he developed civilian personnel and budget policy and managed major demonstration projects for COE Districts and Army installations world-wide. He was the Personnel Officer and Deputy Director of Personnel at Oakland Army Base, California, from 1990-91. Finnegan joined the Mid-Pacific Region in December 1991, first serving as the Human Resources Officer then as Deputy Director, Business Resources Center, in April 1995.

**Editor's Note:** What is a bit ironic about this bio is that Mr. Finnegan once served as Human Resources Officer and won several awards for his Human Resources efforts. How strange then that my request for the names of the past Lake Berryessa Park Managers (reported in the previous edition of the Lake Berryessa News) received the following reply: "The Central California Area Office, the Mid-Pacific Regional Library, the Mid-Pacific Regional Public Affairs Office, the Reclamation Historian in Denver, and the Lake Berryessa Resources Branch confirmed that no such records exist."

Pete Lucero: Public Information Officer

Pete "The Enforcer" Lucero was imported from Washington, DC, in August 2004 as Manager for the Lake Berryessa Field Office. He was responsible for media relations and communications, and for implementing ongoing redevelopment of the lakeshore. In April 2006, Lucero was

promoted to Chief of both the Lake Berryessa and New Melones Field Offices, where he handled both press and community relations.

Back during the "Troubles", aka Visitor Services Plan process, the Bureau of Reclamation created a new position for Lucero to "assure that the day-in day-out upkeep of recreational facilities and water and land management of Lake Berryessa are no longer neglected".

For years his time and energy as the park manager at Lake Berryessa were consumed with shepherding the Bureau of Reclamation's controversial Visitors Service Plan for the lake. During his four years as park manager, Lucero said the visitors plan took precedence over tasks such as lake facility maintenance, water quality monitoring and the removal of unwanted, exotic plant species.

The Bureau then promoted Lucero to the newly created post of Recreation Division Chief for the Central Area Office. In his new job, Lucero continued implementing Berryessa's Visitors Services Plan.

Janet Rogers, a Bureau veteran who has managed several national parks in California and most recently oversaw Hawaii's Haleakala National Park, was hired to replace Lucero as Berryessa's park manager.

In February 18, 2009 Pete Lucero was selected as Public Affairs Officer for the Bureau of Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region.

Prior to joining Reclamation, Lucero was the National Park Service's Bevinetto Congressional Fellow in Washington D.C., serving as a staff member on the U.S.

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, and as a Legislative Affairs Specialist in the Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs. In that position, he worked closely with Congressional staff members and with employees in the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of the Interior. He previously worked for the Park Service as the Facility Manager at Yosemite National Park, Haleakala National Park on Maui, Kings Canyon Park.

Peggi Brooks: Chief: Recreation Resources Division

Peggi "Just Say No" Brooks has worked in natural resource and recreation management for more than 28 years, beginning her government career – at the age of 15 – as a member of Reclamation's Youth Conservation Corps. Following college, she joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, where she distinguished herself as a recreation and resource manager for almost two decades and graduated from both the Emerging Leaders Project and the Leadership Development Program.

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Pete Lucero: Public Information Officer

Tell that to the people of the Town of Monticello. Only the removal of Mnticello Dam and the restoration of the Berryessa Valley would bring this area back to its "natural state".

Peggi was also instrumental in implementing the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) at New Melones Lake, allowing the collection of fees and the retention and on-site use of fee revenues. Peggi provides the leadership, coordination and oversight of recreation-management and visitor-service activities for four federal

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water projects that include Folsom Lake-Natoma Lake, New Melones Lake, the Auburn Recreation Area, and Lake Berryessa.

Jeff Laird: Resource Manager for New Melones Lake, Acting Lake Berryessa Park Manager.

Jeff "Don't Blame Me, I Just Got Here" Laird, the new acting Park Manager for Lake Berryessa is also the Resource Manager for New Melones Lake. Mr. Laird assists the Area Manager in overseeing Reclamation's management of recreation, natural and cultural resources, and visitor services at New Melones Lake, located in Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties, California. Mr. Laird also contributes to the effective management of one of Reclamation's best-known projects, California's Central Valley Project (CVP).

"Jeff has a broad background in recreation and resource management. He has many years of experience working at New Melones Lake where he assisted the manager in providing high-quality visitor services." said Mr. Finnegan. "Jeff's proven ability to work effectively with the public and local community groups will be invaluable in his new position as Resource Manager of the lake."

Since January 2004, Mr. Laird served as the Supervisory Park Ranger and Concessions Specialist at New Melones Lake, directing the recreation management program and administering the marina concessions contract. From September 2002 to January 2004, Mr. Laird served as the lake's Natural Resource Specialist. A Federal employee for 22 years, Mr. Laird previously worked as a park ranger for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Northern California and in Alabama.

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### What is a "Natural State"?

According to a meeting participant, prior to her recent unlamented resignation as Park Manager, Lynn Pilgrim-Little said something to the effect, "Well, it's taken us five years but we almost have the lake back to its natural state."

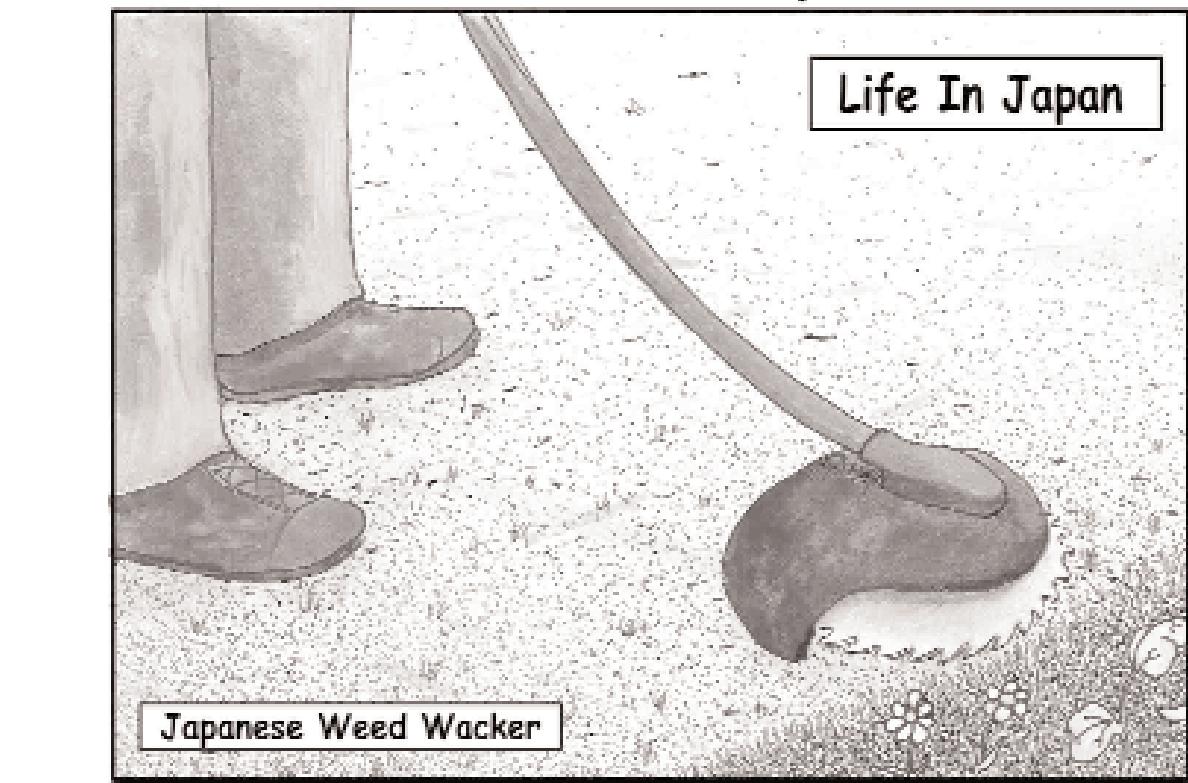
Tell that to the people of the Town of Monticello. Only the removal of Mnticello Dam and the restoration of the Berryessa Valley would bring this area back to its "natural state".

\*\*\*\*\*

### How Can a Real Business Cope with...

bad faith: n. intentional dishonest act by not fulfilling legal or contractual obligations, misleading another, entering into an agreement without the intention or means to fulfill it, or violating basic standards of honesty in dealing with others.

# NAPALACHIA by Bill Scholer



**Japanese Weed Wacker**

### Catch - 22 (Continued from Page 2)

June Birthdays  
Betty Fehrenkamp  
Ruth McGinnis  
13 Karl Frank  
15 Nancy Courtney  
15 Eric Gaustad  
26 Wes Plunkett  
29 Sally Burch

...this work, similar to numerous instances of minor work operations categorized previously by your office. I respectfully request that the nature of the work to be undertaken as well as the fact that the area has already be thoroughly disturbed be considered before launching into another lengthy period of review.

From Reclamatiom, May 30, 2012: I know that you and others at your company have stated that you believe the previous disturbance in the concession areas warrants relief from further review of cultural resources. I am not able to concur with this, nor have I in the past, because it is a matter of Federal and State law, and it is not my role to determine how the laws are to be implemented by Reclamation.

My role is to obtain complete project descriptions for concession development activities and pass them to the appropriate staff in Reclamation for compliance with NEPA/NHPA. Staff specialists review the project description and other documentation, determine what level of NEPA and NHPA analysis is required and initiate that process. If significant ground disturbance will occur from the project then it will normally require review by SHPO. The review time required by SHPO is not within Reclamation's control. Understanding this planning process and the timeframes required is key to successful project management, which is why we have provided you with flowcharts and NEPA process information.

I understand your wish to expedite this project and will do everything I can to assist in getting it approved. Having a completed cultural survey as you initially set out to do would have significantly streamlined this and other projects. In the absence of that survey, each project will have to be individually evaluated for NEPA/NHPA compliance.

From Applicant's Project Manager, May 30, 2012: I still have no official word on the status of the Project Statements themselves, but given the tone of this communication I am not expecting anything less than another re-write. At this rate, even with a perfect Project Statement, we will be denied permission to undertake even the most basic of testing for another three – four months. If this is the best that can be done for something this simple, I can only guess how difficult a real building project will be to obtain approval. Aka: Capt. Yossarian

\*\*\*\*\*

"Catch-22 says they have a right to do anything we can't stop them from doing."



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## **4 Fishing with Sid (and Albert): My First Fishing Trip on the Lake**

By Peter Kilkus

Although I've fished in many places during my life, I am not really an angler. Which is why in my fifteen years at Lake Berryessa I've never really gone fishing. My friend, Sid Silberberg, who is a professional fishing guide, has been offering to take me out and teach me how to drop something strange in the water and hope that something dumb tries to eat it so I can catch it and eat the dumb something that apparently can't breath air.



A couple of weeks ago, Sid called while I was relaxing with a glass of wine on my deck and once again asked me to go fishing. This time I said yes (damn wine!). A few years ago I almost went out on the lake with my friend Steve Whan who had just bought a new bass boat. Steve wanted us to leave from Spanish Flat at 6 AM. Unfortunately for him his boat broke the night before so I didn't have to get up at 5 AM. In this case, Sid took pity on me and I only had to get to his house at 8 AM to get the boat ready and launch at Lupine Shores.

My house looks down on the Narrows and over the years I've gotten used to hearing what sounds like a fleet of bombers flying over the lake. But when I looked out my window at 6 AM, the sound turned out to be 20 to 30 bass boats roaring out of the



Narrows into the main body of the lake for a fishing tournament – sometimes in the wind and rain! So I've always know that "Obsession" is an angler's middle name (not just a cologne). But until I met Albert Brown I didn't realize how that word manifested in human form.

I got to Sid's house on Steele Canyon Road right on time. Albert was already there helping Sid prepare the boat. We launched the boat at Lupine Shores on a perfectly gorgeous Saturday morning. But before we even got into it Albert was already fishing off the dock. We saw a guy

almost catch a big bass right next to the launch ramp. Albert asked him what lure he was using and the response was a senko. That's when I learned from Albert that it was unusual for bass to hit a senko. This proved to be an omen for the end of our day. Sid then showed me how several different lures worked in the shallow water at the ramp.

We finally took off for the Narrows where Sid gave me lessons in the basics – knot tying, lure types, how not to hook the back of your head when casting. We trolled slowly along the shore looking at the depth finder and Sid telling me to say "bottom, bottom" every time my rod bounced. I thought I was getting nibbles but I was only bouncing on the rocks along the shore. But the next time I was about to say "bottom" the rod stayed bent! I grabbed it and reeled in what I thought was a big fish. When Albert got the net under it, we saw that I had caught two large bass on one lure. The bigger hungry bass had been hooked in the mouth, but a smaller hungry one had gotten hooked in the side. My first ever catch at Lake Berryessa was a double bass event!

We kept fishing the area and caught a couple more bass and trout – but always from the right side of the boat – the non-Albert side. To disprove a growing concern that one side of the boat was better than the other, Albert and Sid switched rods. Sid immediately caught another fish on the right side of the boat – with Albert's rod. We had now caught about six fish all from the right side of the boat. The discussion became even more sublime as the philosophy of fishing swirled around me. Was it Sid's secret garlic oil on the lure? Had Albert forgotten to



was now around 3:30 PM and time to get back. The day had been warm and sunny and I was a bit worn out by my first Lake Berryessa fishing experience. We took the boat up to Sid's for some photos. What a day! Sid and Albert both said that it was unusual to catch so many fish in one day. I guess I was the reason we did so well. I'm considering hiring myself out as a "good luck charm" for the next big tournament.

The proof is that Sid and Albert went back out that very same evening without me – can you spell obsession? – but didn't catch anything!

It's hard to compress eight hours on the lake in only a few hundred words. It's hard to describe the beauty of the lake, the camaraderie, the "intellectual" level of the conversation, the relaxing wait while you troll, the feel of the strike, the bend of rod as you start to pull in your catch, the thrill of finally seeing the big bass or trout or catfish before you net it. And yes, Albert is obsessed with fishing. And yes, Albert really is as happy as he looks in the pictures when he lands one. It really was a special day for me on Lake Berryessa. My great thanks to Sid and Albert!



## **Annual "Great Food and Wine Tasting" Event**

### **Lake Berryessa Senior Center**

Olive Oil and Cheese Tasting

Pull Tabs for Sale

Silent Auction

Games of Chance

Wine Wheel for Bottles of Wine

**ADULTS \$5.00 each**

**4:00 to 7:00 PM - Saturday, June 16, 2012  
4380 Spanish Flat Loop Rd.**

## **Bilgee is Back! Lake Berryessa Watershed Partnership and the Solano County Water Agency Ramp Up Boater Education at Lake Berryessa.**



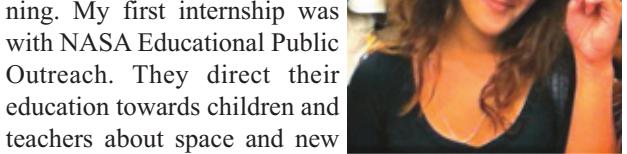
In an attempt to get the word out about the dangers of invasive mussels and the benefits of bilge pads, LBWP and SCWA have hired eight college students to reach out to Lake Berryessa boaters and visitors. Here are some bios and photos so you may recognize them.

**LBWP:** Hi! I'm Alisa Kim. I was born and raised in Long Beach but now live in Davis, attending UC Davis. I'm a senior, majoring in Environment & Resources Science

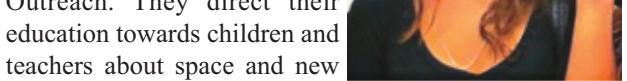
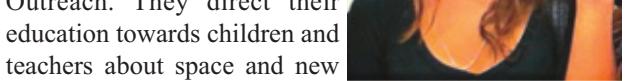
with a minor in Comparative Literature. I am graduating in December and hope to find a job in environmental education, working with non-profit organizations to increase awareness and appreciation for the natural world. Previously, I had volunteered at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach doing

public education and am currently the unit director of Project Compost at UC Davis. When I'm not trying to persuade someone to install a bilge pad, I like to knit, craft with scrounged materials, hike, play ukulele, and learn about plant ecology.

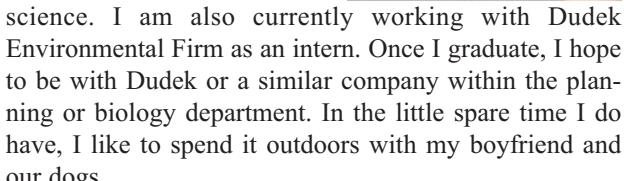
**LBWP:** My name is Sabrina Colias and I am from Vacaville, California. I am a senior at Sacramento State University planning to graduate with a B.S. in Environmental Studies in Fall of 2013. My study is directed towards geography and planning. My first internship was with NASA Educational Public Outreach. They direct their education towards children and teachers about space and new science. I am also currently working with Dudek Environmental Firm as an intern. Once I graduate, I hope to be with Dudek or a similar company within the planning or biology department. In the little spare time I do have, I like to spend it outdoors with my boyfriend and our dogs.



**SCWA:** Hi! I am Bahar Hajian from Danville, California. I'm a Civil Engineering student at UC Davis and enjoy knitting and sleeping on my spare time :)



**SCWA:** Hi! I am Guadalupe Maya Solorio. I am originally from Brentwood, CA. I am currently attending UC Davis to obtain my undergraduate degree in Ecology, Evolution, and Biodiversity. After graduating, I plan to work for Solano County Water Agency. I have experience with water quality assessment, park interpretation, educational programs, and working in a social environment. As hobbies, I like to spend my time hiking, painting, crafting, and reading.



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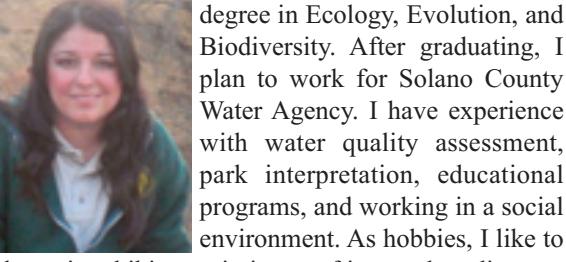
**SCWA:** Hi my name is Nicole Espina and I was born and raised in the town of Danville, California. I am currently a senior at the University of California, Davis and majoring in Biological Sciences with an emphasis in Evolution, Ecology and Biodiversity. I hope to one day pursue a career in the field of water quality or conservation. I have worked with Solano County Water Agency as an intern since June 2011 conducting residential water surveys throughout Solano County. In my free time I love to cook, travel and dance (Tahitian).

**SCWA:** My name is Allie Pratt. I was born and raised in Fairfield, California. I graduated from the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts in Santa Maria, California in 2010 and will be getting my BFA in acting next spring from Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle, Washington. I've worked with Solano County Water Agency every summer since 2008.

**SCWA:** My name is Nick Chun. I am from Castro Valley, CA. I recently graduated from UC Davis with degrees in both History and Political Science. This summer I've been spending a lot of time around water and am now seriously considering water conservation and protection as a career path. When not working I spend my time training Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and watching movies.

**SCWA:** Hi! I am Bahar Hajian from Danville, California. I'm a Civil Engineering student at UC Davis and enjoy knitting and sleeping on my spare time :)

**SCWA:** Hi! I am Guadalupe Maya Solorio. I am originally from Brentwood, CA. I am currently attending UC Davis to obtain my undergraduate degree in Ecology, Evolution, and Biodiversity. After graduating, I plan to work for Solano County Water Agency. I have experience with water quality assessment, park interpretation, educational programs, and working in a social environment. As hobbies, I like to spend my time hiking, painting, crafting, and reading.



## NBRID Assessment Vote Moves Forward

Over the last five years the Napa Berryessa Resort Improvement District (NBRID), has been dancing on the deck of the Titanic on a voyage that the Bureau of Reclamation promised would be seamless between Steele Park and a new concessionaire. Unfortunately, the voyage was a perfect storm starting with the District being unable to pay for necessary improvements to the water and sewer systems because the bonds could not be sold even though the voters approved the bonds in 2007 followed by multiple voluntary rate increases and proposed fines from the State Water Resources Board.

Napa County helped repair our leaky boat during this voyage by loaning money to the District to cover expenses, however, the State of California has said that unless we fix our situation, they will continue to fine our District for lack of waste water storage, particularly during the winter months.

Our boat is sinking because we do not meet the State waste water discharge requirement, that we have capacity to store 22 million gallons of treated wastewater, when in fact, our current waste water pond holds only 1 million gallons.

We will be required to build a new wastewater system, and postponing this State mandated requirement can only result in the iceberg of escalation of fines and cease and desist orders.

On July 10, 2012 at 1:30 PM, in the Napa County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1195 Third Street, Suite 305, Napa, CA, the NBRID Board of Directors will hold a public hearing on the proposed assessment to construct improvements to the water and sewer system, and to hear protests, tabulate the assessment ballots and take final action on the levy of the assessments.

On June 20, 2012 at 6:30 PM in the Capell Valley Fire station #14 located at 1193 Capell Valley Rd, Napa, CA, Board of Supervisors Caldwell and Dodd and County Engineer Phil Miller will hold a question and answer session to answer questions from the Highlands Community in regards to the upcoming assessment vote.

We, the members of the Transition Committee, urge your attendance in formulating your own opinion as to whether this assessment may constitute the life boat to our ongoing problems, and to vote accordingly.  
Stu Williams, NBRID Transition Committee

### Watch Out for Rattlesnakes!

By Cheryl Bean

The lizard population is very high this year, which brings out the rattlesnakes! On April 22 while Mac and I were swimming (yes, swimming in April) our 103 pound German Shepherd named Sadie was busy chasing lizards. She came to the water and we saw blood on her nose and rinsed it off, thinking she had scraped it on a sharp rock while chasing a lizard. So we threw a stick out in the lake for her to fetch as she swam back we noticed she was swimming a little low in the water.

We figured, Sadie must be tired so we went back to the house, gave Sadie a bath and put her on the deck to warm in the sun while we did some chores. Next thing Mac notices Sadie has the shakes, so he covers her with a towel - that is when he saw her entire muzzle was

swollen, she was blowing bubbles out her nose.

We called Sally of the Valley immediately, but Sally was out of town until Monday. Sally had told us before that a dog of Sadie's size should be O.K. and that the anti-venom needs to be given soon after the bite one hour had already passed since she "scraped her nose". The nearest emergency vet was an hour's drive, so we stuffed some Benadryl in her and waited.

She made it through the night but her nose was still swollen as was her entire face - one eye was swollen shut. We took her to the vet where they said it was too late for the anti-venom to do anything, but they did blood work to make sure the poison had not affected any vital organs - which can, but did not happen. By Wednesday the swelling finally subsided. Unfortunately Sadie still wants to chase lizards.

Saturday May 12 we were down at the water again. Now we keep Sadie on a leash except when she is swimming. She came out of the water with the stick and went straight for a rock. I grabbed her before she got to her nose to the rock - good thing - since there was a rattlesnake coiled right there. Three children and another dog had been playing on the shore all afternoon only a couple of feet away from the snake.

Lucky that our neighbor Ernie had a shovel on his boat and killed the snake. There was a whole lizard inside of him! Ernie dug a hole and buried the snake's head deep. Later that day a couple of young men came by and said they had seen another rattlesnake just down the shoreline from where we had been. Keep your eyes open!

### Capell Valley Mobile Home Park Requests Special District Status

The Local Agency Formation Commission has received a written request from Robert Joe for a fee waiver in anticipation of submitting a proposal to form a special district to assume water and sewer services for the Cappell Valley Estates Mobile Home Park located at 6001 Monticello Road near Steele Canyon Road. Mr. Joe is the owner and operator of the mobile home park and its private water and sewer systems, which currently serve 58 units as well as an adjacent commercial center known as "Moskowitz Corners." Mr. Joe asserts the central goal in forming a special district is to improve the financial solvency for both the water and sewer systems by having access to government subventions and low/no interest loans to fund needed improvements which cannot be easily absorbed through rate increases since residents are predominately on low and fixed incomes. Residents at Capell Valley Estates Mobile Home Park currently pay \$550 in monthly rent. Tenants also pay a combined \$50 a month for water and sewer service.

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ATTEST: Karita Prescott  
Deputy Clerk of the Board

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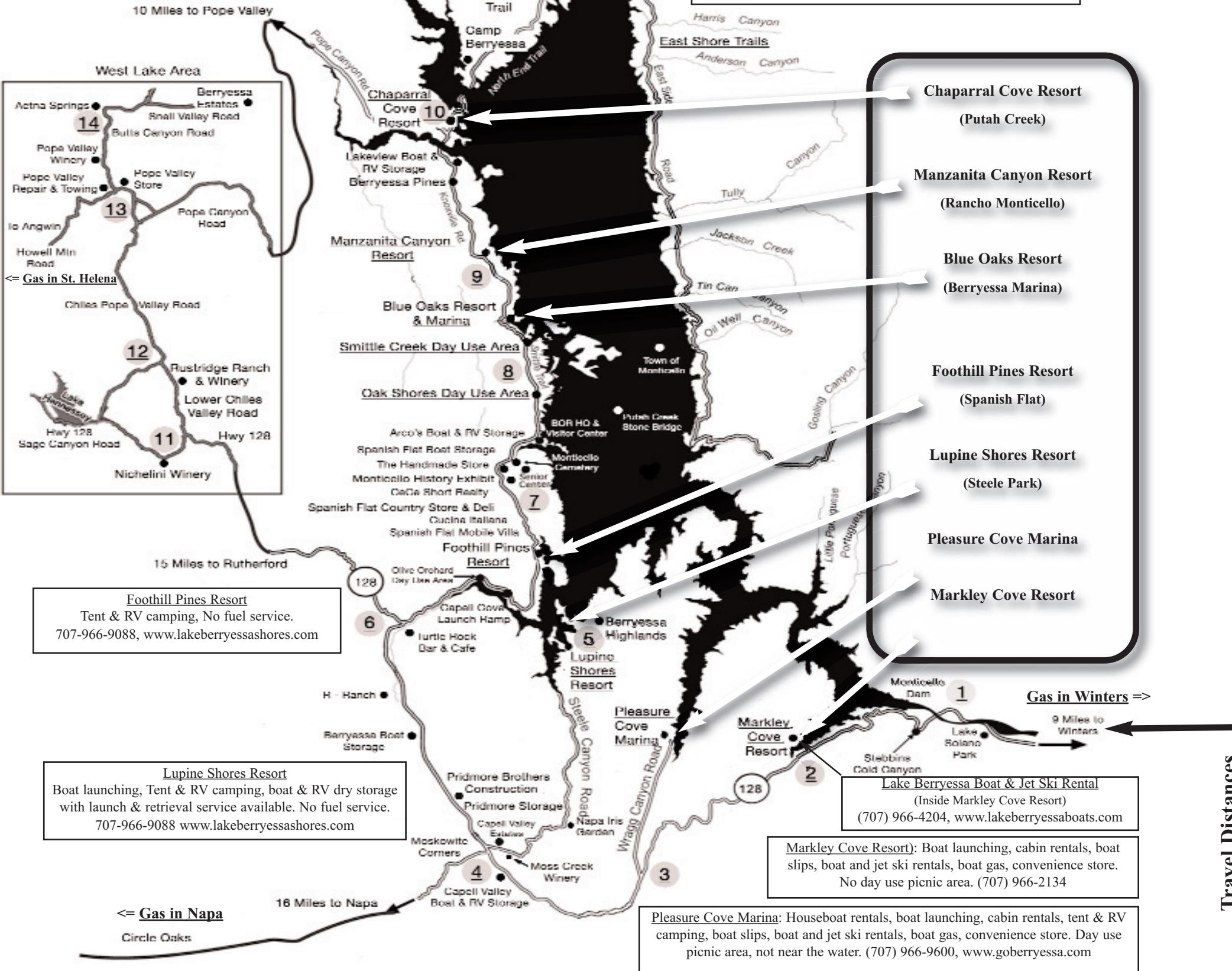
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**Memorial Day 2012 at Spanish Flat**

Another memorable Memorial Day this year! Carol McGinnis Fitzpatrick, founder of the Monticello History Exhibit, organized another "old timers" get together starting at the Monticello Cemetery and moving to the Spanish Flat Village Center.

There was a slide show by Larry Gardner of the final days of the Town of Monticello for a crew of old timers and new timers which was followed by a video by the scuba divers of the Berryessa Bridges Project of the search for and discovery of the historic Putah Creek Big Stone Bridge. The video included descriptions and photos of the search.

There was some spectacular underwater video of diving to and through the bridge arches at 140 deep. The bridge looked beautiful with the divers' air bubbles flowing like mercury along the inside top of the arch.

Later there was a well-attended BBQ/Barn Dance at the Berryessa Senior Center. Carol was the professional photographer. That's her in the photo at the top right of this page with local veterans. She provided vintage costumes for some great photos in front of the old stage coach. See more photos on the Lake Berryessa News web site in the Memorial Day Berryessa photo album.

The whole day was a very special one for local residents and friends, especially those who had lived here before the dam was built. Below is Carol's heartfelt description of what this day meant to her:

"Yesterday, like every other Memorial Day, I went to the Monticello cemetery to get together with the families that came from Monticello and to honor the ones that have gone before us. And as I drove around the loop and saw all the cars, I got this wave of love that came over me...This day is like Christmas. It comes no matter what - good times and bad. It has been in the past just a few people and like yesterday a lot ...Some

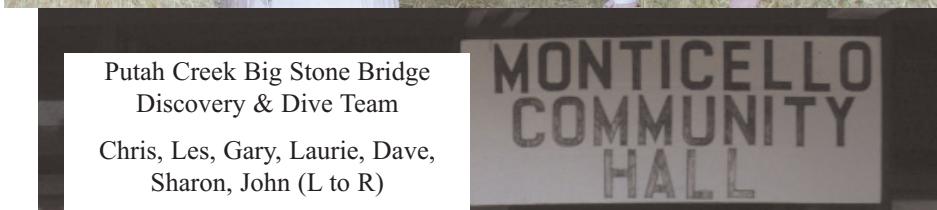
that have never come or I never have met. And I feel like I am with my people. Because I am.

I grew up with all the stories about Monticello and there are so many more I will never hear. I wished time could stand still so I could have made that day last as long as I wanted...I looked around at one point to see if other people felt what I was feeling ...Then just when my buddy Wes comes up the loop road with the 300 pound Monticello school bell attached to his fork lift. He drove to the first group of people and we had Ed Poe come and ring the bell. It made the most beautiful sound..It echoed through the little valley like it was speaking to us all. It had not rung for 56 years and it had something to say.

My thoughts at that time were that I wish Murray were here. Then Wes took the bell to the McKenzies and Janice McKenzie rang the bell for her family. It made the sound again that echoed over all that lived in Monticello and buried in Monticello and then moved to Spanish Flat. At that time tears came to my eyes and wished that my Daddy and brother Ronnie and Grandpa could see. This was for them. I pulled myself together and realized my friend forever, Wes Plunkett, had gone to a lot of work and time to make this happen and as I type this my eyes are blurry with tears.. I am blessed to have such a good friend.

I had a lot of friends and family help with the exhibit yesterday, and they did it without me even asking. So what I learned yesterday is to always do and say what you feel and never let a day go by with out letting your friends know how much you love them because, just like yesterday, it is in the past - just a memory. We are making history every day ....I could not have asked for anything more."

Carol

**Travel Distances**

1.	Monticello Dam	1=>2	3.0 miles
2.	Markley Cove Resort	2=>3	5.3 miles
3.	Wragg Canyon Road	3=>4	3.0 miles
4.	Moskowite Corners	4=>5	5.0 miles
5.	Lupine Shores Resort	4=>6	4.7 miles
6.	Turtle Rock	6=>7	5.0 miles
7.	Spanish Flat Village Center	7=>8	2.4 miles
8.	Oak Shores/Smittle Creek/Visitor Center	8=>9	2.4 miles
9.	Blue Oaks/Manzanita Canyon Resorts	9=>10	2.8 miles
10.	Pope Canyon Road/ Chaparral Cove Resort	10=>13	10.2 miles
11.	Hwy 128 @ Lower Chiles Valley Road	6=>11	3.0 miles
12.	Pope Valley Road	11=>12	3.2 miles
13.	Pope Valley	12=>13	8.5 miles
14.	Aetna Springs	13=>14	3.7 miles

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## Berryessa Snow Mountain NCA Spells Disaster for Lake Berryessa

Lake Berryessa has been a unique family and boater destination for water recreation serving the greater San Francisco Bay Area and the Sacramento Metropolitan Area for more than 50 years, with as many as 2 million visitors annually. In the "new contract" process Bureau of Reclamation used nearly \$6M in stimulus funds to destroy \$40M in assets and infrastructures, in an effort to drive the water recreation public away. Now special interest organizations are trying to permanently lock-out water recreation. This great water recreation resource belongs to the public, seven concession areas use a total of 12 miles of the 165 miles of shoreline, of the 3 mile wide by 26 mile long lake. Lake Berryessa is second in size to Shasta Lake of California reservoirs.

The Bill before the House Committee on Appropriations "HR 5545: Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area Act," represents special interest, fund seeking organizations, wanting to add yet another layer of governance, putting a dark umbrella across the massive lands of four counties with designated "conservation" as the number one priority. The lands, both

public and private, would all be subject to constraints and approvals of the governing body, which consists of a committee of eleven people – five of which are supervisors [government] – the others who support the BSMNCA goals.

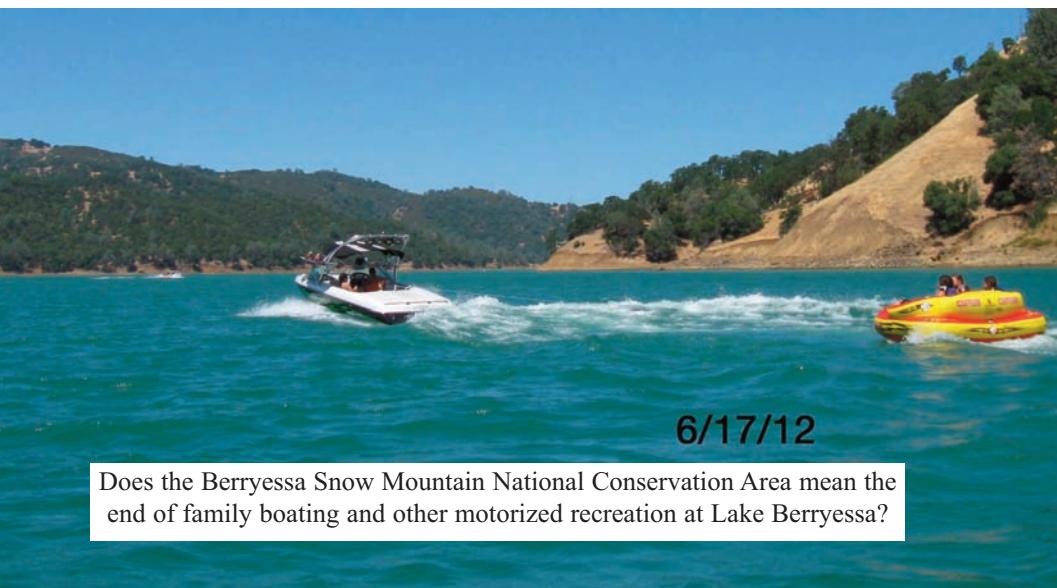
The conservation area consists of approximately 319,300 acres of Federal land and interests in Federal land within Napa, Lake, Mendocino, and Yolo Counties. With "lands enshrined" by BSMNCA, they will be eliminated from having future potential. All public use and recreation decisions would be the focus of new restrictions, if not elimination, including OHVs, horseback riding, hunting, grazing, mining and "unmanaged recreation." Any BSM short term projects will have little or no economic stimulus, alternately it will continually request funds to limit your freedom.

In a devious manner, the NCA map includes all the "land," around Lake Berryessa, essentially landlocking diverse recreation and motorboat access. Further,

subjecting the lake to the vision and goals of BSM; which does not include motorized boating, jet skis, water skiing, houseboats, fishing, and other water and/or destination recreation.

Stop Bill HR 5545. Support Lake Berryessa as a National Recreation Area / NRA.

Lucy White / Calistoga



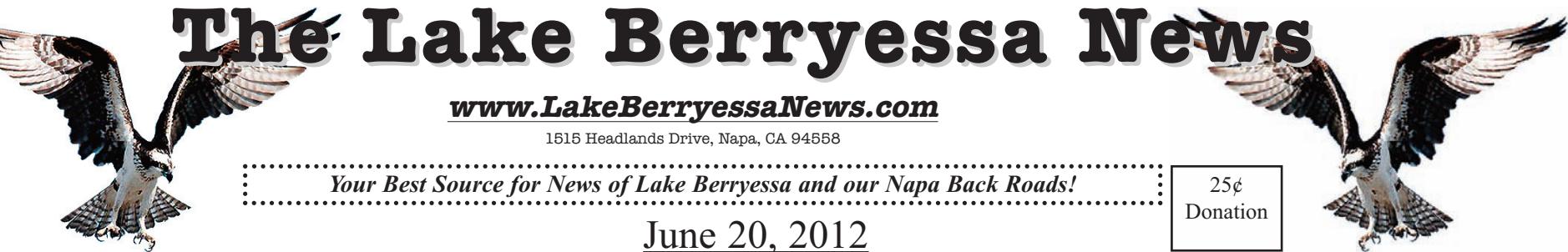
6/17/12

Does the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area mean the end of family boating and other motorized recreation at Lake Berryessa?

# The Lake Berryessa News

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June 20, 2012

## Lake Berryessa Conspiracy Thriller Summer Reading: HR 5545 - A Bill to designate the Berryessa Snow Mountain NCA

by Peter Kilkus

Regular readers know that the Lake Berryessa News and the Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce strongly oppose creation of a Berryessa Snow Mountain NCA as a completely unnecessary waste of taxpayer money and government resources.

Now that the bill has been formally introduced in Congress and is publicly available, the language itself has increased the concerns of many in the local community. (See back page.)

The bill is relatively short and easy

to read. The language seems relatively benign. But it lays out the legal foundation to support significant restrictions of public access.

The Bureau of Reclamation already shut down the Big Island Lagoon to motorized boats, even though it was a popular family resting spot and a quiet 5 MPH zone. Two well-known local exclusionists active in regional environmental groups proposed to the Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce that the whole lake north of Big Island become a non-motorized, non-alcohol zone.

Another simple alternative is to remove Lake Berryessa completely from the proposal: Redraw the Map!

When the Boards of Supervisors of Glenn and Colusa counties voted against supporting the previous NCA map they were removed from the NCA proposal. The Napa County supervisors would do Lake Berryessa a great service by voting to oppose the bill.

In an ironic twist to an NCA, the National Rifle Association was involved in the Gunnison Gorge NCA. They did not oppose it and were active stakeholder participants in developing its management plan. And what did they get?

The Pensus Group and Forever Resorts should be concerned about the impact of an NCA on their contracts with the Bureau of Reclamation and their future revenues. Reclamation has done nothing but stand in the way of future development at the lake. Why?

If an NCA passes, the Bureau of

Land Management automatically takes over management of the NCA under the National Landscape Conservation System. Restrictions vary between conservation areas but generally motorized vehicle use is restricted.

Why is Congressman Mike Thompson so adamant (finally) that the BOR be removed from managing the lake and replacing them with the BLM? If he's sponsoring the NCA he should know that the BLM will take over automatically. To some people this whole charade is a sophisticated behind-the-scenes conspiracy to landlock the lake and eliminate motorized recreation.

Isn't that special...? Who could argue with such a nice applehood and mother pie statement? But stop and think about the underlying theme and who would be in control. He who controls the plans control the uses.

"The Secretary shall continue to authorize, maintain, and enhance the recreational use of the conservation area, including hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, hang gliding, sightseeing, nature study, horseback riding, mountain biking, rafting, motorized recreation on authorized routes, and other recreational activities, so long as such recreational use is consistent with the purposes of the conservation area, this section, other applicable law (including regulations), and applicable management plans."

I always suspect any environmental group that tries to use economic benefits (usually of a "rosy scenario" variety) as a reason to support their proposals. Concern for real people is typically not in their DNA. I know that sounds harsh, but in my experience, true. Tuleyome has been strongly pushing this economic benefit theme - that gateway communities will benefit from a flood of new visitors. This is simply not supported by the facts.

"The National Rifle Association has filed a letter protesting the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) final resource management plan for Ironwood Forest National Monument that will close the entire monument to recreational shooting.

The stated purpose of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area is to conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the ecological, scenic, wildlife, recreational, cultural, historical, natu-

ral, educational, and scientific resources of the lands included in the conservation area. The Secretary shall allow only such uses of the conservation area as the Secretary determines would further the purposes for which the conservation area is established.

The simplest thing to do is eliminate the NCA proposal completely: Kill the Bill!

Even the Blue Ridge Berryessa Natural Area Conservation Partnership studied the proposed NCA and came out against it as totally unnecessary for the Lake Berryessa region.

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Closure of the monument to recreational shooting was protested at pub-

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## Lake Berryessa - The Map - Page 6

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lic meetings and in written comments, but the BLM ignored the wishes of those who enjoy the historic and important recreational uses of these public lands. The BLM is justifying its decision to close shooters out of 128,000 acres of public land because it claims that shooting is a "resource-harming" activity.

The BLM has demonstrated from the beginning of the planning process that its intent was to ban recreational shooting in the Ironwood Forest National Monument. No amount of public engagement in support of recreational shooting altered the direction that BLM had decided in advance that it would go."

Sound familiar, Lake Berryessa?

## **Pensus-Reclamation: Latest Status**

According to Pensus Vice-President, Jeremy Crotts, the recent talks between Pensus and Reclamation were aimed at finding a global settlement of their differences, ending the proposed termination, finding some organizational efficiencies and more streamlined processes from both sides.

"At Pensus, we believe that Pensus and Reclamation are headed in the right direction. For the public, operations will continue as normal while we work through these negotiations.

Pensus is determined to install wet slips as soon the remaining environmental and permitting issues can be resolved, which we are continuing to push forward. Be assured that Pensus is committed to promoting a safe, family-friendly atmosphere, supporting the surrounding communities, and providing a broad spectrum of recreation services at the Lake Berryessa."

### **Berryessa Garbage Service Allowed to Raise Rates**

As part of the fallout from the delayed redevelopment of Lake Berryessa's resorts, area residents and businesses will now pay higher rates for garbage service.

The Napa County Board of Supervisors approved a 14-percent rate hike for customers of the Berryessa Garbage Service (BGS). A double-digit rate increase is needed to help cover the loss of revenue from the resorts according to company owner Tom Gomez.

For most residential customers, the increase means an extra \$5 to \$12 a month for garbage service, or an extra \$60 to \$144 a year. For businesses with dumpsters, it figures to be an extra \$50 a month, and \$600 a year.

\*\*\*\*\*  
The rates have been rising since the resort closures. BGS hopes that this increase will stabilize rates while the resorts are redeveloped.

Before the supervisors voted on the increase, Stu Williams, a resident of Berryessa Highlands on the south end of the lake, spoke in support of the company, noting the rate increase is tantamount to supporting a local business struggling without revenue from the resorts.

Once in full operation, these pens hold tiny rainbow trout during the fall and winter months in an attempt to teach the fish how to feed and better survive the crucial winter months.

According to Dennis Lee, Senior Fisheries Biologist with the DFG at that time, the penned rainbows will get a growth jump on early season planters. It is imperative for survival that these smaller fish learn to feed on the lake's naturally developing minnows, baitfish, and aquatic insect life. The small fry remain in the pens for approximately four to five months, being fed several times a day by volunteers from CIFFI and Markley Cove Resort.

In this manner, the fry will thrive and grow and gain an understanding of what natural foods they can dine on as well. This knowledge will give them a distinct advantage over the rainbows planted in the lake each spring. Planter fish are fed pellets at hatcheries and, once they enter lakes, have a difficult time finding and feeding on enough food sources to build sufficient fat reserves to make it through the winter months. After 8 plus years of having these pens, these pen-raised fish have grown to a larger size by spring and are able to utilize the lake's huge population of natural food sources better than the smaller planter-sized fish.

Simply put, planter trout have mouths that are too small to attach and swallow the lake's minnows. Biological studies have proven that pen projects work and anticipation is high for a greater number of holdover sized fish in future years. This may offer anglers the trophy-sized trout



that once prowled the waters of Berryessa. The Lake Berryessa Pen Project has been extremely successful and there are no plans to end this great project

A few months ago a group of volunteers met at the end of the Markley Cove boat docks, where the CIFFI fish pens are located, to release the trout held there during the winter months of 2011-2012. The four pens held approximately 300 trout each.

For customers with 32- to 35-gallon waste bins, the monthly rates for weekly pickup, now \$28.80, goes to \$30.80 on July 1 and \$33 on Jan. 1. For a two-yard dumpster, that current rate is \$333.41 a month, rising to \$356.79 on July 1 and \$381.91 on Jan. 1.

By comparison, in the unincorporated Upvalley, the monthly rate for a 32- to 35-gallon bin is \$33.44, and \$359.74 for a dumpster.

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## Lake Berryessa: California Houseboat Vacation Jewel

By Cary Ordway

You've got kids – lots of kids – and you're wondering how you're going to fit them into that resort condo unit. You also wonder how you're going to keep them all happy and, maybe most important, how you're going to be able to get away from them. Even the most devoted parent, now and then, needs to de-compress.

The answer: a really big houseboat. Being confined to a boat might not immediately top your list of good things to do with large numbers of kids. But if our recent experiment is any indication, the houseboat thing really does work.

So just how many kids are we talking about here? In our case, a total of eight: our grade-school age daughter and our grown-up daughter's seven kids, ages 1 through 13. Figure in three adults and you can see that planning for this trip would be only slightly less complex than the Normandy invasion.

If you haven't rented a houseboat before, the first thing to understand is that these boats are far bigger and more spacious than regular boats. In our first houseboat articles we used to compare them to waterborne RV's, but the truth is houseboats nowadays are much bigger than even the most spacious RV's. On this particular trip to Northern California's Lake Berryessa, we rented a 70-foot Millenium – which is to a small power boat what a 747 is to a Cessna 150.

The 70-foot Millennium features a kind of great room in the front salon along with a large dining table and chairs. There is a breakfast counter and fully equipped kitchen along with four private bedrooms, six queen beds, two full baths, a wet bar, sun canopy and a hot tub on the top deck. Like most houseboat rentals, this also featured a waterslide on the top deck that kids find irresistible.

The setting for our experiment – Lake Berryessa – is less than an hour's drive east from Napa, and shares with the Napa Valley a landscape of sun-drenched scenery that is as pretty as anyplace you'll find in California. The wooded hills, forests and country roads in this part of the state are perfect for enchanting Sunday drives or picnics or hikes.

Adding to that is the 23-mile-long Lake Berryessa, a turquoise jewel that is as practical as it is scenic. This man-made lake is actually a reservoir known for excellent fishing and warm summer temperatures that make it ideal for swimming and other water sports.

Endless water recreation is one reason houseboats work for large families. It's not like you're crammed into a boat for your entire vacation – the boat is just a place to hang while you're putting meals together or watching a movie on the elaborate satellite wall-mounted television. When you are beached, the water in that particular cove is now your swimming pool and a pretty big one at that. More than likely, you'll find trails from your beach leading to hours of fun hikes and exploration, another activity that will keep the kids occupied and completely engrossed in what they're doing.

With a houseboat, you can be as stationary or mobile as you want to be. We've done houseboat trips where we

spent hours each day cruising and then found a new beach mid-afternoon to explore and settle in for the night. On our Lake Berryessa trip, we found the kids especially enjoyed the shore activities, so we kept our cruising to a minimum and set up camp sometimes two nights in a row in the same location. The point is, you can do whatever you want to do – there is no itinerary to keep, no deadlines to worry about. Just go where the spirit takes you.

It will come as no surprise to parents that kids can have a lot of pent up energy when they're confined too long to one area — so spending a lot of our time on the beach solved this particular problem. But even that was not a big problem due to the size and design of the Millenium. The upper deck is so large that it was the perfect place to send the older kids to burn off their energy, leaving the main salon in relative silence as we cruised the Berryessa shoreline enjoying the coastal scenery.

The kids loved it all and looked forward to new spots to explore with every new beach we visited. Each new cove – and there are many on Lake Berryessa – was like a new Robinson Crusoe adventure. It all added up to a vacation the kids will long remember and one they say they can't wait to do again.

### Safe Boating Quiz

Do you have what it takes to be a safe boater? Test your safe boating IQ with this boater safety quiz! These simple true or false questions below are a handy review of some key safe boating rules.

1. True or False: If my boat doesn't contain any fire hazards from the motor or fuel system, then according to Federal requirements, I don't need to bring a fire extinguisher along.

Answer: True. A fire extinguisher is only required on boats where elements such as a motor or fuel system create a distinct fire hazard. However; general safe boating guidelines will always suggest that you stow a fire extinguisher on the boat just in case.

2. True or False: Children younger than 13 years old should wear a life jacket while underway.

Answer: True. This is now a legal requirement for all Federal waterways and many states have also passed legislation to make this a requirement for non-Federal waterways as well. Showing your kids the ropes for safe boating also means ensuring they're adequately protected in the event of any emergency.

3. True or False: If someone falls overboard, the first thing you should do is jump in right away to assist them.

Answer: False. Jumping overboard to rescue someone should only be used as a last resort. Safe boating requires that the first thing you do is to REACH for the person, using either your arm or something nearby that they can grab onto. If you're more than an arm's length away, the next option is to THROW them an inflatable, floatable device. If you aren't close enough to reach or throw something, the next step is to ROW closer until you are. Only go in after someone as a last resort, and only if you are a strong swimmer with experience in lifesaving. Otherwise,

you could end up having two men overboard instead of just one.

4. True or False: A dock or slip should be always approached at clutch speed.

Answer: True. A safe boater always operates at a reasonable speed at all times, especially in crowded waterways or near docks and slips. Safe boating requires you to always be in control of your watercraft, taking the time to perform all maneuvers with adequate precision.

5. True or False: 25% of all boating accidents involve a personal watercraft that was borrowed.

Answer: False. The number is actually much higher; at more than 50%. Before loaning your boat to anyone, make sure they are familiar with the all operational rules for safe handling of your boat in particular. You may even find it helpful to create a safe boating guide full of tips and instructions to keep onboard your watercraft.

6. True or False: Boats that are 16 feet and over must also carry one USCG-approved throwable Lifejacket (Type IV)

Answer: True. Additionally, Federal safe boating requirements maintain that all watercraft must contain at least one USCG (United States Coast Guard) approved, wearable Lifejacket (Types I-III) for every person onboard, but it's good to have a few extras on hand as well.

7. True or False: If a boat is overturned or swamped, abandon the boat and use your Lifejacket for flotation.

Answer: False. If a boat is overturned or swamped, but not sinking, you can still use it to support your body and save energy. Removing as much of your body from the water as possible can also help prevent hypothermia.

8. True or False: I have family visiting and we will be going over recommended capacity by just one person. This shouldn't be a problem for safe boating, right?

Answer: False. It can be a fatal mistake to overload your boat. To ensure boater safety for everyone on board, be sure to check your boat's capacity plate to see what the maximum number of people or carrying weight in pounds is.

9. True or False: It's okay if others drink when onboard, as long as there is one responsible safe boater onboard to safely handle the watercraft.

Answer: False. Over half of all boating-related drowning incidents involve the use of alcohol, and many times the injured person is not the skipper or designated safe boater. Practice safe boating at all times by restricting use of alcohol to everyone on board - not just a few people.

10. The S.A.F.E. Boating principles stand for: Sober Boating, Alertness, Fasten Lifejackets, and Education.

Answer: True. A handy safe boating guide to keep in mind at all times, the four SAFE Boating principles above help to ensure boater safety on a variety of levels. Always be sober; always be alert, always use lifejackets when required, and last but not least, be sure to take the time to invest in an educational boater safety course.

## NAPALACHIA by Bill Scholer

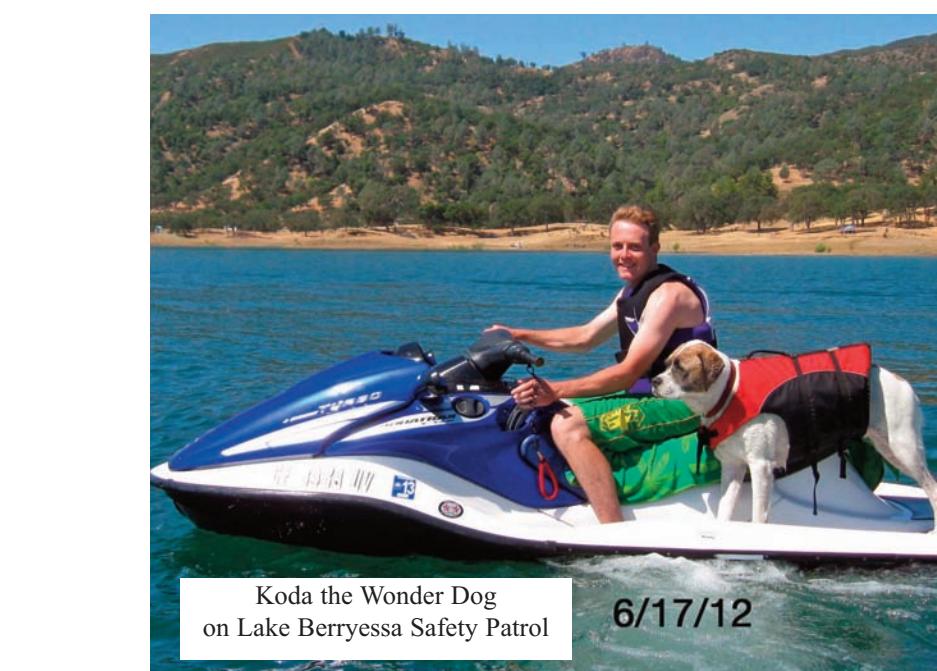


Bill and Karla are coming home to Lake Berryessa from Japan next week for awhile. They've got their lake summer clothes and a guitar. What more do they need? Bill and Karla have had many adventures in Japan, not the least of which was Karla's experience of the great earthquake and tsunami. Bill has been trying out for acting jobs in commercials, playing music on aircraft carriers, and teaching English. Follow their exploits on Facebook. Here are a couple of excerpts:

"I played with a Japanese country band in a club that was in a dentist office in Zushi - Cowboy Good Times Bar."

"I had a great day teaching the kids English. Sometimes I feel like I'm in a remake of The Sound Of Music. Except it's Japanese kids and instead of Julie Andrews playing the guitar it's me playing the Ukelele."

"I'm off to teach English to Japanese sailors at the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force school."



Koda the Wonder Dog  
on Lake Berryessa Safety Patrol  
6/17/12



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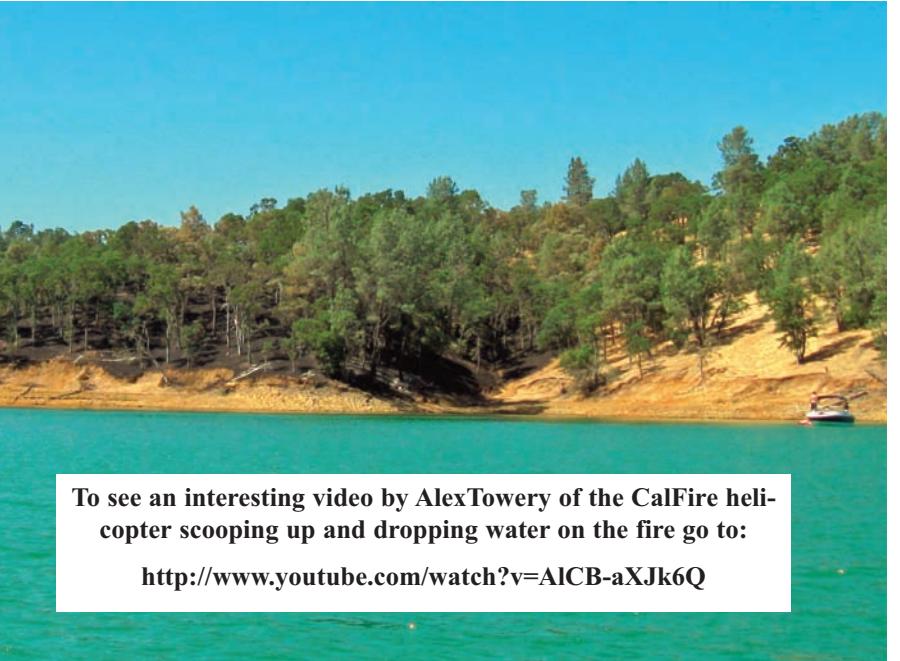


## Summer Fire Danger is Real!

As many of you heard or saw, there was a small grass fire that started on the shores of Lake Berryessa again this weekend. Did you know that it started only 1 mile from the Berryessa Highlands neighborhood, and it was heading our way? Fortunately there was almost no wind, so CAL FIRE contained it in a few hours at a few acres. Otherwise the Highlands neighborhood would have had to test out their new Highlands Fire Safe Council-provided defensible space.

It should go without saying (so pass this note on to a friend who might not know)... If you are recreating at Lake Berryessa, please only use your BBQ or light a campfire in approved locations, and when weather conditions are safe. If you live up here, allow this to be a reminder that shoreline fires happen... and if the wind blows the fire your way, make sure your home is defensible from a fire. Have a safe and fun summer!

## Berryessa Highlands Fire Safe Council 2011 & 2012 COMPLETED PROJECT MAP



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## Lake Berryessa Watershed Partnership Interns:

### What We Do

by Alisa Kim and Sabrina Colias



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If a boater installs the free bilge pad given with the survey, they also receive a free gift, such as a ski flag, t-shirt, spf chap stick, or steel water bottle. These surveys assist boaters to engage in clean boating habits and give back to the lake they enjoy.

While most of our time is spent at launch ramps talking to boaters, we also visit Oak Shores and other day use sites with Bilgee, our bilge pad mascot. Since Lake Berryessa has many swimmers and picnickers, public education becomes important in encouraging individual ways to keep the lake clean.



Hello! Our names are Alisa Kim and Sabrina Colias, and we are the Lake Berryessa Watershed Partnership summer interns. We are working in tandem for the Lake Berryessa Watershed Partnership to educate boaters on invasive mussels and bilge pads.

We will be at the lake all summer on the weekends and holidays. Our main goal is to keep Lake Berryessa clean since it is used not only for recreation, but for irrigation and even as a drinking source!

We conduct surveys at the boat launch ramps to make sure everyone is aware of the invasive zebra and quagga mussels which infest freshwater lakes. These mussels, while seemingly harmless, can not only reduce fish populations but make the shores dangerous with their sharp shells and can clog pipes and water treatment facilities.

Although Lake Berryessa is not currently infested, education about the invasive mussels is important to prevent their introduction since once they touch the water, they are near impossible to remove and the recreation at the lake could close down!

Since the infestation in the east coast, some Southern California lakes, and the finding of the mussels in San Justo Reservoir, about an hour south of San Jose, prevention through education has been ramped up, and we are helping to ensure they do not enter Lake Berryessa!

Another survey we conduct is a boater survey, which informs boaters about clean boating practices. We provide eager participants with boater kits from the California Coastal Commission and Department of Clean Boating & Waterways, which includes helpful boating information as well as a free bilge pad!

A bilge pad is an absorbent pillow which is zip-tied in the bilge compartment found on inboard boats. It absorbs oil while repelling water and can last the entire boating season provided there are no leaks or spills. While very easy to obtain and install (they are available for free from us, the blue containers at most resorts and marinas), they serve an important purpose in keeping the lake clean and free of harmful oil.

\*\*\*\*  
A Solano County Water Agency Intern We Missed in the Last Issue

My name is Lauren Davini and I am a student at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, pursuing a degree in Civil Engineering. I am on my school's triathlon team and I love to be outdoors as much as possible!



### Alerts To Threats In 2012 Europe

by John Cleese (of Monty Python fame)

The English are feeling the pinch in relation to recent events in Syria and have therefore raised their security level from "Miffed" to "Peeved." Soon, though, security levels may be raised yet again to "Irritated" or even "A Bit Cross."

The English have not been "A Bit Cross" since the blitz in 1940 when tea supplies nearly ran out. Terrorists have been re-categorized from "Tiresome" to "A Bloody Nuisance." The last time the British issued a "Bloody Nuisance" warning level was in 1588, when threatened by the Spanish Armada.

The Scots have raised their threat level from "Pissed Off" to "Let's get The Bastards." They don't have any other levels. This is the reason they have been used on the front line of the British army for the last 300 years.

The French government announced yesterday that it has raised its terror alert level from "Run" to "Hide." The only two higher levels in France are "Collaborate" and "Surrender." The rise was precipitated by a recent fire that destroyed France's white flag factory, effectively paralyzing the country's military capability.

Italy has increased the alert level from "Shout Loudly and Excitedly" to "Elaborate Military Posturing." Two more levels remain: "Ineffective Combat Operations" and "Change Sides."

The Germans have increased their alert state from "Disdainful Arrogance" to "Dress in Uniform and Sing Marching Songs." They also have two higher levels: "Invade a Neighbor" and "Lose."

Belgians, on the other hand, are all on holiday as usual; the only threat they are worried about is NATO pulling out of Brussels.

The Spanish are all excited to see their new submarines ready to deploy. These beautifully designed subs have glass bottoms so the new Spanish navy can get a really good look at the old Spanish navy.

Australia, meanwhile, has raised its security level from "No worries" to "She'll be alright, Mate." Two more escalation levels remain: "Crikey! I think we'll need to cancel the barbie this weekend!" and "The barbie is cancelled." So far no situation has ever warranted use of the last final escalation level.

John Cleese - British writer, actor and tall person

A final thought - "Greece is collapsing, the Iranians are getting aggressive, and Rome is in disarray. Welcome back to 430 BC."

### Product Placement - Lake Berryessa News Style

by Peter Kilkus

With so many personal digital video recorders (DVRs) in use, most of us just fast forward through commercials. So television advertisers are looking for new ways to make you watch their commercials or force you to see their products.

When a company pays for its product to be featured in a movie or a television show to increase brand awareness, it's called product placement. This form of advertising has been around almost as long as movies and television shows themselves, and has long been a secondary source of income for networks and content producers. When factoring in commercial-skipping technology such as DVR and on-demand programming, product placement becomes even more attractive for advertisers.

A few years ago my friends Jim and Susan at Rustridge Ranch and Winery paid several thousands of dollars to have a bottle of their Racehorse Red wine used in a dinner scene of a movie. The bottle was only shown for several seconds and it was unclear how much of an effect it had on Rustridge sales.

Since we are a small community, I usually try to feature my advertisers in a story from time to time. So far this story has been a product placement for Rustridge. But look at the top right corner of this page: Fresh Chicken and Duck eggs for sale!

When Brenda called me with this ad it set off a chain of memories about the best eggs I ever had. We lived in Point Reyes on a small rural road above town. We had a couple of horses and a pony for my wife and kids. I even learned to ride English saddle and we often took horseback trips into the Point Reyes National Seashore.

We bred and raised an Arabian colt. That's one of my connections to Rustridge. In the next issue I'll do a story about the new Rustridge colt who had a sad beginning but is now a miracle baby.

Back to eggs, but first the cat lady. Our neighbor across the road was one of those classic oddities - a sweet old lady with more than a dozen cats. She was elderly and gray and strange - looked a bit like a portly witch. She was very friendly but reclusive. She loved my kids and we all got along well.

She also had at least as many chickens as cats, and they roamed as freely as the cats. Since we had horses there was a lot of hay and straw around our house and small stable. The chickens ran around our yard and pasture eating all the natural stuff - they kept our pesky earwig population down. And we'd find eggs all around our property - in our planter box, next to the feed trough, in the stable straw.

These were the best eggs I've ever eaten. Rich golden yolks and great flavor (earwig spice?). For the kids it was like an Easter egg hunt every day! I can only assume that Brenda's eggs may be of the same quality. You should call her for some.

Product placement in stories in the Lake Berryessa News is free (although you have to pay for the ads). Send me an interesting story the way Nichelini Winery does from time to time. Or tweak my memory like Brenda's eggs and let me ramble on. As loyal readers of the Lake Berryessa News, the most important thing you can do is support my advertisers. Thanks.

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### Presidential Fitness Test Now Awarded To Any Kid Who Can Eat Without Sweating



WASHINGTON—Finally conceding it is unrealistic to expect today's children to complete a pull-up, run a mile, or touch their toes, the President's Council on Fitness, Sports, and Nutrition announced Tuesday the new standard for winning its award would be the ability to eat a meal without breaking a sweat. "In our revised physical fitness test, a meal is placed in front of a child, and the longer he or she is able to eat without wheezing or needing to lie down, the higher the score," said executive director Shellie Pfohl, adding that children who complete the meal in the fastest amount time without shifting around in their seat to make their pants fit more comfortably will be eligible for the top medal.

"We want our kids to set more pragmatic, real-world goals for themselves, and being able to run back and forth across a basketball court one time is no longer realistic." At press time, elementary school student Henry Walters was on his fourth helping of mashed potatoes as his obese classmates cheered for him to keep going.

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### The Lake Berryessa News Horoscope

Aries (March 21-April 19): You'll finally get around to catching up on your reading just as the men in lab coats resume their midnight visits and mess it all up again.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): This is a great time for romance in the workplace, but then again, when isn't it for the world's most deranged taco truck driver?

Gemini (May 21-June 21): Your death next week will seem inexplicable until people remember the ill-advised 1985 "cross your heart and hope to die" pledge you made to be best friends with Jenny Bosben.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): Your fear of public speaking won't be helped by your habit of saying things that make large groups of people want to attack you.

Leo (July 23-August 22): It is written that you will wield a sword of light and unite the world under your wise and compassionate rule, but hey, when you get right down to it, lots of dumb stuff has been written.

Virgo (August 23-September 22): This is a terrible time to start new phases of your life, especially those that involve eating whole frozen Pepperidge Farm chocolate cakes before they even have time to defrost.

Libra (September 23-October 23): Due to unusual and convoluted circumstances too involved to go into here, you'll spend the next three years imprisoned in an aging 1960s girl group.

Scorpio (October 24-November 21): Beware: Time is running out to order Girl Scout cookies from Hazel so that she can earn the stuffed penguin—and already, Thin Mints may be unavailable..

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21): Though you've been trying to find yourself for decades, you'll be disappointed to tears when you find yourself living in Flagstaff and working at a screen-door factory.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19): Remember, only you can make yourself feel bad, but it's important to let people know how much you appreciate their help with it.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18): Decide to make the world a better place this week, but not before making sure your stuff goes to the right charities and surviving friends.

Pisces (February 19-March 20): You'll be taken completely by surprise when the Maritime Administration declares you a derelict hulk and has you broken up for scrap.

### Ag Land Values in Napa Stay High

What's the difference between an acre of a Napa Valley vineyard and an acre of a Sonoma Valley vineyard? About \$100,000, depending on the exact location of those vines. Napa Valley vineyard land is a rare commodity, said Rob McMillan, executive vice president and founder of the wine division of Silicon Valley Bank. "It trades more like diamonds than ag land."

One acre of "prime" area vineyards is valued at between \$225,000 and \$300,000, according to a new report on 2011 agricultural land and lease values by the California chapter of American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers.

"That's ground zero for making wine," said Hal Forcey, accredited rural appraiser with American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers. "That's where everybody wants to be."

"Secondary" area vineyards can sell for up to \$165,000 an acre, the report noted.

To compare, vineyard land in Sonoma County has values per acre of between \$60,000 to \$140,000. Mendocino vineyard acreage has values from \$14,000 to \$75,000 an acre.

Last year was a banner sales year in Napa County, said the land values report. Sales and values were strong, with a number of vineyard, winery, and estate properties trading hands. These sales were fueled by the presence of local and international investors, plus a marked increase in lifestyle buyers, the report said.

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Free Public Facilities are Open: Oak Shores/Smittle Creek Day Use Parks are open on the west shore. Go to [www.usbr.gov/mp/ceao/Berryessa](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/ceao/Berryessa) for details. Oak Shores and Smittle Creek offer nice hiking opportunities and more than 100 picnic sites equipped with BBQ grills. Two hand launches for non-motorized car-top boats are also available.  
707-966-2111

Fishing with Sid (and Bajabev)

By Sid Silberberg

This past Saturday, June 16, I took "Bajabev" out for the day. It was her first Lake Berryessa experience and I wanted it to be a memorable one. We headed towards the narrows first and the water was pretty calm. Her first catch was a toss up which one was bigger the lure or the fish but from then on the bite was on and the fish were all quality.

Bev wanted to try catching as many different species of fish that the lake offered and we came close. She caught largemouth, smallmouth and spotted bass along with trout and even a squawfish. Beverly Seltzer (a.k.a. "Bajabev") is a retired commercial fisherman, life-long sportfishing enthusiast and author of the book *The Lady and the Lingcod*. [www.bajabev.com](http://www.bajabev.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

While it is largely a fact that I have saltwater in my veins the winds have stirred up the salt pond for most of the last month, so I made a phone call to a special friend who knows all about freshwater fishing and said, "Next time you have an opportunity to squeeze me in, let me know." Sidney Silberberg is the special friend and today was my lucky day.

Lake Berryessa is a couple hours from me and yet I've never fished it but not to worry, Sid knows the place like the back of his hand. I met him at one of the launch ramps on the south end of the lake where he already had his fully loaded Lund in the water. I was prepared to see the freshwater version of a "Tred Barta porcupine" when he told me the number of rods he was bringing. Let's just say he's got everything covered! I was allowed to bring up to three sticks myself but I chose the two staples I own... A Fenwick trout rod/Penn 420 SS (coffee grinder) and a Penn Pursuit/Abu

Garcia Ambassador 4600 C3 (level wind), both sporting fresh line.

I promised to get hot today so I planned ahead and donned my Mojo shirts and a pair of shorts over a swimsuit and wore a pair of water shoes from Lands End. My Mojo cap and Kaenon soft cores completed my ensemble. Polarized glasses are a MUST HAVE if you plan on fishing.

Sid started us off by trolling and I took notes of the various lures, depths and water conditions. It wasn't long before we had a bass attack and I cranked the feisty golden-hued fish to the boat. A very respectable 2 to 3 pound smallmouth bass got deposited into one of the forward live well. He was soon joined by a 2 pound rainbow trout. Another bass followed before we decided to run a short ways to another spot.

A nice breeze picked up just as I had discarded my T-shirt, bringing enough relief from the heat to get by with my performance shirt. Since I had caught a few fish on Sidney's gear I decided the put my trout rod out and troll with it a bit. It was promptly hit and whatever hit it started to take line. "It" turned out to be a great fight and I landed my first ever squawfish which was around 4 1/2 pounds. I followed it up with another trout.

With a light chop on the lake we headed for the opposite side to get some protection and take a break to hang out with Sid's family on a patio pontoon boat. We snapped a few pictures of some of the catch so far and tossed a couple of lines out to check for catfish. After a quick hamburger and beer we cooled off with a dunk in the lake and then I got schooled in the fine art of using a senko from the shoreline. I practiced for a few minutes before we headed back out.

We found a nice area to drift using the senko technique and I also tried casting a couple of topwater lures. The next time we

hooked up I told Sidney to bring one in since I had lost a bass earlier. He let me net the fish which was a nice largemouth bass around 4 pounds. Throughout the rest of the afternoon we scoped out areas hiding bass and I learned a lot about the structure that they prefer at different times; during the day-to-day and over their lifecycle.

In one small cove I had a huge take-down and fought the biggest bass I'd encountered, so far, to within five feet of the net before it leaped and spit the hook. Sid figured it was a 6 pound class fish. I was really starting to enjoy fighting bass and I wanted another shot at a big one. We paused to dunk ourselves again before moving on.

Well when you're fishing with a pro lightning can strike more than once! A short while later I got to fight an even bigger bass around 8 pounds, but alas it too found freedom before the net. Sidney took it in stride but I know we both would have loved a photo op with both of those largemouths!

It was a pleasure not only fishing but getting to experience a fantastic lake with plenty of wildlife. Sid pointed out osprey and bald eagle nests, grebes, Canadian geese and we saw plenty of deer as well.



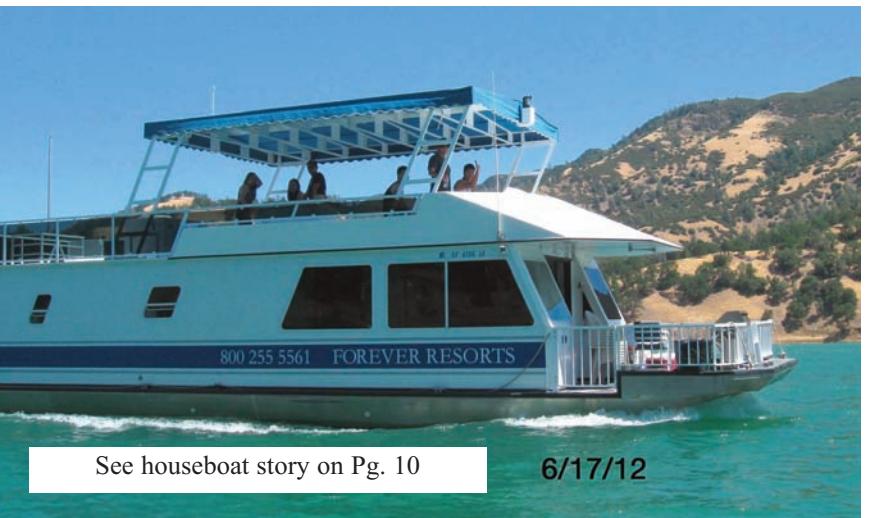
The Lake Berryessa Watershed Partnership interns are distributing the card below as a guide to Lake Berryessa amenities and the location of bilge pad pick up and drop off locations. Pick up fresh bilge pads at the smaller blue bins. Drop off used bilge pads at the larger red bins



Amenities by Location	
1	Bilge Pad Station
2	Used Motor Oil / Filters
3	Reclamation Facility
4	Concession Area
5	Information
6	Restrooms
7	Port-a-potties
8	Picnic / Day Use
9	Tent Camping
10	Group Camping Only
11	RV Camping
12	Boat Launch
13	Marina / Boat Fuel

Travel Distances

1.	Monticello Dam	1=>2	3.0 miles
2.	Markley Cove Resort	2=>3	5.3 miles
3.	Wragg Canyon Road	3=>4	3.0 miles
4.	Moskowite Corners	4=>5	5.0 miles
5.	Lupine Shores Resort	4=>6	4.7 miles
6.	Turtle Rock	6=>7	5.0 miles
7.	Spanish Flat Village Center	7=>8	2.4 miles
8.	Oak Shores/Smittle Creek/Visitor Center	8=>9	2.4 miles
9.	Blue Oaks/Manzanita Canyon Resorts	9=>10	2.8 miles
10.	Pope Canyon Road/ Chaparral Cove Resort	10=>13	10.2 miles
11.	Hwy 128 @ Lower Chiles Valley Road	6=>11	3.0 miles
12.	Pope Valley Road	11=>12	3.2 miles
13.	Pope Valley	12=>13	8.5 miles
14.	Aetna Springs	13=>14	3.7 miles



See houseboat story on Pg. 10

6/17/12