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(Continued from front page.)

So why should I/we worry? Because of history. Spanish philosopher George Santayana is credited with the aphorism, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” We must not forget the history of how Lake Berryessa got into the present predicament. That’s why I wrote my book, Policy and Politics Betray the People: The Lake Berryessa Saga: 1958 - 2020..

One of my unanswered questions has always been why, when they worked so hard to install Pensus as the concessioner for all the lake resorts in 2010, did Reclamation immediately begin to harass them over their proposed development plans. Was it the inherent bureaucracy element - bureaucratic ego, a belief that a federal government agency is more important to our small piece of the country than the local county officials, or just the perverse joy of exerting power behind the cloak of policy?

How would the past apply today? Reclamation could claim they have the right to approve the County’s choice of concessioner. They could request documents, memos, and reports from the County to which they (Reclamation) also have no right per the MPA. More damaging would be unnecessarily delaying approval of County planning requests - a tactic they used against Pensus.

Some excerpts from the MPA:

Reclamation hereby transfers **to Napa County** and **Napa County hereby accepts Management of the Concession Area** as defined in this agreement for the benefit of the public pursuant to this Agreement.

“Concessionaire” or “Concession Contractor” is **the entity that Napa County enters into an agreement for the operation of a Concession** within the Concession Areas for the purpose of providing visitor services.

“Concession Area Plan” means **the plans created by Napa County** that apply to the specific Concession Areas, and consistent with Napa County’s Planning Standards.

The Bureaucracy of Reclamation Unilaterally Creates “New No Wake Zone”

With no public input nor documented justification, Wrecklamation has relocated No Wake buoys to create a No Wake Zone that stretches from the point of Spanish Flat to the point of Steel Canyon. Therefore, the entire area from Spanish Flat, Capell Cove, Willie’s Cove, Steele Canyon and everything in between are in the new No Wake Zone.

The Lake Berryessa News

Without **THE LAKE BERRYESSA NEWS** there would be no Lake Berryessa news!

May, 2021

Virus, Fire, Snakes, Lake Revitalization: Welcome to Spring in the Country, 2021-Style

Protect Lake Berryessa from the Bureautocracy of Reclamation

A turning point in Lake Berryessa history is soon to come as the Napa County RFP bid evaluation process moves closer to choosing a successful bidder for each of the three resorts: Steele Canyon Recreation Area, Spanish Flat Recreation Area, and Monticello Shores recreation Area. There are hints that strong bids from large recreation companies are under evaluation.

The proposals from the evaluation committee will be presented to the Board of Supervisor in public session before final contract negotiations begin in earnest in May. My concern is with the Bureautocracy of Reclamation. Clearly, the Managing Partner Agreement was intended to remove Reclamation from directly managing the new resorts.

Although the chosen concessioners must be “approved” by Reclamation, Reclamation does not have veto power over Napa County’s choices. Reclamation cannot question or contest the County’s basic decision. Per the Managing Partner Agreement Reclamation is acting in an advisory role to see that any plans are consistent with the 2006 Record of Decision.

Per the MPA: “Recreation facilities will be developed, operated and maintained on a schedule determined by Napa County. Resources will be protected, and visitor services shall be provided in accordance with the 2006 VSP ROD, Napa County’s Concession Area Plan, and other applicable standards for the Concession Areas.”

An autocracy is a government controlled by one person (autocrat) or agency (bureautocracy) with absolute power. As unlimited power doesn't usually bring out the best in people, autocracies, including bureautocracies, are often inhumane - without compassion for misery or suffering. I would never accuse the Bureautocracy of Reclamation of a Customer Service attitude - more of a Dilbertian ethic.

I recommend that a simple process be put in place to monitor the Bureautocracy of Reclamation and its potential attempts to undermine the County concession development goals. I propose this process become completely transparent. Thus any communication (email, memo, report...) between Napa County and the Bureau of Reclamation regarding this process, except the most confidential, must be made available to the public so we may understand the requirement details.

Although the County is required to submit specific MPA-defined requests to the BOR “for its review and approval, Reclamation shall not unreasonably delay or withhold such approval.” For example, there should be a maximum 15 day turnaround for any requests from Napa County to Reclamation.

(Continued on back page.)

(10 Years Ago in the Lake Berryessa News -

Deja Vu All Over Again!)

Lake Berryessa is my

lovemark

I just traded in my old cracked iPhone3 for the new HTC Inspire 4G. I tried out the new iPhone4 but the HTC turned out to have a slightly larger screen and the apps were easier for me to use. It was no small emotional task for a dedicated Apple user to betray his first techie love.

At a recent Napa Valley College Hospitality Symposium a consultant said they had looked at the question: What makes some brands inspirational, while others struggle?

Their conclusion was that brands have run out of juice. More and more people in the world have grown to expect great performance from products, services and experiences and they usually get it.

Lovemarks, unlike Trademarks, transcend brands. They deliver beyond your expectations of great performance. A Lovemark reaches your heart as well as your mind, creating an intimate, emotional connection that you just can’t live without. Ever.

Take a brand away and people will find a replacement. Take a Lovemark away and people will protest its absence. A Lovemark is a relationship, not a mere transaction. Clearly Apple is one of the world’s premier Lovemarks. But then I submit, so is Lake Berryessa!

That’s one reason the response was so vociferous and visceral to the Bureau of Reclamation’s (unfortunately ultimately successful) plan to destroy a recreational culture at Lake Berryessa. It’s also the reason that so many people are willing to return to resorts that provide only port-potties and no power or running water or showers.

I’ve been coming to the lake for 15 years. I was lucky enough to have a place at Steele Park. I experienced the joy of watching my kids and those of my friends grow up at the lake, on the water and on the land. The same emotional bond to Lake

Berryessa was created in many thousands of families over the decades. There’s nothing like floating in the middle of beautiful Lake Berryessa™ on a hot summer day.

The Lake Berryessa **lovemark** is what our local businesses and residents are depending on to rejuvenate our local community - as the new resort owners slowly rebuild the totally demolished resorts we all loved so much. Spread the word – Lake Berryessa is back!

(We were so naively optimistic back in May, 2011!)

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2 **Artificial Intelligence-Based Fire Detection**
A high-tech system which may detect fires soon after ignition is being considered by Napa County. Ten or so poles topped with the artificial intelligence-based IQ FireWatch fire-sensing technology could provide coverage for 94% to 97% of the county. The system can detect heat disturbance from fires even before smoke is visible. Telecommunications poles could be 60 feet tall and disguised as trees. Among the possible sites are American Canyon Road east of American Canyon High School, rural communities such as Berryessa Highlands and along Silverado Trail at several locations.

Should the Board of Supervisors approve the proposal, possibly on June 8, the company could install the early fire detection poles by mid-October. Sonoma County this year announced it would begin using artificial intelligence technology to detect possible fire outbreaks. Using a federal grant, it will add the technology to existing Sonoma County ALERTWildfire cameras.

Surprisingly, the community group Napa Neighborhood Association for Safe Technology objected to the potential of increased wireless radiation from telecommunication poles stating they would increase health risks despite more than 25 years of scientific evaluation concluding the opposite.

A recent FDA report, “Scientific Evidence for Cell Phone Safety” (2/10/20), (www.fda.gov/radiation-emitting-products/cell-phones/scientific-evidence-cell-phone-safety) stated “To date, there is no consistent or credible scientific evidence of health problems caused by the exposure to radio frequency energy emitted by cell phones” - and by extrapolation - other EMF-emitting equipment like wi-fi or telecom antennas. The level of emissions is so low that no negative physical effects have been documented in more than 25 years of research.

An analogy would be that of sunlight compared to moonlight. You can get a sunburn, but you cannot get a moonburn!

Napa County Declines Fire Boss Planes for the 2021 Wildfire Season

After hearing from Cal Fire, Napa County will forego an offer from a private group

Gone But Not Forgotten: Global Supertanker Grounded and Up For Sale

The awesome spectacle of a Jumbo Jet riding through the Lake Berryessa valleys at low-level, before dumping more than 17,000 gallons of bright red retardant over a blazing Lake Berryessa forest could be consigned to history as of now. The unique Boeing 747 Supertanker has been grounded, for the time being at least, after the investment group that owns the single aircraft decided to cease operations. This is extremely disappointing as the aircraft has been configured and tuned with a new digital drop system and other upgrades to make it more safe and efficient. The news comes following the worst wildfire season in California’s history with the most acres ever burned. The Supertanker was used 119 times in 2020 just in California alone.



to base two water-dropping Fire Boss planes here this fire season for early wildfire response.

Growers/Vintners for Responsible Agriculture offered to pay \$1.5 million to lease the planes and crew from Dauntless Air. But in the face of Cal Fire opposition, the Napa County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday rejected the offer for now.

The county contracts with Cal Fire to operate the Napa County Fire Department. Cal Fire officials said their own water-dropping helicopters hold more water than the single-engine Fire Boss scooper planes and can refill from smaller reservoirs. The two Fire Boss planes might slow and complicate the helicopter response, Cal Fire said.

A plane equipped with Fire Boss water apparatus can hold up to 800 gallons to dump on a fire. Growers/Vintners for Responsible Agriculture made the \$1.5 million offer in the wake of wildfires that since 2017 have burned about half the county and destroyed about 1,500 structures.

Cal Fire earlier this month announced it will base a helicopter in Napa County capable of dropping 1,000 gallons of water on a fire and then scoop more out of local reservoirs. It will also add 46 people to staff a 24-hour fire crew. The cost is \$3 million.



An Air Tractor 802 , with the Fire Boss water s y s t e m attached.

It is equipped with pontoons, allowing it to land on open water to refill the tank.

Because of Science

By Neil deGrasse Tyson

Many people who love their high-tech smartphones refused to trust scientists when it came to Covid.

What I learned from the pandemic year is that when faced with a common enemy—an enemy of the entire human species—we regressed to basal, primitive instincts rather than band together to fight. This was a test run for an alien invasion, and we failed. I had naively hoped that the same tribal urges that pit human against human could be harnessed to pit all humans against the killer virus. But that didn't happen.

We have apparently passed through a portal where pseudoscience, anti-science, fear-of-science and science-denial all thrive in our civilization. Where systems of cultural, political and religious belief override the objective truths established by the methods and tools of science.

If the enterprise of science were some newfangled, untested way of knowing, one might empathize with these sentiments. But the people who battle against science are the same ones who, for instance, wield and embrace their pocket-sized smartphones, which merge state-of-the-art engineering, mathematics, information technology and space physics.

So perhaps what I really learned during the pandemic year is that science needs better marketing—refined and persistent—so that no one will ever again take its discoveries for granted.

Imagine the ad campaigns: We fly through the air at 500 miles per hour, seated in a cushioned chair, inside a 100-ton metal tube, 30,000 feet above the ground—because of science. We communicate with practically anyone we’ve ever met, in an instant, no matter where they are in the world—because of science. We obtain immediate access to all the compiled knowledge of our species, at our fingertips—because of science.

Neither you nor your mother died in childbirth—because of science. Most people used to die at 65 or 45 or younger, but we don’t anymore—because of science. And we are able to glean accurate insights about Earth’s past, present and future, especially its climate, our ecosystem and the forces we exert upon them—because of science.

In that imagined future, Covid-19 would never have become a pandemic. Everyone would have understood the risks of transmission. And the bastions of anti-maskers, thinking they cannot spread the virus to others, would look as silly as a swimming pool with a designated “Peeing Section.”

Until then, let’s not forget the efforts of lab scientists. Nobody writes stories about not dying by not contracting Covid-19. So maybe it’s time to praise the researchers who developed vaccines in record time. If heroes are those who save lives, then they are superheroes, for they have saved the lives of millions—because of science.

Onion Headlines

Scientific study funded by the rich finds that wealthy people are more intelligent, attractive, creative, compassionate, humble, hardworking and overall more worthy of life than the poor.

Elon Musk Unveils Urban Slingshot System Able To Move 6 Pedestrians Across Street Per Hour.

FTC Rules Businesses Must Disclose Whether They Actually Cool Or Just Use Minimalist Branding.

EPA Hoping To Streamline Ecosystem By Hosting Team-Building Lunch Meet-And-Greets Between Species.

GOP Oppose Infrastructure Bill With Uplifting Reminder It’s Okay To Be A Work In Progress.

Knicks Praised For Embodying New York Spirit Of Overhyped Media Creations

Entirety Of Objectionable Human Behavior Explained To Toddler As Person Acting Silly

Vaccine Dose Reminds Sedentary Man What Muscle Soreness Feels Like.

Man Waiting For Curbside Order Pacing Sidewalk Like Expectant Father In Delivery Room.

Georgia Lawmakers Warn Stricter Gun Regulation Could Cause Mass Shooters To Move To Other States.

Woman Relieved She No Longer Has To Support Closed Bookstore.

To the shock of most Americans, baseball season already well underway.

Latest CDC data reveals the mandatory wearing of face masks in Susan's pointless team meetings has seen a sharp decline in rates of contagious yawning.

Arkansas Legislature Votes To Make “Being Uppity” Towards Law Enforcement A Felony; Alabama and Mississippi Expected To Follow.

Tucker Carlson angry at milk for not being white enough.

DeSantis On Vaccine Passport Order -“Florida Will Not Have Second Class Citizens Based On Vaccine Status. It Will Be On Race And Economics Like Always”

Should This Article Be Trusted?

7

Where does our news come from? What’s the difference between “fact” and “opinion” in news reporting? Should this article be trusted?

After the past four dizzying years—during which the president has consistently vilified the press and sought to undermine public trust in journalism—answers to these fundamental questions are evidently far from elementary for many Americans.

A December 2020 Pew Research study found that many Americans have difficulty distinguishing between news sources that do their own reporting and those that simply circulate already existing stories. Fewer than 4-in-10 survey respondents knew whether Google News, Apple News, or The Wall Street Journal do reporting of their own. (Correct answers: The Wall Street Journal does; Google News and Apple News do not.)

Perhaps even more unsettling, a 2018 Pew Research report found that many Americans have trouble distinguishing factual statements from opinion in news reports. This survey asked respondents to distinguish between factual statements—statements that could be proved or disproved by objective evidence—and opinion statements based on beliefs or values.

Roughly a quarter of respondents incorrectly identified most or all of the statements. According to the report, respondents’ abilities to classify statements as factual or opinion varied widely “based on political awareness, digital savviness, and trust in news media.”

These findings suggest that media literacy educators in the United States face big challenges. The absence of critical media literacy education in the United States is a continued embarrassment. We live in the most media-saturated time in human history, yet students and teachers in the U.S. have little access to formal, well-structured media literacy education.



"What can I say, I was an English Major."

What's Inside: Tear Gas
This is not a political statement!

Charcoal
Usually made of wood heated until it’s almost pure carbon. Pull the pin, and the fuse will set it smoldering: When combined with potassium nitrate, charcoal is easy to ignite.

Potassium nitrate
Aka saltpeter, it gives off great quantities of oxygen when it burns, feeding the fire. Plants need potassium and nitrogen, so KNO₃ has been used in fertilizer for centuries. The stuff used to come from bat poop or livestock pee, but today it can be made from ammonia.

Silicon
As the potassium nitrate and charcoal burn, elemental silicon is converted into tiny droplets of 2,500-degree silicon dioxide (aka superhot glass), which then spatters onto the other ingredients and ignites them.

Sucrose
Fuel for the fire. Sugar melts at 370 degrees Fahrenheit, a relatively low temperature that heats and vaporizes the tear-making chemical without destroying it. An oxidizer will help keep combustion going.

Potassium chlorate
An oxidizer. When heated, KClO₃ releases copious amounts of pure oxygen. It also breaks down into potassium chloride, which makes up some of the smoke from the grenade.

Magnesium carbonate
Potassium chlorate does not get along with acid (the mixture is explosive). This stuff, found in laxatives, fire extinguishers, and pool cue chalk, keeps pH levels slightly basic, neutralizing any acidic content caused by chemical impurities or moisture. When heated, it gives off CO₂, further dispersing the tear gas.

O-Chlorobenzalmalononitrile
A lachrymator, meaning it produces tears. It also causes that burning sensation in the nose and throat and on the skin. As little as 4 milligrams per cubic meter will disperse unruly crowds. It’s believed that a lethal dose is around 25 grams per cubic meter.

Nitrocellulose
Some grades of nitrocellulose, like guncotton, are explosives. Others are lacquers that might provide the finish on, say, a vintage guitar. Here, low-nitrogen NC is used as a sticky binder to keep all the other ingredients homogeneously blended.

May 2021 Horoscopes
Aquarius (1/20-2/18): You’ll undergo a crisis of conscience when you realize that, despite being a faithful American, you don’t really want to watch anything that’s on TV right now.

Pisces (2/19-3/20): The stars are happy to announce that starting next week you will pay your zodiac bill on time, if you know what’s good for you.

Aries (3/21-4/19): You’re not getting any younger, which means that a certain so-called “wizard” has a lot to explain concerning certain “reverse-aging potions.”

Taurus (4/20-5/20): You’ll continue to inspire those closest to you to try and move away as quickly and quietly as possible.

Gemini (5/21–6/21): Unfortunately for your personal philosophy, it turns out the free market has yet to come up with a truly effective way to just go up to women and start talking to them.

Cancer (6/22-7/22): Your actions have not gone unnoticed. Prepare to receive a summons to appear before the House Subcommittee on Talking About Work While People Are Trying to Watch Football.

Leo (7/23-8/22): The pretty lady’s boyfriend will actually be a lot more polite than he absolutely has to be when explaining to you that who dates her is not determined by an essay contest.

Virgo (8/23-9/22): If there is more to life than fishing, you don’t want to know what it is. This will help explain your death from malnutrition and dehydration next week.

Libra (9/23-10/22): You will be shocked to learn that, due to a legal fluke, your long-term houseguest is now your common-law wife.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21): Financial experts know that a number of factors are to blame for the downturn, but they won’t be able to shake the hunch that it was all your fault somehow.


Sagittarius (11/22-12/21): Your uniqueness as a human being is threatened when you find a person who enjoys ham just as much as you do.

Capricorn (12/22-1/19): No matter how bad things get, or how hopeless life may seem, you can always go home again and take it out on your family.

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Things You Would Love To Say Out Loud At Work

How about never? Is never good for you?

I see you have set aside this special time to publicly humiliate yourself.

I don’t know what your problem is, but I’ll bet it’s hard to pronounce.

Ahhh, I see the screw-up fairy has visited us again.

I like you. You remind me of myself when I was young and stupid.

You are validating my inherent mistrust of strangers.

I have plenty of talent and vision; I just don’t give a damn.

I am already visualizing the duct tape over your mouth.

I will always cherish the initial misconceptions I had about you.

Thanks! We’re all refreshed and challenged by your unique point of view.

Any connection between your reality and mine is purely coincidental.

What am I? Flypaper for freaks?

I’m not being rude. You’re just insignificant.

It’s a thankless job, but I’ve got a lot of karma to burn off.

Yes, I am an agent of Satan, but my duties are largely ceremonial.


I started out with nothing and still have most of it left.

Sarcasm is just one more service we offer.

I’ll try being nicer if you try being smarter.

Chaos, panic and disorder. My work here is finally done.

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Rattlesnakes: Friend Or Enemy Or Just A Primal Fear?

Fitst a weed-whacking tip: Many folks have already started weed-whacking to protect their homes in preparation for fire season. A Berryessa Highlands neighbor has already uncovered three big rattlers this way. He pointed out that you can kill the rattler by turning your weed-whacker perpendicular to the ground and chop off the snake’s head. However, he cautioned not to drop the weed-whacker flat onto the snake as that will just cause the snake to be wound around the whacker head and be a be a mess to clean up!

Above the Berryessa Highlands we’ve regularly had close encounters with rattlesnakes in spring and summer. We had an adventure getting one out of our kitchen a couple of years ago. One just slithered between our friends on our shooting range last weekend. There’s nothing quite like walking down a trail and coming upon a coiled rattlesnake looking you in the eye—the cold flash of adrenaline you feel.

Rattlers have good vision to at least 15 feet away under moderate illumination. Rattlers cannot move fast enough to overtake a person who wants to get out of its way. The only danger is that the person falls or trips in getting away, thus disturbing another snake..

The California Poison Control Center notes that rattlesnakes account for more than 800 bites each year with only one to two deaths. About 25 percent of the bites are “dry,” meaning no venom was injected, but the bites still require medical treatment.

Do’s and don’ts in snake country:

Be aware that startled rattlesnakes may not rattle before striking defensively. There are several safety measures that can be taken to reduce the likelihood of startling a rattlesnake.

Never go barefoot or wear sandals when walking through wild areas. Wear hiking boots.

When hiking, stick to well-used trails and wear over-the-ankle boots and loose-fitting long pants. A void tall grass, weeds and heavy underbrush where snakes may hide during the day.

Don't move planks, rocks or logs by hand - use a stick or crowbar until you can see under it. Do not step or put your hands where you cannot see, and avoid wandering around in the dark. Don't reach into holes in the ground, rocks or trees, woodpiles, even abandoned buckets and tires.

Step ON logs and rocks, never over them, and be especially careful when climbing rocks or gathering


firewood. Check out stumps or logs before sitting down, and shake out sleeping bags before use.

Never grab “sticks” or “branches” while swimming in lakes and rivers. Rattlesnakes can swim.

When you hear a rattle or loud hiss, freeze until you identify where the sound is coming from; you don't want to accidentally step on it when trying to flee. Once you have spotted it, give it time to move away. If it doesn't, move slowly straight away from it; don't walk to one side or the other as that could be perceived as threatening.

Is it a rattlesnake?

Many a useful and non-threatening snake has suffered a quick death from a frantic human who has mistakenly identified a gopher snake, garter or other as a rattlesnake. This usually happens when a snake assumes an



Rattlesnake at Evan's door - 6/13/17

instinctual defensive position used to bluff adversaries. A gopher snake has the added unfortunate trait of imitating a rattlesnake by flattening its head and body, vibrating its tail, hissing and actually striking if approached too closely.

A rattlesnake is a heavy-bodied, blunt-tailed snake with one or more rattles on the tail. It has a triangular-shaped head, much broader at the back than at the front, and a distinct “neck” region. The rattlesnake also has openings between the nostrils and eyes, which is a heat-sensing pit. The eyes are hooded with elliptical pupils.

Additional identifying characteristics include a series of dark and light bands near the tail, just before the rattles, which are different from the markings on the rest of the body. Also note that rattles may not always be present, as they are often lost through breakage and are not always developed on the young.

Encouraging and protecting natural competitors like gopher snakes, kingsnakes, and racers will reduce the rattlesnake population in the immediate area. And, kingsnakes actually kill and eat rattlesnakes.

What to do if bitten.

Though uncommon, rattlesnake bites do occur, so have a plan in place for responding to any situation. Carry a portable phone, hike with a companion who can assist in an emergency, and make sure that family or friends know where you are going and when you will be checking in.

The first thing to do if bitten is to stay calm. Generally, the most serious effect of a rattlesnake bite to an adult is local tissue damage which needs to be treated. Children are in more danger if they are bitten.


Get to a doctor as soon as possible, but stay calm. Frenetic, high-speed driving places the victim at greater risk of an accident and increased heart rate. If the doctor is more than 30 minutes away, keep the bite below the heart. Do not try to cut the bite wound open or suck out the poison. Wash the bite area gently with soap and water

Remove watches, rings, etc, which may constrict swelling. Immobilize the affected area.

Most bites to dogs occur on the face or extremities. The rattlesnake bite is generally “hemotoxic” which means that it exerts its toxin by disrupting the integrity of the blood vessels. The swelling is often dramatic with up to 1/3 of the total blood circulation being lost into the tissues in a matter of hours.

The toxin further disrupts normal blood clotting mechanisms leading to uncontrolled bleeding. This kind of blood loss induces shock and finally death. Facial bites are often more lethal as the swelling may occlude the throat or impair ability to breathe.

Effects depend on the amount of venom injected. Approximately 20-25% of bites are "dry" meaning no venom has been injected, 30% of bites are mild meaning they cause local pain and swelling in the bite area and no systemic symptoms, 40% of bites are severe with approximately 5% actually being fatal.



FAIL

Berryessa Highlands 2021 Wildfire Season \$60,000 Defensible Space Project

The 2020 fire season was worse than anyone could imagine. Six out of control wildfires encircled Lake Berryessa. It looked like a wildfire apocalypse. Despite the devastation, sadness, and torture that transpired in 2020, the Berryessa Highlands Fire Safe Council (BHFSC) turned the page into 2021, with a push to get back to living at beautiful Lake Berryessa the only way they know how. By helping the neighborhood get more ready than ever for the next fire season.

Utilizing a \$60,000 grant from California Fire Safe Council, the BHFSC brought in a work crew for 30 days and detailed 30 acres of shaded fuel break. The work was focused in 3 areas of vacant private property around homes along the West and North areas of the neighborhood. The effort resulted in the cutting, piling, and burning off about 100 truckloads of brush in over 225 burn piles. The work stretched along Steele Canyon Road from the beginning of the neighborhood to the end, reinforcing the community's evacuation route, while also preparing for fires starting along the shores of Lake Berryessa. "Homeowners are responsible for their first 100', and we get



to use the grant money to help increase that defensible space zone, to help the homes in the immediate area, and help protect the entire community", stated Volunteer Project Coordinator Evan Kilkus at a recent meeting. "It is an amazing thing to be able to manage hundreds of acres around the neighborhood, clean them up, and make them more wildfire resistant."

Additionally, a Community Wildfire Preparedness Meeting was held with 25 neighbors in attendance. The goal of this community outreach was to ask all homeowners to "please remove their overgrown landscaping vegetation from around their home". From where the meeting was held near the top of Rimrock Road, residents saw vacant lots where homes once stood, and they saw over a dozen homes still standing, thanks to defensible space and firefighting efforts. "Defensible space works", stated Kilkus. "You just have to do it!"

The BHFSC has been organizing defensible space project work like this since 2011, overseeing over 300 days of work just a little at a time, and improving hundreds of acres of land around the neighborhood. The fire breaks and defensible space made it possible for firefighters and residents to put up a fight and save the as many homes as they could in the neighborhood in 2020. To continue these efforts in the future, a large effort has been made by Napa Communities Firewise Foundation and Napa County Fire/CAL Fire to identify more projects around the county, and fund them. The Napa County Board of Supervisors has committed to fund \$6,000,000 for the first years worth of work, which will include projects around Circle Oaks, the Berryessa Estates, and the Berryessa Highlands.



Burn Piles in the Morning

Napa County Firewise Foundation: 5-Year Fuel Reduction Plan Year One (\$5,400,000)

1. Angwin: roadside fuel reduction work. (\$1 million) Clearing vegetation along roadsides for enhanced safety of evacuees and the ingress of first responders is one of CAL FIRE's top priorities for vegetation management. The LNU Lightning Complex and Glass fire were both deemed natural disaster areas. With expedited CEQA analysis, NCCF could start work of fuels treatments. Napa Firewise has mapped these qualified roadways to begin obtaining landowner approval for work once funding is obtained. This project will be started from April to June 30, 2021.
2. Subdivision fuel break in the Circle Oaks community (\$1 million) Circle Oaks experienced two near-miss fires in both 2017 and 2020. The fuel loading surrounding the subdivision and interior lands between the homes has not burned and treatments are desperately needed. This includes a large perimeter fuel break encompassing the Circle Oaks community. This project will be started from April to June 30, 2021.
3. Environmental studies (\$400K) Fuel reduction projects are required to undergo large amounts of environment studies prior to work, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), being one major component. The CAL FIRE Vegetation Treatment Programmatic EIR (Cal VTP EIR) streamlines analysis will be used, but even with this product, studies are conducted by private industry firm's at large costs. NCCF would use leverage the Cal VTP EIR to facilitate CEQA review. This project will be started from April to June 30, 2021.
4. Angwin subdivision fuel breaks in the Linda Falls Terrace and Rancho Lajoita (\$1 million) These two fuel breaks would provide greater opportunities for fire suppression on the South West slopes of Angwin. Any established wildland fire in these geographical areas will amount to catastrophic damage of the Angwin community.
5. Angwin subdivision fuel break along Pacific Union College Forest ridgeline (\$1 million) The Pacific Union college owns 1,366 acres of forested land on the South Eastern side of Angwin. This rural town was narrowly spared during the 2020 Napa wildfires and is home to nearly 4,000 residents. Napa Firewise, Napa County Fire and CAL FIRE have identified this ridgeline fuel break project as a crucial defense mechanism in protecting Angwin from future wildland fires.
6. Subdivision fuel break in the Berryessa Highlands community (\$850k) Berryessa Highlands was heavily impacted during the 2020 Lightning Complex and this region consists of steep slopes and grassy oak woodlands. The rapid fuel growth of annual grasses will present similar problems during fire season 2021. A subdivision fuel break is needed for the entire perimeter of Berryessa Highlands. With expedited CEQA analysis, NCCF would construct strategic fuel breaks to support fire suppression.



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Lake Berryessa Sticker Sale

Many of you have already received the Lake Berryessa sticker as a gift for your donation to our 20 for 21 program. Hopefully, we'll be seeing more of them around the area.

I'd like to make these 4 1/2" by 3" stickers available to anyone who wishes to show their support for the revitalization of Lake Berryessa. They are priced at my cost plus first class postage (postage is included in the price) - available in increments of 5.

\$1 each
5 for \$4
10 for \$8
15 for \$12
20 for \$16
25 for \$20

Please send cash or a check made out to Peter Kilkus and mail it with your address to Peter Kilkus, 1515 Headlands Drive, Napa, CA 94558. You can also use Paypal or Venmo if it is more convenient.



Lake Level and Temperature, 4/30/21

A very unusual thunderstorm hit Lake Berryessa on Tuesday, April 20, at around 6 PM. The temperature dropped by 15 degrees and .25 inches of rain fell in about one hour in the Berryessa Highlands and .23 inches at Monticello Dam. The rainstorm included many beautiful rainbows but had no effect on the lake level. Lake Berryessa continues to drop about one inch per day. The level is now 415.1 feet, 24.9 feet below Glory Hole. Surface temps are around 67 degrees.

