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**Yahi Spring 2019 Outings and Events**  
*Coordinated by Alan Mendoza*

[www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/yahi/outings](http://www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/yahi/outings)

**Environmental Education at Clair Tappaan Lodge**  
*By Jane Coleman, Yahi Board Member*



Every year, the Sierra Club’s Clair Tappaan Lodge houses hundreds of 5th through 12th graders for a few days to a week while they participate in outdoor environmental education programs designed to help them learn about and enjoy nature. The students come from and are sponsored by schools or youth organizations. The educational programming is provided by several experienced, local organizations, tailoring the curriculum to what the teacher or youth leader requests. This programming can include science, geology, climate natural history, as well as helping the student conduct their own independent research projects. Programming can also be fun, adventurous activities such as hiking, kayaking, rock climbing, skiing and the like. Clair Tappaan Lodge is located in the woods near the historic Donner Pass, providing the lodging and meals for these Environmental Education students. The lodge and programming are available all year long.

The environmental education organizations can accommodate a minimum 8 to 10 youth, up to 100 youth, but each group is 14 youth or less. These programming organizations provide the teacher/ guide, the curriculum and require at least one volunteer chaperone (teacher, parent) for every 10 youth in the program. Clair Tappaan Lodge provides the lodging and meals, with the parents/ teachers chaperoning while the youths are not in the educational program. It costs approximately \$130. per night, per youth for the lodging, meals and programming. There are scholarships available from a couple of sources. The school district or youth organization is responsible for providing the transportation to and from the school or organization to the lodge. This is often provided by the school district or youth organizations using their own buses, or the parents using their own cars. Funding is generally provided by the school districts, youth organizations, parents, and fund -raisers (with help from scholarships).

The Sierra Club has hosted these environmental education programs at Clair Tappaan Lodge since 2005, providing fun, educational and memorable experiences in the outdoors. More than 5000 youth have benefitted from these programs. Most of these past students have come from Bay Area schools and youth organizations. Our local Yahi Group would like to see more of the youth from our seven counties participate in these wonderful programs. We would like to encourage, sponsor and help facilitate use of this wonderful opportunity by our local schools and youth organizations. We see this as an excellent opportunity to help our local youth learn to value and appreciate nature, with the hope that they will become life-long environmental advocates.

You can help advance more local participation in 2 ways.

1) Please spread the word about this beneficial Environmental Education program. If you are yourself, or know any teachers, school counselors, science teachers, youth organizations (i.e. Boys and Girls Clubs, foster family agencies, etc.), please let them know of this program. They can email Jane at [volecole@juno.com](mailto:volecole@juno.com) for more information.

2) You can contribute to the Clair Tappaan Environmental Education Fund to help the groups defray the overall costs of the program. To do this, you can make a donation at the Clair Tappaan office, or mail a check to Clair Tappaan Lodge at P. O. Box 36, Norden, CA, 95724.



## **2019 IS THE 40TH ANNUAL ENDANGERED SPECIES FAIR!**

Saturday May 4th, 2019

The Endangered Species Faire is a Free event for all ages, with environmental education being offered alongside music, eco-entertainment, a rescued animal show, and a larger than life puppet parade.

# Yahi Club News

The ExCom election resulted in adding Betty Volker as our newest Board member. Jane Coleman and Suzette Welch have been re-elected for another two-year term.

The question of sending paper copies of Yahi Newsletter to all households of current members was defeated. 12 people voted for sending paper copies to all and 25 people voted to keep policy of mailing only to people who essentially don't have access to the online version of the Newsletter.

If you have an email address on record with Sierra club you will not have a paper copy sent to your house. You will receive an email notice that the Newsletter is available and can be accessed by going to Yahi Group web page or by Googling Yahi Group Sierra club.

**Annette Carey** will continue being Yahi Excom secretary and **Suzette Welch** will continue as Chair. **Wendy LeMaster** and **Laurel Heath** are continuing in their second year in office as members at large.

For contact information on forest and clearcutting issues, **Patricia Puterbaugh** will continue to be the group's expert and go to person.

**Grace Marvin** will continue to be our representative to the Mother Lode and Conservation Chair.

**Alan Mendoza** continues to be our Outings Chair.

Our Treasurer for many years has been **Paul Krause**.

We still have need for a Membership Chair and a Program Chair. If any of you are interested in either of these positions, please contact Suzette Welch at [booksontape@rocketmail.com](mailto:booksontape@rocketmail.com). Contact information for all of these people may be found in the "Yahi Group Information" section at the end of this newsletter.

I hope all is well with you,  
Suzette

## Yahi 2019 Executive Committee

Chair: Suzette Welch, [booksontape@rocketmail.com](mailto:booksontape@rocketmail.com)

Secretary: Annette Carey [annettecare@sbcglobal.net](mailto:annettecare@sbcglobal.net)

Board Members:

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- Laurel Heath [laurel3290@gmail.com](mailto:laurel3290@gmail.com)
- Wendy Le Master [lemasterwendy@live.com](mailto:lemasterwendy@live.com)
- Betty Volker [bettyinchico@gmail.com](mailto:bettyinchico@gmail.com)



## Conservation Meeting Notes (Feb. 3, 2019, Mother Lode Chapter)

From Grace Marvin, Yahi Conservation Chair

**YOUTHFUL MEMBERS:** In order to attract more students to the club, the chapter is awarding free memberships to students – up to 4500 this year. These are offered when they go on club outings. (You might want to check with Alan Mendoza, Yahi Group Outings Chair, if you know of a student who enjoys our outings and might join our club...)

**PARADISE:** There is deep concern that if lands owned by PG&E are sold that Sierra Pacific Industries (the state's largest landowner, excessively engaged in clear-cutting) would buy them. Let's keep our eye out for that! The Mother Lode Chapter now has a statewide PG&E Committee.

Since I live in Chico (next to Paradise), I told the MLC attendees about major problems that FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) is making, resulting in enormous frustration and tragedy: FEMA personnel had been at December meetings with other federal, and state, and local officials discussing Paradise concerns. They collaborated and assured Paradise Camp Fire "survivors" that they could move back onto their own land, so long as they were at least 100 feet away from any burnt structures. But now (early February). FEMA officials are saying that people must NOT move onto their property at all, or else, FEMA will not provide \$1.7 billion in federal debris removal funding, after all. That would be an exceedingly costly mistake that local people may not be able to finance! There are huge numbers of fire survivors who have temporary or permanent mobile housing, many of whom have nowhere else that they can place such housing. Moreover, the vacancy rates in Chico and in some other nearby communities are close to zero. (It is even difficult for Chico State to ensure housing for new faculty.)

From my own knowledge: there are dozens of organizations working to help Camp Fire survivors deal with short-term and long-term needs. Click on <https://buttecountyrecovers.org> to obtain contact information regarding Debris Removal, Housing and Shelter, Disaster Recovery Centers, Safety, and Maps (including drone maps). I have been attending recent meetings of the (Paradise) Long Term Recovery Group that meets every Friday at 8AM in Chico. One learns about the emotional toil taken on both those who need and those who give help, and also about the numerous resources needed or available to help people in crisis. This help is taking place in the form of short and long-term donations, information about housing and insurance information, case management, coordination of volunteers, counselling, and paid tickets for people who can go to other cities and states for assistance from friends and relatives. Numerous organizations are making donations, including Sierra Nevada Brewery; they have contributed money and other resources to allow for meetings where survivors can help plan for a future Paradise that is much safer than what they had.

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** As a member of the MLC's Climate Change committee, I am particularly interested in the organizational efforts that some Sierra Club folks want to join in declaring a *climate emergency*. [350.org](http://350.org) is a group that has been especially active lately in asking communities to get on board with that declaration and with the local, state, and national policy changes that flow from it. Similarly, Steven Elias, chair of the MLC Climate Committee is urging us to look into the Green New Deal. He summarized its main points -- which the now

famous new NY Congresswoman, Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez is promoting:

1. *Government led investment in energy and resource efficiency*
2. *A directed tax on the profits of oil and gas companies with proceeds being invested in renewable energy and energy efficiency*
3. *Low carbon infrastructure redevelopment in order to create jobs*
4. *Financial incentives for green investment and reduced energy usage, including low interest rates for green investment*
5. *Re-regulation of international finance, including capital controls, and increased scrutiny of financial derivatives.*
6. *Curbing corporate tax evasion through compulsory financial reporting and clamping down on tax havens.*

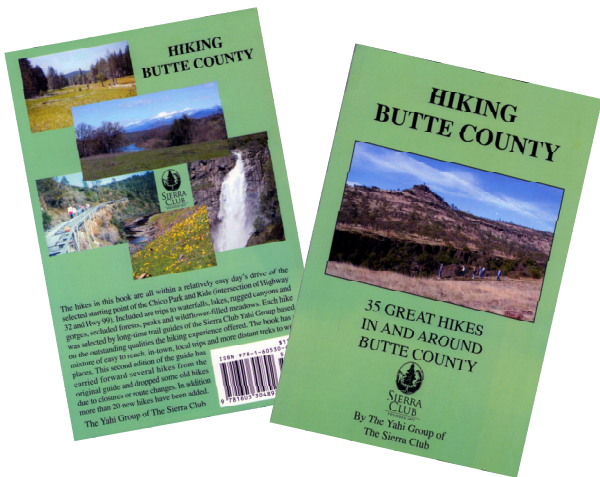
**DAMS:** The Sierra Club strongly objects to the attempts by Westlands Water District in the San Joaquin Valley to raise Shasta Dam. One reason is that it involves illegal maneuvers forbidden by California law. Moreover, it would not create new water, but it would lead to water diversions harmful to fish, Native Americans, and to streams, in general. We also are very concerned about the proposed Sites Reservoir and about the resilience of the new spillways at Oroville Dam. These and other water issues should figure prominently in environmental activism, especially as our climate is getting hotter and drier!



## Hiking Butte County

**Hiking Butte County** is a wonderful field guide to hikes in and around Butte County. It was assembled by the outings leaders in the Yahi Group under the direction of Alan Mendoza. In it you will find descriptions directions, distances and difficulty information for 35 hikes. This is the only book of its type for this area.

You can purchase it for \$11.95 at Trailside Adventures in Paradise and in Chico at Mountain Sports and Lyons Books. Or you can order one directly from Alan for \$10 plus shipping. Contact Alan Mendoza, 891-8789 or [ajmendoza@prodigy.net](mailto:ajmendoza@prodigy.net).

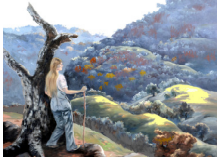


## Clair Tappaan

Explore activities at lovely Sierra Club Clair Tappaan Lodge.

Donner Pass Road Norden, CA 95724  
530-426-3632  
[www.clairtappaanlodge.com](http://www.clairtappaanlodge.com)





## River Watcher: The Red Light

By Rex Burress, *The River Watcher*

It was storming outside at 3AM and I glanced awake to see a bright red light on the phone. I crawled out but nothing was there, although I checked out the rest of the house. Red is a sort of danger warning, in addition to being an artist's punch line.

I wonder if the warning aspect of red was derived from the color of fire? I am thinking of the Campfire fire roaring up the hill into Paradise. Pictures taken seemed to feature great blasts of red flame, tinged with yellow, and great clouds of dark smoke although the ash left behind is more gray and white, maybe like fireplace ash. After the fuel-food was eaten, the red and yellow flames disappeared back into the vault of dormancy. It's difficult to look at a woody branch, or a wooden sculpture or a wood chair, and realize that a red flame lurks there, ready to pounce out with a mere spark for ignition, and devour everything.

The color red has chemical connections and is used sparingly in nature, very rarely in winter. In the eastern throes of snowy-gray woods, the male cardinal adds its generous display of red, but few other birds, except for the red-headed woodpecker, announce their presence so vividly. Studies show birds can see color, but many mammals, including canines and cows, are color blind. Their dominant sense is a heightened sense of smell.

We see flashing red lights in a multitude of places, most dramatically on a firetruck, ambulance, or a police car behind you! The city is full of red lights and red stop signs. The international color for 'stop' is red. Kings and commoners alike stop at stoplights! There is a difference in painting-pigment colors and in colored-light primaries if you're doing art work. The light primary chart is red, green, blue, and the pigment chart is red, yellow, and blue. You can mix most other secondary colors from those basic primaries.

In two-dimensional art, red is a powerhouse, and as in nature, best used sparingly for impact. Basic thoughts is to work reds toward the center of a canvas and avoid red at the edge. Like the movie, "50 Shades of Gray," there are 50 shades of red—and many more. For instance, tomato-red is yellow-based; berry-red is blue-based. "A little bit of red goes a long way." Red and white will get you pink, and the more white the pinker the shade.

Henry David Thoreau said, "The rose owes its preeminence in great measure to its color. It is said to be from the Celtic rhos, red. It is nature's most precious color. But brown is the color for me, the color of our coats and our daily lives, the color of the poor man's loaf."

Use of the Native American term 'redskins' is a gross error in naming sport teams, as their beautiful skin is more brown than red, just as 'black' Negro is more brown than black, and I see no yellow in Chinese. Colorblind covers more than color!

In artist Robert Rishell's class, we had a 'black' model for portraits. I was struggling around with deep brown on the face, and the teacher took my brush and demonstrated the inclusion of some other colors, and finishing with a sheen of light blue. "There's more color in there than black," he said.

Before synthetic colors were made, art-paint was derived from nature, most notably in cave-man wall-paintings, with earth-colors yellow and red ochres, and black from burnt wood. This trend was advanced in Egypt and China 5,000-years-ago. Pulverized minerals and biological pigments, from things like colored stones [original ultramarine blue from lapis lazuli], insect juices [carmine from crushed cochineal beetles]; purple from the mucus of Murex snails, alizarin from the roots of madder. Nearly all replaced with synthetic tubes today that makes color application as easy as squeezing!

*"Red is for fire red is for love too it lies in our hand what we wanna choose."*

--Shivangi Lavaniya

# Yahi Group Information

## Executive Committee

Chair: Suzette Welch, 530 570-3240, [booksontape@rocketmail.com](mailto:booksontape@rocketmail.com)  
Secretary: Annette Carey [annettecare@sbcglobal.net](mailto:annettecare@sbcglobal.net)  
Board Member: Jane Coleman [volecole@juno.com](mailto:volecole@juno.com)  
Board Member: Laurel Heath [laurel3290@gmail.com](mailto:laurel3290@gmail.com)  
Board Member: Wendy Le Master [lemasterwendy@live.com](mailto:lemasterwendy@live.com)  
Board Member: Betty Volker [bettyinchico@gmail.com](mailto:bettyinchico@gmail.com)

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## Newsletter Information

*Yahi News* is published four times a year, in March, June, September, and December, by the Yahi Group of the Sierra Club, P.O. Box 2012, Chico, CA 95927. For changes in mailing address or email address, contact Suzette Welch, [booksontape@rocketmail.com](mailto:booksontape@rocketmail.com).

For submissions, comments, or inquiries, contact Louise Casey, 872-9159, [Louise.Carol.Casey@gmail.com](mailto:Louise.Carol.Casey@gmail.com). Please include name, phone number, and address with each submittal. Short, single-topic articles are preferred. Deadlines for proposed articles and letters to the editor: February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1.

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