



Blitz the Burn Scar - Butte County Local Food Network

By Wendy Le Master



Out in the heat of summer, while the ominous presence of Covid-19 still lingered, and with smoke thick in the air from one of our more recent fires, a dedicated team of volunteers and community organizers masked up and gathered at the Paradise Community Guilds. Led by Pamm Larry, Butte County Local Food Network set out to accomplish a remarkable task of installing 58 garden beds for those living within the Camp Fire burn scar of Paradise, Concow and Magalia. Adding to the 42 garden beds installed this spring, BCLFN was able to install and fulfill their 2020 goal of gifting 100 garden beds to those in need.

In these ever changing and uncertain times, food security has weighed heavily on the minds of many, and families struggle to have access to local and healthy food options. Garden installations such as these are just one of the many amazing ways that Butte County Local Food Network is helping to reduce that stress and bring nutritious and tasty foods to the table.

This small but mighty nonprofit has been on a mission is to create a more healthy, just, resilient and regenerative food system in Butte County. Talking with Pamm Larry on how she and her team are able to accomplish such tasks. Pamm said “We do just about anything we can to make more food secure; installing gardens via our Garden BLITZs, establishing and maintaining a new Demonstration Food Forest and Neighborhood Composting Center, sharing seeds in Tiny Libraries, connecting those in acute food need with local farmers who need support for long term, systemic food security, working with policy makers at both the county and city level and much more.” Many of these projects would not be possible without the generous donations made to BCLFN by those who share in their vision of making these ideas a reality.

This organization is just one of a handful of nonprofits diligently dedicating themselves to fulfilling these visions. All working together to fulfill the ultimate goal of growing an abundance of locally grown food that can be shared with the community, while bringing the community together. This greatly reduces food insecurity among the most vulnerable and reduces the need for dependence on big ag, which as a result of the times too are struggling to meet their needs. These small changes create big effects that ripple across our county, state and nation. As we see more of these small gardens pop up, front lawn conversions, empty lots being overgrown with an abundance of goodness amidst food deserts, we will see reduced carbon footprints, enhanced nutritional access, education, and overall happier communities.

Local community gardens provide so much more than just a few carrots and peas, they provide a much needed source and space for therapy and healing. To place your hands in the soil, rich with microbes, nutrients and potential and then to plant something to care for and nourish, knowing in turn these foods will nourish and reward you later is one of the best feelings. Then to share that food and knowledge with another creates a healing and supportive environment which so many of us need, especially our youth.

The Camp Fire destroyed so much of our community and as a result of these increasingly common climate-fueled disasters, we will continue to see food insecurity, depression and overall struggles of those most vulnerable increase. These gardens are one simple, but immensely effective and needed resource to help mitigate these effects and provide hope to those in need. The Yahi Group is thrilled to have donated \$500 toward BCLFNs next BLITZ, and we look forward to seeing this organization and others prosper, expand and reach beyond the barriers we face to continue bringing these resources to the community.



We invite you to join us as we change our local food system, one tasty bite at a time!
~Pamm Larry

Yahi Winter 2020/2021 Outings and Events

Coordinated by Alan Mendoza

Saturday, February 27 - Green Gate to 5 Mile Shuttle Hike (grade 2, class B) Don't be afraid of the elevation change, about 1000 feet, because the cars will do almost all of the climbing. We will meet at the 5 Mile parking area, paved side, at 9:00 A.M. We will leave some cars there and do a shuttle, driving everyone up to the green gate. We will hike down through the foothill pines and blue oaks to the gorgeous views of Chico Creek's south side. We'll catch some of the early wildflowers and overwintering song birds. Bring water, lunch, and clothing, appropriate for the weather. Heavy rain cancels. Sprinkles make it exciting. Check the Yahi Group Facebook page or the Yahi group website for updates.

www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/yahi/outings

Meet the New Yahi Treasurer: Danisa Ramirez



The Yahi Group announces a new Treasurer, Danisa Ramirez. Danisa was born and raised in Ukiah, surrounded by beautiful redwoods. She has lived in Chico for the past 15 years, partly because of her love of Upper Bidwell Park.

Danisa brings extensive leadership and financial experience to Yahi. She studied math at CSU Chico. She has worked at JCPenney for 12 years and has experience as a Fine Jewelry Supervisor and previously as an office associate, managing the books, cash and auditing transactions for the store.

We are delighted that she has volunteered to join us. Welcome, Danisa!

*Thank
you*

Paul Krause

By Suzette Welch, Yahi Group ExCom Chair

I would like to thank Paul Krause for his many years of service with Yahi Group Sierra Club. For the past 15 years Paul has been the group treasurer. Over the years I have so appreciated all of the help that he has given me and the club. When I have a question or need a report his reply has been almost immediate and very helpful. Paul, we will miss you as treasurer and hope that you stay active with Yahi Group.

Yahi 2021 Executive Committee Elections

It is time to vote for people to represent them on the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the local Yahi group of the Sierra Club. This year we have three candidates: Jane Coleman, Betty Volker and Suzette Welch.

Please take a few minutes to participate in this important process. Those who receive the printed newsletter through the mail will also receive a paper ballot. Those who get the newsletter link through email will receive a separate note with a link to the ballot online. Read the Candidates' Statements, and show your support by voting on or before December 31, 2020.



Candidates' Statements

Jane Coleman

I wish to continue as a Yahi Executive Committee Board member because I strongly believe in the purpose of the Sierra Club and wish to help further the cause at the local level. Now, more than ever, we need to be better stewards of the environment, in whatever way we can.

I have been an Executive Board member for 4 years, and a Sierra Club member for over 30 years. Throughout this time I have participated in environmental activism events as well as enjoyed many great hikes, outings, events and trips. Prior to the pandemic, I was active in efforts to get more local school children to participate in the Environmental Education Program at Clair Tappaan Lodge at Donner Summit.

Betty Volker

I have been active in the Yahi Group for about 30 years. I am currently serving on the board and am willing to continue. My special interest for Yahi is trying to keep Yahi group alive and functioning. Other interests are smart growth and climate change. And of course with the recent fires we need to think of forest management and Wildland Urban Interface.

Your support of the Sierra Club and the environment is so important. Please volunteer for a task or to be a member of our board.

Suzette Welch

My name is Suzette Welch. I am asking for your vote again so that I can continue to be on the Yahi Group ExCom.

I joined the Sierra Club when I first moved to Santa Barbara from Pennsylvania in 1969. I was excited about joining an organization which was dedicated to preserving our natural resources and offered the opportunity to meet people while exploring the Southern California countryside.

When I moved to Chico, I got involved with the Yahi Group by first helping with the Newsletter mailing. From there I moved on to the Yahi Group ExCom. After being a Board member I moved up to being co-chair and then Chair of the ExCom. I have been on the ExCom for 10 years and currently have also been coordinating the Newsletter mailing and have been an administrator of the Yahi Group Facebook Page.

I am very interested in working to decrease global warming by supporting clean energy and planting of trees and sequestering carbon in soil, protecting fresh water and providing clean water as a human right, and restoration of forests and promoting gardens and street trees in urban areas.

I would once again appreciate your vote.



Yahi Holiday Party Cancelled

Due to Covid-19 the Holiday Party has been cancelled for this year. Hopefully we will be able to have a party in 2021. Wishing everyone Happy Holidays and a brighter and happier New Year.

Yahi Group Information

Executive Committee

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

Committee Chairs and Other Contacts

Rep. To Motherlode: Grace Marvin g-marvin@comcast.net
Conservation Chair: Grace Marvin g-marvin@comcast.net
Lassen Forest Preservation Group: Patricia Puterbaugh pmputerbaugh@yahoo.com
Membership: Position Open
Newsletter: Louise Casey Louise.Carol.Casey@gmail.com
Newsletter mailing: Suzette Welch booksontape@rocketmail.com
Newsletter Distribution: Steve Miller 530-345-0806 and Dave Nopel 530-342-4118
Newsletter Advertising: Position Open
Outings Chair: Alan Mendoza ajmendoza777@comcast.net
Outreach Chair: Wendy Le Master lemasterwendy@live.com
Political Chair: Position Open
Program Chair: Position Open
Publicity: Skip Augur 530-519-4724
Treasurer: Danisa Ramirez or danisa.ramirez@gmail.com
Yahi Website : Louise Casey or Louise.Carol.Casey@gmail.com
Youth Activities: Position Open

Newsletter Information

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For submissions, comments, or inquiries, contact:

Louise Casey, 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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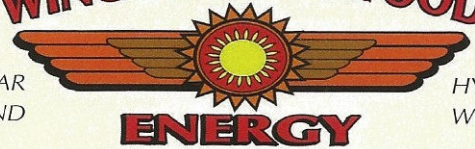
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John D. Burge, CPA Certified Public Accountant

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17 Williamsburg Lane
Chico, CA 95926

Fax 530 342-3721
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www.johnburgecpa.com

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