



SIERRA CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

Yahi Group



Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Plumas & Tehama Counties

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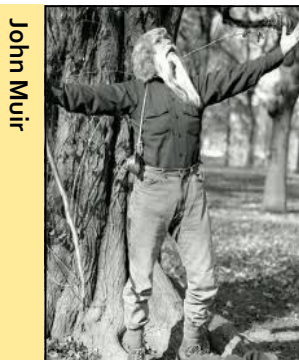
## Yahi Fall 2012/Winter 2013 Outings and Events

*Coordinated by Alan Mendoza*

<http://www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/yahi/outing.htm>

## Get Involved!!

*By David McKinney, Yahi Group Chair*



John Muir

Yes, Uncle John wants you! The Sierra Club is a volunteer organization, and right now we are running short of volunteers. We need members to become involved with committees, hike activities and most important, the Executive Committee (ExCom). These positions are the life blood of our organization and the very future of Yahi Group depends upon member participation.

We are not asking for you to become a crusading environmental activist (if you want to, that's fine). We just would like a little help with the activities required to run the club. Most of it is routine and non-controversial, but necessary. Right now, many of us hold multiple positions, and some have for many years. As Chair, I personally cannot imagine how we would function without some of these folks.

Please take this to heart and think about becoming more involved, if even a little. Just drop any of us an email (mine is [daviddryfly@comcast.net](mailto:daviddryfly@comcast.net)), and we will inform you of the next ExCom meeting. You can attend and get a flavor for what we do, no strings attached.

# Yahi Club News

## Yahi Holiday Potluck

By Suzette Welch



The Yahi Holiday Party will be held Friday, December 14, 2012, at Valley Oaks Village, 1950 Wild Oak Lane, in Chico, CA. It will be a potluck this year, starting at 6:00 PM. Parking is limited, so please carpool if you can.

If you plan on attending, please notify us by email, stating the number of people in your party and what you plan to bring. Send email to [booksontape@rocketmail.com](mailto:booksontape@rocketmail.com).

After dinner entertainment will be club members talking about their favorite trips. Call Suzette Welch at 530 342-9214 if you need more information

## YAH! Program Meeting: The Question of Fracking

By Suzette Welch

On Thursday, November 1, there will be a Yahi program meeting at the Chico Branch Library, 1108 Sherman Avenue, at 7:00 PM. Our speaker for that evening will be Dave Garcia who will talk about fracking, the use of hydraulic fracturing to obtain natural gas or oil.

Dave, a local activist and former Sierra Club Board Chairman, is knowledgeable about the fracking process, problems with fracking, regulations (or lack thereof), and fracking legislation.

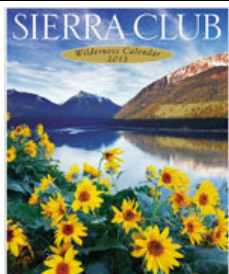
The program is open to the public. Bring your questions and concerns and join us for an interesting and informative evening.

Call Suzette Welch at 530 342-9214 if you need more information

## Yahi ExCom 2013 Elections

All Yahi members receive ballots to vote for people to represent them on the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the local Yahi chapter. This year we have two candidates who are seeking re-election to the Yahi Board: Laurel Heath and Suzette Welch

Please take a few minutes to participate in this important process. Read the enclosed Candidates' Statements. Vote, fold and tape your ballot, and **mail it by December 31, 2012.**



## 2013 Sierra Club Calendars and Holiday Cards

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# YAH! Club News

Grace Notes:

## Yahi Local Conservation News

By Grace Maria Marvin, Yahi Conservation Chair

### Precious Water

As you likely know, the availability of enough safe water is one of the top crises facing California and the entire world, with climate change aggravating any *normal* dry cycles in the U.S. This year's droughts have affected most of this country. Moreover, at least a billion people globally do not have access to safe water. To get a handle on all this, I strongly recommend that you see the documentary *Last Call at the Oasis* (available via Netflix). In it Peter Gleick and other scientists lucidly explain why only 1% of the world's water is potentially drinkable and why removing salt (desalination) creates more environmental problems than it solves. Gripping stories (believe it or not!) include:

1. the excessive use of water in luxury resorts, *e.g.*, in Las Vegas, while the city – truly desperate for water for its citizens – seeks to build pipes to take water from a poor rural/agricultural community more than one hundred miles away;
2. continued home building throughout the country for ever larger populations in areas without enough water;
3. the huge amount of water (and air) pollution created by secretive corporations (California examples: PG&E's pipe and pollution disasters and those of other energy companies involved in fracking); and
4. ineffective scrutiny by the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency).

We also see in the film how other nations are (or are not) dealing with their water issues (Australia is severely stricken!) and why we better get used to the idea of drinking recycled water, *e.g.*, from Porcelain Springs, a humorous or disgusting (?) brand name chosen by some marketing experts.

Some good water news? This past September, Governor Jerry Brown signed a bill (AB685) declaring that *access to safe water is a basic human right*. But we had better become an active citizenry nonetheless. Why? To ensure that both the public and private sectors make this new policy a reality for ourselves as well as the state's poorer communities. For example: What about the pipes that the Brown administration is planning to build to ship water south from our region? There is evidence that humans, wildlife, agriculture, and ecosystems in the north state (an underpopulated part of the state, politically speaking) would be severely impacted. There, also, are other clear examples when the powerful take special advantage of those with the least power. One example is Hinckley, California, where Erin Brockovich made her fame. (Her ongoing activism is also featured in *Last Call of the Oasis*: People from all over the country are seeking her help, largely because federal, state, and local agencies are not doing their job.)

In September, *Last Call at the Oasis* was shown in Chico since it addresses America's water crisis, the theme of this academic year's Book in Common, Robert Glennon's book,

*Unquenchable.* (The calendar of related events are at [www.csuchico.edu/bic/calendar/index.shtml](http://www.csuchico.edu/bic/calendar/index.shtml).) Local environmental organizations that have been involved with water crises include Butte Environmental Council, Citizens Water Watch, our Yahi Group, and AquAlliance. We may not all agree on Glennon's solutions, but he makes us consider the facts of our water crisis. (By the way, these local organizations need more volunteers and funds to be more effective in addressing regional water crises.)

It was my privilege to learn about a variety of environmental issues, thanks to work by these local grassroots organizations as well as through the training in Sacramento in August under the leadership of Kathryn Phillips, Director of Sierra Club California, *i.e.*, the lobbying wing of the club. We volunteers were successful in only some of our lobbying efforts, however. That included support for our state parks and a solar permit fee bill. Kathryn wrote, "Unfortunately, [the Governor] signed AB 845, the late-session bill that undermines a 1984 voter-passed initiative in Solano County to protect sensitive marshland from landfill expansion for imported garbage." Two of several other areas where we were *unsuccessful* included a Solar for All initiative and the banning of single use plastic bags. (Chico, however, is involved in fighting plastic bags; you may want to read the important "particulars" of that bill and write to the papers and local representatives in Chico or wherever you may live.)

## Forests and Watersheds

As I reported last time, the Sierra Club offered me another privilege (available to you as well): learning about forest practices from Sierra Club staffers, Juliette Beck and Sarah Matsumoto. Sarah helps direct the club's Sierra Nevada Resilient Habitats program. Its aim is to "protect the Sierra Nevada wild places, watersheds and wildlife from the worst effects of climate change." The good news is that she and other volunteers have been very successful in some places, e.g., in southern California forests, but there are not enough forest activists in the Yahi region to fight the dreadful harm to our forests – and their ecosystems – all around us. Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI), the largest landowner in the state, is logging huge clear-cuts, so Sarah and other Sierra Club compatriots came up to our region to show us exactly how Collins Pine in Chester (near Lake Almanor) is involved in responsible and sustainable woodcutting, a sharp contrast to what SPI has been doing.

While the club has activists working on forest fire related issues, please get in touch with Sarah if *you* would like to get involved in helping to protect the Yahi region's forests. They are after all the major source of water retention for us and our ecosystems – as well as a major source of our outdoor pleasure.

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San Francisco, CA 94105  
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<http://www.sierraclub.org>

p.s. The November elections have not yet occurred as I write this article. May the best people win, and may we stay on top of them to make sure they do right by our world! Future generations will thank us.

National Sierra Club

## California Election Endorsements

[sierraclubcalifornia.org/ca-elections/](http://sierraclubcalifornia.org/ca-elections/)

### ***President***

Barack Obama

### ***Proposition 31: NO***

State Budget. State and Local Government Initiative. Constitutional Amendment and Statute.

More information:

- [www.sierraclubcalifornia.org/Elections/Vote%20NO%20on%20Proposition%2031.pdf](http://www.sierraclubcalifornia.org/Elections/Vote%20NO%20on%20Proposition%2031.pdf)
- [www.sacbee.com/2012/09/10/4803823/endorsements-no-on-the-well-intentioned.html#](http://www.sacbee.com/2012/09/10/4803823/endorsements-no-on-the-well-intentioned.html#)

### ***Proposition 32: NO***

Prohibits Political Contributions by Payroll Deduction. Prohibitions on Contributions to Candidates.

More Information:

- [www.sierraclubcalifornia.org/Elections/Vote\\_No\\_on\\_Proposition\\_32.pdf](http://www.sierraclubcalifornia.org/Elections/Vote_No_on_Proposition_32.pdf)
- [www.calaborfed.org/index.php/site/page/1252/](http://www.calaborfed.org/index.php/site/page/1252/)

### ***Proposition 37: YES***

Genetically Engineered Foods. Mandatory Labeling.

More Information:

- [www.carighttoknow.org/](http://www.carighttoknow.org/)
- [www.sfgate.com/default/article/Prop-37-Consumers-need-to-know-3805500.php](http://www.sfgate.com/default/article/Prop-37-Consumers-need-to-know-3805500.php)

### ***Proposition 39: YES***

Tax Treatment for Multistate Businesses. Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Funding.

More Information:

- [www.cleanenergyjobsact.com/](http://www.cleanenergyjobsact.com/)
- [www.sierraclubcalifornia.org/Elections/Proposition\\_39\\_SCC\\_Support\\_Article.pdf](http://www.sierraclubcalifornia.org/Elections/Proposition_39_SCC_Support_Article.pdf)

See the Sierra Club website for more information and also for the Sierra Club endorsements for the California Legislature.

<http://sierraclubcalifornia.org/ca-elections/>

# The Conservation Forum

## California Fracking Got You in a Daze?

By Dave Garcia

Hydraulic fracturing, better known as fracking, is the current extreme form of oil and gas extraction. Voluntary reporting has documented 628 wells fracked last year (2011) in California. They are drilling in Sutter, Yuba, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Monterey, Santa Barbara, Kern, Ventura and Los Angeles counties with mineral rights being purchased in Glenn and Colusa counties by drilling companies.

The process of fracking involves injecting millions of gallons of fresh water typically mixed with toxic industrial chemicals and sand. This mixture is placed at a high enough well pressure to fracture underground shale to release trapped oil or gas. Depending on the depth and lateral length of the well, 1 million to 15 million gallons of water may be required and then the well is fracked numerous times, possibly using up to 60 million gallons or 20 acre feet of freshwater. This is enough water for 20 families of 4 people to use for an entire year. This is a tremendously water-intensive extraction process for a state with a current water shortage.

So why is fracking so controversial and causing an uproar in over 20 states and around the world? Maybe it is the 2 separate studies by the Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Geological Survey finding toxic carcinogenic chemicals used in fracking contaminating the town of Pavillion, Wyoming's drinking water.

Maybe it is the \$900,000 fine Chesapeake Energy paid the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for contaminating the water wells of Bradford County, Pennsylvania, and also having to pay a \$1.6 million settlement to families for contaminating their wells with methane gas.

Maybe it's the Towanda Fracking Spill in Bradford County, Pennsylvania, that spewed thousands of gallons of toxic fracking fluid onto the landscape and into a source of drinking water for millions of people. The well blowout also required the evacuation of seven local families for precautionary measures.

Maybe it is the 10-year-old court battle Kern County, California, farmer Fred Starrh *won* against Aera Energy for polluting his groundwater with over 4 billion gallons of frack wastewater containing Boron and traces of radiation. Aera Energy, a joint venture of ExxonMobil and Shell, paid \$8.56 million in compensatory damages and is now being sued for a billion dollars in punitive damages by farmer Fred Starrh for contaminating the aquifer.

Maybe it's the U.S. Geological Survey research data that found a six-fold increase in the number of earthquakes greater than magnitude 3.0 in a vast region from Alabama to the northern Rockies, a shocking rise they link to Big Oil's practice of injecting its fracking waste underground. Or that two separate Canadian studies confirmed fracking caused manmade earthquakes.

Maybe it's the seventh largest U.S. insurance company, Nationwide Insurance, refusing to insure landowners whose land has been leased to leasees with fracking operations, frack sand and frack liquid haulers, and site prep (dump trucks, bulldozers) or leasing tanks. The company has determined that the exposures presented by fracking "are too great to ignore."

Maybe it's the extreme air pollution caused by fracking. Wyoming's air quality was worse than the worst days in Los Angeles in both 2009 and 2010 from the boom in fracking for

natural gas. The Upper Green River Basin residents complain of watery eyes, shortness of breath and bloody noses.

Maybe it's the deep pocket oil and gas companies outbidding farmers and ranchers for water in drought states like Texas and Colorado. In Aurora, Colorado, farmers pay \$30 an acre foot for water and Anadarko Petroleum Corporation just signed a contract with the city's water and sewage plant to pay \$3,300 an acre foot for treated effluent water, 110 times the cost to the farmer. At those prices it is obvious that farmers, ranchers, and water ratepayers will be paying much more for water due to market-driven prices.

Maybe it's the industrial operation of fracking with hundreds of trucks bringing drilling machinery, millions of gallons of water, sand, industrial chemicals, and removing millions of gallons of wastewater, oil or gas. Also there is the constant 24-hour operation of diesel equipment drilling and extracting resources. All of this heavy industrial traffic and activity wears and crumbles the infrastructure of a town and the rural roads, and motivates New York towns like Cooperstown, Dryden, and Middlefield to ban fracking within their borders.

Now you know why fracking is called *extreme energy extraction*. These are just some examples of fracking contaminating drinking water wells by chemical injection, by methane gas migration, by well blowouts and by wastewater seepage. Manmade earthquakes are definitely something California does not need along with the record ozone pollution. California cannot meet its current water demands and fracking will only increase the demand, drive water prices sky high and intensify our water shortage. With major insurance companies refusing to insure fracking, we now know the risks are much higher than Big Oil and Gas claim.

For the past two years, environmental groups have been trying to get the federal government (FRAC Act) and California State Government (AB 591) to regulate fracking with no success. Big Oil & Gas spend \$4 million per year lobbying Sacramento and an average of \$400,000 each day lobbying the U.S. Congress to weaken public health safeguards and keep tax subsidies of \$4 billion per year.

Our only success has been at the local level with town and county zoning laws, as in Cooperstown and Dryden. Last year the Monterey County Planning Commission stopped Venoco from fracking some wells in Monterey.

We need to organize the big stakeholders like local water districts, farmers, ranchers, fisheries, sportsmen and sportswomen, breweries, wineries, and water ratepayers to implement local regulations on fracking.

We must protect our most precious commodity, water, especially since 80% of Butte County residents rely on groundwater. Water is a finite resource we must all conserve and protect for our existence and livelihood.

## Learn More

Join me on Thursday, November 1, at 7 PM at the Chico Library on Sherman Ave. to learn more about fracking and protecting our precious water.

You can also go to Food & Water Watch and sign the California Fighting to Ban Fracking Petition:

[www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/fracking](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/fracking)

# Teichert Ponds Volunteer Invasive Plant Removal Project

By Susan Mason

Teichert Ponds is a 40-acre city-owned open space just southeast of the intersection of Hwy 99 and Hwy 32. If you're driving past the ponds in a car, it just looks like a big swamp. However, for those who have taken the time to explore it on foot, the area is an amazing example of the regenerative capacity of nature. It's a Mecca for numerous bird species and contains many native plants too. The Teichert Ponds Restoration Foundation's web site (<http://chicoteichertponds.wordpress.com>) provides a wealth of information about the ponds.

A newly constructed bike path along Hwy 99 at the edge of Teichert Ponds and new bike bridge across Little Chico Creek will vastly improve access to the ponds and also allow for the site's first major restoration effort, namely the removal of invasive privet and olive trees that are smothering the native oaks, sycamores and willows. These morning and afternoon volunteer work sessions will take place on many dates during November. Dates and times will be posted in the Park Division calendar ([www.ci.chico.ca.us](http://www.ci.chico.ca.us)), then select Bidwell Park from the top pull-down menu) and Friends of Bidwell Park ([www.friendsofbidwellpark.org](http://www.friendsofbidwellpark.org)) calendar. The work is suitable for teenagers and adults, but younger kids accompanied by their parents are also welcome to participate – there are lots of seedlings to pull out too. You can work a couple of hours and then spend some time exploring the ponds.

These are drop-in sessions for individuals, but if you have a school, church, scout or other group that wants to help, we can accommodate them too, with enough advance notice so we bring sufficient tools, gloves and supplies. We're also seeking donations to pay for the roller bins that will be used to take the vegetative debris to the city's compost yard. Each 30-yard bin costs about \$200. For more information or to register a group, call Susan Mason at 530-892-1666 or email [smason908@gmail.com](mailto:smason908@gmail.com).

# Clair Tappaan Weekend Events

By David McKinney, Yahi Chair



The 2nd Annual Flyfishing Weekend at Clair Tappaan was well-attended this year from September 28-30. This is just one of the many new weekend events that are now being offered at the Lodge. I am particularly fond of this one, since I organized and teach it.

Our program season is ending with the Yoga and Hiking weekend, October 12-14, and on October 13, wine tasting. That means if you go for all three days, it could be a real hoot.

There will be a whole new line up of programs next year, just go to [www.ctl.sierraclub.org](http://www.ctl.sierraclub.org) for information. Maybe I will see some of you there next year.



# Youth Exploring the Winter Wonderland— Donner Summit and Clair Tappaan Lodge

*By Peter Mayfield, Founding Director & Guide, Gateway Mountain Center*



At 7,100 feet, on Donner Summit, is the Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge. It's a picture-perfect place for snowy winter ecology explorations. During the past six years, more than 1,500 middle and high school students from around northern California have participated in winter-time field science and eco-literacy programs based at Clair Tappaan.

The Gateway Mountain Center produces these winter field trips, and, as you might imagine, any winter hike must begin with careful preparation. Our students are first oriented in proper

clothing choice (the layering method), sun-protection, and the importance of food and water for sustenance on a cold hike. Next we strap on our snowshoes and head into the woods. Our trail winds up the hill through stands of large red and white firs, interspersed with western white and lodgepole pines. After a few minutes we stop, stand in a circle, and take some time to absorb the deep silence unique to a snow-covered forest. For many of our urban-youth guests, this is a profound experience.

Continuing on, we examine and try to identify the many animal tracks that we come across. Students are always excited to see signs of animals, and are fascinated to learn of the incredible adaptations that have evolved to allow some animals to thrive in such a cold environment. Once, last winter, a student yelled out excitedly, "What's that! It's way bigger than a squirrel!" We all watched as a pine marten leapt 15 feet from one tree to the next, ran down the trunk and across the snow. This large member of the weasel family is rare to see, as it often hunts at night, adapted for efficient hunting in the forest canopy.

On we walk, crossing a creek drainage, taking care to avoid hollow spots under the snow, and make our way up out of the thick woods onto the southwest spur of Boreal Ridge. The landscape changes, and we ask the students to share what they observe: open slopes, fewer trees, more exposure to wind. Here we find some grand Jeffrey pines with an asymmetric look as the branches all point to one side. These are classic flag trees, indicating the direction of the prevailing westerly winds. Walking to the high point of the ridge, we come across some interesting rocks, brown and patterned into angular columns. These are basalt, remnants of the volcanic activity that covered this region with lava, which cooled into rock forms 30 to 15 million years ago.

We continue contouring across the slope and heading downhill to the west. Gnarled, twisted trees come into view. They are junipers, the oldest trees in our area. They survive in the most austere, rocky, windswept landscapes. Scattered amidst the junipers are huge granite boulders. "How did these get here?" we ask the students. Volcanic rock is visible above and below. These huge granite blocks seem out of place. Many students, after a few hours of

tromping through frozen water, answer correctly: “The Glaciers!” They are always amazed at this evidence of the depth of the massive ice cap that covered this valley through successive glacial periods ending a mere 10,000 years ago.

On down the hill, we arrive at the U.C. Berkeley Central Sierra Snow Lab. This is a key data collection point for California’s water supply — providing crucial information to agriculture, hydro-electric, and municipal water managers. Sixty-five percent of California’s developed water originates as Sierra snow pack, and this snow pack is California’s largest “reservoir” of fresh water. The lab director gives us a tour of the study plots, and describes one of their current research projects to study the effects of airborne black carbon settling on the snow. The students are amazed to learn that a lot of this carbon can be traced to coal-fired power plant emissions, carried by the wind all the way from China!

As a group we discuss climate change, the potential effects on water supply, and the example of “accelerating feedback loops” implied by coal particulates potentially hastening the melting of Sierra snow. We borrow some tools from the lab and the students go out to dig snow pits. They are asked to hypothesize which locations would have snow with the highest water content — the pits in the meadow, or the ones in the woods? Digging deep pits is a fun-filled vigorous activity that helps everyone warm up.

We teach students how to identify and read the layers in the snow pack, which show the weather history of the season: An ice layer indicates a rain event; colder un-bonded snow occurs deep in the snow pack when there is an extended dry spell with cold temps, that is later buried. The students collect measured samples from the different layers and bring them to a scale to weigh. Once the data is recorded, the samples get added to the 8-liter container, where the snow is melted on a camp-stove. We carefully note the final volume of water, then turn the snowmelt into hot chocolate!

*In the end we will only conserve what we love, we will only love what we understand, and we will only understand what we are taught. — Baba Dioum, Senegalese conservationist*

Our program goals are to open young people’s hearts and minds to the natural world. We engage, impel and empower them to become knowledgeable, passionate, conscientious stewards – of themselves, their communities, the environment and our world. By exploring this glorious snowy mountain landscape, students learn how their lives are connected to and dependent on healthy Sierra ecosystems.

### **How You Can Help**

We still have space and scholarship money for more schools. Give us a contact at your favorite school—an inspired teacher or involved parent—and we’ll make a fantastic field trip happen for them! Contact Peter Mayfield 530-205-6245, [peter@sierraexperience.org](mailto:peter@sierraexperience.org).



## Mother: Caring for 7 Billion (Movie Review)

By Virginia Phelps, SC Population/Shasta Group

*Mother* is an extraordinary conversational opportunity. Most of us do not seem to understand how dependent we are upon our Earth for everything: the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat. Everything we have is Earth based and we have/are drastically changing the landscape and the ecological web. As *Mother* points out, we make changes we believe are in the best interest of someone somewhere but “unintended consequences” are occurring at an increasing rate worldwide.

As *Mother* so aptly points out, women absolutely need to be empowered but so do men, young men as well as old men. They need reassurances that they are infinitely more than sperm producers. They too need to be totally engaged in their family planning decisions.

*Mother* offers a poignant remembrance of how close Paul and Anne Ehrlichman came to bringing the relationship of population issues and the environmental pressures to the American consciousness.

*Mother* eloquently explores the Earth/people connection. Now we all need to engage in the conversation with our own communities. If we do not know the history of our space, what it looked like 300 years ago, 50 years ago, we will not understand the culture of our neighborhoods or why local planning issues are also of critical importance. If we do not understand the value of life, all of life and Earth’s ecological needs, we will not be in a position to make choices future earthlings will thank us for.

*Mother: Caring for 7 Billion* - [www.motherthefilm.com/](http://www.motherthefilm.com/)

Butte County Library has 4 copies available on DVD.

## A Documentary by Restore the Delta Over Troubled Water

By Dave Garcia

Yahi will join with other local environmental groups — BEC, Friends of Butte Creek, Sacramento River Preservation Trust, Citizens Water Watch — to hold a free screening of the new documentary *Over Troubled Water* at the Pageant Theater on November 3, 2012, at 2:30 PM. You can watch the trailer at Restore the Delta’s Facebook page or Google “*Over Troubled Water* documentary trailer”.

This is a very important and timely documentary explaining the importance of the Sacramento Delta. Governor Brown and Ken Salazar just announced in July the \$14 billion Delta tunnels to be built to send Sacramento water south. We need to educate all Californians on the effects of these planned water transfers so they can make a choice on the future of our water. If you go to Sierra Club California ([www.sierraclubcalifornia.org](http://www.sierraclubcalifornia.org)) you can read Senior Advocate Jim Metropulos’s response: “We don’t need 19th century solutions to today’s problems” in response to Governor Brown’s proposal.

More Information: [http://motherlode.sierraclub.org/yahi/newsletter/Over\\_Troubled\\_Water.pdf](http://motherlode.sierraclub.org/yahi/newsletter/Over_Troubled_Water.pdf)

**DID YOU KNOW...** The United States alone uses approximately 100 billion new plastic bags per year; the average person goes through between 350 and 500. Over a lifetime, the use of reusable bags by just one person would save over 22,000 plastic bags.



**ReuseThisBag.com™** and much more!

Check out  
[www.reusethisbag.com](http://www.reusethisbag.com)  
for 22 more reasons to ban plastic bags,

# Yahi Club News

## The Email Challenge

### A Note to All Yahi Group Members

by Lorna Cunkle, Yahi Group Executive Committee

Let's begin with a round of applause for everyone who has given us a current email address and agreed to receive the *Yahi News* via an emailed link to the Sierra Club website. We now have 830 email addresses!

The Yahi Group by-laws require us to mail printed ballots once a year, so if you've asked us to send you a link to the online version of the newsletter, you still received this ballot issue of the *Yahi News* in the mail.

All the email addresses we received have been entered into the national Sierra Club database. This will allow us to order mailing labels for the next newsletter that are presorted to eliminate those for whom we have a valid email. When a new issue of *Yahi News* is available online, an email containing a link to the online version will be sent to those with valid email addresses.

Easy, right? Wrong!

Once your email address is in the Sierra Club database, you will begin to receive many emails from the Sierra Club. Some of these emails will ask you for money. Others will advise you of current issues (population control, clean air, clean water, fracking, clearcutting, etc.). You may even be asked to become involved by writing letters. At the bottom of each email you receive from the Sierra Club, you are given the opportunity to unsubscribe. Many of you (236, to be exact) have already unsubscribed, which means we (even the Yahi Group) can no longer send you emails. Add to that 104 bad emails (some of you have changed your email address without telling us!), and we end up with only 490 valid email addresses for 1,227 Yahi Group members.

#### Numbers at a Glance:

1,227 Yahi Group members

830 Yahi Group members with email addresses in the national database

104 bad email addresses (flagged as "bad" after three emails have bounced back)

236 members have unsubscribed from all emails

490 valid email addresses for Yahi Group members (830 minus 104 minus 236)

Here's the email challenge: Only you can specify which emails you want to receive. Choose the appropriate option below:

## TO OPT OUT OF NATIONAL AND STATE EMAILS

### If You Already Have an Account

This includes you if in the past you've bought something from the Sierra Club Store or signed up for a Sierra Club trip. You already have a login and a password.

1. From the home page ([www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)), click on About and select "Login or Register."
2. Login.
3. Go to "Personal Profile." Check that your correct email address is shown.

4. Go to "Email Preferences." Click on "Expand All" and then deselect as many boxes as you wish to limit your emails. You might want to receive emails from the California state group.
5. If you want ONLY emails from the Yahi Group, deselect all the "Email Interests" boxes and also deselect the "Email Preferences" box at the bottom of the page. This may sound odd but makes sense only because email sent to you by the Yahi Group will be coming from a different database.

### **To Set Up an Online Account**

1. From the home page ([www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)), click on About and select "Login or Register."
2. Register as a new user. Be sure to use the same name you used when you became a member.
3. Follow steps 3, 4, and 5 above.

### **TO OPT BACK INTO ONLY LOCAL EMAILS**

If at some time you asked Sierra Club to send you "no emails," contact Member Services ([membership.services@sierraclub.org](mailto:membership.services@sierraclub.org) or 415.977.5500) and ask them to allow emails only from the Helen database.

### **IF ALL THIS IS WAY TOO COMPLICATED**

Follow the "unsubscribe" link when you receive an unwanted email to unsubscribe from all national and state emails. Then check the Yahi Group online bulletin board on a regular basis for updates to the Yahi Blog, postings of the Yahi newsletter, and a list local outings:

*<http://motherlode.sierraclub.org/yahi/>*

We will continue to try to work within the extreme confines of the national database. Be patient. If you receive an unwanted printed version of the newsletter, give it to a friend or put it in the lunchroom where you work!

The San Francisco office is aware of the problem created by their database system, and are starting to realize they need to make it more flexible. Solutions are not forthcoming. Send database advice, opinions, feedback, and/or requests to have your email address added, changed, or deleted to [wordsfly@gmail.com](mailto:wordsfly@gmail.com). Be sure to include your full name and mailing address with each request.

#### **Yahi Online**

Anyone, member or not, can access the *Yahi News*, the Yahi outings schedule, and the Yahi Blog online at:

*<http://motherlode.sierraclub.org/yahi/>*

Send local articles and/or letters to the editor to [YAHInews@comcast.net](mailto:YAHInews@comcast.net).

# YAH! Club Information

## Sierra Club Yahi Group Contacts

**General Contact:** Linda Stukey 345-2696

### Executive Committee Officers

**Chair:** David McKinney 566-1500 or [daviddryfly@comcast.net](mailto:daviddryfly@comcast.net)

**Vice Chair:** John Hollister 872-8258 or [hubhollister@yahoo.com](mailto:hubhollister@yahoo.com)

**Secretary:** Laurel Heath 343-3290 or [laur3290@sbcglobal.net](mailto:laur3290@sbcglobal.net)

**Board Member:** Suzette Welch 342-9214 or [booksontape@rocketmail.com](mailto:booksontape@rocketmail.com)

**Board Member:** Carla Moreno [carlaruby80@gmail.com](mailto:carlaruby80@gmail.com)

**Board Member:** Lorna Cunkle 877-7895 or [lornacunkle@comcast.net](mailto:lornacunkle@comcast.net)

### Committee Chairs and Other Contacts

**Representative to Motherlode:** Grace Marvin 893-1994 or [g-marvin@comcast.net](mailto:g-marvin@comcast.net)

**Conservation Chair:** Grace Marvin 893-1994 or [g-marvin@comcast.net](mailto:g-marvin@comcast.net)

**Membership:** Open

**Newsletter:** Louise Casey 872-9159 or [YAH!news@comcast.net](mailto:YAH!news@comcast.net)

**Newsletter Distribution:** Steve Miller 345-0806 and Dave Nopel 342-4118

**Outings:** Alan Mendoza 891-8789 or [ajmendoza777@comcast.net](mailto:ajmendoza777@comcast.net)

**Political Chair:** Dave Garcia 533-2357 or [rangerdave@mynvw.com](mailto:rangerdave@mynvw.com)

**Program Chair:** Open

**Publicity:** Skip Augur 519-4724 or [wba@acm.org](mailto:wba@acm.org)

**Treasurer:** Paul Krause 894-2931 or [paul@paulkrause.com](mailto:paul@paulkrause.com)

**Yahi Website :** Louise Casey 872-9159 or [YAH!news@comcast.net](mailto:YAH!news@comcast.net)

**Portola, Greenville, Quincy Point Person:** John A. Shower 284-6856 or [theshowers@frontiernet.net](mailto:theshowers@frontiernet.net)

## Newsletter Information

SIERRA CLUB YAH! GROUP NEWSLETTER is published three times a year, in March, July, and November, by the Yahi Group of the Sierra Club, Post Office Box 2012, Chico, CA 95927 or 5590 Feather River Place, Paradise, CA 95969, Attn: Louise Casey.

For submissions, comments and inquiries, please write to Sierra Club, Post Office Box 2012, Chico, CA 95927 or contact Louise Casey at 530-872-9159.

For advertising in the Newsletter, please call Paul Krause at 530-894-2931.

For changes in membership address (which also affects the address for receiving the newsletter by mail) please write to Sierra Club Member Services, [membership.services@sierraclub.org](mailto:membership.services@sierraclub.org), or Sierra Club National Headquarters, 85 Second Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105. Phone: 415-977-5500. Sending a mailing label for the old address will speed the process.

### Submission Guidelines:



Please include name, phone, and address with each submittal. Short, single topic articles are preferred. Deadlines for proposed articles and letters to the editor: February 1, June 1, October 1. Email articles to [yahinews@comcast.net](mailto:yahinews@comcast.net). If you cannot send your article electronically, please mail it to Yahi Group of the Sierra Club, 5590 Feather River Place, Paradise, CA 95969, Attn: Louise Casey.

The right is reserved to edit all submissions for reasons of space, clarity and potential libel. The opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Sierra Club or the Yahi Group.

# The Last Word


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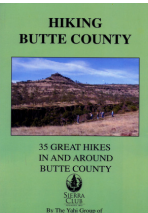

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**Barbara Zachary RN RYT - Owner**  
 Yoga Alliance Registered Yoga Teacher

## Yahi Group Trail Guide

**HIKING BUTTE COUNTY**

Cost: \$10 plus shipping  
 Contact: Alan Mendoza  
 891-8789  
[ajmendoza@prodigy.net](mailto:ajmendoza@prodigy.net)

**John D. Burge, CPA**  
 Certified Public Accountant

17 Williamsburg Lane  
 Chico, CA 95926

530 342-3680  
 Fax 530 342-3721  
[johnburgecpa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:johnburgecpa@sbcglobal.net)

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