



SIERRA  
CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

Yahi  
Group



## Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Plumas & Tehama Counties

### Table of Contents:

Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center	1
Yahi Club News	2
Yahi Conservation Report	3
The River Watcher	5-8
Yahi Contacts	9
Newsletter Sponsors	10

## Yahi Fall 2016 Outings and Events

*Coordinated by Alan Mendoza*

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

## Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center

*By Annette Carey, Yahi ExCom Committee Member*

As a volunteer in Yosemite for the Sierra Club for the past 3 years, I worked at a small historical building formerly known as the LeConte Memorial Lodge. I had never entered the building before becoming a volunteer, but once there, I soon discovered the historical significance and architectural beauty of this building.

Upon entering you find your eyes going upward to take in the vaulted ceiling and a huge river stone fireplace on the far wall. Indeed, rocks surround you and enclose tall windows on both sides that bring in the natural beauty outside. While this is a small building, it was designed in 1903 by John White, brother-in-law of Bernard Maybeck, to mirror the tall walls of the impressive valley that surrounds it. I witnessed many a visitor's eyes go upward and a smile cross their face as they entered. The overall effect was that you have entered into someone's cozy home rather than a museum.

Bonnie Gisel, the current curator, has done much to make this an inviting space where you want to linger. A children's corner invites young people to read books about nature, draw their own pictures, or simply play with the many interactive toys that draw them to this corner.

Flanking the opposite side of the fireplace is another inviting corner containing many reference books about the geology, hiking paths and famous people, such as John Muir, who have written eloquently about the natural wonders of Yosemite.

Why am I waxing on about this small building? If you have read the summer Bonanza newsletter there is a full description of the challenge facing the preservation of this site. The Sierra Club is no longer able to finance the maintenance of the building and wanted to turn it over to the National Park Service. An outcry from members and former volunteers encouraged the Club to put forth a challenge of raising \$2,000,000 by August, 2018.

While this seemed an impossible challenge when first I heard it, I am hopeful this significant building will continue to represent the Sierra Club and the people who fought so hard to keep Yosemite a natural wonder that visitors from around the world come to visit.

If you would like to contribute to its preservation, send all tax deductible contributions (write in memo line, "restricted to Le Conte Memorial Fund") to: Sierra Club Foundation 85 Second St., Suite 750, San Francisco, Ca. 94105, or donate online at <http://vault.sierraclub.org/leconte/>

# Yahi Club News

## Think Globally, Act Locally

By Suzette Welch

Have you wondered how YOU could do that? Here are opportunities for Yahi members.



### Join the Yahi Board Of Directors

The Yahi Group needs two new leaders to serve on the Yahi Executive Committee (ExCom) in 2017. The role of the ExCom is to direct the Yahi Group by identifying local environmental involvement opportunities and voting on Group activities. The Yahi ExCom consists of 5 members and meets 10 times a year.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Yahi ExCom, please contact [yahinews@comcast.net](mailto:yahinews@comcast.net).

### Represent Yahi at Local Events

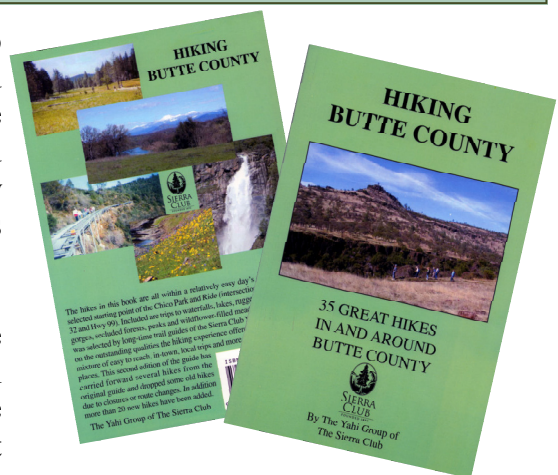
The Yahi Group is looking for a person, or several people who would take on the project of tabling for the club. Work would include working on and updating the display board and storing the board, seek out opportunities where the club could be represented with a table, sign up for events, enlist volunteers to represent club at the table.

Please contact me if you are interested in doing this. We already have a display board and will give you lots of help in getting started. Suzette Welch [booksontape@rocketmail.com](mailto:booksontape@rocketmail.com). 342-9214.

## 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).



## Conservation Issues and Politics!

*By Grace Maria Marvin, Yahi Group Conservation Chair*

The best news for team Frack-Free Butte County is that our Measure E to ban fracking, county-wide, won in the June election. Kathryn Phillips (Director of SC-California) made that her first and sole congratulatory announcement at the most recent Mother Lode Chapter meeting (7/31/16). As you may know from many articles in this publication, a tremendous amount of effort by a few hard core and dozens of other individuals made this happen. Our efforts were greatly aided by several different environmental organizations, including our Sierra Club and Food and Water Watch. That should inspire us to keep battling for important causes despite obstacles of all kinds – including stubborn, wrong-headed governmental leaders on all levels and the influence of powerful energy (or other anti-environmental) companies.



At that same Mother Lode Chapter meeting, I learned about many other causes worth pursuing in our Chapter. Before I list a few of these, here are some of the important Chapter announcements:

1-If you are interested in receiving training as a Sierra Club Outings leader, please contact Kathy Khan at [SierraKat@comcast.net](mailto:SierraKat@comcast.net).

2- The Sierra Club needs and wants to increase diversity (more youth and more ethnicities) to help the club now and in the future. Each chapter will get 20 free memberships to give out to increase diversity among its leaders. If you know one or more potential members who would increase our diversity and who could be encouraged to get seriously involved with club activities by getting a free membership, please call or write the new Chapter Coordinator Dyane Osorio ([dyane.osorio@sierraclub.org](mailto:dyane.osorio@sierraclub.org)) to make your recommendation. (Elected officials and staff are not eligible.) Please encourage anyone who is interested to join the club. We need everyone.

3-Notify Nick Lapis ([nicklapis@cawrecycles.org](mailto:nicklapis@cawrecycles.org)) and Andy Sawyer, Chapter Compliance Office ([andysawyer@aol.com](mailto:andysawyer@aol.com)), about political activities in which you or other S.C. members are or want to be engaged because of your environmental interests. The Sierra Club can officially endorse a candidate, and club money can be spent on that candidate when very specific criteria are met. If members just want the club to support a candidate without seeking an endorsement, the criteria are not as formidable. But you still need to be in touch with Nick and Andy.

4- Leaders highly recommended that you sign up for the free Sierra Club online magazine, The Greenlife. (Do a computer search for that name or go to <http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/greenlife>.)

Now, a few of the chapter issues that might be of interest to you:

1-The Sierra Club is not taking a position on the Cortopassi Initiative on November's ballot, even though its passing could doom the Tunnels. i.e, the Water Fix project that our Club strongly opposes. The Cortopassi Initiative stipulates that

1. Statewide voter approval (must be granted) before any revenue bonds can be issued or sold by the state for certain projects if the bond amount exceeds \$2 billion.
2. Applies to any projects that are financed, owned, operated, or managed by the state, or by a joint agency formed between the state and a federal government agency, another state, and/or a local government.
3. Prohibits dividing projects into multiple separate projects to avoid statewide voter approval requirement.

(There are many arguments for and against Cortopassi's initiative, which you might want explore.)

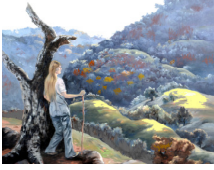
2- Sierra Club California does not see much hope in finding strong supporters in the legislature who would fight clear-cutting. And the club does not have enough "capacity" ( money and personnel) to make the fight on its own, despite the relationship of clear-cutting to water and to wild fires. (But I don't think that should stop anyone from this important fight.)

3- The Sierra Club is taking a position in favor of Proposition 67 to fight plastic bags, but it is not supporting another misleading proposition being furthered by the plastic bag industry. Note that we need to vote on upholding or overturning the November, 2014 ban, since the opposition later collected enough votes to put it on the ballot for this year. The club recommends seeing this site for more information: <https://protectplasticbagban.org/>

4- The leader of Sierra Club-California pointed out: Whether or not you vote for the president in November, you need to vote carefully for members of the California's legislature (as well as for local officials) who will support our environmental concerns, e.g., climate change, water, energy, etc.

5- Hand in hand with the club's opposition to the Tunnels, aka Water Fix project, the club is also opposed to Sites Reservoir and efforts to raise Shasta Dam. Please search for corresponding articles in the environmental press, if you want to know more. Moreover, the club is opposed to other existing dams and planned dam projects as well, including Parker, Englebright, and Klamath.

Find your causes, get out the vote, and vote your conscience in November. Let members of the Sierra Club make a difference!



**River Watcher:**

# **The Artistry of Imperfection**

*By Rex Burress*

Down by the riverside, in the Centennial Gardens on the levee, there was a defective guide-light built into the walkway. Moisture leaked in and condensed under the glass, making a very good set-up for photographic closeups of condensed droplets! The maintenance crew fixed it with a new seal, changing imperfection to perfection, and took away what I thought was beautiful!

Thus it is that many things that some people value are seen as defective by others. Thus it is that society is composed of a wide range of opinions and personal judgments...and unexplainable likes and dislikes. The opposing attitude-complex slips right into politics, where gaining a majority has become almost impossible.

I'm not alone, though, in seeing a special beauty in old gnarled, decaying trees and deteriorating barns. Most artists are delighted to find such a state of imperfection, and an old dead oak on a steep hill will set a plein aire painter or a photographer off with joy! Even John Muir piped in, "The woods are full of dead and dying trees, yet needed for their beauty to complete the beauty of the living."

Don't expect a trove of old wood around a city park, though; "public safety" demands that every defective tree limb and suspect shrub be hustled away to the dump. Leaving dead wood to add richness to the woodland floor is often frowned on as a "fire-fuel" danger. Where can one go to find "old growth forest?"

Fencing the dead cottonwoods at River Bend Park so the woodpeckers could finish nesting before cutting the trees, was an admirable gesture of the Feather River Park and Recreation Dept. in Oroville, CA.

There's something about weathered wood, or wrinkles on the aged human's face, that follows the lines of good composition and tells a story more vividly than a younger state of affairs.

Artists also know that accidental dribbles of paint or smears on canvas can lead to some interesting achievements critical viewers might exclaim to be the work of a genius! Of such is born abstract art where paint is purposely slung about with abandon, either to create a special effect, or because the artist is out of ideas! It might seem unjustified to praise the slap-side type of rendering when a realistic detailist spends many hours in an attempt to create perfection. But that is the way of judgment...and diversity.

It was interesting to see the work of a photographer who set about to portray the most beautiful woman from each country in the world. "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder," and for one person, or many people, to pick the prettiest piece of potential perfection from any group is nigh impossible. Of course, beauty is only skin deep, too, so you're only seeing the surface.

I became aware of the unsettled kind of response to perfection when judging camera club competitions. Someone has to make a choice for the most perfect picture, and it's very difficult when nearly all of the entries are "top" pictures, which brings it down to a personal decision based on personal taste and compositional correctness. So there are happy winners and aggravated losers...and equal emotive reactions to the judge. A member judges whether you are a good judge or a bad judge by the choices you choose...especially whether the entry was there's. "Thou shall not judge" said no one.

What is perfection in flowers...or seeds...or the leaves on a tree? When you get down to close-up seeing of plants or photographs, you find no finalists free of some type of imperfection; there is always some minute blemish, irregularity of growth, or the intrusion of erosion or injuries. Insects are posed to disrupt the perfect blossom.

We are acquainted with the assertion that no two leaves on a tree are alike, but with that condition, we experience diversity and the beauty of differences. There is a specialness in variety and imperfections...in different races of people...in youth and in age...in sparkling new trees, and in textured old trees--look for them!

*"Usefulness is not impaired by imperfection. You can still drink from a chipped cup."*  
--Greta K. Nagel

*"Have no fear of perfection; you'll never reach it."* --Salvadore Dali

*"They say that nobody is perfect. Then they tell you practice makes perfect. I wish they'd make up their minds."* --Winston Churchill



**River Watcher:**

# **Natural Wonders: The Joy of Discovery**

*By Rex Burress*

Although I understand that 'discovery' in court cases is evidence that must be shared with the opposition, discovery, as in a child finding a brand new bug to marvel over, or a shiny stone, is a joy able to steer a kid into a new pathway in life!

For a naturalist throughout life, the joy of discovering a special stone, new bug, or fossil, perhaps never seen before by human eyes in 50-million-years, is like a stab of pleasure in the pit of your stomach. There is also an intense feeling of satisfaction in finding a new species of plant or insect, just as a photographer rejoices in the discovery of a photogenic moment in a special natural light-setting.

That pathway can be a career in entomology, or it can be an adult geological interest able to fill a backyard with rocks. Take a look at my backyard! There are piles of special stones and fossils, each item discovered in an exciting moment along some mountain trail or desert wash! Retaining quality gemstones for research evolves into a desire to keep them for remembering the place where it was found in nature, as well as the joy of sharing the information and beauty with like-minds.

The love of rocks and geology can evolve into rock collecting in the greener days of life, when plenty of strength and agility can carry one over rugged terrains and perilous pitfalls. Then when one's legs can no longer be relied upon years later, there is the sample-lode in your backyard able to help prod memories of unforgettable discoveries.

I was enthralled with the hidden colors and designs in the interior of some rocks that I opened with lapidary equipment for several years when I took classes at rock club workshops where they had the diamond saws to cut open your rock to reveal the mystery in the middle. Appropriately, I have several hundred hand-polished 'cabochons,' ready for exhibit, and I keep a tray of good ones beside my computer...just to be reminded of "the other side of the story."

My interpretive delight is to arrange a show case with the rough rock and a finished piece side by side. "Rock-hounding" fits right in with a naturalist's quest to study all facets of nature--rock origin, fossils, and creation being part of the fascinations.

One treasured piece I have is a one-by-three inch chunk of jasp-agate I found on Leavitt Creek east of Sonora Pass. It was quite lovely with red, yellow, and blue squiggles. I rather figured it had come from a rocky outcrop somewhere in those steep mountains above Leavitt Meadow Campground.

During the winter of 1962, I came across a field trip article in "California Gem Trails," by Darold Henry. He described "High Sierra Gem Stones" reached by a two-hour hike from Sonora Pass, to a jasper field over 11,000-foot in elevation. The following summer my family and I hiked in and found the site, and that's another exciting story, but it was one of my greatest rock adventures.

An extensive newspaper supplement entitled "Kids" was produced in the Bay Area, and many important aspects of a child's development is covered, but nowhere could I find a reference to "The Sense of Wonder," as proposed by Rachel Carson in her 1956 book by that name. Her approach to instilling the sense of nature-wonder is still as vitally important as "the wiggly wall" tunnel-fun in Berkeley, "laser tag" in San Jose, or "Pokemons!"

Carson spoke of the lasting value of nature discovery. "A child's world is fresh and new and beautiful, full of wonder and excitement...What is the value of preserving and strengthening this sense of awe and wonder, this recognition of something beyond the boundaries of human existence?" Rachel said. "Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts."

On the other hand..."Everybody needs a rock...a special rock...one that you find yourself and keep as long as you can...maybe forever...Any rock looks good with a hundred other rocks around it on a hill, but if your rock is going to be special it should look good by itself...Don't ask anybody to help you choose. I've seen a lizard pick one rock out of a desert full of rocks and go sit there alone." [Children's book, "Everybody Needs a Rock," by Byrd Baylor, 1974.] (I've seen a pipevine swallowtail larvae crawl far near the Feather River Nature Center to find its special rock to build its chrysalis on!)

*"There is no better high than discovery." --E.O. Wilson*

*"The most remarkable discovery in all of astronomy is that the stars are made of atoms of the same kind as those on the earth." --Richard P. Feynman*



# YAH! Club Information

## Executive Committee

Co-Chair: Suzette Welch, 342-9214, [booksontape@rocketmail.com](mailto:booksontape@rocketmail.com)  
Co-Chair: Celeste Garcia, 533-2357, [celesterdh@mynvw.com](mailto:celesterdh@mynvw.com)  
Secretary: Laurel Heath, 343-3290, [laur3290@gmail.com](mailto:laur3290@gmail.com)  
Board Member: Annette Carey 872-3557 [annettecare@sbcglobal.net](mailto:annettecare@sbcglobal.net)  
Board Member: Sharon Frisch, [safritsch@comcast.net](mailto:safritsch@comcast.net)

## Committee Chairs and Other Contacts

Representative to Mother Lode: Grace Marvin, 893-1994, [g-marvin@comcast.net](mailto:g-marvin@comcast.net)  
Conservation Chair: Grace Marvin, 893-1994, [g-marvin@comcast.net](mailto:g-marvin@comcast.net)  
Membership: Gerda Lydon, 343-9277, [plydon2948@aol.com](mailto:plydon2948@aol.com)  
Newsletter: Louise Casey, 872-9159, [YAHInews@comcast.net](mailto:YAHInews@comcast.net)  
Newsletter Distribution: Steve Miller, 345-0806 or [steveinchico@gmail.com](mailto:steveinchico@gmail.com),  
and Dave Nopel, 342-4118  
Outings: Alan Mendoza, 891-8789, [ajmendoza777@comcast.net](mailto:ajmendoza777@comcast.net)  
Political Chair: Dave Garcia, 533-2357, [rangerdave@mynvw.com](mailto:rangerdave@mynvw.com)  
Program Chair: Position Open  
Treasurer: Paul Krause, 894-2931, [paul@paulkrause.com](mailto:paul@paulkrause.com)  
Yahi Website: Louise Casey, 872-9159, [YAHInews@comcast.net](mailto:YAHInews@comcast.net)  
Portola, Greenville, Quincy Point Person: John A. Shower, 284-6856,  
[theshowers@frontiernet.net](mailto:theshowers@frontiernet.net)

## 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 advertising, contact Celeste Garcia, 533-2357, [celesterdh@mynvw.com](mailto:celesterdh@mynvw.com).

For changes in mailing address or email address, contact Sierra Club Member Services: [membership.services@sierraclub.org](mailto:membership.services@sierraclub.org), or (415) 977-5500.

For submissions, comments, or inquiries, contact Louise Casey, 872-9159, [YAHInews@comcast.net](mailto:YAHInews@comcast.net). 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.

*Yahi News* reserves the right 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



Photo by Marie Scriver

## GOING, GOING... GONE?

Sea turtles date back nearly 90 million years and are among the Earth's oldest surviving species. All 6 species of sea turtles are protected under the Endangered Species Act. Sierra Club has mounted a major effort to defend and preserve threatened habitats before their inhabitants are gone forever.

**Help protect our animal friends; because once they're gone, they're gone. Join Sierra Club now.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.  
 Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX  
 Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
<b>Special Offer</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Join today and receive a **FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!**



Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.



F94Q W 0904 1

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

## Gold Lake Lodge

At the crest of the Sierra Nevadas

**Hiking • Fishing**  
**Swimming • Boating**  
 Meals and Lodging Provided

**530-836-2350**  
[GoldLakeLodge.com](http://GoldLakeLodge.com)

## Mountain Sports

Specialists In

- \* Technical Outerwear & Sportswear
- \* Backpacking
- \* Rock Climbing/Mountaineering
- \* Traveling
- \* X-Country Skiing


**"Serving Chico Since 1975"**

176 E. 3rd St., Chico, CA 95928 (530) 345-5011/Fax (530) 345-5229



## FLORAL NATIVE NURSERY

2511 Floral Avenue  
 Chico, California 95973-2511  
 Telephone/Fax: (530) 892-2511  
 E-mail: [canative@shocking.com](mailto:canative@shocking.com)



## Send Us Your Email Address

Receive the Yahi News in your email inbox.

Contact **membership.services@sierraclub.org** or (415) 977-5500.

Tell them if you want to receive only Yahi Group emails, or Yahi Group emails along with Sierra Club national and/or state emails.

## 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)

## Ed's Printing

- We encourage the use of recycled papers  
100% recycled papers available
- We use vegetable based inks
- Black & white and color copies

550 Cherry Street • Chico, CA • (530) 891-4625