



Yahi Group



Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Plumas & Tehama Counties

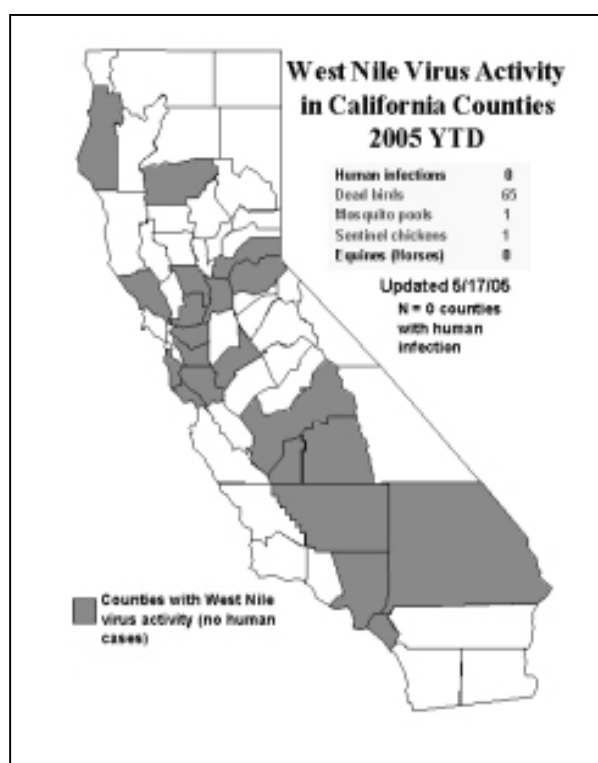
News Articles Programs Hikes and Outings Meetings Events

West Nile Virus (WNV), first detected in New York City in 1999, steadily spread across North America, and arrived in Southern California in 2003. WNV arrived in our area of Northern California late last summer, and is anticipated to make its presence known much earlier this mosquito season, especially with the discovery April 14, 2005 of a WNV positive Dove in Tehama County. Typically human cases will surface a couple of weeks after the first WNV positive bird or horse case is detected.

The CDC says that those at greatest risk are the immuno-compromised, young children, and older citizens. Now in case you're sighing a breath of relief thinking **you** don't fall into that "older" category, let me remind you that the CDC defines "older" as "anyone over 50." When did 50 become old, that's what I want to know! But seriously, any of us in the wrong place, at the wrong time can become ill if bitten by a WNV infected mosquito. The degree of illness will be determined by how healthy we are at the time of infection.

So, it behooves you, me, all of us to: avoid being bitten by mosquito(s); mosquito-proof your house; do everything possible to remove mosquito-friendly conditions from your property; report possible mosquito pools to local Mosquito Abatement authorities; and report any dead birds to the West Nile Virus Hotline, 1-877 WNV-BIRD, or if you can't get though on the 800 number, visit them on the web at <http://www.westnile.ca.gov/>.

Avoiding mosquitoes is the best way to avoid mosquito-borne diseases. If possible stay indoors when mosquitoes are biting:



Map from the California West Nile Virus web site:
http://westnile.ca.gov/2005_maps.htm

dusk and dawn. If you must be outdoors when and where mosquitoes are present, wear long, loose and light-colored clothing. Where necessary, use insect repellent products with the smallest percentage of DEET necessary for the amount of time you are exposed to the mosquitoes, but no more than 50% for adults and less than 30% for children under 12. Adults should apply repellent to children and the elderly. Spray repellent on your hands and then apply to your face. Only use repellent on exposed

skin and clothing. Do not use repellent under clothing. Do not apply repellent over cuts, wounds, sunburn or irritated skin. And most important, wash repellent off daily, and reapply only as needed.

It is also important to hunt down mosquitoes and remove their breeding grounds.

- Turn over or remove containers in your yard where water collects for days at a time, such as old tires, potted plant trays, boats, buckets and toys.
- Clean out birdbaths and wading pools every 4 or 5 days.
- Clean roof gutters and downspout screens regularly during the rainy season.
- Eliminate standing water on tarps and flat roofs.
- Make sure all window screens are in good repair without holes in them.
- Volunteer to help elderly neighbors eliminate standing water.
- Contact your local Mosquito Abatement Dept. for assistance if needed.

For local statistics and additional information about West Nile Virus, or to form an opinion of your own, go to <http://westnile.ca.gov/home.htm>, or contact your County Health Department, or local Mosquito Abatement District office. Check your local White Pages under Government for the number.

Yahi Group—Sierra Club
Post Office Box 2012
Chico CA 95927

Non-profit
U.S Postage Paid
Permit Number 590

Yahi Club Notes

Yahi Group members participate in numerous club sponsored conservation programs, public proceedings, and events co-sponsored with other groups. Year round, we enjoy **Alan Mendoza's** tremendous outings program. (You can join those outings by looking at this paper and our website, newly revised and updated by **Louise Casey** at <http://motherlode.sierraclub.org/yahi/index.html>.) It was a result of a hike that this member of the Sierra Club Ex. Com. made an extra effort to help support the development of a State Park at the Sutter Buttes in late March.

James Brock will soon serve, officially, as the new Conservation Chair. In the meantime, we have found a few potential "point persons" to organize Yahi conservation efforts. Many thanks go to **Don and Kay Enos** for volunteering their computer skills, so as to give us a database of volunteers. We look forward to the conservation chair locating and establishing communication with "point persons" throughout Yahi

About This Newsletter

SIERRA CLUB YAH! GROUP NEWSLETTER is published quarterly in March, June, September and December 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.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to Yahi Group of the Sierra Club, Post Office Box 2012, Chico, CA 95927 or 5590 Feather River Place, Paradise, CA 95969, Attn: Louise Casey.

The newsletter is mailed free to all current members of the Sierra Club residing in the Yahi Group area. It is also available, without charge, at selected public places and merchants in the Yahi Group area.

For submissions, comments and inquiries, please write to Sierra Club, Post Office Box 2012, Chico, CA 95927 or contact the content editor Susan Sears at 530-532-0149 or the copy editor Louise Casey at 530-872-9159.

For advertising in the Newsletter, please call John Wood (530-899-8607). For changes in membership address (which also affects the address for receiving the newsletter by mail) please write to Sierra Club Member Services, Post Office Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80328-2968; 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, May 1, August 1, and November 1. A one week extension is available if the submission is sent by e-mail and advance advisory has been provided that the article is forthcoming. Submissions will be returned if specifically requested and accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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.

country. (*Please* contact us if you are interested!)

In March, we co-sponsored a terrific **California Wild slide show** at Chico State, led by renowned photographer, writer, and naturalist **Tim Palmer**. At the April Executive meeting, we heard from **Stephen Sayre** who is helping to preserve trees in Paradise! In April, we also co-sponsored the **Environmental Banquet** at the Sierra Nevada Brewery. **Felicia Marcus**, Executive VP of the Trust for Public Lands, addressed concerns about the "death of environmentalism," stating that we must be constructive, despite voter fatigue and disappointment; after all, 85% of green issues won in the last election. So, learn, take stock, and articulate a positive view. At that Banquet, the Yahi group did just that in recognizing the major, ongoing efforts of **Susan Mason** in removing invasive plants in Bidwell Park.

Two weeks later, the Yahi Group celebrated **Earth Day** at a causal restaurant, and we tabled at **Chico State's EcoFest**. There, we talked with students about local, state, and national issues. We had displays of "Smart Growth" as it applies to sustainable development as well as much literature, including postcards, which visitors could send to politicians.

In May, we gathered our volunteers, posters, and literature for the 35th annual **Endangered Species Faire** at Bidwell Park. Again, we urged action: help the Yahi's Stop Bidwell Ranch advocates **get Bidwell Ranch officially declared Open Space!** (The final step, in that now 20 year process, is immanent) We included some *children's activities* at the Faire. With adults, we discussed (1) misplaced efforts to replace the **Chico Farmer's Market** with a parking structure, and (2) inadequate environmental measures for the **Oak Valley residential development** -- planned for Route 32 leading from Chico east to the forests. The Yahi Group signed **an appeal** to the City Planning Commission's decision to go ahead with the project. We hope our newly progressive City Council attends

more to traffic, pollution, and view shed issues.

The Yahi chair regularly attends environmental meetings in the **Chico City Manager's** office and for the **Chico Environmental Network**. The chair also has been regularly participating in the monthly meetings of the **Bidwell Park Master Management Plan Update**. Butte County is now celebrating the **Bidwell Park's Centennial year**, i.e., it has been 100 years since Annie Bidwell donated the park to the City of Chico. The Yahi Group is aware, of course, of the even older **Native American heritage**.

At the May Executive committee meeting we heard from our prospective Conservation Chair as well as from longtime member, **Patricia Puterbaugh** (Lassen Forest Preservation Group). She explained **Sierra Club lawsuits** to help protect our forests. We hope to see legal processes (with Yahi support) resulting in positive precedents for local and distant forests. In Yahi country, we also are especially concerned about **water transfer issues**. Some Yahi members attended an all day environmental law seminar and a two day water symposium at Chico State.

In the meantime, **Joanne Gerson**, with the help of **Wendy Woods**, has been working on our major fundraising effort, a **JUNE 12 GARDEN TOUR within beautiful Bidwell Canyon**. Tickets are \$5 with children under 12 free. Most Chico nurseries, Vagabond Rose, Mendon's in Paradise, and Nelson's Footwear in Oroville will have tickets on sale, or call **893-2154**. **Please call that number, also, if you can help out in this fundraiser;** it pays for this newsletter.

We are grateful that the Vice-Chair, **Gene Anna McMillan**, will be assuming even more leadership in the chair's absence for seven weeks this summer. She will also host the **June 9 program meeting** (see **Events and Outings**), where **James Brock** is scheduled to present a truly dynamic program about **living in fire country**. Come join the expected fascinating program, and meet our new conservation

Sierra Club Contacts in the Yahi Group Area

General Contact

Linda Stukey: 530-345-2696
She will relay inquiries or comments to the appropriate person.

Elected Officers

Chair - Grace Marvin: 530-893-1994 or GMRADM@aol.com
Vice Chair - Gene Anna McMillan: 530-345-7003 or geneannamc@pacbell.net
Treasurer - Joanne Gerson: 530-893-2154 or joanne.gerson@att.net
Secretary - Wendy Woods: 530-899-8607 or woods@chico.com
Fifth Member - Lynn Ott : 530-877-1671 or lynnsngarden@sbcglobal.net

Chapter Rep. To Motherlode: Grace Marvin: 530-893-1994 or GMRADM@aol.com

Conservation: James Brock: 530-209-8329 or dovetailcoalition@msn.com

Forest Issues: Trish Puterbaugh: Cohasset@shocking.com

Membership: Gerda Lydon: 530-343-9277 or PLydon2948@aol.com

Newsletter Content Editor: Susan Sears: 530-532-0149 or sjsears@cncnet.com

Newsletter Publication Editor: Louise Casey: 530-872-9159 or YAH!_news@comcast.net

Newsletter Distribution:

~ Steve Miller: 530-345-0806

~ Dave Nopel: 530-342-4118

Outings: Alan Mendoza: 530-891-8789 or ajmendoza@prodigy.net

Programs: Grace Marvin: 530-893-1994 or GMRADM@aol.com

Press Releases: Wendy Woods: 530-899-8607 or woods@chico.com

Committee Chairs

Butte County General Plan Update

Butte County is updating its General Plan, its legal document and long-term framework for land use and development. This will occur in three Phases. Phase 1, begun in 2002, is the reorganization and recodification of the Background Report and Policy Document. To make the new Plan legally defensible, staff and consultants have been painstakingly separating policy from existing conditions as found in the old General Plan, and reorganizing them under new headings and goals statements. In May 2005 the county held public meetings in several Butte County cities, which ironically, because they are incorporated with their own General Plans, will not be internally affected by the county's plans.

The public has until June 15th to submit comments about the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the existing conditions Background Report and whether they think the Policy Document correctly re-states policy outlined in the old General Plan. Then after staff and the county Planning Commission respond, the Board of Supervisors, after two more public hearings, is expected to approve those documents by September 2005, at which time they are also expected to authorize the beginning of Phase 2, the process of updating General Plan policy.

Phase 2, which will also include amending the General plan designations for individual properties, will begin with community workshops to solicit input from stakeholders (Butte County citizens who participate), and is expected to take at least seven months before the Board approves the new Policy Document. After that, Phase 3 will revise the Zoning Ordinance to be consistent with the new General Plan designations.

Some controversial issues include onsite versus collective wastewater treatment, the appropriateness of development in groundwater recharge areas where the foothills meet the valley, the breaking of the Chico greenline, and whether to and where to build a new town because of too many constraints on development in the foothills. The likelihood of specific policy being adopted WILL be influenced by how many people express their advocacy or opposition; but because it is not desired to have just the Board of Supervisors decide everything and make this a political document, an emphasis on consensus building between opposing interest groups is expected.

The new General Plan documents may be downloaded from the internet at <http://www.buttecounty.net/Default.aspx?tabid=42>. There is also a Discussion Board forum there where comments can be posted. Comments on policy changes, though not being solicited until the beginning of Phase 2, WILL eventually be considered, whether posted there, made in person at recorded public meetings, or submitted in writing to Yvonne Christopher, Butte County Director of Development Services, 7 County Center Drive, Oroville, CA 95965.

Yvonne has stated that enforcement of the new General Plan will likely include citizen lawsuits. If you care about your county, NOW is the time to

Volunteer Opportunities At Bidwell Park

On Sunday mornings, 9-12, we pick up trash and remove invasive plants in Annie's Glen., located downtown at East 2nd St at Orient St. as a Bidwell Park 2005 Centennial restoration project. For more information, call 892-1666 or email info@FriendsOfBidwellPark.org

Saturday, June 4—National Trails Day Help to improve the condition of Upper Park trails & learn more about Upper Park and its trails. Volunteers of all ages are welcome. Tools, water, gloves and instruction provided. Meet at Parking Area A at 9 AM, wear sturdy shoes & bring lunch. For more information, contact Park Volunteer Coordinator Steve Hogue at 896-7800 or shogue@ci.chico.ca.us.

Saturday, June 11—Volunteer puncturevine removal in Upper Park from 9 AM to noon. Help rid Upper Park of this dreaded plant for an entire year. Tools, water & gloves provided. Meet across from parking area C (observatory) Call 892-1666 or email info@friendsofbidwellpark.org for more information.

Saturday, June 25—Volunteer trash pickup and invasive plant removal in Lost Park (East 1st St., between Wall and Flume), 9 AM to noon. Rain cancels. Call 892-1666 or email info@friendsofbidwellpark.org for more information.

Saturday, July 9—Volunteer invasive plant removal project. Remove Japanese privets from the area east of Caper Acres, 9 AM to noon. Tools, gloves, and water provided. Call 892-1666 or email info@friendsofbidwellpark.org for more information.

Saturday, August 13—Volunteer invasive plant removal project. Remove English ivy from Lower Park, 9 AM to noon, meet at the Caper Acres parking lot. Tools, gloves, water, and instruction provided. Rain cancels. Call 892-1666 or email info@friendsofbidwellpark.org for more information.

Help Save the Water of The Sacramento Valley

The Sacramento Valley Environmental Water Caucus (SVEWC) invites you to a regional meeting on Saturday, June 11 to present a draft vision and strategies for the Sacramento Valley that will save valuable water from being exported south of the Delta. Please help us shape the SVEWC's Save-the-Water Campaign.

Education and knowledge should form the foundation of all water decisions. The new Save-the-Water Campaign represents an informed, collaborative approach, which is based on sound science, open communication and wide-spread education strategies for the Sacramento Valley. When completed and implemented, it will set new standards in environmental leadership and positive change.

We will be meeting at the Chico City Council chambers, 411 Main Street in downtown Chico. The meeting will be held from 10 am-3 pm. We will have a lunch order option or bring your own. Please RSVP to the Sacramento River Preservation Trust at (530) 345-1865 and email tiffany@sacrivertrust.org.

Yahi 2005 Garden Tour

This year's tour on Sunday, June 12th, will show you beautiful gardens on reclaimed Butte Creek Canyon sites. One is on former rock piles left by dredging boats that washed all the soil down creeks and rivers early in the last century. Another home and its garden were under water during the last major flood in Butte Creek Canyon.

All of the properties are in relatively close together in Butte Creek Canyon. The tour give ticket holders an opportunity to see what is behind bushes on the creek and up that mysterious road. Those of you who are not familiar with this area are missing one of the scenic high points of the state little know to "outsiders". Old timers can see how the Canyon has changed in the last few years. It is becoming an upscale area but still retains the charm of yesterday.

The gardens will be open from 11 AM to 4 PM and can be visited as leisurely or quickly as you desire. Good Sierra Club people are urged to car pool.

Owners will discuss their methods for deer proofing their plants and how they replenish the soil.

Tickets may be purchased for \$5 each (with children under 12 free) in Chico at Vagabond Rose, Chico Creek, Fostine's and Growing Ground Nurseries, in Paradise at Mendon's and in Oroville at Nelson's Footwear on Myers Street or by calling 893-2154.

Fight The Bite



**Join the SWAT TEAM
Against West Nile Virus**

**For information call:
877-WNV-BIRD (877-868-2473)**

-or-

**Aim your browser at:
www.westnile.ca.gov**

Conservation

Where is Wilderness?

The article in the Spring '05 Yahi newsletter, "Finding True Wilderness," by Gregory Heming, attracted my attention. Although one can envy a person breaking away from the city to live in the Yukon wilderness, just what is "true wilderness" in this time of a shared planet by the long arms of socialized mankind?

A man who makes bird call collections with a parabolic recorder said there was no place on earth where you could go to escape the sound of airplanes, and many secluded places have been invaded by homebuilders seeking solace from city surroundings. In fact, if too many people follow that trend, the remote areas we call wilderness will become occupied territory.

Even in more available terrain in the California woodlands, seldom can you find a spot not affected by roads, signposts, dwellings, mines, lumbering, altered streams, or some other transformation. In between those disruptions, however, you can find mini-wild spots you can focus on as wilderness.

Perhaps wilderness needs a new definition, even if Henry David Thoreau said, "In Wilderness is the preservation of the world," and John Muir echoed this thought with, "In God's wildness lies the hope of the world." Note that both of these famed naturalists call it wildness rather than wilderness. Webster's dictionary calls wilderness "A tract or region uncultivated and uninhabited by human beings," and, "An empty or pathless area." Even in Muir's days in Yosemite, sheep herders and other intrusions occupied wilderness, as applied to the Sierras, and Thoreau "traveled widely around Concord," where places like Walden Pond were heavily trespassed.

In spite of Muir's condemnation of the city when he was writing in Oakland in 1874 ("If the death exhalations that brood the broad towns in which we so fondly compact ourselves were made visible, we should flee as from a plague"), still in our evolving society we sometimes must settle for less than complete abandonment of the city. When I worked in Oakland at Lake Merritt, I found a remarkable number of minute wildernesses in places like Joaquin Miller Park and even in abandoned lots, that was sufficient to renew the outdoor spirit with small doses of nature.

So most of us search for what small wild areas we can find where we can get a hint of primeval nature. Not many of us can take off for the Yukon or Amazonian forests in quest of wilderness, so on a practical level, we take what trails we can find and rejoice in that connection with the out-of-doors.

How I rejoiced on a March day to walk below the Oroville Dam spillway and settle on the shores of Glen Pond. I have thought of the small lake as a type of "Walden Pond" where you can focus on the wildlife community and find a satisfactory wilderness even though there are no lofty mountains or roaring rapids nearby. You are alone even though the town is a scant four miles away and chances are you will see no sign of civilization. It takes a hefty hike to reach Glen Pond and that discourages the multitude.

I laid down among the new grown grasses and early wildflowers and could see the surrounding forest occupied with the wild inhabitants. There is a certain slope there that is angled just right for springtime contemplation, where the long-stemmed bluedicks and purple pincushions and Douglas iris grow. You can stare out over the breeze-stirred ripples at the forest bending down to the water's edge, and see the beaver dens back under the roots. You may see an otter, or muskrat, or hear the rumble of the bullfrog. A wood duck may flash by, or Canada geese, and once a turkey flew across the pond and nearly landed on me. Nearby was where I once saw a mountain lion as

well as bobcats. The wild flavor of a mini-wilderness is there, even if on a small scale. Thank goodness for parks! Sometimes its best to think small, especially when big vistas aren't readily available, and open space is touched with a multitude of wildland seekers.

You can walk along the shores of the Diversion Pond and see wildlife at work, hardly realizing the pond is artificially impounded by a dam. Nature adjusts to whatever habitat is available, and the former narrow gorge is buried under the mass of compounded water, giving rise to a different type of wilderness...a wilderness of watery depths.

A Tuft of Flowers

I was talking to Oroville, CA, Feather River Nature Center member Richard Harvey, and he mentioned weed-cutting near the site where he had in some years past engineered a side trail to the water along the river-lake above Fish Barrier Falls.

"Gee, did you cut the weeds I was going to talk about on my up-coming nature walk?" I exclaimed.

"Oh, no, there are plenty of weeds left along that strip," he replied, as if surprised that I could find interest in obnoxious weeds. Weeds, the unwanted plants as in your garden, or at the edge of the road, or in crop fields, are a distasteful subject for some, but nevertheless, their origins and tenacity—and indeed their flowering plant beauty—have some remarkable stories.

I had to check it out. Richard had cut the weeds on the side trail, and also left not only plenty of weeds along the more prominent Sewim Bo River Path, but also some choice flowers. I was impressed how he had carefully cut around a spiraling soap plant and a tuft of yellow woolly sunflowers. It is always gratifying to notice little gestures people make in the name of respect for nature and conservation. In fact, I thought of Robert Frost's great conservation poem, A TUFT OF FLOWERS..."The mower in the morning dew had loved them thus, Leaving them to flourish, not for us, Nor yet to draw one thought of ours to him, But from sheer morning gladness at the brim..."

Most conservation efforts have a gladness at the base, and an urge to save beauty even if it is but a tuft of flowers at the edge of some lonely meadow. I'm sure there was no one nearby urging Richard to go to the trouble of cutting around that tuft of sunflowers, but he had done so, recognizing their specialness even though they were stranded among the invasive foreign grasses. I am heartened by such reactions among members of our civilization. Sure, you can be a rancher and mow a hundred acres of wheat, but

to spare a small tuft of flowers at the edge of a field is a gesture that speaks well of compassion in our human race.

When a person makes an effort to save a tuft of flowers...or a non-aggressive rattlesnake seeking to live its life in the woodland...or a beach-stranded whale...that is displaying true conservation that reverberates throughout the realm of mankind.

Here is a section of THE TUFT OF FLOWERS by Robert Frost, one of the greatest conservation poems ever written. Natalie Bober said of Frost, "He was able, always, to see below the surface to the essential beauty at the heart of things. He never lost his sense of wonder."

THE TUFT OF FLOWERS by Robert Frost (In small part)

*"I went to turn the grass once after one
Who mowed it in the dew before the sun*

.....

But he had gone his way, the grass all mown,

And I must be, as he had been, -alone,

'As all must be,' I said within my heart,

'Whether they work together or apart.'

But as I said it, swift there passed me by

On noiseless wing a bewildered butterfly,

Seeking with memories grown dim o'er night

Some resting flower of yesterday's delight.

And once I marked his flight go round and round,

As where some flower lay withering on the ground

.....

But he turned first, and led my eye to look

At a tall tuft of flowers beside a brook

Yahi 2005

On Thursday, June 9 at 7:30PM, James Brock, Yahi's new conservation chair, will present **LIVING IN FIRE COUNTRY!** This audio-visual program promises to be a fascinating look at the most expensive fire in history and what lessons we can learn from it. There will be time for a hot discussion afterward.

The program will be held at the Butte County Public Library, 1st and Sherman Avenues in Chico. The public is welcome.

For more information, call Gene Anna McMillan,

Yahi Summer Outings and Events

On-Going: Tuesday Power Walks. (grade 2, class A). Meet at Chico Park & Ride each Tuesday evening at 7PM for a 1½ hour brisk walk along the creek. Wear tennies/walking shoes and bring water. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980.

June 2005

Friday, June 3 - Singles Dinner at Graytip Thai Restaurant. Enjoy good company and a delicious meal. Please call by Thursday, for time and to make your reservation. Leader: Michelle 865-9491 or Michelle95963@yahoo.com

June 7 – Tuesday Power Walk (grade 2, class A). Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 7PM for a 1½ hour brisk walk along the creek. Wear tennies/walking shoes and water. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980.

Thursday, June 9 Program: Living in Fire Country! James Brock, Yahi's new conservation chair, will present an audio-visual program about the most expensive fire in history and what lessons we can learn from it. There will be time for a hot discussion. Butte Co. Public Library, 1st and Sherman Avenues in Chico, 7:30PM. Please call, Gene Anna McMillan, Yahi Vice Chair and host for the program, if you have questions: 345-7003. You also may contact James Brock at 209-8329.

Saturday, June 11 - Butte Meadows- Highway 32 Mountain Bike Loop (grade 4, class B). A ride of 15 to 20 miles depending on conditions. Moderately difficult (not a Bidwell Park type of ride), 5 to 6 hours in length. We'll leave our cars at an old logging platform near Butte Meadows and ride on old to new logging roads to Highway 36. From Highway 36 we have a short but brisk downhill to a fairly good road back to our cars. We will be crossing the many small creeks west of Colby Mountain that make up Big Chico Creek. While the land has mostly been logged there is still much beauty. Please bring lunch, water, a well maintained mountain bike, spare tube, patches, pump, carpool \$ (about 60 miles), and a required helmet. Meet at Chico Park and Ride at 8:30 AM. Back in Chico between 4 and 5PM Leader: John 872-8258.

Sunday, June 12 - Annual Garden Tour, 11AM-4PM. Come see 9 beautiful gardens in Butte Creek Canyon on our annual Sierra Club Garden Tour. Tickets are \$5 each and free for children. For more information/tickets call Joanne, 893-2154.

June 14 – Tuesday Power Walk (grade 2, class A). Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 7PM for a 1½ hour brisk walk along the creek. Wear tennies/walking shoes and water. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980.

Friday-Sunday, June 17-19 – Thousand Lakes Wilderness Backpack (grade 2, class B). We drive to the Tamarack Swale trailhead near the Hat Creek Ranger Station north of Lassen Park. We then will pack in an easy 2-3 miles to the scenic lower twin lake and camp off-trail. On day two (depending on snow conditions) we will day hike to 8677' Crater Peak or visit local lakes. For the final day we travel overland to off-trail Huford Lake and back to the trailhead. Individual commissary. Beginners welcome—leaders have extra backpacks and equipment to share. Call leader for meeting place and time and to reserve space. Leader: Perry, 534-5510; Asst. Leaders: Theresa, 899-7331 and Alan, 891-8789.

Saturday, June 18 – The Bidwells & Early Chico (grade 1, class A) (educational). Join Chico historian Dave Nopel on a walk through CSUC and downtown Chico to learn more about the

Yahi Group's General Outing Information

The following information is intended for people who have decided to take or are contemplating an outing that has been organized by the Yahi Group of the Sierra Club. The information is based on the Group's established policy (available from the web site or from the Outings Committee Chair); it will be supplemented by trip specific information and by the outing leader.

Updates: Updated outings information can be found on our web site at www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/yahi/

Transportation: There is an active interest in car pooling, but leaders cannot organize car pools to Sierra Club outings. All trips begin and end at the trailhead, which is not necessarily the initial meeting place. Any car pool arrangements are private agreements between the driver and the passengers.

Riders are expected, as a matter of courtesy, to reimburse drivers to cover the transportation expenses of the trip. A customary amount is 6 cents per mile per passenger depending on the vehicle, the number of passengers, and the road conditions. This is only a guideline.

Membership in Sierra Club not required: Outings are open to the general public unless otherwise indicated. If you enjoy the outings, it is hoped that you will see the value of joining; application information is available in this newsletter or on the web site.

Fees and costs: Occasionally an outing announcement will indicate a cost. Unless the announcement specifically indicates that outing is a fund raiser, the cost indicated is only that which has been estimated to cover trip expenses. **Non-Sierra Club members are asked to make a \$2 donation if attending an outing to help defray our costs for outings**

Sign-up: Most activities do not require advance sign-up; it is merely necessary to show up at the designated time and place. For those outings where advance sign-up is requested, a call to the leader will initiate the procedure. If fees or deposits are needed, the sign-up is not considered complete until those have been paid. Deposits may not be refundable; please inquire at time of making payment.

Outing Waivers: All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver before you choose to participate on an outing, please go to

<http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or contact the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version.

All activities: These are group outings. It is important that participants follow the instructions of the outing leader. Please be sure you are in adequate physical condition to undertake the activity you choose (see classifications for guidance). If you are unsure of the difficulty of the trip or of your ability, check with the leader before deciding to go. The outing leader may decide to disallow the participation of an outing applicant if the leader concludes that the applicant's reduced preparation or capability may negatively affect the outing for the rest of the group.

Hiking and Day Activities: Bring lunch, water, and essentials, as well as reimbursement money for your driver. Wear boots or sturdy shoes.

Dos and Don'ts: Plan to carry out anything you carry in. Pets are not allowed unless the trip specifically indicates "pets permitted". No firearms. No electronic music devices.

Young people: Please consult with the leader for a decision as to whether the outing is appropriate for a youth, whether accompanied by an adult or not. Any person under 18 not accompanied by a parent must have a written parental authorization to give to the outing leader. Forms may be obtained in advance from the outing leader or from the Outings Committee Chair at 891-8789. The completed form is required to provide for emergency medical care if needed.

Errors in the schedule: If there is incorrect information in an outings announcement, please see the web site at www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/yahi/ or call Skip Augur at 894-1366 to obtain a correction.

Suggestions and Comments welcome:

Any comments on the outings or suggestions for future ones are always welcome.

Mail to Alan Mendoza; 6 Patches Drive, Chico, CA 95928 or e-mail ajmendoza@prodigy.net.

Bidwells, the establishment of CSUC, Big Chico Creek and Bidwell Park. Tour and discussion will last from approximately 9AM to 1PM. Bring water and lunch. Meet at 9AM at Bidwell Mansion. For more information call leader. Leader: Dave Nopel, 342-4118; Asst. Leader: Carla, 891-6977.

June 21 – Tuesday Power Walk (grade 2, class A). Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 7PM for a 1½ hour brisk walk along the creek. Wear tennies/walking shoes and water. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980.

Tuesday-Friday, June 21-24 – Pacific Crest Trail Car Camp Service Trip (grade 2, class A) (educational). Join us on a Pacific Crest Trail maintenance trip. We will be working in the Plumas National Forest out of a "rustic car-camp" base camp in a spot where the rangers will be bringing in the wash and drinking water. We need 10 volunteers for three days of work. Plan to arrive Tuesday June 21st and work Wednesday through Friday, June 22 - 24 (you can go home Saturday or stay in the NF longer). We will be reestablishing the tread and cleaning up some springs and stream crossings. Food and tools are provided by the PCTA and the National Forest Service. A \$25.00 refundable deposit holds your spot. Contact leader for further information or to sign up. Leader: Larry Krumm, 408-270-4513 or Larry_Krumm@sccoe.org or call Alan, 891-8789 or ajmendoza@prodigy.net

Saturday, June 25 – Extended Deer Creek Hike (grade 2, class B). About 9 miles round trip, mild grade. We'll walk downstream from the Highway 32 bridge (typical). After reaching the dirt road and bridge downstream we will hike down 2 more miles of trail (not typical) to Deer Creek Crossing. There is a gorgeous spot to have lunch next to the water and lose yourself in the currents that travel in all directions. Poison oak will abound so bring protection. I'll bring clippers. Bring lunch, water, and carpool \$. Meet at Chico Park and Ride at 8AM. Back in Chico between 4 and 5PM. Leader: Leader: John, 872-8258.

Saturday, June 25 - Bike Ride to Chico Airport (grade 2, class A) Meet at 11AM at Chico Nut Company. Esplanade and E. 11th Ave. (Park on E. 10th Ave by Chico Nut Co parking lot). We'll take nearby bike path to Airport and the newly opened Chico Air Museum. While eating snacks and/or lunch at Rosie's Deli on the Runway, we'll watch planes take off and land. Round trip ride of 8 miles. Helmets required. Bring water and money for lunch. Rain cancels. Leader Gene, 873-1552, Asst. Leader: Carla, 891-6977.

Monday-Thursday, June 27-30 – Trinity Alps Backpack (grade 2, class B). An easy, early season backpack into the Canyon Creek area of the Trinity Alps. We will hike in 6-7 miles the first day and set up a base camp. The next two days we'll do day hikes to Boulder Lake and the upper Canyon Creek Lakes. By going in during the week we will avoid the big weekend crowds at this popular trailhead and have lots of time to enjoy the beautiful scenery, waterfalls and wildflowers. Individual commissary. Leader has

extra backpacks, sleeping bags and pads, stoves and other backpacking equipment to share. Beginners welcome. Call leader in advance. Leader: Alan, 891-8789 or ajmendoza@prodigy.net.

June 28 – Tuesday Power Walk (grade 2, class A). Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 7PM for a 1½ hour brisk walk along the creek. Wear tennies/walking shoes and water. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980.

July 2005

Friday, July 1 - Concert in the Park. The Chico Community Band (7:00-8:30 PM). Meet at 6:30 at Bidwell Memorial Presbyterian Church, 208 W 1st St front steps nearest Children's Park. Bring finger food snacks to share. Lawn chairs recommended. Possible trip for ice cream afterwards. Leader: Carla, 891-6977.

July 5 – Tuesday Power Walk (grade 2, class A). Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 7PM for a 1½ hour brisk walk along the creek. Wear tennies/walking shoes and water. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980.

Saturday, July 9 – PCT & Spanish Peak Hike (grade 3, class C). A moderately strenuous 12-13 mile round-trip hike with a 2000' elevation gain/loss along a beautiful, flowery section of the Pacific Crest Trail. We'll start at Bucks Summit east of Bucks Lake and head north. Nice views along the way of Gold and Silver Lake. On the way back we'll climb Spanish Peak for views of Quincy, Mt. Lassen and the distant Sierra Buttes. Meet at 8AM at the Chico Park & Ride or 8:40AM at the NW corner of the Wal-Mart parking lot in Oroville off of Oro Dam Blvd. Bring lunch, water, comfortable hiking boots and carpool \$. Leader: Alan, 891-8789 or ajmendoza@prodigy.net

Saturday-Sunday, July 9-10 – Feather Falls Backpack (grade 2, class B). Backpack along a moderately-difficult 11-mile roundtrip trail to beautiful Feather Falls and then up past the falls alongside pretty Fall River to a rustic campsite. Here we can enjoy a relaxing afternoon of swimming, sunbathing, reading, card games, sketching, etc. Evening campfire of songs, stories and star-gazing. We'll return via the gentler, uphill trail after breakfast on Sunday. Individual commissary. Call leader for meeting time and place and to sign up. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980; Asst. Leader: Michelle, 865-9491.

Monday, July 11 – Yosemite Falls and Point. (grade 2, class C). About 9 miles round trip with

3,000 feet of elevation gain and loss. We will meet at the parking lot to the Sunnyside walk in campground at the west end of Yosemite Village at 8:00 A.M. Note: There is no planned carpool to Yosemite for this trip. I am willing to help you plan one if you are going to spend some time in the Park. We will walk above Lower Yosemite Falls and then along the Upper Yosemite Falls, 1430 feet high. We will cross Yosemite Creek and proceed to Lost Arrow and Yosemite Point for unbelievable views of the valley. Bring lunch and lots of water. I will be in Yosemite Valley from the 11th through the 17th and am willing to lead morning or afternoon hikes if desired. Please call before July 8th. Leader: John 872-8258.

July 12 – Tuesday Power Walk (grade 2, class A). Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 7PM for a 1½ hour brisk walk along the creek. Wear tennies/walking shoes and water. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980.

Saturday, July 16 – Upper Bidwell Park Ramble (grade 2, class A) (educational). A walk along the North Rim Trail and then back on the Yahi Trail (7 miles total). Along the way hear about the Bidwells, Bidwell Park history and the natural world. Hike will last from approximately 8AM to 4PM. Meet at Parking Area C (observatory) at 8AM and bring lots of water, swimsuit and lunch. Children welcome if their capable. For more information call leader. Leader: Dave, 342-4118.

July 19 – Tuesday Power Walk (grade 2, class A). Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 7PM for a 1½ hour brisk walk along the creek. Wear tennies/walking shoes and water. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980.

Friday, July 22 - Concert in the Park. Dixieland jazz with the King Cotton Jazz Band (7:00-8:30 PM). Meet at 6:30PM at Bidwell Memorial Presbyterian Church, 208 W 1st front steps nearest Children's Park. Bring finger food snacks to share. Lawn chairs recommended. Possible trip for ice cream afterwards. Leader: Gene, 873-1552; Asst Leader: Carla, 891-6977.

Sunday, July 24 – Soda Creek Explore & Swim (grade 2, class B). Are you ready for adventure? Join us for a moderately strenuous, all-day, 7-mile exploration, some on-trail, some involving bushwhacking & meadow slogging, along & crossing pristine Soda Creek, in the northern Chips Creek Roadless Area. This will require a 6-mile car shuttle from Sunflower Flat to Peacock Point, and will include about 1040' elevation loss and 1360' elevation gain on good switchback trails. There is no poison oak at this average 5600' elevation, but we may encounter bears! Marten have also been sighted on this creek. Bring extra shoes suitable for creek crossings, mosquito repellent, water, & lunch. We will meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8AM for the drive up through Butte Meadows and out near Humbug Summit. Please call or email in advance. Leader: Stephen, 876-1391 or sayhart@infostations.com

July 26 – Tuesday Power Walk (grade 2, class A). Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 7PM for a 1½

Outings and Events

hour brisk walk along the creek. Wear tennies/walking shoes and water. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980.

Saturday-Sunday, July 30-31 – Saucer Lake Relaxed Backpack (grade 1, class A). A three mile trip with some up and down travel. This is a trip for families with children, beginners, and those not willing to do the arduous trips anymore. Even so we will have a near wilderness experience passing two other lakes on our way to Saucer Lake. This lake has trout for the fishermen, flowers for the botanists, interesting geology for the geologist, and swimming for all. We will travel at a pace that all can follow. Bring proper backpacking equipment, food, some water for the hike in, insect repellent, sunscreen, and carpool \$ (about 100 miles RT). Meet at Chico Park and Ride Saturday at 8:30AM. Return Sunday about 4PM. Leader: John 872-8258.

August 2005

August 2 – Tuesday Power Walk (grade 2, class A). Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 7PM for a 1½ hour brisk walk along the creek. Wear tennies/walking shoes and water. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980.

Sunday, August 7 – Blue Lake Day Hike & Swim (grade 1, class A) (educational). This is an easy one-mile hike to beautiful Blue Lake in the Wild Cattle Mountain Potential Wilderness Area, just south of Lassen Volcanic National Park, in the upper Feather River watershed. Includes optional hike up to a scenic viewpoint. Meet at Paradise Albertson's at 7:30AM or at the Chico Park & Ride at 8:15AM for the drive up Highway 32 and Wilson Road. Bring lunch, water, mosquito repellent, and swimsuit. Please call or email in advance. Leader: Stephen, 876-1391 or sayhart@infostations.com.

August 9 – Tuesday Power Walk (grade 2, class A). Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 7PM for a 1½ hour brisk walk along the creek. Wear tennies/walking shoes and water. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980.

Friday, August 12 through Sunday August 21 – Lassen National Park Campout at Lost Creek Campground. Large group campsite, up to 18 individuals at a time in tents and small RV's, a perennial favorite. We will be offering a list of easy to killer day hikes for the group. You choose which trips you want to take. We will attend NPS programs in the evening, visit environmental education sites, arrange bicycle rides, and on July 19th do a full moon hike up Mount Lassen. Campfire singing (I hope they don't evict us). Wildflowers, wildlife, geological oddities appear throughout the trip. Separate commissary, camping stove available for general use. We will also sometimes join forces to create gastronomic delights. There will be a fee per tent or R.V. of \$15 for Fri.-Sun. and \$20 for midweek stays to cover the cost of the campsite. Bring all necessary camping, hiking, biking, and relaxing gear. Carpool \$ for drivers. Co-leaders: John 872-8258, Jeanne 899-9980, Michelle, 865-9491 and Alan, 891-8789. All other leaders encouraged to join to broaden our

options. Make reservations early due to limited number of spaces.

Friday, August 19 – Mt. Lassen Full Moon Peak Climb & Dinner (grade 2, class C). Come hike the highest peak in our area. We'll start at 8000' and climb for 2½ miles and 2500' to the top of Mt. Lassen. Great views all along the way of Lake Almanor and the eastern part of the park. At the top we'll explore the volcano and enjoy views of Mt. Shasta and the Sacramento Valley. Dress in layers. Bring a dinner, warm clothes/windbreaker, water, boots and flashlight. Meet at 5:30PM at Lassen Peak trailhead where we will eat dinner before climbing the peak. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980; Asst. Leader: Michelle, 865-9491.

Sunday, August 21 – Indian Spring Trail to Butte Creek (grade 1, class A). Enjoy an afternoon hike and swim at the south end of the 1,987-acre Forks of Butte Recreation Area, at its most car-friendly access point off De Sabla Powerhouse Road. You may meet at Chico Park & Ride at 12:30PM for an informal carpooling or at Paradise Albertsons at 1PM for a short caravan to the trailhead. From the graveled parking area in the canyon we'll lose about 760' in elevation on gentle switchbacks over 1½ miles down to the creek, enjoy the sun and cool water, then return uphill by the same route late in the day. Bring plenty of drinking water and extra footwear for creek exploring (there's a small twin falls just upstream). BLM has found this stretch of Butte Creek eligible for Wild & Scenic status. Leader: Stephen, 876-1391 or sayhart@infostations.com.

August 23– Tuesday Power Walk (grade 2, class A). Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 7PM for a 1½ hour brisk walk along the creek. Wear tennies/walking shoes and water. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980.

Thursday, August 25—Sierra Club Newsletter Folding. Join us to help fold and sort the Yahi Group Newsletter for mailing. It only takes about an hour and we always have a lot of fun! Volunteers are always needed. Newcomers and old members are both welcome. Call 343-9277 for directions and more info.

Saturday, August 27- Curtain Falls Gorge Scramble (grade 2, class B). Hike down the Bald Rock Dome Trail to the Wild and Scenic Middle Fork Feather River (about 1500 ft elevation loss on a well-engineered trail.) Then wade, swim and scramble 1/2 mile upstream to Curtain Falls. Spectacular scenery, great swimming and optional water slide. Some poison oak, rough surfaces and no shade. Wear boots and bring watershoes, sun protection, swim suit, lunch and snacks (in zip lock bags), water and carpool \$. Strenuous hiking, scrambling and swimming. Return time to Chico 8PM. Limited to 15 participants. Call leaders for meeting time and place. Leaders: Doug, 345-0296 and Dave, 342-4118.

Sunday, August 28 – Turner Mountain Hike (grade 2, class B). A pretty climb of 5-6 miles and about 2000' in the Lassen National Forest south of Mineral to the top of 6900' Turner Mountain. The trail winds through cool forest and then opens up in the last ¼ mile to 360° views of the surrounding area, including Lake Almanor, Butt Mountain,

Mount Lassen and Brokeoff Mountain. Bring lunch, water, hiking boots, sunscreen, a hat and carpool \$. Round-trip drive of about 140 miles. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8AM. Leader: Larry, 342-7998.

August 30 – Tuesday Power Walk (grade 2, class A). Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 7PM for a 1½ hour brisk walk along the creek. Wear tennies/walking shoes and water.

Yahi Executive

Yahi Group Executive Committee meetings are usually held the first Wednesday of every month from 7PM to 9PM. Please contact Grace Marvin: 530-893-1994 or GMRADM@aol.com regarding the specific place and time if you would like to attend or if you have an item you would like placed on the agenda.

Sierra Club Hike Classifications

Distance Rating

Grade 1: up to 6 miles

Grade 2: 6-10 miles

Grade 3: 10-15 miles

Grade 4: 15-20 miles

Elevation Gain Rating

Class A: up to 1000 feet

Class B: 1000-2000 feet

Class C: 2000-3000 feet

Bidwell Park Summer Activities and Centennial Celebration

June 2005

Saturday, June 4—National Trails Day. Help to improve the condition of Upper Park trails & learn more about Upper Park and its trails. Volunteers of all ages are welcome. Tools, water, gloves and instruction provided. Meet at Parking Area A at 9 AM, wear sturdy shoes & bring lunch. For more information, contact Park Volunteer Coordinator Steve Hogue at 896-7800 or shogue@ci.chico.ca.us.

Saturday, June 11—Community Campout for families at Hooker Oak Recreation Area, with hot dog roast, star gazing, camp songs, arts & crafts, family games, pancake breakfast and more. Tent camping only, bring your own camping gear. Pre-register at the CARD Office (545 Vallombrosa Ave.) Checkin begins at 5 PM on June 11th. Departure time is 10 AM on June 12th. Call 895-4711 for more information.

Sunday, June 12—Bidwell Park Centennial Golf Tournament. Entry deadline June 1, \$65 green fees, lunch & cart included. Check-in starting at 8 AM, tournament begins at 8:30. Applications available at Bidwell Park Golf Course, Chico Creek Nature Center, Left Coast Pizza, C.A.R.D., and online at <http://www.bidwellpark.org>.

Sunday, June 12—Raptors of Upper Park. Naturalist Randy Palmer will lead a hike from 10-11:30 AM to look for the various species of raptors living in Upper Park. Osprey, Red-Shouldered Hawks, American Kestrels, Red-Tailed Hawks, Prairie Falcons, Barn Owls and occasionally Bald Eagles can be found. Meet at Parking Area C (observatory). Space is limited to 35 people. Call the Chico Creek Nature Center at 891-4671 to pre-register for this event.

Wednesday, June 15—Who Built It? A history of Lower Park projects, past, present & future, from Lost Park to the Chico Creek Nature Center. Meet at the city-owned parking lot next to Lost Park (East 1st St. between Wall St & Flume St.) at 6 PM. The walk is about 2 miles in each direction. For more information, email info@FriendsofBidwellPark.org or call 892-1666.

Saturday, June 18—The Bidwells and Early Chico. Join amateur historian Dave Nopel on a walk through CSUC & downtown Chico, to learn more about the Bidwells, the establishment of CSUC, Big Chico Creek and Bidwell Park. From 9 am to 1 pm, starting at Bidwell Mansion. Bring water and lunch. Sponsored by the Sierra Club Yahi Group. For more information, call Dave Nopel at 342-4118.

Sunday, June 26—Creek Crawl. Join Naturalist Erin Scholefield from 10-11:30 AM for a hands-on exploration of Big Chico Creek's underwater residents. Search for the various species of aquatic insects and other animals that use this stream as their home, learn about the water cycle and the importance of healthy riparian habitat. Bring water shoes. Walk starts from the Chico Creek Nature Center. Space is limited to 35 people. Call CCNC at 891-4671 to pre-register for this event.

July 2005

Sunday, July 10—Deed Re-enactment--Annie Bidwell's Donation of Bidwell Park to the City of Chico. Help to celebrate the Bidwell Park Centennial 1905-2005 by attending this evening event at Bidwell Mansion. Music starting at 7:30 PM, deed re-enactment at 8 PM, ice-cream social from 8:30 to 9:30. For more information, see <http://www.bidwellpark.org>.

Friday, July 15—Gone With the Wind film (partly filmed in Bidwell Park) free showing in Sycamore Field starting at 8 PM as part of the Centennial

celebration. See <http://www.bidwellpark.org> for more information

Saturday, July 16—Upper Bidwell Park Ramble along the North Rim Trail and then back on the Yahi Trail (7 miles total), with information about the Bidwells, Bidwell Park history, & the natural world. From 8 am to 4 pm. Meet at Parking Area C (observatory), bring lots of water, swimsuit and lunch. Children welcome if they're capable. Sponsored by the Sierra Club Yahi Group. For more information, call Dave Nopel at 342-4118.

Sunday, July 17—Creek Ecology Day with 4 activity stations. From 11:30 AM to 3 PM at the Chico Creek Nature Center. Sponsored by Kids & Creeks.

Wednesday, July 20—Plein Air Painting Contest as part of the Bidwell Park Centennial celebration from 8 AM to 8 PM. See <http://www.bidwellpark.org> for more information.

Wednesday, July 20—The Red Badge of Courage film (partly filmed in Bidwell Park) showing at the Pageant Theater at 8 PM as part of the Centennial celebration. Small admission fee. See <http://www.bidwellpark.org> for more information.

Thursday, July 21—Plein Air Painting Contest as part of the Bidwell Park Centennial celebration, from 8 AM to 8 PM. See <http://www.bidwellpark.org> for more information.

Friday, July 22—Robin Hood film (partly filmed in Bidwell Park) free showing in Sycamore Field at 8 PM as part of the Bidwell Park Centennial celebration. See <http://www.bidwellpark.org> for more information

Saturday, July 23—Quick Draw Painting Contest at Bidwell Mansion as part of the Bidwell Park Centennial celebration, from 9 AM-noon. Sponsored by Avenue 9 Gallery. See <http://www.bidwellpark.org> for more information.

Saturday, July 23—Bidwell Park Centennial Community Picnic at One Mile Recreation Area. 9 AM walk in the park, 11 AM-7 PM booths with park history, service organizations, park groups, 11 AM-5 PM old-fashioned games, 11 AM-noon opening ceremonies, speeches, honor Centurions and Park Stewards, noon-Bidwell Park Centennial Celebration Cake, noon-7 PM music, 1 PM Bidwell Park Centennial Group Photo, 2 PM-7 PM Community picnic BBQ, 3 PM-5 PM Plein Air Live Auction (silent auction ends at 3 PM), 5:30 PM-7 PM Town Ball, 7 PM closing ceremonies. See <http://www.bidwellpark.org> for more information.

Saturday, July 23—Campfire Council Gathering after the Centennial celebration picnic to talk about what Bidwell Park means to you. Dusk to 10 pm at the Campfire Council Ring in Lower Park. Sponsored by the Sierra Club Yahi Group. For more information, call Dave Nopel at 342-4118.

Saturday, July 23—The Skies The Limit Bidwell Park Centennial Celebration activity at the Chico Observatory on Milky Way in Upper Bidwell Park.

Saturday, July 30—Maidu Shelter Hike Naturalist Randy Palmer will lead a hike from 10-11:30 AM to look at a real Maidu rock shelter. He'll discuss how the Maidu people used this rock shelter and survived in the park long ago. Meet at Parking Area C (observatory). Space is limited to 35 people. Call the Chico Creek Nature Center at 891-4671 to pre-register for this event.

Saturday, July 30—Bidwell Park Centennial Two-Day Baseball Tournament at Sycamore Field in Lower Bidwell Park.

Conservation

Understanding Statements

As an example of understanding developing between people or animals, I think of the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1803-06, and their peaceful understanding with the Mandan Indians near where they spent the first winter. Only a band of 33, the explorers could have quickly been overcome by the large tribe of about 2,000 and all their trinkets taken by force.

Lewis and company also survived meetings with other tribes and had only one unfriendly skirmish with the Blackfoot tribe. One reason was that the Indians hadn't yet met unscrupulous Europeans and were basically hospitable people. It took some "bad deals" to make them warlike, which was also exhibited among some of the competing tribes. Good understandings are definitely preferable to bad understandings in the terms of peace and well being.

When we don't understand the other side's viewpoints, whether man or animal, suspicion and mistrust can develop, as we've seen too many times in world affairs. I think particularly about animals that are often abused to the point they become suspicious and wary, as demanded by survival instincts. In particular, there are a bunch of feral cats along the Feather River Parkway at Oroville, dumped by pet discarders, and some sympathetic cat lovers leave little piles of cat food everyday. The cats understand those friendly gestures, and pounce out of the brush, tails straight up in the air, eager to be stroked and understood by their patrons.

On the other hand, some don't like the cats' presence among the wild birds along the river and have heaved rocks at them. So there are suspicious cats that hide from most people. All it takes is a thrown rock or bullet to put the fear in man or beast. There is misunderstanding with dogs, too, although the dog owner would say their unleashed pet is perfectly harmless. When a 100-pound beast is barreling down on you, there is no understanding if it's friendly or vicious.

Newspapers thrive on misunderstandings; in fact, there would be practically no bloody headlines if intentions were understood. Speeding cars, smashed cars at railroad

crossings, family disputes, and even wars in foreign countries, could mostly be averted if people understood the importance of rules and the motives of others. "Walking a mile in another person's moccasins" will give you a different perspective.

Do we fully understand why so many Indian casinos are being built? Do we understand why a mountain mesa targeted for oil drilling in the Southwest is considered sacred by tribes? Do we understand what intensity would drive a woman to sit in the top of a redwood tree for several months in protest of old growth tree cutting? Do we understand a homeowner's frustration to have an industry moving in nearby? These, and nearly every daily transaction is tainted with misunderstandings.

One of the largest and most apparent of wildlife understandings is connected with wildlife refuges. As migratory waterfowl drift southward from the Far North every year, they become targets for hunters and other hazards. It is impressive that they recognize protected places such as wildlife refuges where they can rest without fear of being flailed. One of the finest examples of a sanctuary set aside for the protection of birds is Lake Merritt Wildlife Refuge IN Oakland, California.

Surrounded by the clamor of a city metropolis, it would seem unlikely that a wild bird would seek the confines of an urbanized environment in which to rest. Yet, every October the migrants return, propelled by instinctive memories of the southern base and understanding that people with guns are not out to get them there. It is only people with good intentions of admiring the bird's beauty who they interact with, often to the point that they are close along the shore taking bread and grain from appreciative hands.

Lake Merritt was featured at the annual Snow Goose Festival at Chico, CA, on the last weekend in January, 2005, in which I gave a "Where the Birds Are" slide show from the large collection of photographs I accumulated while working at the lake from 1961 to 1993. People were amazed that so many birds could be present at the salt water lake; a place of refuge that Roger Tory Peterson, the famous deceased bird artist, once said was the best

place in the world to get close-up photographs of diving ducks. It is all because of an understanding between bird and man at a refuge.

The regal Canada Geese at the lake, that seem so tame in the midst of mankind, were initially introduced as wing-cripples collected in the Sacramento Valley by Paul Covel in the 1950's. Given the refuge's protection, they thrived and nested, multiplying to about 2000 by year 2000! The off-spring are wild birds able to fly about the city and have adapted to grassy places, including golf courses, fully understanding the safety from the gun within the human community, where they stay, giving up the migratory scenario, a condition of providing a touch of the wild to the city that the local populace should treasure.

Not only do Canada geese, wild scaup, canvasback, goldeneye, bufflehead ducks and a host of others take refuge at Lake Merritt—the first wildlife refuge in America—but a colony of egrets and herons chose the off-shore islands as nesting places in the springtime. After the islands were built in 1953 and trees were planted, the egret clan moved in to establish nest sites in 1972. Lake Merritt was created as a Wildlife Refuge by a State of California proclamation in 1870, a gesture to protect the large number of pintail from hunters along the accessible shoreline.

National Sierra Club

Elected to the Board of Directors:


- Joni Bosh
- Jennifer Ferenstein
- Jim Dougherty
- Jim Catlin
- Barbara Frank

All of the elected members were nominees of the Sierra Club.

Ballot Questions:

Defeated:

- Population Immigration Policy

	Louise Casey Stephen Rose	
	HAVE SIGNATURE, WILL TRAVEL	
Louise Casey, Notary Public 5590 Feather River Place Paradise, CA 95969 Phone: (530) 872-9159	Stephen Rose, Notary Public 14204 Decatur Drive Magalia, CA 95954 Phone: (530) 873-3668	



Real Estate Solutions

"A Higher Standard in Real Estate"

969 Bille Rd., Paradise 530-877-1373

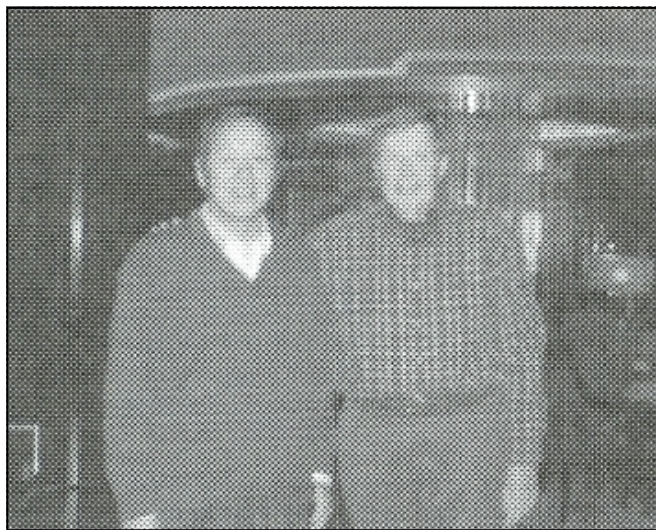
Conservation

Learning from the Future: Beijing Reflections

Recently, I visited Chinese cities (Shanghai, Wuhan, Chongqing, Xian, and Beijing), toured the massive "Three Gorges" dam, sailed 400 hundred miles up the Yangtse, conversed with a Chinese environmentalist, an economist, and judges. These Chinese proved well-educated, many having done postgraduate study in Europe or the US. They shared ideas and were candid about China's strengths and shortcomings. The message is that China seeks worldwide economic dominance heedless of her own, her neighbors', or the planet's environment. My reflections are based on personal observations and conversations.

Protests due to air contaminated from sulfur-laden coal burning. Erosion so pervasive that dust storms are the norm. Dams four times the height of the Golden Gate Bridge and built on earthquake faults, flooding millions of acres, and displacing masses of farmers. An inability to feed a population of over a billion because of water shortages and urban sprawl. These are symptoms of China's environmental catastrophe. Nevertheless, China is most fascinating because it reveals a glimpse into our planet's future. China, geographically a bit larger than the US, is inhabited by 1.3 billion people. It's the dominant player of Asia and on its way to being the major superpower of the twenty-first century. China's success will change our lives and revolutionize conservation thinking.

An increased standard of living for urbanites (at the expense of the rural and "floating" population) and amazing financial successes make China an economist's dream. And it means to continue. China cares for its elderly, who retire at 50, with generous pension and health benefits. It educates its young at home and subsidizes its brightest at premier universities in Singapore, Australia, London, Paris, Berkeley, and Cambridge. And all this was accomplished a decade after being economically bankrupt with 98% unemployed in 1995. It necessitated jettisoning its socialistic principles and make-work programs that produced goods no one bought. But China isn't going back to its revolutionary roots. That's all been replaced by a society hooked on being



The author with Professor Yang Dongping.

westernized, urbanized, and indulging in an orgy of consumerism.

Understanding China demands appreciation of its political system. Semi-autonomous zones in Shanghai, and Chongqing, world's largest city (population, 32 million, more than double that of Los Angeles), make their decisions independent of Beijing, but foreign policy is set in the capital by an oligarchy of Marxists. Economic performance is driving politics and politics is driving the economy which is reflected in Beijing's leaders being business-educated bureaucrats. There are no checks and balances of power in China, as we know them. The justice system is moribund and legislation is a "rubber stamp". Autocratic decisions foster projects which are often of substandard quality, and hastily constructed. This encourages corruption and societal tragedy. And the environment is always secondary in China's rush to riches and power.

China's government is the nation's sole property owner and individual rights are limited. When the State wants land, a farm, or water, it is not obligated to pay compensation. And cheap land means bigger profits. Conservation decisions are based on economics, and lack legislative and legal moderation. For example, the State Environmental Protection Authority (SEPA) exists but it's only advisory, without enforcement power. No environmental review is required before development, and any public input is lacking.

A body of environmental law exists but it is not enforced. No person or group may file legal action against the State to protect the environment from perceived harm. After environmental harm is committed, there is possible recourse. And then only the aggrieved, usually a peasant lacking financial resources, may bring a lawsuit. Environmental groups may not initiate legal action. Success is no guarantee of financial award or compensation for a lost home, property, resources, or termination of a polluting project. If the State approves a project, it's done, and legal processes terminate.

Because environmental requirements are lacking and land is cheap, foreign developers eagerly invest, especially when a project has bureaucratic approval insuring no need to resettle or compensate the disenfranchised. Destruction of Beijing's hutong neighborhoods, that were filled with ancient traditional homes, displaced thousands and changed the city's skyline. This process is facilitated by cheap loans from World Bank, United Nations, foreign speculators, and US economic policy. Five hundred billion dollars was lent to China in the past decade. In Beijing, it's boasted that high rise conception-to-construction is completed in 6 months. And there's not enough water to sustain Beijing's sprawl, nor is there concern over the appalling pollution from vehicles. Pervasive dust from deforestation and overgrazing of the Gobi plain to Beijing's northwest has further polluted the city.

Professor Yang Dongping's (co-founder of "Friends of Nature" (FON), see sidebar) commitment to China's environment was sparked by the Yangtse river-damming at the Three Gorges project and Beijing's appalling air pollution. Started in 1994 with a grade-school student educational and tree replanting program, FON now has a staff of 40. Headquartered in Beijing, it's committed to monitoring development projects throughout China, like dams and water diversions. Much effort goes to preaching conservation to State bureaucrats. To convince ministers to reverse poor decisions, FON flies peasants to Beijing

Ed's Printing

- We encourage the use of recycled papers
100% recycle paper available
- We use vegetable based inks
- Paper sizes printed up to 18 x 24 in.

550 Cherry Street • Chico, CA • 891-4625

Learning from the Future: Beijing Reflections (continued from page 10)

Professor Yang Dongping is an education expert at the Beijing Institute of Technology and its Higher Education Research Center.

He is co-founder and vice-chairman of Friends of Nature (FON), China's only officially sanctioned, non-governmental environmental organization.

Founded in 1994, the non-profit FON promotes environmental protection and sustainable development in China, while supporting environmental field trips, camps, lectures, and training classes for students and teachers. It prints and distributes conservation material for the public and government officials.

FON obtains funds from membership fees

to relate their stories of displacement and exploitation.

(Continued on p. 11)

Through FON's efforts, vehicles produced in China now meet European emission standards. Those infamous red Beijing taxis with smoky exhausts are being replaced by Hyundais with emission controls. But more is needed. With so many vehicles on China's roads, and ever-increasing (Beijing traffic jams last hours and car numbers have doubled in 5 years), cleaner engines are needed, and diesel trucks and motorized carts must be replaced.

The Xiluodu hydraulic project, similar to the Three Gorges Dam disaster, is being built in southwest China on the Salween (Nu) River, near Liuku. The dam is reducing the flow in the Salween and Mekong Rivers, which are main water sources for Burma, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam's farms. Damming these rivers will reduce their water and compromise their food production. FON convinced China's SEPA bureaucrats to cease the dam building until environmental studies were completed as required by Chinese law. But developers ignored SEPA's directive and dam building continues. Reporting these facts in the outside-China press causes embarrassment to Beijing's Marxist leaders

and allows FON enhanced leverage in terminating underhanded actions.

The Chinese, like Americans, are not going to stop their rush to consumerism and consumption. Both countries enjoy the seduction of the western model and free-market economics. The Chinese are pursuing new appliances, homes, cars, and an Occidental lifestyle as much as we. I see consumption of the planet's resources - oil, air, land, water, and food—accelerating until both west and east inevitably deplete their resources. China does not desire to control its growth. Her mega-cities, with sky-scrapers proliferating mile-on-mile from city centers, will stop only when these cities outgrow their geography and outstrip their capacity to sustain themselves.

I discovered, upon making these observations, and through my interviews and reading, that individual action is effective and powerful. Changing minds and obtaining consensus requires simple messages and overcoming old mindsets. Previously, our environmental protection required tacit cooperation of politician, environmentalist, and businessman, all armed with solid information from science. Presently, the US. conservation chair lacks government support, so marshaling the strengths of environmentalist, scientist, and responsible businessman might restore a capacity to better effect conservation, possibly through use of financial incentives. Building value into land use, air quality, and water consumption might harness market values into recruiting public opinion for environmental benefit. And educating the public to make better choices is the barometer for conservation's success. But if the public doesn't respond to the necessity for smarter management of its resources, then much like China, we'll be left with a State that will soon reach its geologic-ecological limit and fail its ability to support its economy and burgeoning population. To win the public over is a wonderful and seductive challenge awaiting all of us.

My thanks and gratitude to Professor Yang Dongping, an inspiring conservationist, who unselfishly shared his opinions with this unknown

Westerner. And my thanks to Doctor Fu Jun, Associate Dean and Professor of International Political Economy at Beijing University and Research Associate at Harvard's Fairbanks Center for East Asian Research, and to Alice Abbott for her editorial assistance.

Friends of Nature

Web site: <http://www.fon.org.cn/english/>

Email: office@fon.org.cn

(Emails to and from China are read and censored by the government.)

Recommended books and articles:

1. **Wild Grass: Three Portraits of Change in Modern China.** Ian Johnson, Vintage

"Every good thing, great and small, needs defense." -John Muir

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag



My Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

email _____

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club

Please charge my Mastercard Visa

Exp. Date ____/____

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

Membership Categories	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$750 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

F94Q W 0904 1
Enclose check and mail to:
Sierra Club
P.O. Box 52968
Boulder, CO 80322-2968

Miller Real Estate Services

• Sales • Appraisals •

Steven Miller
Broker Owner

Chico, CA
(530) 345-6061

email: steveinchico@accessbee.com

Discount to Yahi members listing their home for sale in the Chico area

Bartlett COMPUTER REPAIR

APPLE & MACINTOSH

Hardware & Software
Support & Installation
Fast, Dependable Service



Lorna Bartlett
(530) 893-3817

P.O. Box 7617, Chico, CA 95927-7617

lornabar@pacbell.net

Last Words

Sierra Club 3rd Annual Garden Tour

Butte Creek Canyon Gardens

Sunday, June 12, 2005, 11 to 4 PM

Information 893-2154

Tickets \$5.00 (Children under 12 no charge)

Phil Johnson
**HARDWOOD
FLOORS**

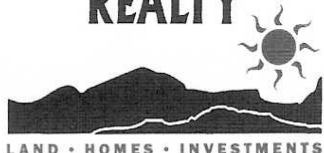
Complete Refinishing
& Installation Service

- Residential
- Gymnasiums
- Repair
- Sport Court Painting
- Base Boards
- Custom Inlay

899-9164

Bonded Lic. #696494

**BILL CARTER
REALTY**



Bill Carter
Broker

254 E. 8th Street
Chico, CA 95928

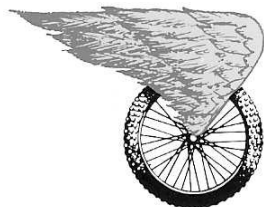
FAX 530/899-2729

530/899-2294

www.chico.com/carterrealty

e-mail: carterrealty@chico.com

**PULLINS
CYCLERY**

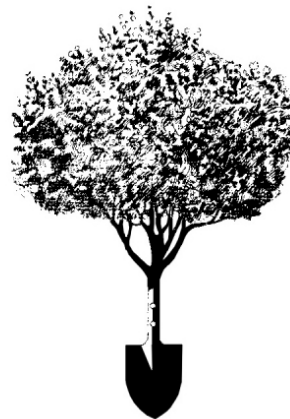


Steve & Katy O'Bryan

801 Main St.
Chico, CA 95928
Ph.: (530) 342-1055
Fax: (530) 342-8224
E-mail: pullinsusa@aol.com



FLORAL NATIVE NURSERY
2511 Floral Avenue
Chico, California 95973-2511
Telephone: (530) 892-2511
Fax: (530) 342-1641
E-mail: cohasset@shocking.com



A CALIFORNIA NATIVE
PLANT NURSERY



Sales • Service
Instruction • Rentals

178 East 2nd Street
Chico, CA 95928
Voice: 530-345-2453
Fax: 530-345-9064

Email: nraschico@aol.com

www.northrimadventure.com