



Table of Contents:	
Butte Supervisors Vote to Ban Fracking	1-2
Yahi Club News	2
Yahi Conservation Report:	3
Protesting The Keystone Pipeline (with slideshow)	
River Watcher: The Safe Distance	4-5
Yahi Group Contacts	6
Newsletter Sponsors	7

Yahi Spring/Summer 2014 Outings and Events

Coordinated by Alan Mendoza

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

Thank You, Butte County Supervisors!

by Dave Garcia, Yahi Group Political Chair

The Frack Free Butte County Campaign is ecstatic about the Butte County Board of Supervisors 4 to 1 vote to ban fracking in Butte County. We sincerely wish to thank the board for taking such a brave stance in protecting Butte County’s precious water.

Water is Butte County’s most valuable resource with Northern California providing over 85 percent of all of California’s water needs. There are only 26 active dry gas wells in Butte County which represents a mere .002 percent of the state’s overall gas production. When you do the math, it is a no brainer on what resource we must protect.

Throughout the world there are nations, states, counties, townships and cities banning or placing moratoriums on fracking; do to the contamination of ground and surface water, air, soil, food, livestock, and earthquakes caused from fracking wastewater injection wells. The totality of the dangerous consequences from fracking, are far too great to ignore and must be scientifically proven safe before it is allowed.

There is no current fracking underway in Butte County but we are surrounded by other counties fracking near our borders in Glenn, Sutter and Colusa Counties. With a contamination ratio of one to one million, where one gallon of frack fluid can contaminate up to one million gallons of drinking water, the risks are much too great to allow fracking in Butte County. We cannot allow this risk especially from an industry that is responsible for the three



worst environmental disasters in USA history, the Santa Barbara Oil Spill, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill and the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

Butte County Counsel still needs to write the ordinance to ban fracking and the Supervisors still need to vote to approve it. Please show your support by sending the supervisors a thank you note and asking them to fulfill their earlier vote. Better yet sign our petition to place an initiative on the Nov Ballot for the residents of Butte County to vote for or against fracking in the county instead of letting corporations make that decision for us. This will also show the supervisors you are supporting their brave decision.

We truly wish to honor and thank our supervisors Steve Lambert, Maureen Kirk, Doug Teeter and Bill Connelly for being such visionaries and understanding that Butte County's precious water must be protected for our children, our industries, our food, our livestock and our health and welfare. Water is life, precious and vital for our existence and the prosperity of our county.



Yahi Club News

The Mother Lode of the Sierra Club Recognizes Two Outstanding Members of the YAH! Group



Congratulations to Dave Garcia!

The Yahi Group would like to give our very own member, Dave Garcia, a big kudos for receiving the 2014 Community Organizer of the Year Award from the Motherlode Chapter of the Sierra Club. He received the award for his continued efforts in uniting groups to protect Butte County water by banning the unconventional energy extraction process of fracking.

Congratulations to Suzette Welch!

Suzette Welch, co-chair on the Ex-Comm for our local Yahi group has received an award at the Motherlode Annual Chapter Banquet this May. She is being recognized for her outstanding job of resuscitating our General Programs and making them informative and interesting. Her success has been verified by the number of people who have been attending our programs. Congratulations, Suzette and thank you for all your great work.

Yahi Conservation Report

By Grace Marvin, Yahi Group Conservation Chair & BEC Advocacy Chair

Briefly noted: the Mother Lode Chapter honored **Suzette Welch** (Group Award: Program Planning) and **Dave Garcia** (Chapter Award: Community Organizing –against fracking) at the annual MLC Awards dinner in Sacramento. Please honor them for their very fruitful hard work with your appreciation, too.

Frack-Free Butte County is working with several dozen people to collect enough signatures by June 9. If we are successful, our fracking measure will be on the November ballot -- allowing citizens to decide if they are for or against fracking in Butte County. This would be enhanced by (a) the B.C. Board of Supervisors moving ahead with their proposed ban and by (b) voter passage of Senate Bill 1132 in November. 1132 calls for a statewide halt to extremely harmful fracking. (Note: In Butte County, there are special concerns about the pollution of our chief source of water, *i.e.*, the Tuscan Aquifer.)

Protesting the Keystone Pipeline in D.C.



How inspiring was the protest against the Keystone pipeline in Washington, D.C., from April 22-27, 2014. Julian Zener and I were lucky enough to be a part of the rally on the National Mall and the march between the Washington Monument and the Capitol on April 26. Thus, we took photos galore: Native American water ceremonies, teepees, alternative energy vehicles, and signs from numerous supportive organizations, and booted cowboys next to colorfully dressed Native Americans -- all among the 5000 people from all over the country on a beautiful cherry blossom day in D.C.

(Click <http://motherlode.sierraclub.org/yahi/newsletter/photos/XLSlideshow.htm> for a slide show of this event)

But April 26 was not centered on the beauty of the people or the day. The fact that the President had announced a few weeks before that he would wait until after the November elections to decide on the Keystone Pipeline had not deterred us from coming to the protest. Julian and I could feel and share the passion and anger of the new CIA (the Cowboy and Indian Alliance) for ruining air and water, fostering higher serious disease rates, and destroying sacred and farming lands. Tar sands oil is more than three times more flammable than normal oil. Yet TransCanada was asserting its right to transport oil where property rights and treaties were supposed to be protecting lands and people

River Watcher:

The Safe Distance

By Rex Burress

Down by the riverside, a mockingbird came flying up the bank, hotly pursued by a kingbird, a blackbird, and led by a tiny hummingbird!

There was no mystery as to the chase—the mockingbird had flown too close to territorial claims of nesting birds that realized the mocker is sometimes an egg-stealer.

As the mockingbird fluttered into the safety of a dense thicket, the pursuit was off except the hummingbird perched on a branch to judge the safe distance between the two competitors, ready to show its fierce defense. Even a trespassing eagle can feel the fury of a hummer's wrath.

There's a whole lot of watching going on out there in the riparian jungle where all inhabitants are trying to fulfill their destinies and stay alive. Keeping a safe distance from trouble is a key factor.

That concept could be carried right into the Zimmerman/Martin trial, since if both the 'child' and the guard had kept a safe distance from one another, nothing would have happened.

There is that 'safe' zone between suspicious people on the hiking path, too. If you're street wise and cautious, you avoid eye-contact, and stay out of striking distance. However, if you are in love, you sort of stare at one another and get closer and closer until all distance is compressed and you're hugging and kissing! Choose love!

Animal watchers and photographers know about that safe distance frustration that keeps the nature lover just out of range of a good view. Often the migratory waterfowl keep that safe distance which is usually a space just out of bullet range. Good for the bird but bad for the human friend that would like to get closer.

It is also important for Sierra Club hikers and nature seekers to stay a safe distance away from the edge of a cliff—especially an icy-edged cliff that took a famous artist—Steve Lyman—over the edge to his death one winter in Yosemite. There are plenty of examples. Keep a distance from flood waters, wildfires, landslides, and other natural extremes. We have gravity to contend with here on Earth, and it can be an aid in securing our footing, but step out into the weightlessness of space and it becomes “what is a safe distance from what?” Nothing is nothing out there in a space where things go drifting away at a slight nudge or plunging out of who knows where with staggering speeds. There is no safe distance from an asteroid on a course to collide with a planet.

Human daredevils are a different breed, taking a chance against a safe formula in a stance wild animals would not consider. The goat on a cliff, the eagle in its eyrie, the flying squirrel sailing to yon tree—all are reasonably confident they are within a safe distance from disaster.

At the Feather River Nature Center one time, I was giving a tour to a group of girl students from Japan, and they excitedly pointed up the garden stairway where a huge rattlesnake was crawling fast to the other side. Feeling vulnerable, it quickly disappeared in the rocks. It wasn't going to 'stand its ground' in the presence of unpredictable high-toned ladies!

A safe distance from a coiled rattlesnake is another matter. They can strike about a third of their length. No calculation works in a confrontation with a nervous black mamba or an erratic mother bear with cub. Run at your own peril! The safe distance is an anticipation of a bear's location and letting them know where you are. Bells work to warn bears eating blueberries in Glacier Park, and to some extent bells work on cats to warn birds.

“Modern man, for all his developed powers and his imagined insulation in his cities, still lives at the mercy of those giant forces that created him and can equally decree his departure.”

--Loren Eisely

Sierra Club Blogs

The National Sierra Club has more than a dozen blogs on topics ranging from wildlife to green lifestyles, activism to current events. Subscribe, and have our blogs delivered directly to your dashboard on Google, Yahoo!, MSN, and many other services. Just click the "RSS Feed" button below the blog you want to subscribe to and choose your service!

<http://sierraclub.org/blogs/>

Check the Yahi Group Blog for up-to-date news of interest to local activists:

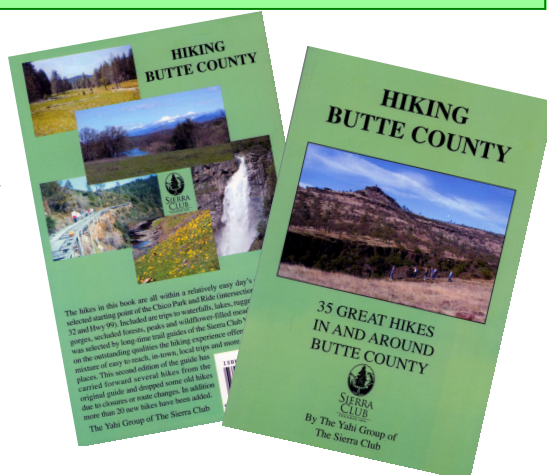
<http://yahinews.blogspot.com/>

If you have items of interest you would like posted on the Yahi blog, you can join the blog as a writer, or you can send items for posting by contacting yahinews@comcast.net.

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.



YAH! Club Information

Executive Committee

Co-Chair: Laurel Heath, 343-3290, laur3290@gmail.com
Co-Chair: Suzette Welch, 342-9214, booksontape@rocketmail.com
Secretary: Sharon Frisch, safritsch@comcast.net
Board Member: Dave McKinney, 570-1342 or daviddryfly@comcast.net
Board Member: Celeste Garcia, 533-2357, celesterdh@mynvw.com

Committee Chairs and Other Contacts

General Contact: Linda Stukey, 345-2696
Representative to Mother Lode: Grace Marvin, 893-1994, g-marvin@comcast.net
Conservation Chair: Grace Marvin, 893-1994, g-marvin@comcast.net
Membership: Gerda Lydon, 343-9277, plydon2948@aol.com
Newsletter: Louise Casey, 872-9159, YAHInews@comcast.net
Newsletter Distribution: Steve Miller, 345-0806 or steveinchico@gmail.com,
and Dave Nopel, 342-4118
Outings: Alan Mendoza, 891-8789, ajmendoza777@comcast.net
Political Chair: Dave Garcia, 533-2357, rangerdave@mynvw.com
Program Chair: Suzette Welch, 342-9214, booksontape@rocketmail.com
Publicity: Skip Augur, 519-4724, wba@acm.org
Treasurer: Paul Krause, 894-2931, paul@paulkrause.com
Yahi Website: Louise Casey, 872-9159, YAHInews@comcast.net
Portola, Greenville, Quincy Point Person: John A. Shower, 284-6856,
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.

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

For submissions, comments, or inquiries, contact Louise Casey, 872-9159, 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 Scarrin

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
Special Offer	<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

Gold Lake Lodge

At the crest of the Sierra Nevadas
Hiking • Fishing
Swimming • Boating
 Meals and Lodging Provided
530-836-2350
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

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

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