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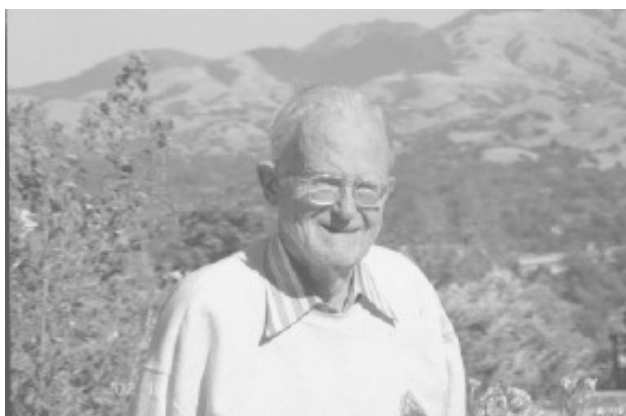
**Yahi
Group**



News Articles Programs Hikes and Outings Meetings Events

John A. Nejedly—California's Visionary Statesman

By Joseph A. Abbott



John A. Nejedly

John A. Nejedly is a giant in the preservation of California's environment. Combining a passion for conservation with the political power he developed as a state senator representing Contra Costa county in the late '60s and the late '70s, he authored a dozen environmental bills during Ronald Reagan's conservative administration as governor as well as Jerry Brown's more liberal one.

During his tenure in Sacramento, Senator Nejedly served as President pro tem of the Senate [elected the second year of his senator-ship], and as chair of the senate's influential Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee, which oversees state parks. As a member of the Republican Party, he authored a host of important environmental bills, one of the most important of which was California's ban on DDT (Pesticide Control Act). He also imposed limits on residential and industrial sprawl and has continuously fought for the preservation of water quality in the Sacramento delta and San Francisco bay. (Suisun Marsh Preservation Act and the Sierra Valley and Long Valley Groundwater Basin Act), and restricted clear cutting and imposed reforestation requirements (Forest Protection Act). Nejedly's commitment to wilderness preservation reined in land developers (California Wilderness Act), led to the acquisition of coastal lands for

public use (Urban and Coastal Park Bond Act and the California Parklands Act), and the protection of California's desert (Rare Endangered Native Plant Act). In 1966, the Senator received the American Motors award as an outstanding American in the Conservation Field.

Born in Oakland, California on the day John Muir died--October 22, 1914--the senator feels his birthday was divined. Throughout his life, he has remained inspired to emulate the great conservationist. Growing up in a working class family in Oakland, Nejedly's opportunities were limited, though he was exposed to the outdoors and broader social horizons through the Boy Scouts.

The senator, who eventually became an Eagle Scout, credits his scout troop leader, "Bugs" Kane, a professionally trained entomologist, with introducing him to nature in an uncrowded, pre-war California. "Bugs would take us birding and hiking in Yosemite," recalled Nejedly, now 88 and retired, during the interview. "Through him, I got a firm grasp of California's finite resources and the effect people had on the environment. Bugs' constant theme was that we should not take for granted what we were experiencing, because our world would not remain the way it was. We Scouts were encouraged to exercise control over these changes. I always retained his lessons."

Observing that "if it hadn't been for Bugs, I would have ended up on an assembly line," Nejedly recalled that, "I was a pretty sharp kid but a poor student." Encouraged by his scouting experiences to go to college and improve his chances of success, the Senator worked his way through the University of California at Berkeley. "I flunked

out in my first year, but I went to Chancellor Sproul and appealed to him to be reinstated. I told him that an Eagle Scout had never flunked out of Cal, so he let me return, but under his direct supervision." Thereafter, Nejedly determined to be studious, and took challenging courses, such as Chinese.

Nejedly graduated from Berkeley (BS 1935) and U.C. Boalt Hall Law School (LL.B. 1941) before serving in the Army Air Corps in WW II from 1942 to 1946. Because of his knowledge of Chinese, the Army sent him to Stanford to master Japanese before sending him on to the Pacific to intercept military signals broadcast. "I picked up the Japanese responses to our attacks and diverted our planes to other targets, thus reducing our losses," he explained.

His experiences at Cal, in law school and during the war, underscored for Nejedly that "you had to have an economic base, social position and power to get things done. Most of all, you had to have power if you really wanted to accomplish something." After he was demobilized, Nejedly's political ambitions began to take shape. He served as Contra Costa's Deputy District Attorney, District

Attorney, and General Counsel, as well as City Attorney for Walnut Creek, California. Initially a Democrat, he became Republican in 1948 because, being of Czech extraction, he felt he needed to take a principled stand when, as he puts it, "Truman let

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Club News

John R. Hanford

We are saddened by the passing of John Hanford on September 4 of this year. Mr. Hanford was a dedicated forester and a true steward of his family's wooded property in Paradise, which has been placed in a Conservation Easement. He is survived by Priscilla, his wife of 47 years, three

Upper Bidwell Park Disc Golf Course

Recently, the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission and the public were asked to comment on a "Negative Declaration" that would formalize the existing disc golf courses along Hwy 32 in Upper Bidwell Park. In land use planning, a Negative Declaration (Neg Decl) is used instead of a more extensive and expensive Environmental Impact Report when the physical impact of a project is considered to be minimal. Presently, there are 2 18-hole courses on 40 acres, with one course designed for beginners and a second course for more advanced players. These two courses would remain about the same. The major project components would be improved access from Hwy 32, an all-weather parking lot with two handicapped-accessible spaces, portable toilet, kiosk, concrete 5' by 12' tees, baskets or tone poles and designated paths through the two courses. Before submitting Yahi Group comments regarding the adequacy of the Neg Decl, we made several trips to the site and also consulted Greg Payne, who laid out the original courses there. Basically, our comments asked that more detail be provided regarding the tees, paths and their construction so that everyone involved will know exactly what the Park Dept plans to build. These clarifications will prevent misunderstandings and possible rework once the project is approved and construction started. If you would like a copy of our comments, contact Susan Mason (slmason@pacbell.net, 892-1666)

The Sierra Club Yahi Group supports the creation of an official Upper Bidwell Park Disc Golf Course at the present site. Disc golf is an activity in which people of all ages can participate. This location, because it is flat and on a ridge away from the creek, has fewer environmental constraints than other possible sites. The disc golfers have maintained the area themselves for the last several years and have done a good job of keeping it litter-free. Damage to the vegetation that has occurred because of the players moving around the course will be reduced when the tees and paths are better defined.

We're asking the Park Commission and city staff to prepare an implementation plan that prioritizes the work to be done. We believe that the construction of concrete tees and installation of baskets/poles should be the first project goal, followed by the work on the paths, revegetation, and finally, the construction of the new driveway, parking lot and kiosk. This would result in the greatest benefit to the preservation and

improvement of the biological resources on the site and provide the most immediate benefit to the disc golfers.

\$200,000 has been allocated from Chico's General Fund to get this project underway, but the community needs to provide additional support, both financial and physical. We're proposing that the city include a "hole sponsorship" program to

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.

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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 Goodie Sweatt, 530-849-3988. 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 email 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

WebSites

Yahi Group Web Site:

www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/yahi/

Motherlode Chapter Web Site:

www.motherlode.sierraclub.org



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Yahi Annual Holiday Dinner

Don't forget the Yahi Annual Holiday Dinner this year. It will be held at the Shade Tree Restaurant (across from Chico Natural Foods) on Sunday, December 15, 2002. The Holiday dinner is a delightful event and our primary fundraiser for the local Yahi Group of the Sierra Club.

At 5 P.M. there will be a Social Hour (no-host bar, wine and beer). Dinner will be at 6 P.M. The Southwestern-style meal will include dessert and non-alcoholic beverage.

The cost per ticket is \$15, and tickets must be purchased in advance. Call Betty (345-7205) or Goodie (894-3988) to order your tickets.

This year there will also be a Quilt and Bake Sale in conjunction with the dinner. Please bring along some extra cash for the Baked Goods and Quilts.

WANTED WANTED

Home-made pies, cookies, cakes, breads, etc., to donate to our Bake Sale at the Holiday Dinner on December 15.

Also, any quilters who would like to donate an item of any size, your contribution would be most welcome.

Sierra Club

Holiday Cards

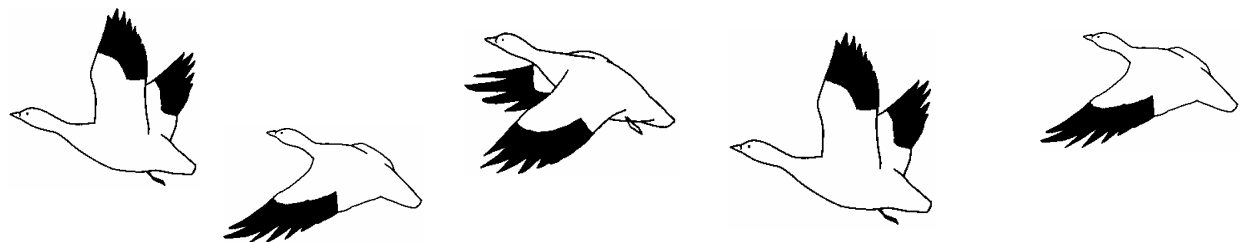
Buy Sierra Club Holiday Cards directly from Yahi and help support your local chapter.

20 cards per box with 5 each of 4 different Sierra Club Photographs and a general holiday greeting.

Blank note cards are also available.

Success for Yahi's Forestry Committee

Fourth Annual Snow Goose Festival



The 4th Annual Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway has been scheduled for **January 24-26, 2003** in Chico, CA. This year's festival will coincide with and feature the Centennial Celebration of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Refuge system. To kick-off the weekend's activities, a **100th Anniversary Reception** will be held in the Mezzanine of the Sierra Nevada Brewery on **Friday, January 24 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

As in the past, most workshops and field trips during the festival will cost only \$5 per person, and registration will begin in mid-December. Events typically begin at the Chico Masonic Family Center, although several satellite sites such as the Chico Creek Nature Center and the Gridley Museum will host special events throughout the weekend.

This year's version of the popular **Snow Goose Banquet** at the Chico Masonic Family Center on Saturday, January 25 will feature performing artist David Geisen in an impersonation of Audubon, complete with period clothing, historical references, and personal anecdotes.

Conservation

Arundo: The Plant from Hell

Editor's note: The following article appeared in the Wall Street Journal on 10/19/02 and was forwarded to us by Gerda Lydon.]

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - Driving slowly, Allen Sharpe searched the bank of the St. Johns River here for his favorite reed. "There she grows," Mr. Sharpe said, braking to a half next to a silver-plumed stand of *Arundo donax*.

And grow it does. The cane-like reeds tower 30 feet over the six-foot-four Mr. Sharpe, adding as much as three inches of new growth overnight. Environmentalists here see the plant as a godsend, offering a fast-growing replacement for coal and wood products without gouging the earth or chopping down forests.

With the blessing of the Northern Florida Sierra Club and Lung Association chapters, Mr. Sharpe has secured a contract to supply Jacksonville's city-owned utility, JEA, with as much as \$250 million in Arundo-fueled "green" power over the next 15 years. He plans to plant 8,000 acres of Arundo next spring on leased land near the Florida Everglades.

Deanne DiPietro, an environmental analyst at the University of California at Davis, was horrified to hear of his plans. She is one of the leaders of a multimillion-dollar federal and state effort to rid California of Arundo. State officials, along with local Sierra Club chapters and other environmental groups, blame the reed for fueling wildfires, causing floods and killing fish. Arundo ranks near the top of the state's list of botanical pests.

"It's the plant from hell," says Ms. DiPietro.

America can't make up its mind about Arundo. Enthusiasts, mostly East Coasters, are planting the hyperactive reed --technically a giant grass -- from Delaware Bay, where researchers are working with it to make building products and paper, to Alabama, where researchers want to see whether it could replace tobacco and cotton as a cash crop.

On the West Coast, Arundophobes are ripping out the stuff as fast as they can. "We're doing everything we can to get rid of it," says Alan Sanders, conservation chairman of the Los Padres Sierra Club chapter. Sangfer Hedrick, a citrus grower in Ventura County, north of Los Angeles, says he has spent the past two years battling to remove a 15-acre Arundo stand from his 400-acre spread.

First, Mr. Medrick says, he tried cutting it out by hand. "That didn't work," he says. "So then we brought in tractors, then ground rippers, then a flail mower that spins at 3,000 rpm." He ended up pouring herbicide

over the remains.

"I think we got most of it out," Mr. Hedrick says. "If we patrol it once or twice a year for a while, we can keep it down."

Although Arundo has been growing in California for more than a century, Thomas Dudley, a plant biologist at the University of California at Berkeley, says it has become a serious pest only in the past couple of decades. Streamside development and runoff of chemical fertilizers into rivers have fed the reed, allowing it to outstrip competing plants, particularly marsh grasses, he says.

Mr. Dudley, author of a chapter on Arundo in "Noxious Wildland Weeds of California," calls it "the fastest growing plant there is," and says it has spread as far as the Channel Islands -- 30 miles off the coast. California officials recently put Arundo on the state's list of noxious weeds, allowing counties to pass local ordinances making growing or transporting it a crime.

Still, Mr. Dudley sheepishly admits he kind of likes the plant. "I'm a clarinet player and Arundo makes the best clarinet reeds you can get," he says.

David Bransby, a researcher at Auburn University in Auburn, Ala., who this year patented a commercial process for growing Arundo, says the reed could replace wood fiber for making pulp and paper. In March, Samoa Pacific Cellulose, in Samoa, Calif., produced a 40-ton test run using Arundo to make pulp for writing paper. Frank Fitzpatrick, president of Samoa's marketing unit, says the company is planning to plant up to 5,000 acres of the reed near its northern California plant next spring but future operations will be mainly in the Southeast.

Stephen Schoenig, California's Noxious Weed Coordinator, tells the story of a stand of Arundo in Southern California that grew so dense it caused the Santa Ana River to flood, in March 1995, washing away a highway bridge. A year later, after the Arundo was cleared and the bridge rebuilt at a cost of \$700,000, the giant reed grew back and the new bridge was washed out three years later. Federal and state officials are spending \$20 million to rid the river of the weed.

"We should spend a lot of money to get rid of Arundo once and for all," Mr. Schoenig says.

In Florida, Mr. Sharpe blames the different sorts of rivers found in the East and West for the bicoastal bickering. Arundo doesn't propagate itself from seeds, Mr. Sharpe says. It spreads fastest when pieces of the plant break off and get carried to a new location, where they send out roots and shoots.

In the east, where coastal rivers tend to flow more

slowly, that isn't a problem, Mr. Sharpe says. But California's snow-fed coastal streams are perfect for spreading Arundo. When they flood in the spring, Arundo stalks snap off, then lodge downstream and sprout when the rivers dry up.

"I understand their flooding problem out there," Mr. Sharpe says, "but we don't have that problem here."

Arundo isn't the first fast-growing plant to be imported here by entrepreneurs. Early in the last century, developers brought in the Melaleuca tree from Australia, figuring the willowy, water-slurping tree would help dry up the Everglades and cut down on mosquitoes. Instead, it ran amok, taking over hundreds of thousands of acres of native grassland

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

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Getting Out

Sierra Club California

by Alan Mendoza

The Sacramento Office serves as Sierra Club California's legislative office and headquarters. The office is principally involved in monitoring the activities of the state agencies and lobbying the state legislature on environmental bills, but also does policy work, and coordinates chapter activities in California.

The Sacramento office publishes *Legislative Alert* which tracks and outlines State Sierra club positions and actions on pertinent environmental legislation. Published while the legislature is in session, it is released as needed. The Sacramento office has also published *Green State of the State Reports* covering timely state environmental topics such as growth management, transportation issues, air quality, etc.

How Does Sierra Club California Determine Policy?

The State Office follows conservation policy direction established by the Club's California/Nevada Conservation Committee, chapters and national Board of Directors. Policies are interpreted and refined by the California Legislative Committee. Sierra Club California's Executive Committee and personnel committee exercise managerial oversight. Chapter legislative contacts and task force chairs from local, regional and state issue committees complete the network of member experts and activists upon which the staff relies for expertise and help.

The State office shares space with the Northern California/Nevada/Hawaii Field Office and our own Mother Lode Chapter (x108). There is a Media Line for reporters who do not know who to talk to (x300). Staff members for the National Field Office Staff are Barbara Boyle (916-557-1100x105), Michael Paparian (916-557-1100x104)

What the Sacramento Office Does

- * Lobby for environmental issues
- * Represent Club before state legislature, state agencies and governor
- * Consult & coordinate with Club issue experts

Sierra Club Hike Classifications

These are general guidelines. If there are questions, ask the outing leader.

Distance Rating	Elevation Gain Rating
Grade 1: up to 6 miles	Class A: up to 1000 feet
Grade 2: 6-10 miles	Class B: 1000-2000 feet
Grade 3: 10-15 miles	Class C: 2000-3000 feet
Grade 4: 15-20 miles	

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.

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 on the back page 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.

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.

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.

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Yahi Group Winter 2002/2003 Program

by Gerda Lydon

help defray the \$1500-\$2500 cost for each of the 36 holes. Many volunteers will be needed to build the paths and revegetate the surrounding areas. If you would like to be informed whenever this project is discussed at Park Commission meetings, call the Park Dept office at 895-4972 and ask to be notified about

Yahi Winter 2002/2003 Outings

November/December

Saturday, November 30 – Table Mountain Hike (grade 1, class A). Explore the dormant beauty of Table Mountain. If there are early fall rains, wildflowers may be present. Bring binoculars for watching birds, lunch, water and sturdy boots. Rain cancels. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 9AM. Return time around 4-5PM. Leader: Charlie, 895-3045.

Sunday, December 1- Time to Buy Your Tickets to the Holiday Dinner. See Dec. 15th write-up. Remember space is limited to 60!!! This year we'll have a southwestern menu, a raffle, quilt sale and a bake sale, so bring some extra dollars. This is always a fun event. Tickets are \$15 and include non-alcoholic beverage and tip. Call Goodie 894-3988 or Betty 345-7205 for tickets.

Friday-Sunday, December 6-8 – Angel Island Campout/Backpack (grade 1, class A). Join us for a short backpack and two nights camping on beautiful Angel Island in the middle of San Francisco Bay. We'll drive down on Friday and take the ferry to Angel Island and hike in to our campsite with great views of the S. F. Bay or San Francisco. Bring \$ for carpooling and camping fee. Call leader to make reservation and get meeting place and time. Leader: Theresa, 899-7331; Asst. Leader: Alan, 899-8789.

Saturday, December 7 – Cross Country Ski (grade 2, class B). We'll go skiing where the snow is good. This is for people who have their own equipment. Bring skis, boots, gloves, lunch, water, appropriate clothing and \$ for drivers. Call leader for meeting time and place. Leader: Larry, 342-7998.

Saturday, December 7 - 7 PM - Holiday Open House and Birthday Bash for Carolyn and

Joanne. Meet at 7 PM. Bring finger food and a smile. Call Carolyn at 384-2066 or Joanne 893-2154 for directions and possible car pool.

Saturday, December 7 – Help Maintain Trails in Upper Bidwell Park. Suitable for all ages and a good way to learn more about the trails in the Park. Gloves, tools, training and beverages are provided by the Parks Department. Wear sturdy shoes or boots. For more information, contact Steve Hogue at the Parks Department, 895-4758 or shogue@ci.chico.ca.us.

Sunday, December 8 – Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Tour (grade 1, class A). Walk a two-mile trail and drive a 6-mile route to view thousands of ducks and geese feeding and resting in the freshwater marshes. Bring binoculars, field guide, camera, lunch and water. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 9 AM to carpool approx. 80 miles roundtrip or meet at the Refuge's visitor center. Bring \$3 car entrance fee and carpool \$. Heavy rain cancels. Call leader to sign up. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980; Asst. Leader: Peggy, 343-9843.

Saturday, December 14 – Christmas Caroling/Pot Luck Dinner Let's spread some Christmas joy to our community seniors with your sweet voices and smiles. Wear Christmas attire. Musical instruments welcome. Song sheets provided. We'll practice first, carol at a few nursing homes and then return for a pot-luck dinner. Bring a dish to share and your favorite beverage. Call to sign-up and get directions to meeting place and time. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980 or jw77@mail.csuchico.edu; Asst. Leader: Peggy, 343-9843.

Sunday, December 15 – Winter Conditioning Walk (grade 2, class A). A flat, fast paced 1 to 1 ½ hour brisk walk in the park for those who want a workout. Wear your tennies. Meet at bridge near One-Mile at 8 AM. Leader: Alan, 891-8789.

Sunday, December 15 - Annual Yahi Group

Christmas Dinner. Join us at the Shadetree Restaurant for our annual Yahi Group Christmas Dinner for Sierra Club members and their guests. No host cocktails start at 5PM and dinner (with a completely new menu) at 6PM. Cost: \$15 per person. No tickets will be sold at the door. Bring additional \$ for our bake sale and raffle. For tickets contact: Goodie, 894-3988 or Betty, 345-7205.

Saturday, December 21 – Ide Adobe Pioneer Christmas. Bring your children/grandchildren for an old-fashioned Christmas party at Ide Adobe State Park near Red Bluff. Christmas caroling, candlemaking, gingerbread cookie decorating and breaking a pinata

January 2003

are some of the activities all ages will enjoy. Bring a lunch to picnic in the park and warm clothes. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 10:30AM. Return time approx. 5 PM. Bring \$ for carpool, \$5 for entrance fee and \$2 for children ages 4-11. Approx. 100 mile round-trip drive. Call leader to sign-up. Leader: Jeanne: 899-9980; Asst. Leader: Bill, 527-8203.

Saturday, December 28 – Early Bird Cross-Country Ski Lessons. This is for beginners and intermediates who want to improve their overall ski techniques and fitness. There is a fee of \$10 per lesson, this is a fund-raiser for general Yahi Group expenses. Bring ski gear, lunch, water, appropriate clothing and \$ for drivers. Call leader for meeting place, time and more information. Leader: Larry, 342-7998.

Wednesday, January 1 – New Year's Day Hike (grade 2, class A). Get the new year started on the right foot (left foot, right foot...) by walking off some of those holiday indulgences (fudge, spiked egg nog, etc) in lovely upper Bidwell Park. We'll walk the Middle, Live Oak, Bear Hole and Yahi Trails for an easy 6-mile loop. Meet at Horseshoe Lake at 1 PM. Return time approx. 4 PM. Rain cancels. Dress in layers and bring water and snacks. Call leader to sign up. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980.

Saturday, January 4 – Lassen Park Snowshoe Hike (grade 2, class B). Trailhead near the Manzanita Lake entrance station parking lot. Enjoy beautiful mountain scenery on a moderate snowshoe walk in Lassen Park. Will snowshoe part of the park road and travel cross country to a

Outings and Events

nice view of Mt. Shasta and nearby peaks. Bring snowshoes, boots, layered clothing, lunch, water and \$ for carpooling. Storm cancels. Approx. 190 miles round trip drive. Meet at 8AM at the Chico Park & Ride or at 10 AM at the Manzanita Lake parking area. Leader: Alan, 891-8789 or ajmendoza@prodigy.net.

Saturday, January 4 – Help Maintain Trails in Upper Bidwell Park. Suitable for all ages and a good way to learn more about the trails in the Park. Gloves, tools, training and beverages are provided by the Parks Department. Wear sturdy shoes or boots. For more information, contact Steve Hogue at the Parks Department, 895-4758 or shogue@ci.chico.ca.us.

Saturday, Jan. 11 - North Forebay Kayak/Canoe Tour. Join us on a calm, leisurely 4 mile paddle of the North Forebay in Oroville. Beavers, osprey, cormorants, great blue herons, and wintering waterfowl are just some of the wildlife we'll encounter. You must have your own boat to attend. You must have a PFD for each person on your boat. Bring lunch, binoculars, and \$2 for the entrance fee. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 9AM or the North Forebay at HWY 70 & Garden Dr. at 9:45 AM. Return time around 3 PM; a 40-mile round trip drive. Rain cancels. Leader Dave Garcia, 533-2357; Asst. Leaders: Charles, 895-3045, Stephen, 876-1391.

Sunday, January 12 – Winter Conditioning Walk (grade 2, class A). A flat, fast paced 1 to 1 ½ hour brisk walk in the park for those who want a workout. Wear your tennies. Meet at bridge near One-Mile at 8 AM. Leader: Alan, 891-8789.

Friday, January 17 – Games Night & Pot-Luck. Bring your favorite board games and card games and a dish to share. Come prepared to have fun. Card tables and folding chairs needed. Call for location. Leader: Peggy, 343-9843; Asst. Leader, Jeanne, 899-9980

Wednesday, January 22 – Cross-Country Ski Video. This video is for beginners, but has

February 2003

information for cross-country skiers of all levels. There will also be a short overview on equipment and clothing. Meet at 7 PM at the Community Room in the Chico Mall adjacent to the food court. Call leader for more information. Leader: Larry, 342-7998.

Friday, January 24 - Dinner for Friends New and Old at Kramore Inn. Join us at 7 PM for the cost of your meal, meet there. Leader, Carolyn 384-2066

Saturday, January 25 – Cross-Country Ski Lessons. This is for beginners and intermediates who want to improve their overall ski techniques and fitness. There is a fee of \$10 per lesson, this is a fund-raiser for general Yahi Group expenses. Bring ski gear, lunch, water, appropriate clothing and \$ for drivers. Call leader for meeting place, time and more information. Leader: Larry, 342-7998.

Sunday, January 26 – Yahi Group Spring Planning Meeting & Pot-Luck Join us as we plan our outings for the spring March 1 – June 1. Everyone interested in outings is welcome. Bring a potluck dish to share and your own serveware. The Yahi Group will provide refreshments. Call for meeting time and place: Alan, 891-8789 or ajmendoza@prodigy.net

Saturday, February 1 – Lassen Park Snowshoe Hike (grade 2, class B). Trailhead near the Lassen National Park Chalet. Enjoy beautiful mountain scenery on a moderate to hard snowshoe walk to the Ridge Lakes area in Lassen Park. Bring snowshoes, boots, layered clothing, lunch, water and \$ for carpooling. Storm cancels. Approx. 160

miles round trip drive. Call leader for details and meeting place. Leader: Kevin, 894-0438; Asst. Leader: Jan, 894-0438

Saturday, February 1 – Cross-Country Ski Lessons. This is for beginners and intermediates who want to improve their overall ski techniques and fitness. There is a fee of \$10 per lesson, this is a fund-raiser for general Yahi Group expenses. Bring ski gear, lunch, water, appropriate clothing and \$ for drivers. Call leader for meeting place, time and more information. Leader: Larry, 342-7998.

Saturday, February 1 – Help Maintain Trails in Upper Bidwell Park. Suitable for all ages and a good way to learn more about the trails in the Park. Gloves, tools, training and beverages are provided by the Parks Department. Wear sturdy shoes or boots. For more information, contact Steve Hogue at the Parks Department, 895-4758 or shogue@ci.chico.ca.us.

Sat. Feb 8 - Pulga Mountain Bike Ride (grade 4, class A). The old railroad town of Pulga is in the spectacular Feather River Canyon across from Hwy 70. We'll ride up the PG&E road which looks down on the Feather River, Grizzly Dome, and the Grizzly Tunnel. A 20-mile ride with a gradual 700 ft. climb through forest, fern grottos, 5 bridges, and great sections of decomposed granite. Bring helmets, gloves, water, lunch, and \$ for drivers. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 9 AM. Return time around 3 PM; a 70-mile round trip drive. Rain cancels. Leader Dave Garcia, 533-2357; Asst. Leader: Larry, 342-7998.

Saturday, February 15 - Seniors Educational Tour Oroville. Will visit the Nature Center and walk approximately one mile to Maidu village site. Possible group lunch in restaurant afterwards. Seniors, but all are welcome. Rain postpones. Call

March 2003

for meeting place and time. Leader: Joanne 893-2154.

Saturday, February 15 – Cross-Country Ski Backcountry Tour (grade 2, class B).

This is for people who own ski equipment.

Directions to Meeting Places

Chico Park and Ride. From Highways 99 and 32, go east on 32 and make an immediate left onto Fir Street (it's only about 100 yards from Highway 99). We meet in the lot closest to the freeway.

Paradise Albertson's: The parking lot is at the corner of Wagstaff and Clark Roads; we meet in the northwest corner.

Horseshoe Lake parking lot (the old Rifle Range parking lot): Take East Avenue or Manzanita to Wildwood Avenue (the entrance to Upper Bidwell Park). Continue along the paved road over all the golf course speed bumps. When the speed bumps end you are almost there, so look to the left for the

Conservation

Wildfire Risk Reduction—What's Healthy?

According to a USDA news release about President Bush's Healthy Forest Initiative, by late August the 2002 fire season was already one of the worst in American history. This is blamed on drought conditions coupled with years of fuel buildup from fire suppression and insufficient thinning activities.

Bush's answer is to expand the authority of agencies to enter into long-term stewardship contracts that would give timber companies big, healthy trees to help pay for removal of hazardous fuels. Through riders proposed on funding bills and a slew of pending legislation, Bush and many in Congress also want to eliminate or greatly limit citizens' ability to appeal and litigate decisions on such so-called "restoration" projects.

The argument is that appeals of agency decisions by extreme environmentalists has slowed fire reduction projects on our National Forests; but that charge is untrue and the investigative arm of the Congress said so. According to the Government Accounting Office report "Forest Service: Appeals and Litigation of Fuel Reduction Projects" <http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/swcbd/Programs/fire/gao-01-1114r.pdf>, "... as of July 18, 2001, the Forest Service had completed the necessary environmental analyses and had decided to implement 1,671 hazardous fuel reduction projects in fiscal year 2001. Of these projects, 20 (about 1 percent) had been appealed and none had been litigated. Appellants included environmental groups, recreation groups, private industry interests, and individuals."

In California, the science-based Sierra Nevada Framework calls for focusing mechanical fuel reduction treatments in the Urban Wildland Intermix (where homes are at risk and fire suppression is mandatory),

and favoring prescribed burning over commercial logging. It makes no sense to take out the larger trees that reduce wildfire risk by shading the ground and blocking high winds.

Forest Service experts tell us why low intensity fires are preferable to logging as a means of reducing fuels. According to the excellent Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics report, "Restoring Our Forest Legacy" <http://www.fsee.org/Sierra/SierraReport.html> Ch. 3, p.24, "Silvicultural treatments, such as clearing sites for planting using bulldozers, do not scarify seeds that depend upon heat for activation, nor do they recycle nutrients the way fire does. They often disturb forest soils and promote erosion, whereas light fires do little harm to soil values, and instead actually provide potash and other nutrients for plant growth. A fire usually spares the largest trees while consuming the smaller, less resistant trees."

The Center for Biological Diversity also discourages logging as a means of fuel reduction. Their report on "Fire and Ecosystem Health" (<http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/swcbd/Programs/fire/index.html>) concludes, "Thinning efforts should focus entirely on the small trees that make up the vast majority of the fire risk in the forest. Approximately 90% of the trees in the Southwest are smaller than 12 inches in diameter. Large and old trees are relatively fire-resistant, and are extremely rare after 100 years of logging in the forests. For these reasons, it is important to protect and preserve the large trees that are largely deficient in the forest, and remove much of the small trees that are found in high densities."

Even should reason prevail over politics (uncertain as of press time) and the Forest Service does the right thing, more money will be needed for real fuel reduction treatments around mountain communities.

We need to cut and remove or chip excessive ground fuels and fuel-ladders and do controlled burning around communities, wherever we can, to reduce the dead wood and small brush that fuel large fires. The Sierra Club and other conservation groups have proposed a 7-Point Plan for Protecting Communities (http://www.sierraclub.org/logging/fire_protection2.asp), modeled on research by Forest Service fire scientists. We are calling on the Bush Administration and the Forest Service to adopt it as a blueprint for the next five years (see inset left).

Sierra Club* 7-point Plan for Protecting Communities

1. Do the most important work first. Make protecting communities from fires the Forest Service's Number One Priority. Reduce fuels in the Community Protection Zone—the first 500 yards out from buildings.
2. Provide meaningful funding. This program should be a minimum of five years and funded at \$2 billion a year to go directly to fireproofing homes and removing hazardous fuels in the Community Protection Zones. This funding should be secure so the Forest Service bureaucracy cannot shift it to other activities.
3. Match personnel to work. Shift Forest Service personnel skilled in preparing brush clearing and thinning projects away from backcountry, low-priority areas to Ranger Districts near the Community Protection Zones.
4. Immediately carry out the vast majority of fuel reduction projects in Community Protection Zones that raise no significant environmental issues. Work together with communities and environmentalists to plan fuel reduction activities that may involve critical wildlife habitat.
5. Restore fire's natural role. Prescribed burns can help to reduce fuel buildup and restore healthy forest habitats. Every dollar spent on prescribed burning saves seven dollars on fighting large fires later. Restore the natural role played by small fires that periodically

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This Land

As much as American land is often battered and abused in the process of agriculture, especially on the exposed western plains and Midwestern hill farms, as well as with the multiple farming operations in the Sacramento Valley, it is gratifying to see some signs of conservation displayed along the highways.

There is no way to keep land completely natural when crops are tilled and timbers are cut and cattle graze fields where buffalo and antelope once roamed. The soil matrix is sometimes loosened to the point of disaster by overuse as we learned from the 1930's dust bowl days. Yet, those farm products are needed to feed hungry cities and support American families. Even the odoriferous cattle feedlots of Nebraska, that are piled high with manure where normal vegetation has no chance of growing, feed meat-hungry multitudes that prowl the aisles of grocery stores. A certain percentage of wild land must be sacrificed in the name of the human food supply.

As those who watch for nature drive down the long ribbons of highway across the vastness between California and Missouri, the presence of places where wildlife can take refuge are eagerly sought. In the summer of 2002, I chose the land route and its road system on which to make the pilgrimage to my 50th high school reunion in Trenton, Mo, and although it seems like there is plenty of land out there for both wildlife and farming, it is a delicate balance to retain space for both when water is at a premium.

Of course, water is the name of abundance, even where it has been imported to be strewn over the fields from great rolling sprinklers, but water was scarce in a drought year, and the effect could be seen in all sectors. In fact, the news reports state that year 2002 has been disastrous for crops, especially corn, in Middle America, with rain coming at the wrong time and too many grasshoppers. Even the sagebrush was dying in Nevada and Wyoming, creating lean times for the pronghorn and ground squirrels.

It was gratifying to find a few pockets of nature preserve in places like the Pine Bluffs at the WY and NE border rest stop. Wild land parcels seem to fare better during drought than crop fields, and the rocky ravine that breaks out of the plains at Pine Bluffs supported not only very green looking juniper and handsome yucca, but some certain tough wildflowers blooming as if indicating hope for growing things. There was also a major walkway to a "Windows to the Past" archeological building sheltering an excavation in progress that revealed clues to the previous occupancy. I could imagine hearing the rustle of horses and shuttled tepees on the wind as prehistoric bronzed-skin Sioux set up

camp before ships ever landed on this continent.

Although western Nebraska was parched with drying ponds and deserted homesteads where even the front yard landscape trees had died, the state had somehow maintained conifer rows that act as windbreaks and wildlife shelters. In between the green tree rows were weedy fields that further alleviated the effects of drought and prevented blown-away soil. News reports this very day state that a rainstorm in Utah brought down huge mud slides from hills that had been stripped by fire and famine in a year that was the second severest drought on record for middle America. Sometimes we lose sight of those situations when water flows freely out of the faucet.


Natural areas become precious reservoirs of living things, and many farmers are proud of their quail and associated wildlife. You often find corner weed lots and timber stands they have left to accommodate animals, and many practice land conservation, nurturing the soil, and doing things like soaking stubble into decay rather than burning it, as many California rice farmers do. The conservation attitude is needed to preserve the species and the land, since the bulk of American soil is under the control of private enterprise.

Thus it was that I was pleasantly surprised to find conservation at work in my homeland of Trenton, Missouri, this summer when I returned for my 50th high school reunion. My old class mate, Leon Spencer, took me on a ride in the rural No Creek hills where we both had grown up, and in the process of crossing many back country gravel and dirt roads, Leon drove his pickup out into a weedy field that had no well defined road.

"You think we will get stuck?" I cautiously asked.

"I hope not. This is the back 50 acres of my dad's farm," he said. Both of our parents had been farmers, and both were now dead, but Leon still owned his home place. "We put this 50 into Conservation Reserve. The Missouri Conservation Department gives us \$65 per acre just to leave it natural, and that's more than could be made from crops in some years."

I looked around at the grass and weed hill



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meadow, and what a contrast to the adjoining farmland! It was a place where things like insects...good and bad...birds, and field mice could live their life cycles and all come out winners as far as continuation of the species was concerned. I could see meadowlarks sailing over the meadow, blackbirds rising from the weeds, a hawk soaring in the sky, and in the center of the field there was a pond with a cottonwood tree built by the conservation department as part of the deal. A pond like that is important in accommodating wildlife, as well as providing a place to fish. I suspected that all kinds of nocturnal animals frolicked there at night--opossums, coons, fox, mink, and maybe coyote--and that the full array of aquatic insects lived in the water.

Although there are still a lot of brushy fencerows in Missouri, built to define fields and indirectly provide excellent wildlife cover, in the decline of small individual farms many such fence structures have been removed for large scale farming methods. Leon pointed out some nearby land where over-tilled soils had eroded, creating deep ditches full of clay and rock, good for hunting arrowheads and glacial gravel, but deficient in providing substance for living things.

Conservation is the wise use of our natural resources, and although there are those who would rather have complete preservation of wildlands, it is not feasible in our day and age. The Missouri Conservation Department has been a major force in restoring wildlife and habitat on depleted lands since the 1940's--and also in creating land partnerships--and since I was a boy, they have re-established deer, turkey, beaver, and otter to the environment. I was early morning, to see a family of otters flouncing in the old Muddy Creek cutoff waters where I had once ice skated and hunted squirrel. With a certain amount of acceptance by the community, those wild things can return.

Some things, like park reserves, don't change much in the overall appearance, such as Crowder Park near Trenton that I haunted as a boy, and although my old farm home-houses have virtually disappeared to be replaced by fields and brush, I was pleased to look down the hollow toward No Creek and see Floyd's timber intact. I longed to go

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John A. Nejedly *(continued from p. 1)*

Czechoslovakia become Communist."

Though a long-time member of the Sierra Club, Nejedly resigned from the Club in 1978 because of its leaders' support of the California Peripheral Canal, a position the Senator strongly opposed because it diverted much-needed Northern California water to the South.

Now living in Walnut Creek, Calif., with a second home in Johnsville, Calif., near the Plumas

Eureka State Park in the Sierra, the senator is still active in community organizations and affairs. He actively supports the preservation of California's

(continued on p. 10)

wetlands and water quality.

The following interview took place on October 9, 2002.

You have an impressive environmental record by any standard, and you accomplished it as a Republican. How did you do it?

Except for a short time when Reagan was around [a handful of Republican leaders controlled] the Republican Party. Our party was environmentally oriented, but only in the sense of what you could extract economically from resources, not what you could do about preserving them. So I was in an ambivalent position. Some Republicans would go along with me on my bills; the Democrats often went along with me [even though we weren't in the same party].

In 1969, my first bill out of the Legislature outlawed DDT and chlorinated hydrocarbons (the Pesticide Control Act). Governor Reagan was going to veto the bill because he had heat from the farm groups who were against it. I spent a long time with Reagan convincing him about my bill, and he finally signed it.

Before I ran for the Senate, I had made an agreement with the party that Reagan would listen to me--not necessarily do as I asked, but listen to me before he acted. Reagan did this on the DDT bill and that really blew the farm guys out of the water; they were all over Reagan's back. I had Reagan sign off on the second day the bill was on his desk because I knew once the word was out, pressure would be brought to make my bill go down the tubes.

Another of my better bills was my Solid Waste Management Bill (Solid Waste Management and Resource Recovery Act of 1972). Prior to this

bill, the state waste monitoring programs were in bad shape, so my bill set up state monitoring requirements for the counties, planned dumps, the separation of hazardous materials, etc. To this day, it's a really sound bill.

I got the bill out of both the Senate and Assembly, but Reagan vetoed it because he had been burned on my DDT bill. I told Reagan that his veto was contrary to our agreement, because he was to talk to me prior to any vetoes. It may sound vainglorious, but contrary to what usually happens after a Governor's veto, I got his veto overridden and the bill became law.

But I was also into a lot more: the Wilderness Act (1974), the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act (1974), and many others. When you drive to Sacramento over US Route 680 to Cordelia, California, you see a large open space of 3,500 acres; it's the protected Suisun Marsh and that's because of my bill. I'm very proud of it.

My Native Plant Protection Act (Rare and Endangered Native Plant Act of 1977) was primarily aimed at preservation of desert plants. In fact, 23 years later, the Native Plant Society still thinks I'm a small god; they are a beautiful organization and still one of the most honest in the state.

You were the Chair of the Senate Natural Resources Board and Wildlife. What was your role there, and how did you use it to protect Johnsville, Calif.?

I started my service overseeing the state park system in 1971. I was also chair of the Senate State Park and Recreation Board, a group representing the citizens of the state and acting as the public forum for determining use of state parks. We translated the suggestions of park staff and California citizens into the form of how the park system was actually run.

One of several things I did in Plumas County was to establish a game preserve in Johnsville. The Plumas-Eureka State Park already had a "no hunting" restriction but a portion of Johnsville was county-zoned, so you could actually hunt in the town. One day, someone shot a tame deer in Johnsville itself, so I had a bill passed that prevented it in the future. My bill was challenged by locals who claimed it didn't apply to bow and arrow hunting. I then got the Attorney General's opinion in my favor and they realized they backed a losing cause. The law, as now implemented, says you cannot

go hunting in Johnsville, even with a knife.

When Johnsville was a ghost town, there were lots without property deeds. I also implemented legislation regarding how those lots were to be sold at a public auction. The proceeds from sales were to go to the Johnsville School District. My bill added that if there was no school in Johnsville, and there wasn't, then the proceeds from the sale of any non-deeded Johnsville property went to the Johnsville Public Utility District. So that's how the Johnsville PUD got its original \$60,000 and subsequently another \$110,000. Because of me, Johnsville got its water system for virtually nothing.

Who was the force behind the establishment in 1961 of the Plumas -Eureka (P-E) State Park that surrounds Johnsville?

Oh that was Colonel C.A. Lundy.* Lundy put in a development at present-day Plumas Pines. When he saw what screwy houses people were building, he knew he had made a mistake and became distressed. He wanted the state park as a buffer and alternative to the development he saw happening in eastern Plumas County. But it was more than a one-person effort; it was a team. Bill Mott, Director of the State Parks, and later Federal Park Director, and others at the State level were heavies in making it happen. Lundy was cooperative on the price; the State got his land for the Park for a song [the 1957 purchase price was \$375, 000], yet the locals complained about paying him too much.

State Assemblywoman Pauline Davis, from Portola, was not that keen on having the park established, but she did not resist it after a compromise was reached with Sacramento that removed Johnsville from the Park. She wanted Johnsville's exclusion because she did not like bureaucracy. Moreover, the Plumas County Board of Supervisors did not want the state to legislate any zoning in the county. For example, the State Park does not allow dogs unless they are leashed, but the County would have nothing of this. After Johnsville was excluded, Davis had no political alternative but to accept the P-E state park.

Why did you fall out with the Sierra Club?

The Sierra Club is too economically oriented. There are a lot of dedicated people at the Club's lower levels, but as far as the senior people, they are too elitist. The leadership of the Sierra Club

Conservation

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area



Just a brief reminder: the best months to visit Gray Lodge are December and January.

* Gray Lodge offers a 3-mile loop that winds through the heart of the sanctuary so you can enjoy the birds from inside your vehicle.

* For those who prefer to walk, there is a 0.6-mile self-guided nature trail and a 2.5-mile levee trail. These routes begin at Parking Lot #14.

* Guided tours are available, Saturdays at 10 A.M. and Sundays at 1 P.M. (unless raining). No reservation needed for groups under 20.

* A wildlife exhibit room is available from 8:30am to 3:00pm. This room contains many taxidermy species of birds and a few mammals.

What to bring: Binoculars, camera, and the \$2.50 per person fee for each person over 16 years of age.

John A. Nejedly *(continued from p. 10)*

endorsed the Peripheral Canal legislation [Senator Ayala's Senate Bill 346 of 1977, which would have diverted Sacramento River water to Southern California]. When I tried to obtain a Sierra Club general members' vote on the board decision, the Sierra Club leaders promised to give me the general members' list but then delayed doing so. I was forced to go out on Club hiking trips every weekend to get enough petition signatures to bring the issue to a general membership vote.

I won the majority of the Club's general members' endorsement for my position in opposition to the bill. With membership rejection, the Club's board could not actively support Ayala and I was able to defeat the bill. On the second go-round to pass the bill, the Club's leadership still remained softhearted in their opposition to the water diversion. I was so disgusted with the board that shortly thereafter I resigned from the Sierra Club.

How do you think the Sierra Club can best carry out an environmental mission?

I think the Sierra Club should get out of politics and focus on special environmental

causes and bring pressure to affect the outcome. The most important part of resource management is solid long-term planning and enforcement of these plans. Most states are not in the unique and tenuous environmental position of California. For example, we do not know how much water we will have each year.

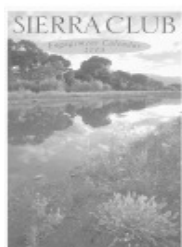
California's focus has to change; we need long-term organization, financing, and political independence to establish environmental programs and maintain them. These organizations must also have political and

(Continued on p. 11)

public respect.

Right now, a resource plan is developed every year, but since everything in California is managed by political appointment, any planning group is only in existence as long as the governor is in office; there is no long-range planning. Let me give you an example. I was the author of the Forest Practice Act (1973). The Act proved deficient because it depended on appointed people to enforce the rules, but it really should have had an objective group not financially involved with the forest industry making its rules and overseeing its functions.

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA



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Last Words



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- * Informative Workshops
- * Tours led by Birding Experts
- * Children's Activities
- * Naturalist led River Walks
- * Bird by Kayak
- * Big Birding Day
- * Wildlife Refuge Tours
- * Bird at Black Butte Lake
- * Hike the Sutter Buttes
- * Art & Photography in Nature
- * Bat Box Building

Yahi Group Annual Holiday Dinner

Sunday, December 15, 2002

- ⇒ Quilt and Bake Sale
- ⇒ At the Shade Tree Restaurant (across from Chico Natural Foods)
- ⇒ 5 P.M. Social Hour (no-host bar, wine and beer)
- ⇒ 6 P.M. Dinner - Southwestern-style meal, includes dessert and non-alcoholic beverage - \$15
- ⇒ Buy tickets in advance: Betty (345-7205) or Goodie (894-3988)
- ⇒ Please bring \$ for the Baked Goods and Quilts
- ⇒ Funds raised by this event will help pay the cost of printing

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA

2003 Wilderness Wall Calendar has a different picture for each month. The daily squares are 1 1/2 x 2, plenty of room to write.



2003
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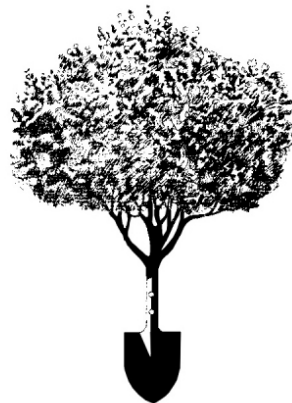
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