

March / April 2006



Sierra Uplift

Newsletter of the Sierra Club, Sierra Nevada Group

Friday, March 17 General Meeting • Yuba County Library in Marysville

Nevada wilderness along the Desert Trail



Nevada County, California Computer consultant Nicholas George walked a few hundred miles across western wilderness in 2005. Though he didn't find his perfect mate out there, he feels flattered to have been considered a threat to the harem of at least one big bad bull. Nick likes to walk across big sky country, and over the horizon. He is grateful for organizations such as Desert-Survivors.org and NevadaWilderness.org who facilitate trips into this great country, and advocate its preservation for generations to come.

Designated and proposed wilderness in Nevada provide rewards beyond what pictures and words can convey, but Nick will do his best to share the joy and fulfillment offered by extended time spent there. You are invited to attend his slide show and narrative, to be given at the Yuba County Library in Marysville. We will gather for refreshments at 7 pm and begin the program at 7:30.

Directions to the library: come into Marysville on Highway 20. The highway tees into B Street, which fronts Ellis Lake. Turn left onto B Street. Continue ten blocks to Second Street, where you will turn right. Travel one block more; the library, a red brick building at 303 Second Street, is on your right.

Friday, April 21 General Meeting • Seaman's Lodge, Pioneer Park, Nevada City

California water and the Sierra Nevada foothills

What is the water supply situation in California? How do the characteristics of Sierra Foothill hydrology figure into the state's water balance? Robert Shibatani, hydrologist and outstanding speaker on California water, will answer these questions and more. He will discuss existing and foreseeable challenges to water resource management, water purveyor perspectives (including water projects), stakeholder perspectives, and new advances in integrated regional water management planning.



Mr. Shibatani is Technical Director, Special Water Projects at EIP Associates headquartered in Sacramento. He has over 20 years of experience in watershed hydrology and environmental/water resource consulting, facilitating, negotiating, legislative lobbying, and directing highly sensitive public issue matters through an assortment of diplomatic tactics.

Please join us for a 6:30 potluck dinner preceding the 7:30 program.

Sierra Uplift

Published every other month
by the Sierra Nevada Group
of the Sierra Club

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Find national and local Sierra Club
news by visiting these web sites:

<www.sierraclub.org>

<www.sierraclub.org/ca>

<www.motherlode.sierraclub.org>

<www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/sierranevada>

SNG is a member of the
Sierra Nevada Alliance, a
regional coalition of groups. See
<www.sierranevadaalliance.org>

Barbara Rivenes: Chair Chat

Fall election brings spring leaders



I am happy to announce that the Sierra Nevada Group has conducted free and fair elections and you have elected two Management Team members, Charlie Chisholm and Lois Shelton. You voted in respectable numbers and we really do appreciate your interest. And at the last Management Team meeting Charlie Chisholm was chosen as the new Chair, constituting peaceful regime change. Charlie's former job as treasurer

will be taken up by Karen Cox, who has passed on her Conservation Chair position to me. Most of the other volunteers have agreed to stay the course. Thank you!

But there are several important jobs that need filling: **Publicity** and **Outings**. Olivia Diaz will be heading up the Publicity team (see below); her team members can do Publicity jobs from the safety of computer—or typewriter (what's that?). You will receive training from experts. Now Outings leadership is usually done outside, and needs someone who loves to show beautiful places to people who care about the environment. Outings leadership embodies the Sierra Club motto of *Explore, Enjoy and Protect*. Please think how you might be able to join us in reaching more of our neighbors with those words. And, well-timed for our group, note that there is an Outings Leader Training coming up in June at Clair Tappaan Lodge; see page 4 of this newsletter.

Welcome to this spot next time, Charlie!

Olivia Diaz

Join the Publicity Team

Did you make a new year's resolution to take action in your environmental beliefs? How would you like to help your local Sierra Club group?

I am forming a Publicity Team to spread the word about our monthly meetings. I am looking for someone to write a basic media release and send it out to the usual print media and YubaNet. Then someone else can break it down to a catchy 75-word PSA to fax to the radio stations. Someone can pursue getting interviews on the radio. Sometimes we use a phone tree to call groups that might be interested in that month's topic.

Our March meeting will be in Marysville and I would like to mobilize a phone tree to call our members in Yuba and Sutter counties to invite them to come. We did it last year and were very well received. They seemed pleased that we were holding a meeting there, and that we were calling them to make a special invitation. It's not a hard call to make.

Won't you volunteer to help? The tasks are simple and will only take an hour or two. You can reach me at 530 470-8303 or send an e-mail to <odiaz@foothill.net>. In small ways, you can "act locally."

Barbara Rivenes

Conservation Report

In February of last year Emgold Mining Corporation submitted its application to the City of Grass Valley to reopen the Idaho-Maryland Mine, which closed in 1956. The mine would reach full production in 2017 and close around 2027. The community has begun a process to evaluate the pros and cons. Grass Valley resident Joy Waite shared with us a list of questions mailed in to Thomas Last, Planning Director, City of Grass Valley.

Is the city offering tax incentives to Emgold Corporation, Individuals, or investors to re-open the mine?

- Are city employees being paid by Emgold to process their application?
- Will there be toxic materials transported to, or stored on-site? Please describe materials and transport/storage facilities.
- In the event of energy shortages, will citizens, or industry, have priority over the available supply?
- In the event of unforeseen quantities of water in the mine, what will be the maximum capacity of the pumps, and of the “water treatment facility”?
- Wolf Creek currently floods with heavy rainfall. What physical changes will be made to the creek to avoid flooding and/or contamination?
- What means will be used to lower the temperature of the effluent into the creek?
- Are other counties being informed/consulted about potential impacts originating in our section of Wolf Creek?
- This area has never been mined by decline shaft—only vertical shaft. How will it be determined that the decline shaft will be safe? Safety concerns are especially raised with news of recent mining accidents in this country. Please identify faults and earthquake potential at the site.

- What dollar amount is being required for the bonds, during operations, in the case of unforeseen problems, AND for reclamation?
- What will be the scope of the reclamation? This applies to both above ground and below ground reclamation. i.e., buildings, water treatment facilities, impacts to Wolf Creek, impacts to private property, roads, etc. What are the assurances that Emgold will be held to their responsibility for this?
- Will Emgold provide required inspection timelines prior to operations and during operations to discover any impacts/violations, timeline for remedies, dollar amount of mitigation and fines to deal with potential impacts? How will Grass Valley be assured that the city will not forfeit tax revenue, or be responsible for unforeseen impacts?
- What systems will be put in

place to facilitate community involvement in ensuring agreements are adhered to, that toxic spills are prevented/dealt with, that costs/fines are paid by Emgold, etc. i.e. Citizen Advisory Committee and complaint protocol?

- Why is a proposal to re-zone as extreme as from “medium density residential” to “industrial” being considered?
- What level of security will be required for the explosive storage?
- How is cyanide “destroyed” prior to ceramics processing?
- What energy infrastructure will be required for the mining and tile manufacturing? Who will pay for this? What will be the power sources? Who will monitor the water treatment/effluent into Wolf Creek?
- How can we be assured that the zoning would not remain “Industrial” when and if mining operations cease?



Arc Dome at sunset: photo by Nicholas George

E-mail reminders

Would you like an e-mail reminder of our monthly meetings? Lately, I have been sending out reminders to 146 members (out of 1,332 members of the Sierra Nevada Group) who have given us an e-mail address with permission to use it.

If you would like to receive such notifications, please send your name and current e-mail address to me at <malamud@foothill.net>. I PROMISE that it will not be used for any other purpose.

Sierra Club national elections: vote by April 24!

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway. In March, you will receive your national Sierra Club ballot in the mail. Voting will end on April 24.

Why an election? The Sierra Club at all levels is a democratically structured organization, requiring the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its membership. The Board of Directors, required to stand for election, sets Club policy and budgets and works closely with staff to operate the Club. We members have both the privilege and responsibility to vote for candidates who express our views on how the Club should evolve.

Voting therefore is important—and it's easy, whether via paper or Internet. Read the election mailing, check <www.sierraclub.org/bod/2006election>, discuss it within the chapter, and be sure to vote!

Outings Leader Training Workshop

Whether you're an old hand or have never led before, you're invited to attend a weekend of interactive learning and networking with leaders from all outing programs.

Outings Leader Training will happen during the weekend of June 9–11, 2006, right in the Sierra Nevada Group's neighborhood, at Clair Tappaan Lodge.

This workshop is offered by the Outdoor Activities Training Program (OATP) and fulfills both the OLT 101 and OLT 201 requirements. Cost is \$45 including meals and bunk-style cabin lodging. See <<http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/training/upcoming.asp>>.

John Muir Conference

The John Muir Center at the University of Pacific in Stockton will be sponsoring a John Muir Conference, an event given every five years, on March 31 – April 1. The 2006 theme is "John Muir in Global Perspective."

Highlights and topics include:

- A pre-conference field trip to Martinez to visit the John Muir National Historic Site
- *John Muir Birthplace in Dunbar, Scotland*
- *Robert Burns and Muir*
- *The John Muir Trust of Scotland*
- *The Fight over Hetch Hetchy*
- *John Muir, William Keith, and Joseph LeConte: Early Days in California*; Steve Pauly, curator and moderator
- The music of Louie Strentzel-Muir played by Patty Pauly
- *Muir's Canadian years, 1864-66*
- Bonnie Gisel on *Muir's Botany*
- *Muir's Return to Scotland, 1893*
- *Muir and Sargent's travels in Finland, Western Russia, 1903*
- *Muir in India*
- Lee Stetson as *John Muir, The Global Traveler*

The preliminary program and registration form (registration is \$60, including luncheons) is at <<http://www.pacific.edu/college/muir>>.



A desert hiking companion goes forward. Photo by Nicholas George

Ernie Malamud

Volunteers sought to help Clair Tappaan Lodge

To save Clair Tappaan (CTL), the Sierra Club's much-beloved rustic lodge near Donner Summit, \$126,305 has been raised, exceeding the \$100,000 challenge from the Board of Directors. Now the many supporters of CTL must turn their attention to increasing use of the lodge.

The future of Clair Tappaan Lodge is not assured until it can reach the breakeven point. Historically the Lodge has attracted 11,000 to 12,000 overnight visitors per year. Breakeven is between 14,000 and 15,000. Increased day use and fundraising events can also improve the bottom line. Day use is particularly relevant to our group, since we live within easy driving distance.

Clair Tappaan's success is due largely in part to the dedication of volunteers. At this point a substantial influx of new volunteers is needed. Would you be willing to become part of marketing team? There are jobs with all levels of time commitment:

- 1 Take a look at the activities calendar on the CTL web page <ctl.sierraclub.org>. We need people who can write press releases and communicate information about these wonderful events to the media.
- 2 Enthusiastic volunteers can contact groups that might like to stay at the Lodge. Would you be willing to make phone calls to hiking, biking, nature groups, scouts, and others to acquaint them with what the lodge offers and suggest that their group can

use the lodge as an outing base or a place to hold an event?

- 3 On the CTL web page is described a marvelous range of recreation possibilities for all seasons. Would you be available to lead a hike, snowshoe or bike trip using Clair Tappaan as your base? To volunteer, contact Tony Loftin at <hikingtony@earthlink.net>.
- 4 There is an ongoing effort to acquaint people with the lodge. Would you be willing to visit local sporting and ski shops, talk with the manager or owner and leave brochures for them to distribute?

There are many fun and rewarding ways to help. Please contact me at 530 470-8303 or <malamud@foothill.net> if you want more information on any of these volunteer opportunities. I recently became the website administrator for the CTL web pages. Let me know what you think of it.

And, finally, use the lodge! Consider visiting during the week; you avoid the traffic, and you get a discount on your stay as well. And consider day use – drive up for breakfast and then go snowshoeing. Or go skiing and stop on your way back home for a hearty and

nutritious meal. For information about staying at the Lodge, visit <www.ctl.sierraclub.org> or call (800) 679-6775.

“Explore, enjoy and protect the planet”

The *exploration* and *enjoyment* of the magnificent wild areas in our nation is intimately connected to the *protection* of the planet, the Sierra Club's conservation mission. The use of the Clair Tappaan “flagship” lodge and all the other components of the Club's extensive and multi-faceted outings program connect to its conservation mission and relate to the history of the club, why it was formed and how it has evolved over the years.

I think it is a serious mistake to think that eliminating the “explore and enjoy” from the Sierra Club motto will benefit the overall mission of the club. Some dollars might be saved, but the Club will lose members, will lose advertising, will lose credibility and influence. In fact, the Club will have lost its way. It is important that the Clair Tappaan Lodge remain a part of the Sierra Club.



photo by Richard Boyden

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www.ctl.sierraclub.org

530 426-3632 or 800 679-6775

Ozone and breath

Nevada County Breathers is a new organization working to educate folks about ozone in our air: what it is, why there's so much of it, and how it affects us.

In conjunction with the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District, the group has developed a user-friendly PowerPoint presentation you can download and show your friends.

You can find the link at <motherlode.sierraclub.org/sierranevada/ozone.html>. For more info, phone Jeff Kane at 265-0478.

Home cooking? How about Home Eating!

"Come Home To Eat" will be an educational and festival style event focusing on local food. The all-day event is scheduled for Saturday, March 25, 2006 at the Grass Valley Veterans' Hall.

Highlighting the event is a forum of local farmers and ranchers representing a cross section of production from our area. Panelists will be sharing concerns and insight surrounding farm issues. Representatives from the consumer sector will also participate in the discussion, initiating a working dialogue on supply and demand.

A festival atmosphere full of entertainers, children's activities, exhibits and educational booths will round out the day. Food for the event will showcase seasonal and local availability.

All activities at "Come Home To Eat" will be offered to the community with no admission

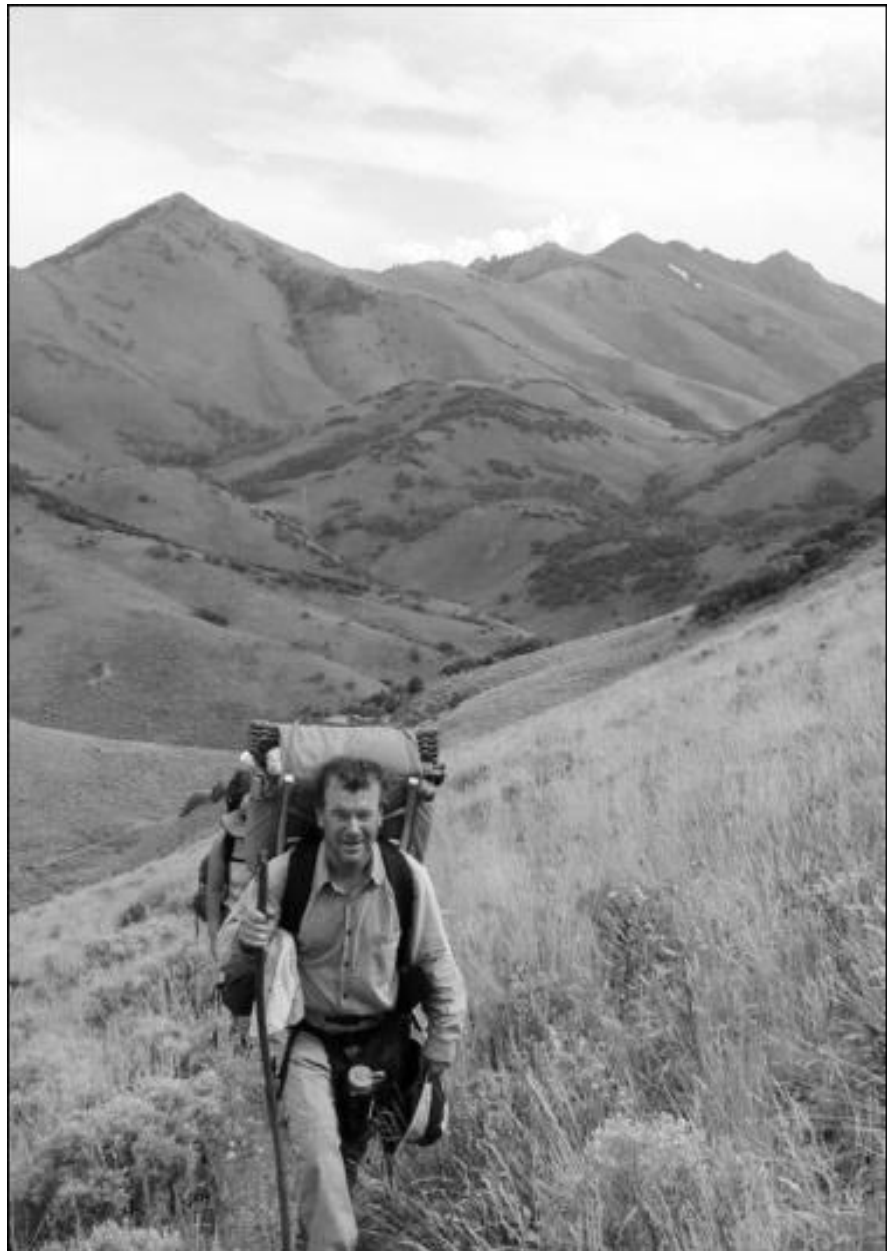
charge. Lunch and vendor products relating directly to Local Food will be for sale with proceeds going to the producers.

All expenses for the event will be covered by donations from community groups and individual donors.

This event is being presented by volunteers from community groups who care about our local food supply. They include Food Democracy Alliance of Nevada

County (FDA), Alliance for a Post-Petroleum Local Economy (APPLE), the local chapter of the Weston A. Price Foundation, Sierra Nevada Deep Ecology Institute (SNDEI), BriarPatch Community Market, UC Cooperative Extension Office, Heaven & Earth Farm, and others.

For more information, e-mail <FoodDemocracyAlliance@yahoo.com>, visit <www.apple-nc.org>, or call Rita at 288-3238.



On the Toiyabe Crest Trail, Nevada. Photo by Nicholas George

Sierra Uplift

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of the SIERRA CLUB
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Permit No. 8
Grass Valley, CA

2006 Season

We have organized a varied and interesting program for the 2006 season — we hope you can attend!

General meetings

Friday evenings

March 17

Nicholas George

Nevada Wilderness along the Desert Trail

Public Library in Marysville

(see page 1 for directions)

7:00 pm Coffee, tea, & cookies

7:30 pm Program

April 21

Robert Shibatani

Challenges in Water Resource Management in the Sierra Nevada Foothills

Seaman's Lodge, Nevada City

6:30 pm Dinner potluck

7:30 pm Program

May 19

Janet Cohen and Carol Kennedy

Effects of Global Warming on the Sierra Nevada Forests

Clair Tappaan Lodge

6 pm Dinner (call 800 679-6775
for reservations)

8 pm Program

Reserve the dates!

October 22

15th Annual Nevada City *Run
Through the Colors*, 5K and 10K
walk / run

For details see our web page
<[http://motherlode.sierraclub.org/
SierraNevada](http://motherlode.sierraclub.org/SierraNevada)>.

Regular Committee Meetings

- **Conservation & Management Committee** Meets every fourth Monday, 6:30 p.m. at the SYRCL office, 216 Main St, Nevada City.

Local Outings

- A group meets Wed and Sat mornings at 9:00 am on Sutton Way just up from the Coldwell Banker office. They decide that morning where they are going and their hikes are easy to moderate (5-7 miles). Contact Clarence Motter at 274-3697 or Laurie Lile at 273-6406 for more information.
- Another group whose hikes are longer and more strenuous (6 to 12 miles) meets on Tues and Fri at 8:45 am on Sutton Way just up from the Coldwell Banker office. They also decide that morning where they are going to hike. Contact Robin DeNegri at 274-7985.
- And there is also the **Nevada County Hiking Club**. See <www.ncws.com/akh/hike/>