



Goshawk

THE SIERRA CLUB NEWSLETTER FROM CLAIR TAPPAAN LODGE (CTL)

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<https://www.facebook.com/clairtappaanlodge/>

Thank you to all who participated in the September Sierra Club National Outing Service Trip at CTL. A lot of wood was cut to help the Lodge get ready for winter. Painters also spruced up the place!

For information on Sierra Club service trips, go to:
<https://content.sierraclub.org/outings/search?activities=Service/Volunteer&facets=activities>



FALL IN THE SIERRA

Fall is the hidden season at CTL. The crowds have gone home and the weather is usually great. Come up and take some great hikes to the lakes. There might even be some snow!



CALL CTL FOR RESERVATIONS

530-426-3632

2018 CTL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION GRANTS

So far this year, the Clair Tappaan Lodge Environmental Scholarship Fund has given \$18,329 in grant money to help school children visit Clair Tappaan and Hutchinson Lodges to experience the Sierra environment first-hand. The kids learn about forest ecology, wetland studies, climate change, snow science, and geology. They rock climb, hike, kayak, snowshoe, and ski.

Money is raised at the CTL Fundraiser every year, and donors contribute throughout the year. Thank you!

Seven grants were awarded in 2018:

Oakland Inspiring Connections Outdoors / January 20 - 21, 2018 / Hutchinson Lodge / 15 high school students from Madison Park Academy in East Oakland. \$495

Sunrise Middle School, East San Jose (Gateway Mountain Center) / February 20 - 22, 2018 / Clair Tappaan Lodge / 14 students and two adults. \$1,834

Castlemont High School / Sustainable Urban Design Academy (Gateway Mountain Center) / April 20 - 22, 2018 / Clair Tappaan Lodge / 40 students and four adults. \$2,500

Sylvan Middle School (Headwaters Science Institute) / Clair Tappaan Lodge / May 14 - 15, 2018 / 80 students. \$2,500

Met Sacramento High School (Headwaters Science Institute) / May 29 - 31, 2018 / Clair Tappaan Lodge / 35 high school students. \$2,500

Peninsula Bridge college-access organization (Gateway Mountain Center) / July 9 - 13, 2018 / Clair Tappaan Lodge / 70 ninth-grade students and seven chaperones. \$3,000

Alliance Academy / Oakland Unified (Gateway Mountain Center) / Sept. 25 - 27, 2018 / Clair Tappaan Lodge / 46 eighth-grade students and chaperones. \$5,500

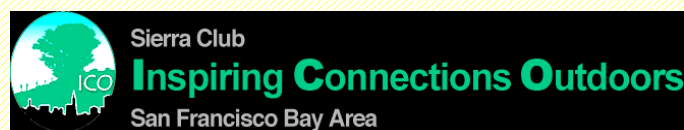
For more information on the Environmental Education Program, check out the following:

Sierra Club/CTL Outdoor/Environmental Education Partners

<http://clairtappaanlodge.com/environmental-education-programs-and-partners>

Our environmental program partners with groups that help create educational, fun, and memorable experiences in the outdoors:

[Gateway Mountain Center](#)
[Headwaters Science Institute](#)
[Sierra Nevada Journeys](#)
[Discovering Grace Adventures](#)
[Tahoe Adventure Company](#)



Sierra Club's Inspiring Connections Outdoors conducts outdoor trips in partnership with schools and community groups throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. They serve youth of all ages from diverse communities and backgrounds.
<http://www.sfbayico.org/>



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EIGHTH-GRADE CLASS, ALLIANCE ACADEMY, OAKLAND, CA, VISIT CTL



"Thank you so much for all of your help with this trip. It would not have happened without you and we are forever grateful. We had a wonderful time and the kids had so much fun in the outdoors... An incredible experience!"

Letter from Allison Godfrey, Teacher, to Jane Risk, Chair, CTL Committee Environmental Fund Review Team



Check out a video of the trip at:
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=YOE8Z9T7mj0&feature=youtu.be>



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SIERRA CLUB HUTS IN THE DONNER/TAHOE REGION

By Dick Simpson, CTL Hut Committee Chair

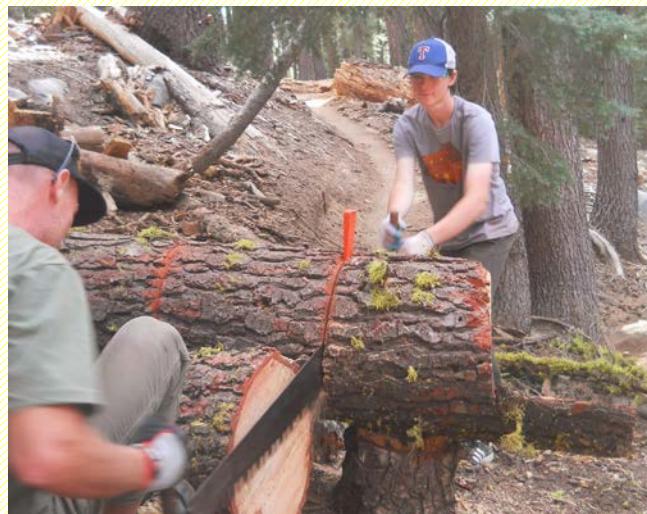
It was another successful year for hut use and maintenance. The huts remain an attractive choice for people interested in rustic shelter at a reasonable price. Hut users then reciprocate by providing the majority of labor for hut maintenance and preparation for the next winter season. The 2017-18 season was not an especially good one for winter sports in the Donner Summit and Lake Tahoe region. There was little snow for Christmas and New Year; then commercial ski resorts suffered through the next two holiday weekends. However, about three inches of snow fell between Sunday night and Monday morning of President's Day weekend. That was the beginning of a month of subfreezing temperatures and better snowfall. Total precipitation for the winter was still well below average, and snow was melting quickly by the middle of April, but the month of good winter conditions starting in mid-February made a difference.



Peter Grubb Hut in January 2018

Hut Maintenance

The huts are maintained by work parties of volunteers—usually on weekends—between late spring and early fall. In 2018 the work was primarily cutting, hauling, and stacking firewood. We scheduled nine work weekends. The first was postponed a month because there was still too much snow on the ground in early June to find firewood near Peter Grubb hut. By early July the snow was gone but the US Forest Service imposed fire restrictions which precluded use of chain saws. Virtually all firewood stocked in Peter Grubb for winter 2018-19 was cut by hand with two-person crosscut saws. Some chainsaw work was done at Benson in late June and at Ludlow and Peter Grubb in October.



A father and son cutting a large log with a crosscut saw near Peter Grubb Hut in September.

In addition to firewood, the following tasks were completed at one or more huts:

- Wood stove and stovepipe maintenance
- Staining and painting
- Roof repairs
- Floor patching
- Cleaning nearby grounds
- Breaking up fire rings
- Servicing outhouses



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During almost every work party, there was a significant effort to clean the interior of the hut because of trash and dirt accumulation. A total of 121 volunteers participated in scheduled Sierra Club work parties, contributing 254 person-days of work. In addition, Sugar Bowl Academy recruited 11 volunteers who contributed 22 person-days of work at Benson Hut during a 'private' work party.



Volunteer using 'wood packs' to carry firewood to Peter Grubb Hut.



Peter Grubb work party, 29-30 September.



Ludlow work party in October

New Hut Reservations

Clair Tappaan Lodge received 195 requests for reservations for the 2018-19 winter season by the end-of-October deadline. Of the 56 work-party volunteers who made reservations, 51 (91%) were able to secure them; 80 (57.6%) of the non-work party requests were filled. An additional 13 requests arrived within a few days after the deadline; those applicants (and the general public) were advised to contact CTL by phone to follow up.

For background information on Donner/Tahoe Sierra Club huts, go to:

clairtappaanlodge.com/backcountry-huts



Most of the July Peter Grubb work party at the parking area below Castle Pass



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September work party
at Benson Hut



Peter Grubb work
party, 13-14 October



June Benson Hut work
party



Most of the 22-23
September work party
at Peter Grubb Hut



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LODGE MAINTENANCE

By John Jackson, CTL Operations

A multitude of deferred maintenance and improvement projects has been completed at Clair Tappaan this past summer season, with a particular focus on Hutchinson Lodge. The work was completed by staff and by participants in two Sierra Club National Outings service trips for the 2018 summer/fall season. A small sampling of these projects are described below.

Clair Tappaan

- Completed exterior painting of decks, railings, and window sills
- Sealed exterior log posts, log beams, and deck beams
- Wood floors in living room and main hallway resurfaced and sealed (by flooring contractor)



- Cleared downed trees, tree branches, and brush from cross-country ski trails
- Replaced missing siding shakes
- Disassembled old redwood water tank and transported the redwood planks and beams over to Hutchinson Lodge
- Installed new door onto 200s-wing front yard balcony deck
- Extended flower bed at loading zone

- Installed wallboard ceiling trim in 100- and 200-group rooms



- Removed old, discarded concrete footings from around the Lodge exterior
- Replaced drain covers in guest lounge and Basemen Hall

Hutchinson Lodge

- Assembled and installed bunk beds in lofts (loft sleeping now accommodates 16 in bunk beds, in addition to downstairs sleeping platforms)



- Stained and sealed kitchen and shower room doors and trim
- Repaired cracked concrete floor in summer entry



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- Stained and sealed kitchen window sills / frames
- Built two new wood patios / decks, with great views of Sugar Bowl, using salvaged redwood from one of the old water tanks
- Removed and repaired five damaged shutters (bent steel rods and attachment plates) and reattached shutters
- Scraped and painted inside surfaces of shutters



- Jacked up winter entry room floor and replaced rotted joist and ledge at winter entry
- Poured new concrete pad and replaced stairs into the wintry entry



Upcoming CTL Projects

(Hopefully before the winter season)

- Install copper caps on all exterior log beams
- Modify the kitchen-to-living room door into a “Dutch door” to prepare for our new “espresso coffee window”
- Construct a new, large, retail display case between the main entryway and front office
- Convert the old manager’s office (next to the main entry door) into a merchandise storage room for new retail items
- Remodel the basement “shovel / storage room” into a new manager’s office

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**Earn a free night’s stay at CTL
for one day’s labor!**
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