

VOTE!



THE SIERRA CLUB NEWSLETTER FROM CLAIR TAPPAAN LODGE (CTL)

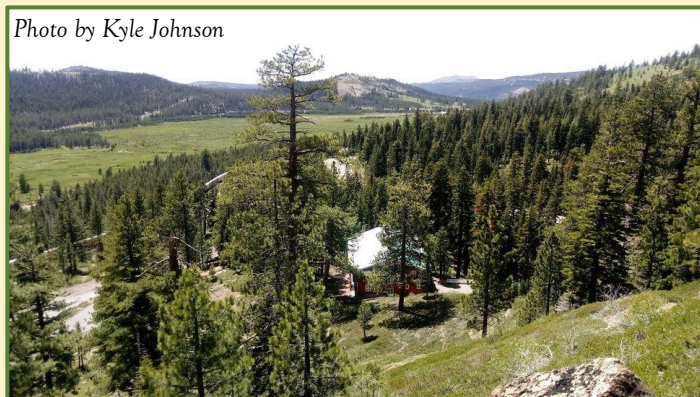
COVID UPDATE

Clair Tappaan and Hutchinson Lodges will remain closed at least until March 1, 2021, and the backcountry huts until April 1, 2021. These dates could change. All Sierra Club outings-related activities have been halted.

On November 3, the front desk will take reservations for CTL and for Hutchinson Lodge (now also available as an Airbnb), and on February 1 for the huts.

BUT, Lodge Assistant Kyle Johnson notes “just because we're closed doesn't mean the land around us is. Taking a stroll near the lodge is always welcome. We have lengthy trails through amazing landscapes and if you stop by, we usually see you before you reach the front door and we can step outside to say hello and chat (with face masks) to let you know how we're doing.” Please check restrictions before coming. During extreme fire warnings, the trails are sometimes closed to all activities, including hiking.

Photo by Kyle Johnson



LODGE UPDATE

Alice Harten, CTL General Manager, reported on summer tasks accomplished during shut-down. You can go to our Facebook page for more details and photos/videos ([CTL Facebook](#)):

- Finished repairing and painting the cubicles and all four bathrooms. Now working on the 100s & 200s - rooms first then hallways.
- Removed all bunks from the men's dorm, repaired/painted walls - will eventually be a suite.
- Removed bunks from the women's dorm turning the place into an additional common area so there will be plenty of room for social distancing.
- Took all artwork down, got rid of broken frames and posters with holes, etc. We obtained new art and new frames and are hanging them along with most of the older works as we finish rooms.
- Rebuilt the dining room deck that was rotten and infested with carpenter ants.



Photo by Kyle Johnson

- Treated numerous other locations for carpenter ants.
- Almost finished rebuilding library deck and stairs.
- Repaired employee housing deck railing.
- Fire mitigation - both regular annual clearing as well as removing some bushes and small trees too close to the building. The Fire Marshall inspected Hutchinson - they had no record that it had ever been done before.
- Repaired drains from two leaking showers in the women's dorm. This involved cutting into the ceiling above the stairs and then finding the right parts to fit in the original tight space.
- Lots of small repairs here and there.
- Answering the phone and responding to emails. Writing Covid-19 prevention re-opening plans, budgets, and forecasts.
- Walking the property to ensure that no one is camping, creating fire hazards, or damaging the lodges, huts, and surroundings.
- Spotting a wolverine in early August not too far from CTL - it was an amazing sighting. Alice and the wolverine were close, staring at each other. (Check out [Where did the Wolverines go?](#))



CTL ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The CTL Advisory Committee weighs in on all aspects of the Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan and Hutchinson Lodges and the four backcountry huts. The Committee is a long-standing group of volunteers founded many years ago in the spirit of volunteerism that built CTL by hand in 1934. This is our quarterly *Goshawk*, intended to bring you up-to-date on activities through early fall 2020 (past newsletters can be viewed [here](#), back to 2017).

Like all of us, Clair Tappaan Lodge has been impacted by the pandemic—closed since early spring. Most of all, the lodges and huts, staff, and the Committee miss all our visitors. We



especially promote the involvement of young people from every walk of life. Through schools, we bring disadvantaged youth to the lodges for transformational personal and academic experiences. Please help us continue our very special Environmental Education grants program when we reopen. Your donation will make access, food, lodging, and supplies possible for future stewards and committed world citizens. Please join us next summer for our annual fundraiser at CTL—it's like a family reunion—or [DONATE](#) now if you can. Thank you.

SAVE THE DATE
JULY 16 - 18, 2021
CTL ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION FUNDRAISER



Sierra Club Clair Tappaan Lodge
19940 Donner Pass Road
Norden, CA 95724
(530) 426-3632
www.clairtappaanlodge.com



CTL ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE (CONTINUED)

Jane Risk, member of the CTL Advisory Committee and Education Grant Review team, initiated a response to a July 27 KQED News Daily article [Nature for All: The Groups Bringing Inclusion Outdoors](#). The article asked for names of groups that work to further diversity and inclusion outdoors, so we sent them the names of two: Clair Tappaan Lodge Environmental Education Fund / Sierra Club (<https://clairtappaanlodge.com/environmental-education-programs-and-partners>) and Inspiring Connections Outdoors / Sierra Club (<https://www.sierraclub.org/ico>).

Jane also prepared a letter sent to all SC Outings leaders, emphasizing that “It is a long overdue step in making sure ALL people are able to Explore, Enjoy and Protect our planet” and that the Clair Tappaan Lodge Environmental Education Program gives teachers the opportunity to bring diverse groups of students into the outdoors—from low-income families and underfunded urban schools, including many English language learners and those who have never been to the mountains or seen snow.

Currently, we are working with Debra and Tom from Synergia Learning Ventures who created a great video in 2005 focusing on environmental education at the lodge. We have resurrected the video and will do final edits and distribute it widely to get folks back to the lodge when we open again. It will go out to schools to encourage teachers to sign up their classes with the various adventure learning groups like Gateway Mountain Center and Headwaters Science Institute. See [Gateway's promotional video](#) focusing on their program at CTL.

BIKE PATHS ALONG DONNER PASS ROAD

Road rehabilitation, shoulder widening, and bike path work are proceeding on 6.5 miles of Donner Pass Road beginning at the Soda Springs exit and ending at the Truckee town limit east of the summit, going right past CTL. There will be bike lanes in both directions on the west side and in the uphill direction on the east side. More information can be found at <https://highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/projects/ca/donner-pass>.



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PLANNING FOR 2021

**Family Fun and Service at Clair Tappaan Lodge,
Tahoe National Forest, California**
Sierra Club Outings Trip - August 9-15, 2021
(COVID guidelines will be followed; this program
could be cancelled).

Highlights

- Maintain the trails around historic CTL.
- Explore Sierra Nevada streams, lakes, and meadows.
- Enjoy engaging in after-work activities.



The Trip

Looking for a trip you and your family can enjoy that offers a memorable setting, fun, and rewarding service work? The lodge has hosted many generations of nature lovers, and our efforts will help to ensure it can and will continue to do so in the future. You can help to ensure the special legacy of the lodge and what it represents to people who cherish nature, while at the same time enjoying its amenities and setting. This trip will be a fun and educational opportunity for all family members.

Service trip Leader Steve Veit lives in California's Napa Valley, not far from his favorite hiking, climbing and skiing spots in the Sierra. Steve has climbed and hiked in the US and Canadian Rockies, Cascades, Alaska Range, Swiss, German and Austrian Alps, and Himalayas of Nepal, India, Bhutan and Tibet. He enjoys leading service trips—a great way to explore a natural area while doing something useful to preserve and maintain it. He also enjoys leading international trips, observing traditions that other cultures have developed to live in harmony with their natural environments, and learning how they adapt these traditions to a changing world. A Sierra Club leader since 2010, Steve is a wilderness first responder.



BOOK YOUR TRIP HERE

Trip Number: 21317A
Minimum Age = 10



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WHAT WILL YOUR

LEGACY BE?

**Ensure a lasting legacy by naming Sierra Club's
Clair Tappaan Lodge in your will or trust to support
environmental education.**

Contact: Guillermo.condeso@sierraclub.org, 415-977-5740

*Photo by
Kassandra Maas*



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CLUB**

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