

# Tehipite Topics

Summer 2006 ♪ Vol. 52, No. 5

[www.tehipite.sierraclub.org](http://www.tehipite.sierraclub.org)

## Cleanup!

by Richard Sloan

At the request of the Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club for an Earth Day Event, the request of the Bureau of Reclamation, and the concurrence of the San Joaquin River Conservancy (SJRC), RiverTree Volunteers organized a river cleanup event. The cleanup took place on two Conservancy properties, Sycamore Island and Ball Ranch. Our club, the Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club, had a relatively small turnout at both Ball Ranch and Sycamore Island. Other groups who participated were the Milerton Area Watershed Coordinator, Central Unified Watershed Coordinator, East Fresno Rotary Club's Interact Club from Sunnyside High School (26 participants), Kiwanis Club, Circle K Club, Future Farmers of America and RiverTree Volunteers. Forty-nine volunteers were present at Sycamore Island and sixteen were present at Ball Ranch. The San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust was invited to participate, but declined.

Preparatory work began with an inspection of proposed projects by Richard Sloan of the Tehipite Chapter



and Chuck Kroeger of RiverTree. On April 20, two dumpsters and a port-a-jon were delivered to the site, paid for by the Bureau of Reclamation. On April 21, RiverTree personnel inspected the site and began preparatory work at Sycamore Island. A structure on the South end of the property was collapsed and two heavy rock-crushing mortars used as fire pits were removed from the bait shop area. A third was dragged from the eucalyptus grove. All were placed on a concrete slab at the shop garage. More remain to be removed, to minimize fire danger, until proper picnic facilities are established.

of the front porch, doors, windows, and shelves. Much junk from the outside grounds was removed. The garden area around the bait shop was restored to a more natural setting, and invasive vines removed from the valley oak and garden area. Railroad tie edging and concrete curbing was broken up and placed in the dumpsters.

Using the canoes which were provided, volunteers cleaned the canal area behind the bait shop of floating debris and trash. The dock had broken loose and was floating, but it was too heavy to recover during this project. Thirty volunteers had a chance to learn how to paddle a canoe and retrieve trash. The event ended at 5:00 P.M. The two dumpsters, one 30-cubic-yard and one 40-cubic-yard dumpster were completely filled. At Ball Ranch almost a half mile of barbed wire fence and posts were removed.

During this event, deer, rabbits, a gopher snake, bobcat, and many species of birds, including a white swan, were spotted. Thanks to all who participated! ♪



On 22 April, the event started at 0730 with the placing of direction signs for the event. The supervisory crew all arrived at 0800 and the participants started arriving about 0900. The collapsed shack was completely cleaned up. The three remaining buildings were prepared for demolition by removal

# June General Meeting

Wednesday, June 21<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.  
University of California Center  
550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno  
(across from Fashion Fair)

*“From Woodmanston, Georgia to Yosemite  
From Rice Plantation to the San Francisco Bay  
The Life and Legacy of Joseph LeConte  
and LeConte Memorial Lodge”*

*presented by Bonnie Gisel*

Bonnie Johanna Gisel, Ph.D., is the Curator (2002-2006) of LeConte Memorial Lodge, the Sierra Club's home in Yosemite National Park, where she designs environmental educational programs, including the *Nature Journal*, *Words for Wilderness around the World*, the *Wilderness Quilt Project*, and *Green Shoes*. She is a naturalist, artist,

nature writer, and historian who has written extensively about the life and work of John Muir. Presently she is at work on a book on John Muir and his life as a botanist. She is the editor of *Nature Journal with John Muir* (Poetic Matrix, Madera, California, 2006); the author of the introduction to *John Muir: Family, Friends, and Adventures* (published by the University of New Mexico Press, 2005); and the author and editor of *Kindred & Related Spirits: The Letters of John Muir and Jeanne C. Carr* (published by the University of Utah Press, 2001). She has published articles and lectured on John Muir and her own journeys in wilderness, including *A Song In Several Keys: Yosemite Journal*, that appeared in *California Tour and Travel*.

## Conservation & Executive Committees

Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.  
University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno

*Dinner Date with the Speaker has  
been canceled due to lack of interest.*



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## **Merced Group**

### **Conservation and Executive Committee Meeting**

Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 P.M. at Rod Webster's home, 345 E. 20<sup>th</sup> St., Merced.

Conservation meeting is first and can last 30-40 minutes. Anyone with an interest in local, state or national conservation issues is welcome to attend. Come just to get informed or get as involved as you wish.

### **June General Meeting**

The June General Meeting will be a day event in Oakland.

### **Boat Tour of the Port of Oakland**

Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Every year the Port of Oakland offers the public a rare glimpse of its maritime operations. This fun and free tour is offered June through October on the third Thursday of the month.

To reserve a space on the tour, please call or email Linda Lagace at (209) 384-1354, llagace@bigvalley.net. We've reserved 15 spaces on the 1:00 P.M. tour. You can take your personal cars, possibly carpool, or take the 7:45 A.M. Amtrak to Jack London Square. The train arrives at 10:55 A.M. There is a 5:50 P.M. train back from Oakland that arrives in Merced at 8:51 P.M. Check with Amtrak to confirm fares. We will connect those people who wish to carpool.

### **Annual December Banquet Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-9:00 P.M.**

Our banquet will be at the Branding Iron in Merced. We are just starting to plan the event and our silent auction. If you have any ideas on the programs you would like or any suggestions for speakers, please let us know. Also, please start putting aside those pieces of art, pottery, jewelry and whatever valuables you can donate to the auction. Finally, let us know how you liked last year's food selection.

### **Volunteers Needed**

Our local chapter needs someone who can volunteer to be in charge of our calendar and card sales. Contact Rod Webster at (209) 723-4747 if you are willing to help us out.

### **Outings**

#### **Additional Outings**

Please see the Tehipite Chapter and Yokuts Group of the Mother Lode Chapter listings (Modesto area, motherlode.sierraclub.org/yokuts/index.html.) Phone Rod Webster at (209) 723-4747 if you would like to coordinate carpooling with others from your area.

# Channel Islands National Park and Marine Sanctuary

## Fundraising Cruises

### July 21-24

Four days, four islands. San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, and Anacapa Islands. (\$750)

### August 25-29 & September 14-18

Five days, five islands. San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa, and Santa Barbara Islands. (\$875)

All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. Participants are invited to board the boat the night before to ensure an early morning departure. Prices include assigned bunks, meals and snacks, and a ranger/naturalist who will lead hikes and help us identify whales, dolphins, seals, sea lions, and numerous species of bird and plant life. An archeologist will travel with us to help identify artifacts left by the native Chumash who inhabited these islands for thousands of years.



Each island is unique and offers its own special charm. **San Miguel** is known for its white, sandy beaches and huge congregation of elephant seals; **Santa Rosa**, for its rare Torrey Pine forest; **Santa Cruz**, for high mountains, deep valleys and the famous Painted Cave; **Anacapa**, for the west coast brown pelican rookery, steep cliffs, a picturesque lighthouse and excellent snorkeling waters; **Santa Barbara**, for pristine waters and a friendly colony of frolicking sea lions. All islands have rugged shorelines dotted with sea caves, and are inhabited by an abundance of wildlife. Activities include hiking, kayaking, snorkeling, beachcombing, or just relaxing at sea. In summer, warmer, pristine waters of the Marine Sanctuary will entice snorkelers and swimmers.

### Proceeds benefit Sierra Club political programs in California.

To make a reservation, send \$100 check payable to "Sierra Club" to leader Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, 91732. For more information, call Joan at (626) 443-0706 or email [jholtzhln@aol.com](mailto:jholtzhln@aol.com). ☞



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# Sierra Club California

## Lobby Day, August 13-14

**H**elp Sierra Club California discuss priority environmental issues such as global warming, forestry, flood control, and outdoor education with our state legislators at the State Capitol—beginners welcome!

This is a great opportunity to protect the environment by influencing the political process, to practice your advocacy skills, and to meet new people with similar issue interests from around the state.

Training for Lobby Day will take place on Sunday afternoon, August 13<sup>th</sup>, in Sacramento. Sierra Club California's lobbyists will provide helpful tools and knowledge for achieving successful meetings with legislators and their staff members. The lobbyists will also discuss the legislative process and provide talking points on the priority bills that you will discuss in the capitol.



Built by Sierra Club members in 1934, this rustic, hostel-style lodge stands atop historic Donner Pass, just an hour and a half from Sacramento. Expect convenient access to all mountain activities, excellent family style meals, a friendly staff and a casual atmosphere.

### FEATURED PROGRAMS

- JUNE 16–18 Navigational Workshop** Price: \$145 members, \$170 non-members (includes lodging, meals and workshop)
- JUNE 16–18, SEPTEMBER 8–10 Yoga Workshop** Price: \$145 members, \$170 non-members (includes lodging, meals and workshop)
- JUNE 18–23 Sierra Serenity** 5 days of hiking with 12 step meetings Price: \$250
- JUNE 23–25, JULY 21–23, AUGUST 18–20 Donner Lake Rim Trail Work Party** Participants receive a 50% discount on their second night of lodging
- JULY 8, OCTOBER 7 Full Moon Hikes** Free for guests of the Lodge
- JULY 14–16 Mountain Bike Weekend** Free for guests of the Lodge
- AUGUST 11–13 Second Annual Save The Clair Tappaan Experience Fundraising Event**



For more information about these programs or to receive a full schedule and description of Clair Tappaan programs please visit our website at [www.ctl.sierraclub.org](http://www.ctl.sierraclub.org) or call (800) 679-6775.



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photo/Kathy Bishop

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Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

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Lobby Day Participants will attend meetings with key legislators at the State Capitol in Sacramento on Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, throughout the day. The day will end with a debriefing and wrap-up back at the Sierra Club office.

Sierra Club California will provide free hotel accommodations in double-occupancy rooms in a nearby hotel in Sacramento, and will provide Sunday dinner, as well as breakfast and lunch on Monday. Most transportation expenses will also be reimbursed with prior approval.

The registration deadline for Lobby Day is August 1<sup>st</sup>. Please register as soon as possible, as we may receive more applications than we have spaces. Preference may be given to applicants from our targeted districts. Early registration is helpful, as we must make appointments with legislators.

For more information, please contact Sabrina Juarez, Sierra Club California Legislative Aide, (916) 557-1100 ext. 107, or email [Juarez@sierraclub-sac.org](mailto:Juarez@sierraclub-sac.org).

# ECOVIEW

by Marian Orvis

## Household Cleaning Products Update

Buyer beware: dryer balls and sheets. As it turns out, those plastic dryer balls that claim to be earth-friendly, because they soften fabric “without chemicals,” are actually made of polyvinyl chloride, among the least recyclable of plastics, whose manufacture and incineration release carcinogenic dioxins. Toxic phthalates are generally used to make vinyl soft and flexible. And because the colorful nubby dryer balls look like teething toys, young children might be tempted to put them in their mouths.

**Better Idea:** Choose green fabric softeners by Seventh Generation or Ecover, or simply add 1/4 cup of baking soda to wash cycle.

So-called cotton static eliminators are actually made of polyester: another bust, unfortunately, because their manufacture consumes petroleum, and they aren't made of recycled polyester.

**Better Idea:** To avoid static cling in the dryer, dry cotton clothes and synthetic clothes separately. Or, adding 1/4 cup vinegar to the wash cycle will both soften fabrics and eliminate static.

Many thanks to *The Green Guide* #113.

## More stuff to make you feel guilty...maybe...

Have you rediscovered your clothesline? *Me?* I've never had to, since I've never had a dryer! Likely this was a holdover from my mom (thanks!) who had to rule on the frugal side, living when she did during the depression and counting pennies to get by. I carried on because I love the fresh smell on the clothes and the experience of being outside. After all these years of hanging clothes to dry, I am now aware of the savings on electric and gas bills. Nationwide, residential clothes dryers annually consume about 66 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity, the amount that would be produced by burning 34 million tons of coal. In comparison, solar drying does less damage to clothes, eliminates static cling, reduces wrinkles and makes it 50% less likely that you'll lose a sock. Best of all, it's good for the planet, and the sun's ultraviolet light is a natural disinfectant. Best way to start is look up [www.laundrylist.org](http://www.laundrylist.org), which provides tips on how to begin—just in case you're a bit nervous about it. No outdoor space? Place a drying rack by an open, sunny window. Check choices at [www.abundantearth.com](http://www.abundantearth.com). Also see the Laundry Product Report at [www.thegreenguide.com/reports](http://www.thegreenguide.com/reports).

## Let's visit some Eco-Mania sillies:

### Bio-Goodbye

The three-acre Arizona terrarium where eight “biospherians” spent two years in the early 1990s may be torn down--to improve the views for new luxury homes planned on the property. The developer said the \$300k homes may necessitate tearing down some of the 70 buildings that make up the Biosphere 2 site including the large glass structure.

### Your Tax Dollars at Work?

Taxpayers shelled out more than \$1 million last year so members of Congress could lease gas-guzzling SUVs and expensive luxury cars.

Leasing cars is a little-known fringe benefit used by 136 members of the House last year. While some leased Chevrolet Tahoes for \$210 a month, at least 56 others chose SUVs for \$1,250 a month and then voted to cut student loans and other programs.

### Dog Days

In San Francisco, where animal droppings make up about 4% of residential waste, a pilot program will collect dog doo at a poplar canine park and put it in a methane digester. To the north, Napa County winemakers are starting their own pilot program using dogs to sniff out the vine mealybug, a tiny pest whose excretions produce mold that turns grapes into a sticky mess. Dogs would be an alternative to chemicals for an industry moving toward organic farming.

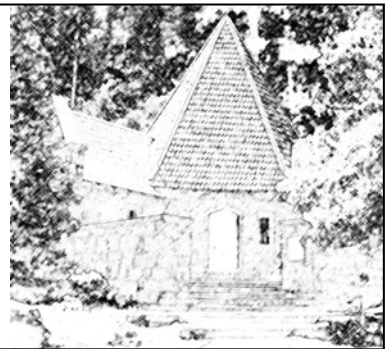
### Final Words

You are more likely to be killed by a champagne cork than by a poisonous spider.

Ants, when intoxicated, always fall over on their right side. (Surely you know of some humans that do also.)

See you on a hike? Hope so; just got to return to that glorious feeling! ☘

Learn about LeConte  
June General Meeting;  
see page 2.



# Outings Schedule

## June 10<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Day Hike (2A)

Redwood Canyon—an annual event through a great Sequoia Grove.

*Don Redmond (559) 268-1537*

## June 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> (Friday-Monday)

Day Hikes—Possible (1B)(1D)(4E)

Crest of Inyo Mountains at 9,000 ft. elevation—Car Camp

Must have 4wd. Visit historic sites such as Salt Tram and Trepier Cabin.

*Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971*

## July 2<sup>nd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> (Sunday-Friday)

Sondra Dunkle, a Tehipite Chapter activist and outings leader in the 80s and early 90s is now a National Outings Leader. She is returning to the Sierra from Pocatello, ID to lead her first National Outings trip.

The trip will be at Tamarack Inn near Bear Valley (on Hwy. 4, just south-east of Sacramento.) This will be a lodge outing. The lodge is at 7,000 feet, and our hikes will be at that elevation and higher. We will hike daily at a moderate pace for 5-9 miles over uneven, rocky terrain with elevation gains and possible stream/snow crossings. Views at the top will be beautiful! After the hikes, we will return to our comfortable inn for showers, hot meals and cozy beds (sure beats backpacking!) Evenings will find us gathered around a campfire or socializing inside. A hot tub is available on-site for trip participants.

*Sondra Dunkle (208) 232-7245*

*dunksone@msn.com*

<http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/national/brochure/06286A.asp>

## July 4<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday

Day Hike—14 Miles

Yosemite, Panorama Trail

Call for details.

*Paul Weiss (209) 966-6605*

## July 4<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday

Day Hike (1A)

Lewis Creek

Cool off along this nice stream.

*Don Redmond (559) 268-1537*

## July 8<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Day Hike (2C)

Dinkey Lakes Wilderness

Visit six lakes on this hike.

Possible quick, cold swim.

*Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971*

## August 6<sup>th</sup> - Sunday

Moonlight hike to Half Dome in Yosemite.

*Gerald Vinnard (559) 431-5780 or*

*Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971*

## August 12<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Day Hike (1A)

Willow Creek, which flows into Bass Lake, and Angel Falls.

*Don Redmond (559) 268-1537*

## September 16<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Day Hike (2A)

Pincushion Ridge in the Millerton Lake area.

*Don Redmond (559) 268-1537*

## September 30<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

National Public Lands Day

Canoe cleanup of San Joaquin River from Lost Lake to Fort Washington Beach.

*Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971*

## October 14<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Day Hike (2B)

Grant Grove

A combination of three trails.

*Don Redmond (559) 268-1537*

## October 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>

### (Wednesday-Sunday)

Day hikes - (3D)(1A)(1A)

4 wheel drive needed.

Panamint City Ghost Town/  
Saline Valley/Eureka Dunes

*Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971*

## Trip Ratings

Distance	Elevation Gain
1) up to 6 miles	A) under 1,000 feet
2) 6 to 10 miles	B) 1,000 to 2,000 feet
3) 10 to 15 miles	C) 2,000 to 3,000 feet
4) 15 to 20 miles	D) 3,000 to 4,000 feet
5) over 20 miles	E) over 4,000 feet

Our Tehipite Chapter Outings Chair is Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971 [RiverRich1509@aol.com](mailto:RiverRich1509@aol.com). Please contact him with any questions concerning our outings program. Contact the trip leader directly if you are interested in one of the listed trips.

Tehipite Chapter outings are free and open to the public. All leaders are unpaid volunteers assuming responsibility for a good trip, and your cooperation is mandatory. Please review additional trip and participant requirements at [www.tehipite.sierraclub.org/outings](http://www.tehipite.sierraclub.org/outings).

## Would you like to be an Outings Leader?

Do you have a favorite hike you would like to share with fellow outdoor lovers? Being an Outings Leader can be very rewarding. Basic qualifications include a desire to lead outings, basic first aid or the ability to devote a day to getting qualified in first aid, and reading the Sierra Club Outings Leader Handbook. The Tehipite Chapter would like to offer outings to people of all abilities and ages. If you are interested, phone Richard Sloan at (559) 696-2971 or email [RiverRich1509@aol.com](mailto:RiverRich1509@aol.com).

Current Outings Leaders please contact Richard with your proposed hikes.



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## Inside *Tehipite Topics*

Cleanup! .....	Cover
Chapter Events.....	2
Merced Group .....	3
Channel Islands Fundraising Cruises .....	4
Sierra Club California Lobby Day.....	5
Ecoview .....	6
Outings .....	7
New Tehipite Chapter Scholarship.....	Back

See [www.tehipite.sierraclub.org](http://www.tehipite.sierraclub.org) for additional summer events.

Deadline for the September *Tehipite Topics* will be August 11<sup>th</sup>.

## New Tehipite Chapter Scholarship

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, Myra Gonzalez became the first recipient of Tehipite Chapter's \$1,000 Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART) scholarship award. Don Gaede, from the Executive Committee, presented her with the award.

Myra has been working in the CART environmental lab for two years, with a particular interest in the propagation of soft corals called corallimorphs. The senior has also volunteered in a number of community service activities, such as serving as an election precinct officer, helping the Community Food Bank, and promoting the Aquarius Aquarium Institute. According to one of her teachers, Staci Bynum, "Myra has exceptional people skills, communicates well, and is an outgoing leader, always eager to learn new skills."

Myra has been accepted into CSU Monterey Bay, where she plans to major in marine biology. She eventually hopes to get her Ph.D. in this area. As the daughter of a single mother, Myra welcomes this scholarship to help her achieve her goals. The Tehipite Chapter wishes her great success! 🌿

