



Tehipite Topics

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www.tehipite.sierraclub.org

Fall Sequoia Outing

by Carla Cloer

This fall, folks from all over California enjoyed one of the best Sequoia National Monument outings yet. People started arriving at Quaking Aspen on Friday afternoon, and by nine o'clock, tents dotted the landscape and voices of friends meeting for the first time filled the crisp night air. On Saturday morning, twenty-five people, ages eight to seventy, hiked from our campground, down the Nelson Trail, through golden quaking aspen trees and clear moun-

tain breezes. We wound through the Wheel Meadow and Belknap Groves on what is now the only remaining gentle natural trail in Sequoia National Monument.

At the sequoia stand called the Five Sisters, we stopped in memory of Dan Utt, the founder of the Tule River Conservancy, then broke for lunch in a delightful clearing along the south fork of the middle fork of the Tule River. Later,

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Photo by Richard Kangas

November General Meeting

“Globalization 101”

presented by Susan Knight,
National Representative, Sierra Club International Program

Wednesday, November 15th at 7:00 P.M.
University of California Center
550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno
(across from Fashion Fair)

Join us to discuss how we can effectively build power and tackle the root causes of environmental destruction through sustainable and FAIR international trade. Susan Knight, National Representative for the International Program of the Sierra Club will be our guest speaker and lead us through an interactive and fun evening called Globalization 101. The program tackles economic globalization, and current free trade policies that lie behind much of the

world's environmental destruction. She will also discuss how changes in economic policy are possible and realistic. The program will also cover the Peru Free Trade Agreement and how our local Congressman Costa is a key in creating a FAIR trade policy that protects our environmental laws and the Peruvian Amazon.

www.sierraclub.org/international

Conservation & Executive Committees

Wednesday, November 8th at 7:00 P.M.
University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno



Tehipite Chapter
P.O. Box 5396
Fresno, California 93755-5396

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Chapter phone(559) 229-4031
Web . . . www.tehipite.sierraclub.org

Officers

Chapter Chair

Gerald D. Vinnard . . (559) 431-5780
. gvinnard@cvip.net

Chapter Vice-Chair

JoAnne Armstrong . .(209) 726-0636
. sierrafer@peoplepc.com

Chapter Secretary

Aimee Leyva (559) 438-8670
. aimee_leyva@yahoo.com

Chapter Treasurer

Joe Ruff (559) 436-4880
. 2tehipite@sbcglobal.net

Executive Committee Members

William Fjellbo (559) 642-4511
. jbfjellbo@sierratel.com

Don Gaede (559) 434-5138
. gaede80@sbcglobal.net
Ron Mackie (559) 683-0293
. rmackie@sierratel.com
John Flaherty(209) 742-4668
. kjohnflaherty@yahoo.com

Chapter Committee Chairs

Council of Club Leaders Delegate
JoAnne Armstrong . .(209) 726-0636

Awards

Gerald Vinnard (559) 431-9606

Hospitality

Rae Marx (559) 641-7589

Tehipite Topics Editors / Website

Marcia & John Rasmussen
. (559) 332-2419
. Rasmussen@BigBaldy.com

Membership/Hospitality

Rae Marx (559) 641-7589

Membership/Newsletter Distribution

Marian Orvis (559) 226-0145

Outings and Outings Leader Training

Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971
. RiverRich1509@aol.com

Political Committee

William Fjelbo (559) 642-4511

Programs

Heather Anderson . . (559) 434-2510

Conservation Committee

Conservation Chair

Heather Anderson . . (559) 434-2510
. ha062@cvip.net

Air Quality / Transportation / Global Warming

Kevin Hall (559) 227-6421
. hallmos@aol.com

Kings Canyon National Park /Giant Sequoia National Monument /Sequoia Forest

John Rasmussen (559) 332-2419
. John@BigBaldy.com

Sierra National Forest

Tom Eliason (559) 439-7195
. tomeliason@comcast.net

Water

Chris Acree (559) 709-4913
. chris.acree@comcast.net

San Joaquin River

Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971
. RiverRich1509@aol.com

Wilderness/Desert

Ron Mackie (559) 683-0293
. rmackie@sierratel.com

Yosemite National Park

George Whitmore . . (559) 229-5808
. geowhit1954@comcast.net

CNCC Delegate

Heather Anderson . . (559) 434-2510

Merced Group

Sierra Club
Box 387
Merced, CA 95341

Group Chair

JoAnne Armstrong. .(209) 726-0636
.....sierrafer@peoplepc.com

Group Vice-Chair

Rod Webster (209) 723-4747
.....rwebster@elite.net

Group Treasurer

Dave Tucker (209) 384-1354

Group Secretary

Annette Allsup (209) 723-5152

Member-at-Large

Jule Biesiada. juleb13@msn.com

Conservation Chair

JoAnne Armstrong. .(209) 726-0636
.....sierrafer@peoplepc.com

Publications

Rod Webster (209) 723-4747

Agriculture

Charlie Magnuson . . (209) 394-7045

Membership

Linda Lagace (209) 384-1354

Publicity

Rod Webster (209) 723-4747

Population

Tammy Johnson (559) 665-5507

Merced Group

Conservation and Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 2nd at 7:00 P.M. at Rod Webster's home, 345 E. 20th 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.

November General Meeting

Thursday, November 16th at 7:30 P.M.
Sierra Presbyterian Church, 3603 M St

"Land Use and High Density Communities" *presented by Marsha Burch*

Marsha Burch will facilitate a panel to discuss land use and high density communities. The event will include an optional Saturday outing to UC Davis and Woodland in November, to meet with the Senior Planner from Davis. The date for this outing will be announced at the November 16 meeting. Those unable to attend the November 16 meeting should contact Rod Webster at (209) 723-4747 to confirm details.

Annual December Banquet **Thursday, December 7th P.M.**

Our banquet will be at the Branding Iron in Merced. We are in the process of finalizing our plans for the December dinner and silent auction. Keep an eye open for our mailer to be sent November 1st with details on where to buy tickets for the banquet. Please contact Linda Lagace at (209) 384-1354 if you have any pieces of art, pottery, jewelry, or other valuables to donate for the auction.

Volunteers Needed

Our local group 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.

Outings

Please see the Tehipite and Yokuts (Modesto area) chapter listings. Phone Rod Webster at (209) 723-4747 if you would like to coordinate carpooling with others from your area.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Bear in mind the consequences.

The Yellowstone grizzly bear is an irreplaceable part of America's natural heritage, a symbol of the independence that defines the American character and an icon of all that is wild and free. The Bush administration set forth a proposal that would remove federal protection for the Yellowstone grizzly bear. Help Sierra Club protect our forest friends; they prefer the woods than being on display.

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Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
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Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Contributions, gifts and dues to 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 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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The Amazon Rainforest and US Trade Policy Clash

California Becomes Ground Zero for New Foreign Policy

Marked by snow-capped peaks, vast forests, and the echoing cry of Andean condors, the tropical Andes is the richest and most diverse region on Earth. Of the tens of thousands of plant and animal species in the Andes, many are endemic and irreplaceable. Far too many are also threatened with extinction by expanding agriculture, deforestation, mining, dams and road building. In addition, oil exploration and development is a relatively new and serious threat on the eastern slopes of the Andes and the adjacent Amazonian lowlands of Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.



Amazon snake wrapped around a bird of paradise flower



Peruvian condor

The Bush Administration forced the controversial Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) through Congress last summer with a slim two-vote margin. The extremely close vote was due to many fundamental concerns raised by members of Congress—including the lack of strong and enforceable labor and environmental provisions, and the increasingly broad rights granted to corporations to attack public health and environmental provisions. After a great deal of organizing, many California Chapters helped pressure representatives to vote no on CAFTA. The entire California Democratic delegation voted no on CAFTA and it was a huge victory!

Now the Bush Administration has presented Congress with another trade agreement—the U.S.-Peru Free Trade Agreement—based on the same flawed provisions as those found in CAFTA. The agreement offers only token, unenforceable provisions on labor and the environment, while dramatically expanding the rights of corporations to attack legitimate

public health and environmental protections in secret trade tribunals.

Moreover, it opens up the Amazon Rainforest to further exploration and further clear-cutting by foreign corporations and by indigenous communities, who are struggling to survive because international trade does not result in sustainable economic benefits for the world's working poor.

Trade agreements do not have to be this way! The Sierra Club is working hard to ensure that international trade promotes and fosters environmental conservation. Right now, existing agreements like NAFTA and CAFTA are made up of bad rules that make it difficult for countries and communities to protect their natural resources. Go to www.sierraclub.org/trade. Learn more about the Peru Free Trade Agreement, and take action. Our elected officials must know we expect our domestic and foreign policies to reflect our values. ✎

Sequoia Outing, from page 1

we made our wishes at the Wishbone Tree and crossed Boulder Creek to waiting shuttle cars.

In the afternoon we climbed Dome Rock to see the glaciated Kern Canyon, the ever-changing site of the McNally Fire, and glimpses of distant peaks in Sequoia Park. Our last stop was the Trail of 100 Giants, with its recently cleared slopes, countless stumps, and denuded stream, reminding us that even in this showcase for Forest Service sequoia management we are not going to find sensitive treatment.

Happy hour led to our potluck dinner and an amazing variety of foods. A few more folks joined us, and as the temperature dropped, we gathered closer to the fire and toasted new friends and a few marshmallows.

On Sunday morning we hiked the newly reconstructed Freeman Creek trail. Participants called it a dusty logging road and questioned where all that loose dirt was going when the rains came. We walked two and



Photo by Richard Kangas

Ara Marderosian and Carla Cloer

three abreast, noting that the trail was banked so that bicyclists wouldn't have to slow on the curves. All agreed that no historic trail should have such bulldozed treatment—ever. After spending time in a unique group of sequoia, we left to pack for home. This outing was gratifying because of the genuine concern of the participants. They understood how many times we have celebrated victories that supposedly saved this wondrous place, and how each victory has been followed by yet more threats. Agreements are ignored and proclamations are perverted. Our recent court victory is now threatened by Congressman Nuñez' attempt to circumvent the ruling in a Congress blinded by corporations. As Muir noted, this is indeed an eternal battle.

As I departed the deserted campsite, Oregon juncos were scurrying through the bushes while the campground chipmunk scavenged for tidbits. Rain began to fall, erasing the evidence we had ever been there. Would that decades of damage from irresponsible management could be so easily remedied! I pray that future managers find the wisdom to nurture these ancient forests, so that unborn generations can experience the same awe and renewal of spirit that we did—and that somehow we find the heart to keep fighting.

Note: The Sequoia Task Force Outing is an annual event. This year it was held September 29 through October 1. Leaders were Carla Cloer, Ara Marderosian and Rich Kangas. ❧



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Outings Schedule

Some of the trips listed below are offered by other entities within the Sierra Club.

November 11th - Saturday

Day Hike (1A)
San Joaquin River trail south from River Gorge (Squaw Leap) above Auberry.
Don Redmond (559) 268-1537

November 12th - Sunday

Day Hike (1A)
Pin Cushion/Sky Harbor
About 5 miles round trip with mild elevation gain at the beginning. Rain cancels.
Aimee Leyva (559) 486-6780 or (559) 301-3977

November 19th - Sunday

Day Hike (1A)
River Gorge (Squaw Leap)
Six mile loop, easy, with slight elevation gain throughout. Rain Cancels.
Aimee Leyva (559) 486-6780 or (559) 301-3977

December 9th - Saturday

Day Hike (1A)
A nice stroll along Millerton Lake from Sky Harbor Rd.
Don Redmond (559) 258-1537

The Merced Birders would like you to know some of the activities that they are planning. Feel free to contact Carolyn at (209) 722-2104 for more information about these trips.

- Morro Bay—January 13th-15th
- Snelling (Henderson Park and Cathy's place)—winter
- Magneson farm—winter
- Cosumnes River Preserve—?
- Copperstown Road—spring
- Arena Plains—?
- Pinnacles National Monument—fall/spring
- Santa Fe Grade—?

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. 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.

Would you like to be an Outings Leader?

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.

Current Outings Leaders please contact Richard with your proposed hikes.





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The *Tehipite Topics* is available, in color, on the Chapter website at <http://tehipite.sierraclub.org>. The photos in this issue are definately worth seeing in color!

Deadline for the December *Tehipite Topics* will be November 10th.



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.



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