



# Tehipite Topics

October 2007 ☞ Vol. 53, No. 8

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



*Thunderstorm, Mount Starr King and Clark Range, Yosemite National Park, California, 2007  
photo © Mikko Kangas (www.mikkokangas.smugmug.com)*

## **Tehipite Chapter Creates Yosemite Committee**

*by John Rasmussen, Tehipite Chapter Yosemite Committee Member*

Over the past twenty years or so, I have been a member of one Yosemite Committee or another. There has been a committee at the national level created by the National Board of Directors, a committee of the Regional Conservation Committee (RCC) of the National Club, and a committee of the RCC of Sierra Club California. During this time, there has always

been some form of Tehipite Chapter Yosemite Committee—sometimes just one person. Yosemite has always been controversial; there are many ways to love the place. The RCC of Sierra Club California has recently chosen to restructure its Yosemite Committee leaving many Yosemite activists without a voice. The Tehipite Chapter Executive Committee has chosen to reactivate

the Chapter's Yosemite Committee by a formal motion. Many of the members that were on the Sierra Club California RCC Yosemite Committee are now appointed to the Tehipite Chapter Yosemite Committee.

Having multiple committees working on Yosemite, I believe, will only im-

*See Yosemite Committee, page 2*

# October General Meeting

## “National Parks and World Heritage Sites: the Unknown France”

presented by Bill Fjellbo

Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.  
University of California Center  
550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno  
(across from Fashion Fair)

Royal Chateau, the last home of Leonardo da Vinci, pre-historic cave paintings, D-Day invasion sites, the Camargue marshes, Roman ruins and the last resting place of all French Kings (that no Americans ever seem to visit).

From the Atlantic to the Alps, see some of France's hidden treasures. Thousands of flamingos in France? Yes!

### Yosemite Committee, from page 1

prove the chances of Yosemite's being preserved for future generations. Yes, at times there may be differing and sometimes conflicting messages. But ultimately it is the Park Service's responsibility to make the final decisions within the framework of law. If the Park Service fails to follow the law, I am now doubly certain that there will be requests to the National Sierra Club Board of Directors to take legal action on behalf of the Club. If we need new laws to protect Yosemite, I am sure all members of the Club will step forward to assist in protecting Yosemite. If you have read all of this, *you* may be Yosemite Committee material. Contact a member from *either* of the two Yosemite committees.

The Tehipite Chapter Executive Committee resolution:

See *Yosemite Committee*, page 8

### Conservation & Executive Committees

Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.

University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno



Don Gaede . . . . . (559) 434-5138  
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#### Programs

open . . . . .

#### Publicity

. . . . . John Honnette

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##### Sprawl

John Honnette

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#### Officers

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## **Merced Group**

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### **Publicity**

Rod Webster . . . . . (209) 723-4747

### **Population**

Tammy Johnson . . . . (559) 665-5507

## **Merced Group**

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

Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.  
Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 P.M.  
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.

### **Merced Group General Meetings**

Third Thursday of the month  
Sierra Presbyterian Church  
3603 M St., Merced  
Meetings start at 7:00 P.M. and are finished by 9:00 P.M.

### **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

Below is a listing of our proposed future meetings. Since planning is still in progress, there may be changes in this schedule.

#### **Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**

##### **General Meeting**

Dr. Tom Harmon, Lloyd Carter Water Forum, with a special report by Merced River Stakeholders' Jan Mendenhall. Possible outings to

fish hatchery and/or gravel mining on the Merced River.

#### **Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>**

The Merced River Alliance will host an event at Henderson Park in Snelling from 9-1. For more information, contact Cindy Lashbrook.

#### **Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup>**

##### **General Meeting**

Chad Kister  
Global Warming/Climate Change

#### **Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Annual Banquet  
at Sierra Presbyterian Church**  
Photographer Sam Roberts

Sam Roberts is an award-winning photographer and writer based in the San Francisco Bay Area. To date, Sam has shot on four continents, usually while pursuing his other passions: mountain climbing, skiing and backcountry travel.

In his 15 years of business, Sam's files have grown to more than 50,000 images ranging from 1970s Afghanistan to current projects here in California.

Sam's mission is that his photography evoke an emotional response from viewers and, thus, inspire them to seek out, enjoy and protect the places his photographs represent. Consistent with his mission, Sam is a business sponsor of the California Wilderness Coalition, a member of One Percent for the

Environment and a supporter of the Friends of Joshua Tree, where he is on the Board of Directors. You can check out his photos at [www.srobertsphoto.com](http://www.srobertsphoto.com). The estimated price for the banquet is \$20. Reservation details will follow in future *Topics* issues.

#### **Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>**

##### **General Meeting**

Nick Robinson, Melissa Kelly Ortega (Asthma Coalition), David Lighthall  
Forum on the proposed Wal-Mart and Air Quality  
This may possibly be a Special Meeting depending on the timing of the EIR.

#### **Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup>**

##### **General Meeting**

Bill Nicholson and Kim Espinoza  
General Plan update for the City and County of Merced

Please see the Tehipite and Yokuts (Modesto area) chapter listings for outings. You can phone Rod Webster at (209) 723-4747 to coordinate carpooling.

Calendars, note and Christmas cards, and planners will soon be available. We are looking for a volunteer willing to sell these items. Contact Rod Webster or Annette Allsup if you are able to help us out.

*See Merced, page 7*



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.

**Get grizzly and JOIN Sierra Club.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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<b>Special Offer</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$25</b>	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
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](http://www.sierraclub.org)

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# Dry Cleaners

Dear Sierra Club Members,

If you

- Work or have worked for a dry cleaner;
- Live or work next door to a dry cleaner, or have in the past;
- Live or work down the street from a dry cleaner, or have in the past; or
- Have smelled a sharp, sweet odor from a dry cleaner in your area, either generally in the air or emanating from clothing you have had cleaned;

AND

if you are a member of the Sierra Club,

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Sierra Club and Earthjustice are filing suit against the U.S. EPA over regulations that continue to allow dry cleaners to use perchlorethylene, a hazardous substance that is used by most dry cleaners. We need simple declarations to assure that Sierra Club has standing to make this very important challenge.

Again, we need your help! If any of the criteria above applies to you, please contact

Ethan Elkind, Instructor, UCLA School of Law Environmental Law Clinic  
(310) 206-4033  
[elkind@law.ucla.edu](mailto:elkind@law.ucla.edu)

## What is Perchlorethylene?

According to the Michigan Occupational Safety & Health Administration, perchloroethylene has many names, including tetrachloroethylene, perc, PCE and tetrachloroethene. It is a manufactured chemical compound, most recognizable as a nonflammable liquid at room temperature. It evaporates easily into the air and has a sharp, sweet odor.

## How is perchlorethylene used?

Perchlorethylene is a colorless, organic solvent used in dry cleaning solutions and as an industrial solvent. It is also used to degrease metal parts in the automotive and other metalworking industries. It appears in a few consumer products, including paint strippers and spot removers.

## What are the health affects of perchlorethylene?

Perchlorethylene is a central nervous system depressant. Inhaling its vapors in closed, poorly ventilated areas can cause dizziness, headache, sleepiness, confusion, nausea, difficulty speaking and walking, and unconsciousness. Those who work regularly with perchlorethylene may experience severe skin irritation from prolonged or excessive contact. ☞

## Community Media Hosts Annual Meeting October 18<sup>th</sup>



The Community Media Access Collaborative (CMAC) will hold its annual meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 3:00 P.M. at the Cornerstone Conference Center, 1545 Fulton Street, in downtown

Fresno. Individuals and community organizations are invited to learn about the benefits of public access media as a viable communications vehicle for their agency, service or

message throughout our community, and how they can assist CMAC in bringing this vital resource to Fresno County.

CMAC is a volunteer, nonprofit corporation established to support, promote, produce and distribute noncommercial, community-based media programs created by local citizens, nonprofit groups, students, cultural organizations, and others. Board members represent business, education, arts, faith, multicultural, nonprofit and government sectors.

There is no cost to attend this meeting. For more information, contact Roberta Barton at (559) 488-1922. ☞

### PEG Access

by Lydia Flores, CMAC Board Member

This is important news that will help you get out publicity for your work in community.

PEG (Public, Educational & Government) Access is being negotiated by the County of Fresno and Comcast as well as Community Media Access Collaborative (CMAC). Three channels may be available without censorship by any government agency. There will be guidelines and policy to follow. Once this contract is negotiated and approved Community Media Access Collaborative (CMAC) will invite organizations and individuals to develop programs to be presented on one of these channels. The presentation will be copied and cataloged to be checked out and viewed as many times as needed at home, at school or your com-

munity center. The organization presenting will also receive a DVD for their personal use.

You and your organization will be able to make your own program with the use of the new technology which will guide you to make an entertaining or unique presentation. There will be instructors to help you with equipment and with the format of the program.

With PEG Access you will be able to take your message out to the community for a nominal fee. PEG Access will be as good as your use of its facilities.

Please attend the annual meeting Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup> to learn more and to help assist CMAC in bringing PEG Access about. ☞

## Documentary Explores Coming Demise of the American Lifestyle



Filmmakers will be on hand for special Fresno screening. *What a Way to Go: Life at the End of Empire*, a feature length

documentary, will be screened October 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M. at the Vineyard Farmer's Market, located at 100 W. Shaw. The film will be followed by a dialogue with the filmmakers, who are including Fresno in their tour of the Western U.S.

*What a Way to Go* features interviews with many noted authors and scientists. It looks head-on at our present global predicament, as peaking oil production, climate change, species extinction and overpopulation converge in a "perfect storm" of cataclysmic dimensions. The information presented is not a fuzzy doomsday prophecy, but rather, a strong fact-based assessment that will leave the viewer awestruck.

This independent film explores the cultural stories and assumptions that have brought us to this point, and provides a larger context for thinking about, and feeling our way

through, our global situation. It does not propose any quick painless fixes for our global situation—no "five things you can do to save the world." Instead, filmmakers Tim Bennett and Sally Erickson offer up a heartfelt challenge to face difficult times with courage and integrity.

Suggested donation: \$10 (for the filmmakers).

\*This event is hosted by Whole Systems Agriculture.\*

"If what Gore offered was an 'Inconvenient Truth,' *What a Way to Go* gives us the whole truth."

- Dan Armstrong, *Prairie Fire*

"Nothing less than a 123-minute cat scan of the planet and its twenty-first century human and non-human condition."

- Carolyn Baker, CarolynBaker.org

Contact: True Warner, (559) 822-2216, Warner\_T@eml.cc

For reviews, trailers, or more information visit [www.whatawaytogomovie.com](http://www.whatawaytogomovie.com) ☞

# An Introduction to Water Quality in the Merced River

Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

Henderson Park, Snelling

Join the Merced River Alliance for an enjoyable and educational day at the Merced River. This event will introduce the layperson, adults and children, to water quality monitoring. Monitoring water quality is done by many organizations to ensure that the water in our rivers is clean and safe. Come learn how this is done, with hands-on demonstrations by those who do it regularly, and learn why this is so important. There will be presentations on the Merced River, citizen volunteer water monitoring,

and learning stations where everyone will have a chance to participate and explore. Lunch will also be provided (ham, turkey or roasted veggie wraps, chips, drink and cookie) for \$8. Lunch reservations required. For more information, or to make your reservations, please contact Cindy Lashbrook at (209) 761-0081. See you there!

This event is made possible by funding from the CALFED Watershed Program and administered by the State Water Resources Control Board. ☞

## Valley Land Alliance

Alarmed by the current pace of development in the Valley, local dairyman and Sierra Club Merced Executive Board Conservation Chair, Charlie Magneson and local Merced County farmers formed Valley Land Alliance. The Valley Land Alliance mission is to “educated and build alliances to protect our uniquely productive Central Valley farmland.” The Alliance supports policies that ensure a domestic and local food supply, promote the economic viability of farming/ranching, require that future development pay for public services, and protect our natural watersheds.

Currently, the Alliance is taking action to maximize citizen participation in the Merced County and Livingston General Plan updates along with other key land use decisions. The General Plan is really about the creating a road map for the quality of life we want to experience in the next twenty years. Valley Land Alliance is encouraging citizens to get involved in the process. The Merced City General Plan is in full swing, as is the Merced County process.

Merced County will sponsor a series of Community Workshops beginning on September 5<sup>th</sup>. These will run through September 20<sup>th</sup>. Go to [www.co.merced.ca.us](http://www.co.merced.ca.us) for more info (look for General Plan Update) or go to the official websites for announcements regarding Merced, Livingston, Atwater, Los Banos, and Dos Palos city updates.

President Jean Okuye is working with the Farm Bureau and assisting local citizens in planning two Town Hall meetings in Livingston to discuss the now infamous illegal sewer and equally problematic wastewater treatment plant—among other environmentally disastrous decisions. The first

meeting will take place on August 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall in Livingston. The city of Livingston will hold a public meeting on August 21<sup>st</sup>. We encourage local residents to attend these meetings.

In March, Valley Land Alliance hired Maureen McCorry as its first Executive Director. Maureen was born and raised on a cattle ranch in Merced County and is passionate about VLA's mission. VLA needs volunteers who are interested in doing research and can attend meetings in these areas.

For more information, contact

Maureen McCorry, Executive Director  
Valley Land Alliance

P.O. Box 102

Cressey, CA 95312

(209) 386 3572

[www.valleylandalliance.org](http://www.valleylandalliance.org) ☞

pitch a tent with  
someone you love



# Outings Schedule

## Outing 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 Co-Chairs are Carolyn Ordway (559) 449-7780 or [jbord606@yahoo.com](mailto:jbord606@yahoo.com) and Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971 or [RiverRich1509@aol.com](mailto:RiverRich1509@aol.com). Please contact them 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).

CST #2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California. California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund (TCRF) under the California Seller of Travel Act. The TCRF is not applicable to these Outings. The law requires us to advise you that you would not be eligible to make any claim from the TCRF in the unlikely event of default by the Sierra Club. California law also requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. The Sierra Club has such a trust account.

### October 6<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Day Hike (2A) Moderate  
San Joaquin River Gorge to Temperance Flat—a great view of San Joaquin River.  
*Don Redmond (559) 268-1537*

### October 7<sup>th</sup> - Sunday

Day Hike (2B) Moderate  
9.4 mile hike to George Lake via Lower and Upper Twin Lakes in the Kaiser Wilderness. Upper Twin Lakes is a real gem, and if fall has started to do its magic, the aspens should be beautiful.  
*Karen Hammer (559) 298-5272*

### October 13<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Day Hike (3C) Moderate  
Walt has his own unique approach to the Dinkey Lakes loop. Cross country, lake to lake to lake. It should be beautiful this time of year.  
*Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818*

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

Day Hike (2B)  
Lewis Creek  
Route to be determined by group interest.  
*John Flahery (209) 742-4668*

### October 27<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Day Hike (2A) Easy  
Grant Grove, in Kings Canyon National Park.  
*Don Redmond (559) 268-1537*

### November 3<sup>rd</sup> - Saturday

Day Hike (2B) Moderate  
Mount Givens, cross country.  
*Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818*

### November 17<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Cross Country Skiing—Intermediate  
Location to be determined.  
*Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818*

### November 18<sup>th</sup> - Sunday

Day Hike (2A) Moderate  
San Joaquin River Gorge loop.  
*Karen Hammer (559) 298-5272*

### December 1<sup>st</sup> - Saturday

Cross Country Skiing—Beginners  
Lesson  
Location to be determined.  
*Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818*

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

Day Hike (2B) Moderate  
San Joaquin River Gorge  
Expect to do some climbing. Enjoy an expansive view from the Lunch Rocks on top of the bluff (1800 ft.)  
The trail makes a loop back over the bridge to the parking lot.  
*Gerald Vinnard (559) 431-5780*

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

Cross Country Skiing—Intermediate.  
Location to be determined, weather and snow permitting.  
*Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818*

### December 16<sup>th</sup> - Sunday

Snowshoeing  
Five mile round trip to a beautiful vista at Panoramic Point in Kings Canyon National Park. This trip can be easy or strenuous depending upon snow conditions.  
*Karen Hammer (559) 298-5272*

## Fledglings Outings

The Fledglings is not a Sierra Club or an Audubon organization. It is just a bunch of people that use birds for an excuse to go outside and appreciate nature. Anyone who is interested, please contact [fledglings@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fledglings@sbcglobal.net).

2007

October - Caswell State Park  
November - Turlock Lake  
December - ?

2008

February - Pinoche Wildlife Area  
March - Arizona  
April - Arena Plains  
May - River NWR  
June - Del Puerto Canyon

### *Merced Group, from page 3*

We are in need of a laptop to use with our newly acquired projector. It doesn't have to be fancy. If you are upgrading, please consider donating your old laptop to us for our programs.



**SIERRA CLUB**  
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Deadline for *Tehipite Topics* is the second Friday of each month—October 12<sup>th</sup> for the November issue. Submit material to [Topics@BigBaldy.com](mailto:Topics@BigBaldy.com).

### *Yosemite Committee, from page 2*

Recognizing that the Executive Committee has established the existing Yosemite Committee for the purpose of keeping Yosemite unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations, let it be resolved that

- A. The Committee shall be known as the “Tehipite Chapter Yosemite Committee,” and exists pursuant to Section 3.9 (“Chapter Committees”) of the Tehipite Chapter Bylaws.
- B. The Tehipite Chapter Yosemite Committee is a Committee of the Chapter.
- C. George Whitmore is confirmed as the Chair of the Committee, having been previously so appointed.
- D. JoAnne Clarke and Chris Acree are hereby appointed to the Committee.
- E. The following list of members are appointed to the Committee, contingent upon their membership in the Tehipite Chapter. Chris Acree (Fresno), Greg Adair (El Portal/Foresta), David Cehrs (Sanger), JoAnne Clarke (Merced), Sam Cogswell (San Rafael), Bridget Kerr (El Portal), Susan Liebermann (Rice, WA), Calvin Mehlert (Twain Harte), Barbara Moritsch (Boise, ID), Cynthia Peters (West Covina), Marsh Pitman (Merced/Monterey), John Rasmussen (Squaw Valley), Sylvia Robbins (Fresno), George Whitmore (Fresno). ☞



clair tappan *a lodge close to nature*

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.

Clair Tappan Lodge is the perfect autumn base camp for anyone who enjoys the wide variety of activities offered by the Tahoe area. Autumn is the secret season in the Sierra when the summer crowds go home, temperatures cool off, and the fall colors come out. Short hikes to secluded mountain lakes are perfect for introducing the family to the mountains. The nearby Pacific Crest Trail offers expansive views for both novice and advanced hikers. Donner Lake offers great kayaking and fishing while Donner Summit has long been a destination for rock climbers and mountain bikers.

Guests enjoy excellent family style meals, a friendly staff and a casual and communal atmosphere. See you on Donner Summit..



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