



Tehipite Topics

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The Aesthetic Worth of Natural Environments by Heather Anderson

Many folks know about the proposed Friant Community Plan Update and the Friant Ranch specific plan (north of Lost Lake) which would add a New Town of some 2,966 residents with 2500 square feet of commercial space, and increase Friant's population ten times.

The environmental impact of leap frog development—damage to spawning salmon and their sensitive eggs, and a million gallons daily of storm and wastewater discharged into the San Joaquin River—is reason enough to oppose this development. The greatest impact, however, is the endangerment of vernal pools, riparian habitat, ephemeral creeks, and the threat to many species of plants and wildlife.

When I teach art and awareness at the river and ask students what is the importance of our river, they are quick to mention clean water, habitat, intact ecosystem, recreation, wildlife and plants, but never beauty.

In 1965 Alan Gussow played an integral role in preventing a proposed Con Edison plant in the Hudson River Valley that would have resulted in cutting away part of Storm King Mountain near the river and building a pumped storage power generator complete with transmission lines. In a lawsuit, Gussow testified and the judge ruled for the first time that aesthetic impacts could be considered in such projects; the Con Ed idea was abandoned. In addition to being a recognized

painter, author, and educator, Alan Gussow's voice was heard nationally many more times on matters of the natural environment.

What are the aesthetic impacts of a Lost Lake Park not under the shadow of a New Town? Let me list a few: solace after a busy day in a noisy city, sharing a weekend winter walk with a child, the joy of the first sprouting wildflower of the season, the smell of Spring, the sound of a kingfisher about to dive for his dinner, and a quietness interspersed only with gentle ripples of the river. For me, when work isn't going well, it's as if the quiet beauty of the rocks and river wrap themselves around me. Once the peaceful setting is de-

See "Aesthetic," page 4

Outings Leader Training Class January 15th

Interested in becoming an Outings Leader? Or are you an existing Leader who would like to update your certification? We will hold an Outings Leader Training 101 class on Saturday, January 15th, from 10:00 to 3:00. This is one of the requirements for new Leaders; all Leaders are required to refresh this class every four years. There is no charge. For more information, or to sign up, contact Marcia Rasmussen: Marcia@BigBaldy.com or (559)332-2419.

Very soon we will also be able to provide Red Cross Standard First Aid classes for our Outings Leaders. Watch for details.

Sierra Club California Is Running Out of Money by Chip Ashley

It is important for Sierrans to know the unique structure of the Sierra Club in California. Unlike all other states, which mostly have only one Sierra Club chapter, California has 13 chapters and about 200,000 members. In addition, we have Sierra Club California, which coordinates with our 13 chapters and has an office in Sacramento, staffed by lobbyists Bill Magavern, Jim Metropulos, Megan Norris, Michael Endicott, Linda Zablotny-Hurst, and Annie Pham.

Our staffers work tirelessly on environmental legislation. The defeat of Prop 16 and Prop 23 are two recent big successes for Sierra Club California. Prop 16 was funded largely by PG&E and, if passed, would have made it almost impossible for communities to form CCAs—"community choice aggregations"—under AB 116 to buy electrical power and sell cleaner energy to their customers at rates equal to or below PG&E rates. Prop 23 would have suspended AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act, until the



Sierra Club California
Director Bill Magavern

state saw four consecutive quarters of less than 5.5% unemployment—a rare occurrence.

Director Bill Magavern has led the group since 2000. Bill works on air quality, global warming, toxics, and environmental justice. In 2007 the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition honored Bill with the Mary Ferguson Award and named him a Clean Air Champion. Before coming to Sierra Club California, Bill served in Washington, D.C. as an attorney for the U.S. Public Interest Research Group. He has numerous reports and articles on energy and environmental policy and has testified before Congress and the state legislature.

See "Money," page 4

Chapter Meetings

General Meeting

January 19th at 7 p.m.
550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno

January Program:

The Friant Ranch Development and Lost Lake Park

Revive the San Joaquin president Chris Acree, geology professor emeritus Robert Merrill, and Lost Lake activist Radley Reep will discuss the Friant Ranch development and plans to develop Lost Lake Park into a recreational facility. The Friant Ranch Development, which will increase the population of Friant by tenfold, is now before the Fresno County Board of Supervisors for review of the environmental impact report. This project will have a profound negative impact on the San Joaquin River riparian ecosystem and the surrounding grassland ecosystem. A vote is expected February 1st.

Upcoming General Meeting Programs:

February 16th: Paul Cort of Earth Justice
March 11th, 6 PM Annual Awards Banquet (See page 5)
April 20th: Joe Fontaine and William Tweed present their books on the Sierra
May: No General Meeting

Conservation & Executive Committee Meetings January 12th

The Conservation Committee meets at 7 PM

The Executive Committee meets at 8 PM
University of California Center
550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

Tehipite Chapter
of the Sierra Club
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

Gary Lasky (559) 790-3495
..... data.nations@gmail.com

Chapter Vice-Chair

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

Chapter Secretary

Richard Kangas (559) 896-5337
..... rkangas02@comcast.net

Chapter Treasurer

Wayne Dill
..... wd@whcpafirm.com

Executive Committee Members

Chip Ashley (559) 855-6376
..... wattsvalleypreservation@gmail.com
David Cehrs (559) 875-9495
..... dcehrs@juno.com
Brian Cohen (559) 227-6028
..... afgetsalocal1@yahoo.com
Richard Kangas (559) 896-5337
..... rkangas02@comcast.net
Ron Mackie (559) 683-0293
..... rmackie@sierratel.com

Merced Group Appointee:

JoAnne Clarke (209) 726-0636
..... jo_clarke@att.net

Council of Club Leaders ExComm

JoAnne Clarke (209) 726-0636

Council of Club Leaders Delegates

Jeremy Clar. (559) 681-0517
Gerald Vinnard (559) 431-5780

Chapter Committee Chairs

Honors & Awards

Heather Anderson (559) 681-6305
..... heather.anderson8@comcast.net

Hospitality

John Flaherty (209) 742-4668

Tehipite Topics Editors

Chip Ashley (559) 855-6376
..... TehipiteTopics@gmail.com

Tehipite Topics Website Editor

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

Membership/Hospitality

Karen Hammer (559) 298-5272

Membership/Newsletter Distribution

Marian Orvis (559) 226-0145

Outings and Outings Leader Training

Marcia Rasmussen Marcia@bigbaldy.com
..... (559) 332-2419

Political Committee

William Fjellbo (559) 642-4511

Programs

Heather Anderson (559) 681-6305

Conservation Committee

Conservation Chair

Heather Anderson (559) 681-6305

Energy, Climate Change, Population

Chip Ashley (559) 855-6376
..... wattsvalleypreservation@gmail.com

Sprawl, Air Quality

Gary Lasky data.nations@gmail.com

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

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

Sierra National Forest

Richard Kangas (559) 896-5337
..... rkangas02@comcast.net

Water, Kings River

David Cehrs (559) 875-9495
..... dcehrs@juno.com

San Joaquin River

Chris Acree (559) 709-4913

Wildereress/Desert

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

Yosemite National Park

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

CNRCC ExComm

Gerald Vinnard (559) 431-5780

CNRCC Delegates

Heather Anderson (559) 434-2510
Chip Ashley (559) 855-6376

CNRCC Alternates

Richard Kangas (559) 896-5337
Brian Cohen (559) 227-6028

Publicity

Karen Hammer (559) 298-5272
..... ecuagirl45@yahoo.com

Merced Group

Merced Group

Sierra Club
Box 387
Merced, CA 95341

Group Chair

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

Group Vice-Chair

Jon Hawthorne (209)723-5152

Group Treasurer

JoAnne Clarke (209) 726-0636

Group Secretary

Annette Allsup (209) 723-5152

Member-at-Large

Jule Biesiada juleb13@sbcglobal.net

Conservation Chair

JoAnne Clarke (209) 726-0636
. Jo_Clarke@att.net

Publications

Annette Allsup (209) 723-5152

Agriculture

Charlie Magneson (209) 394-7045

Membership open

Publicity

Rod Webster (209) 723-4747

Population

. open

Conservation and Executive Committee Meetings

(the first Thursday of each month)

Next meeting is Thursday, January 6th, 7:00 P.M.

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.

Merced Group General Meetings

The third Thursday of each month (except Dec. and May)

Starts at 7:00, usually over by 8:30 or so

THE NEXT MEETING IS Thursday, January 20th, 7:00 P.M.

Speaker: Jack Sparks, Community Outreach, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, "Wildlife Outings at Your Backdoor"

Merced County and nearby environs of the Central Valley have some amazing wildlife refuges. They are probably best know for the myriad of birds (over a million) who find the refuges a major stop on the winter flyway. We have some wetlands that are internationally

recognized for their significance to these migrating populations. But not all are transients. Our refuges also provide a year-round home to many other animals. Jack Sparks knows each of our local wildlife refuges intimately. Come find out all the best places you can go to observe, photograph, and just plain enjoy wildlife- sometimes no more than a half hour from your door. Jack will tell us what kinds of animals we'll find at each, when the best time to visit is, and how to get to some of the lesser known and least visited ones. Winter is actually "high season" in the wetlands of the flyway so you can head out the weekend after our meeting if you like!

The meeting starts at 7:00 at Sierra Presbyterian Church, 3603 M St. in Merced (corner of M St. and Yosemite Ave., across from Merced College).

BANQUET WRAP

A festive time was enjoyed by the Merced Group and friends during our banquet on December 4th. The dinner convinced all in attendance that collectively we are great cooks! (It was a pot-luck affair). Dr. Lloyd Bever and his wife Margaret treated us to a great travelogue, venturing to literally the ends of the Earth- the North and South Poles. Fantastic photography of dramatic scenery and exotic wildlife. And this was no quick jaunt. The Bevers traveled for 28 days on the outh Pole outing alone. Their small ship with less than 50 passengers accessed some places normally not accessible and a fleet of Zodiac boats shuttled them to shore for day-long photography excursions. Not your usual shotgun tour. We felt fortunate to join them on their adventures, if only vicariously, for a few hours.

Special thanks to all who helped make it happen.

GOOD-BYE TO AN OLD FRIEND

On a more somber note, the Merced Group is sad to report the passing of one of our original founders, and a member for 46 years, Jake Kiriwara. It is remembered that he, Helen Stewart, and Lloyd Lobrey of Fresno met on Nov. 22, 1963 to discuss the formation of a Merced Group. The date and occasion stand out because that was the same day that JFK was shot and the group decided to meet as planned nonetheless. Jake and his wife Fran were among the most devoted of attendees to both our meetings and our outings even into their later years. A Livingston farmer who turned his almond acres into organic production, Jake had a love of the land, both here on the Valleyflatlands and in the nearby Sierras where he hiked and backpacked extensively. At various times, within the Merced Group, Jake served as conservation chair and agriculture chair. He will be remembered for his love of nature and as a champion for justice and peace in the world.

ELECTION RESULTS

The Merced Group is pleased to announce the election of Jon Hawthorne and John Magneson to the executive committee.



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 _____

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
 Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX
 Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____
 Exp. Date ____/____/____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
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

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“Money,” from page 1

Linda Zablotty-Hurst was recently hired as Sierra Club California's deputy director. Formerly, Linda was executive director of Habitat for Humanity in Solano County. She is the staff-lead for the California Coast Campaign segment of the Resilient Habitats Campaign.

Jim Metropulos has been a legislative representative at Sierra Club California since 2002, focusing on energy, water, parks and off-road vehicles. Before coming to Sierra Club California, he was committee counsel to the Washington State Senate Environment, Energy, and Water Resources Committee. He is a graduate of Tulane Law School.

Michael Endicott works on forestry and coastal issues. To see how hard he works, just google his name together with Sierra Club. You'll get several pages of hits on environmental news items about issues and legislation he has worked on or is working on.

Annie Pham, who is working on her MA in counseling at Sac State, is Sierra Club California's legislative aide. Her responsibilities include assisting the legislative representatives in submitting letters to members of the legislature, acting as a liaison between activists and the Sacramento staff as well as coordinating the annual lobby day and compiling the environmental report cards.

Our Sierra Club California Staff are great people, and we need to keep them. Unfortunately our budget is not sustainable at current spending levels, and much our spending goes to paying our excellent staffers. Presently Sierra Club California is running a deficit of about \$100,000 a year. Donations are down, and money is tight all around, and Sierra Club National has reorganized how monies are allocated to the chapters and to Sierra Club California, so both get a great deal less now.

Sierra Club California treasurer Dan Sullivan told the Sierra Club California Executive Committee at the last meeting that Sierra Club California will soon be running an annual deficit of about \$200,000. That means we will soon have to cut staff. The developers and polluters Sierra Club California is constantly struggling against to protect our environment and remaining wilderness do not seem to be slowing their efforts to take over the government and profit at the expense of the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the wild open spaces we cherish.

The bottom line is Sierra Club California needs your help to sustain the vitally important work we do. Members--actually anyone, can go to SierraClubCalifornia.org and make

a credit card donation. More than anything Sierra Club California need ongoing donations on a quarterly or monthly basis to keep our organization sustainable.

“Aesthetics,” from page 1 destroyed, these qualities are gone forever. Part of the beauty of Lost Lake Park is in its rural setting. Serenity, peacefulness, beauty—these are subjective values. Can you put a price on them? The real value of a Michaelangelo sculpture is priceless, even though it has a monetary value. Exchange the crystalline river with putrid runoff, the quiet for a noisy pump? We can't recreate a river and its natural ecosystem. One may say, “The park will still be there next to the town.” But is it the same? If you dissect Yosemite Valley with even a two-lane road, is the beauty of Half Dome and El Capitan still the same? Carved in stone at the National Aquarium is a quote by David Brower, former Executive Director of the Sierra Club: “We do not inherit the Earth (in all its beauty) from our fathers, we are borrowing it from our children.”

Gifts: A Literary Legacy of our Wild Heritage 11

by Heather Anderson

When James Patterson, author of forty-four books of thriller fiction, was asked what gift he'd most like to give to his nine-year-old son, he replied, “the gift of reading,” that he'd like him to become a passionate reader for life, not just to get into Harvard, but because there are so many, “wise, exciting, magical, and enlightening stories out there to read.” In continuing the literary legacy of our wild heritage, I would like to share a few books that I have read and loved, recognizing that there are vast amounts of excellent wilderness literature still awaiting me.

Many writers belong to varied groups of wilderness lovers. One group, that I call the wilderness settlers, is represented by my father-in-law, Jack Anderson, who homesteaded on the Wind River in Wyoming after World War I. He loved living off the land, hunting, trapping, and cultivating a huge vegetable garden, and preserving the fruits of his labors in an earthen cellar, even self-publishing an autobiography, *Memoirs of a Free Spirit*. James Campbell wrote about Heimo Korth and his family, alone in the Arctic wilderness in *Final Frontiersman*. Korth married an Eskimo and worked as one of only seven hunter-trappers living legally in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. See also Richard Proenneke's *One* See “Legacy,” page 6

The Lighter Side of

ECONEWS

by Marian Orvis

GREEN GUIDE TO PLASTICS

1. PET or PETE (polyethylene terephthalate) SAFE & RECYCLABLE
2. HDPE (high-density polyethylene) SAFE & RECYCLABLE
3. VINYL or PVC (polyvinyl chloride) AVOID! NOT RECYCLABLE
4. LDPE (low-density polyethylene) SAFE & RECYCLABLE: accepted at plastic bag recycling centers
5. PP (polypropylene) SAFE & RECYCLABLE: check with your local curb-side-recycling program
6. PS (polystyrene) AVOID but RECYCLABLE: check with your local curbside-recycling program
7. (Miscellaneous) includes varieties listed below: PS: QUESTIONABLE & NOT RECYCLABLE

PLA: polylactide, made from renewable plant resources. SAFE but NOT RECYCLABLE: can be composted.

AGAIN: All the catalogs, SPARE ME! At catalogchoice.org, prune duplicate and unwanted catalogs or limit delivery to, say, holiday time.

Enough of the real serious stuff, let's check out the monthly melange of salient sillies at Eco-Mania at ECONEWS Feb/March 2010, to wit:

OLD GROWTH: A tree-ring study indicates that Great Basin bristlecone pines have grown faster in the past 50 years than they have in the thousands of years before that—because of rising temperatures. (OMG, you've got to be kidding! My note)

ARE YOU HAPPY? If passed by Congress, the HAPPY (Humanity and Pets Partnered Through the Years) Act will give pet owners a tax deduction of up to \$3,500 for care expenses for any "legally owned, domesticated live animal." (Yeah, I'm still waiting)

CAN IT BE TRUE: The Dept. of Fish & Game now requires 28 (YES 28!) hard copies for land-use proposals.

WIPEOUT: The average American goes through 57 sheets of toilet paper a day, six times (!) the world average. (Who has a job does the counting?)

GREEN SURPRISE: The greenest U.S. city, in terms of energy-efficient commercial buildings, surprisingly is Los Angeles. The EPA said LA with 293 such structures, is way ahead of Washington, DC, with 203 and San Francisco with 173. Overall, 3,900 buildings in the country earned an EPA "energy star" saving 4.7 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

HEY! I missed the traditional holiday greeting to you. Have a great NEW YEAR anyway. Hope you survived the party stuff. See you again, perhaps...stay well...This newsy stuff has got to stop until next month. Sorry to over tax your faculties

Great

San Joaquin River Clean-up

Please contact Richard Sloan at 559-696-2971, riverrich1509@aol.com, Steve Starcher, 559-289-8874, sastarcher@gmail.com or Steve Haze, 559-970-6320 re opportunities to help clean up the San Joaquin River.

Tehipite Chapter Annual Awards Banquet

Friday, March 11, 6:00 p.m. no host bar, 7:00 p.m. dinner



Gus Smith, Fire Ecologist for Yosemite Park, will be our guest speaker this year. Gus has extensive experience in monitoring fire effects both in our National Forests and National

Parks. Gus will talk about the importance of fire in the Sierras, where we've been, where we're going and all the obstacles that get in the way. Topics will include (pre)historic fire history description, how we know what no one present knew, why we use prescribed fire, and if we are meeting our objectives with prescribed fire. Gus will also discuss the future of fire in Yosemite in light of climate change and political and funding changes. Mr. Gus Smith has a PhD. in Natural Resources from the University of New Hampshire and an M. S. in Natural Resources from the University of Wisconsin. Gus was also an Associate Professor of Biology and Natural Resources at Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin for 10 years. Gus has been the Fire Ecologist for Yosemite since 2008.

Four Points by Sheraton, Crystal Ballroom 3737 Blackstone Ave., Fresno

SW corner Blackstone and Dakota

Menu: Choice of marinated Tri-Tip, Chicken Marsala, or Vegetable con Capellini (vegetarian)

Tickets are \$25. Checks payable to "Tehipite Chapter, Sierra Club."

Fill out form below and mail by Feb. 25

To: Ron Mackie, Banquet Chair

1617 Highway 49 South

Ahwahnee, CA 93601

(559) 683-0293 rmackie@sti.net

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Name of each person attending. Please check entrée choice.

_____ beef _____ chicken _____ vegetarian _____

_____ beef _____ chicken _____ vegetarian _____

_____ beef _____ chicken _____ vegetarian _____

Man’s Wilderness: An Alaskan Odyssey, a man who built his cabin and lived a solitary life at Lake Clark.

Another group is that of scientists. Geology provides an intense way of looking at land, studying strata and history written in the rocks of how the present landscape came to be. Geologist and author of many books, John McPhee, does that vividly in *Assembling California*, describing California’s creation over a few hundred million years, and where it might be going. In *Nature’s Beloved Son: Rediscovering John Muir’s Botanical Legacy*, Bonnie Gisel writes about Muir’s kinship with plants, even though he was not a scientific botanist. In his *Travels in Alaska*, I am impressed by Muir’s botanical memory forty years after those travels. Biologist and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, E. O. Wilson, in *The Future of Life*, holds that the diversity of all species: plants, animals, and insects is immeasurable, and decries the fact that many may be lost forever, even by the end of this century.

Artists are also lovers of the land as they take visual notes, sketch, or paint, while describing with words. They belong to yet another group that works in both photography and writing to bring to public attention landscapes that we are in danger of losing, as did Ansel Adams in *The Spirit of Wild Places* or *The American Wilderness*, Galen Rowell in *Galen Rowell, a Retrospective*, and Robert Ketchum in *The Tongass, Alaska’s Vanishing Rain Forest*, about a disappearing ecological wonder. Albert Bierstadt, Thomas Hill, and Thomas Moran, were early painters of the West who gave visual accounts of thermal pools, geysers, giant redwoods, and the magnificent waterfalls of Yosemite and Yellowstone to eastern travelers, and were partially responsible for the westward movement and much later the establishment of protection in national parks and wilderness areas. But it was Barbara Novak in *Nature and Culture* who wrote about these artists, telling how their art related to and impacted the cultural and environmental ideas of the time. Some artists are journal writers and embed their sketches with the written word. Dutch artist-naturalist, Rien Poortvliet, in *World of Animals, The Living Forest*, expresses his feelings for wildlife not only in drawings, but in captions and essays about the animals. A group of Artists of the Arctic Refuge help us see and understand the possible plight of that pristine wilderness with their artwork. Alan Gussow, artist, art activist, environmentalist, and expert witness on natural and scenic beauty, wrote elegantly about *A Sense of Place, the Artist and the American land*. Bob

Nugent documents the Amazon Rainforest and its predicament. He hopes to bring the beauty of Amazonia to the rest of the world so they too will be concerned for its well-being. Heather Anderson paints series of wilderness, skies, mountains, rivers, and glaciers to highlight environmental issues, then recently wrote a curriculum, *Art Education and Eco Awareness*, a *Teacher’s Guide to Art and the Natural Environment*, helping teachers to inspire and educate students about our natural heritage. Barbara Matilsky, while not an artist herself, wrote *Fragile Ecologies*, documenting contemporary artists’ works on the land, some with solutions to ecological problems. She feels that artists are in a “unique position to effect environmental change,” and that “the last vestiges of unspoiled nature need protection as our quintessential artistic masterpiece.”

Sports people, climbers, hikers, skiers, spie-lunkers, runners, rafters, and cyclists, love the challenge of a difficult goal, achieving it, and then writing about it. Jon Krakauer is one of these. As a writer who climbs or climber who writes, his was a first hand account of the 1996 Mt. Everest disaster, and he kept us on edge describing the tragic details of the expedition in *Into Thin Air*. Climber Ed Viesturs’ page turner warns *No Shortcuts to the Top*. Similarly, Clint Willis edited samples of first-rate writing by climbers about climbing in the highest wilderness, often in difficult situations, in *Epic, Stories of Survival from the World’s Highest Peaks*. An epic generally recounts heroic achievements or some kind of disaster. Robert Pavlik, hiker, climber, biographer of Norman Clyde, *Legendary Early Climber of the Sierra*, gives us a more complete picture of early climbing in our own Sierra Nevada range. Clyde (1885-19173) made over 1000 ascents and 130 solo first ascents, and wrote a book as well, *Closeups of the High Sierra*. The story by Candace Millard of *The River of Doubt, Theodore Roosevelt’s Darkest Journey* certainly falls into the epic category; he almost didn’t make it out alive. And, because of Roosevelt’s love of wilderness, he left a legacy of 230,000,000 acres of protected wild lands, including 5 national parks, 150 national forests, and 55 national bird and game preserves.

Environmentalists and groups like Wilderness and Audubon Societies, The Nature Conservancy, American Rivers, and the Sierra Club, share a focus to save lands, preserve habitats, and protect wilderness from devastation. An in-depth history of this wilderness protection is found in Doug Scott’s book, *The Enduring Wilderness*, a guide book to saving America’s wild places, and in *People’s History of Wilderness* by M. Jenkins. Other extremely savvy

and hard-working environmentalists have written of their role in the growth of the Sierra Club from a hiking organization in 1892 to its place as the major environmental movement of our times. Start with John Muir, tireless advocate and writer for wilderness protection. I found Edwin Way Teale’s anthology, *The Wilderness World of John Muir*, a good introduction to Muir’s many books. Mark Harvey wrote about the political process of protecting wilderness in *Wilderness Forever: Howard Zahniser and the Path to the Wilderness Act*. Executive Directors Dave Brower (*Let the Mountains Talk, Let the Rivers Run*), Michael McCloskey (*In the Thick of It*), and now Carl Pope (*Strategic Ignorance*), as well as past president, Ed Wayburn (*Your Land and Mine*), not only worked unwaveringly for conservation and wilderness but wrote well about it.

It is important to hand down our passion for the natural world to those who come after, to nourish children to see, to become aware and concerned about our wild legacy. Richard Louv’s book, *Last Child in the Woods, Keeping our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder* advocates more exposure to nature. For eons, children played outside. In only a few decades that custom has sharply diminished, and children are now more attuned to electronic devices; they are more obese and more structured, leaving less simple free time to bond to nature. One youngster even remarked, “I like to play indoors because there are more outlets.” This book has inspired the Sierra Club to raise funds for a new staffed, popular program for youth, “Building Bridges to the Outdoors,” adding to the continuing program of “Inner City Outings.” At least one state, Connecticut, has a new campaign called, “No Child Left Inside.”

A local voice is that of historian Gene Rose, who writes about our heritage here at home, our own San Joaquin, a *River Betrayed, Giants Among the Forests, and Yosemite’s Tioga Country*. We shouldn’t miss other local writers: Stephen Johnson, Gerald Haslam, and Robert Dawson’s *The Great Central Valley, California’s Heartland*, filled with photographs you may be familiar with.

Countless authors have succinctly summarized our environmental status, so I will limit my suggestions to one concise and well stated book, Bill McKibbin’s *Eaarth*. During our cold nights, get cozy and comfortable with your book of choice. I am guessing that this compilation is more than you ever wanted to read but if it helps even a handful of you to become friends with a book that may give you a new or different look at life, I am grateful. They are gifts from the authors.

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 Chair is Marcia Rasmussen, Marcia@BigBaldy.com, 559-332-2419. Please contact Marcia 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.

Steve Cosner (559) 281-5983, email: stevec@sfsu.edu maintains this webpage.

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.



Sierra Club California Needs Your Help

You have great people in Sacramento lobbying to protect the Sierra and on other critical issues like climate change. Bill Magavern, Jim Metropoulous, and Annie Pham do a terrific job, and they need our help. Please go to the terrific Sierra Club California web site at www.sierraclubcalifornia.org and donate generously.

Required Liability Waiver

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the Liability Waiver before you choose to participate on an outing, please go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or contact the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version.

Crabtree Road Area, Emigrant Wilderness (Yokuts)

January 1, Saturday

Snowshoe Hike (2B)

Start at the far end of Crabtree Road not far from Dodge Ridge, park where the snow cuts off the road and follow nordic ski trails on and off the road. A couple of steep climbs at about 7,000+feet. Bring water, sack lunch, ten essentials, and money for dinner on the way home and for the drivers. Meet at Denny's parking lot in Oakdale at 8:30am to carpool. Contact Monica Casey at 209.996.0058 or hikerlady1955@gmail.com.

San Joaquin River Gorge Loop Trail (2A)

Jan. 8th, Sunday

Moderate day hike. Karen Hammer 298-5272

Beginner XC ski lesson and ski tour

Jan. 8th

Place to be determined depending on snow conditions Walt Taguchi 435-2818

Beginner XC ski lesson and ski tour

Jan. 15th

Place to be determined depending on snow conditions Walt Taguchi 435-2818

Beginner XC ski lesson and ski tour

Jan. 22nd

Place to be determined depending on snow conditions Walt Taguchi 435-2818

Beginner XC ski lesson and ski tour

Jan. 29th

Place to be determined depending on snow conditions Walt Taguchi 435-2818

Beginner's Snowshoe Hike (1A)

Feb. 6, Sunday

Since it's Super Bowl Sunday, we may have the trail to ourselves! Plan to go to Coyote and take the Eagle Trail to Shaver Lake Vista. This is an easy trail, but level of effort required is dependent on snow conditions. Bad driving conditions will result in trip postponement. Karen Hammer 298-5272

Calaveras Big Trees, highway 4 (Yokuts)

February 6, Sunday

Snowshoe Hike (1A)

2 1/2 -3 mile trail through the redwoods, ending at the warming hut where they serve hot cocoa and spiced cider. Bring water, sack lunch, ten essentials, and money for dinner on the way home and for the drivers. Meet at Denny's parking lot in Oakdale at 8:00am to carpool. Contact Monica Casey at 209.996.0058 or hikerlady1955@gmail.com.

Carrizo Plain National Monument (1A)

Tentative dates: March 19th or 26th

Guided tour and hikes on Sat. (9:30 - 2:30 p.m.). Visit Painted Rock and Soda Lake among other sites. Possibly catch a good wildflower display. Option to camp out overnight Fri. and/or Sat. night. Rustic conditions. Must carry in water. Karen Hammer 298-5272



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Deadline for *Tehipite Topics* is the second Friday of each month. Please submit material to TehipiteTopics@gmail.com.

A few more words about wilderness by Chip Ashley

In another essay in this edition, Heather Anderson has eloquently defended the aesthetic value of places like Lost Lake Park. I think there is a reason all of us humans find a place like this park, which is not far from Fresno, pleasing and soothing. We humans have not been civilized for long—only about 10,000 years. That seems like a long time, but it is not. We have been essentially the same—that is, our brains and bodies have been pretty much the same—for about a million years. 10,000 years is only one one-hundredth of that time. And throughout the previous 990,000 years or so, we lived in little bands of not more than a few hundred individuals. We lived in what we now call “wilderness,” in forests, woodlands, grasslands, and deserts, foraging for our food as hunter-gatherers. There were no cities, just tiny camps with shelters made of local materials, which we knew how to use very, very well because the lore of these practices was passed down from generation to generation, for thousands of generations, and humans evolved right along with their surroundings in fine tune with the cycles of nature.

The word wilderness started out as a negative term. It comes from an Old English word meaning “wild animal” or “wild deer,” where “deer” means just about any wild animal, as the German Tier. A wilderness was a fearful place inhabited by wild beasts, a place to be avoided. The original concept of wilderness as a wild, fearful, inhospitable place may have evolved out of what anthropologist Marshall Sahlins calls the “Neolithic prejudice.” City states began to form in the Neolithic era, starting about 10,000 years ago. Sahlins theorizes that early promoters of civilization—that is, life in cities, for the word “civilize” comes from a Latin word for city—promulgated fear-mongering propaganda to dissuade the hoi polloi from leaving the cities.

Modern primitivist John Zerzan suggests that early city dwellers may not have liked the drudgery and regimentation of city life and longed to return to the freedom of the foraging life their very recent ancestors enjoyed. But the ancient capitalists, who were getting used to living in the lap of luxury, needed the working class (basically slaves) to stay and do the work of the early urban economy and be soldiers in their armies, which they used to take other capitalists’ treasure and slaves, as well as to protect their own wealth from opposing sociopaths who had a greedy eye on it. Thus the early oligarchs promulgated the

idea of wilderness. “No,” they chided, “You common folks don’t want to go back out there in that wilderness. There are lions and tigers and bears out there. Stay here in the city, inside these nice mud-and-wattle walls, where you have three squares a day.” (Of course they neglected to mention the 12-14 hours a day of back-breaking labor the common people experienced in early city life.)

In *The Leviathan*, 17th century English philosopher Thomas Hobbes provides a fine example of the Neolithic prejudice as he describes human life in “the state of nature”—Hobbes’ term for wilderness—as having “no commodious living” and as “nasty, brutish, and short.” In the Old English poem *Beowulf* (10th century), the wilderness is the horrid place where the monster Grendel and the fire-breathing dragon live. Sahlins and other modern anthropologists argue, however, that most hunter-gatherers did not live brutish lives. They did not have to work long hours to subsist. They had ample leisure time (if that’s the right word) for games and joyful pastimes. If they survived infancy, they lived long, healthy lives, and their bodies were not polluted with industrial and pharmaceutical chemicals, as civilized humans are.

To be continued in the next edition