

Tehipite Topics

Summer 2005 ☞ Vol. 51, No. 6

www.tehipite.sierraclub.org

High in the Backcountry *Marijuana Cultivation in our National Parks*

by Marcia Rasmussen

A caravan of news vans and Park Service vehicles slowly made its way up the narrow, tortuous road leading toward Mineral King. At an unmarked bend in the road, the lead driver pulled over and motioned for the others to fall in behind and park there along the edge of the road, where the shoulder dropped off abruptly into steep, rugged mountainside. Several reporters stepped out of the vehicles, followed by cameramen lugging heavy equipment. It could have been a routine press conference, up until the moment when the group was joined by their Park Service escorts—rangers in full camo battle attire, carrying assault rifles.

My husband and I had been invited to join a tour of this remote area, where illegal marijuana farms have thrived for some time on the steep slopes within Sequoia National Park, hidden beneath the forest canopy. Our armed escorts led us through rugged terrain, scarcely a half mile off the paved road. Here, enterprising farmers had carved the steep hillside into an elaborate complex of terraces and strung some eight miles of irrigation hose to water their crops.



It amazed me that such a huge operation could be carried on undetected, just under the noses of the Park Service. Apparently such farms have been on the rise since 9-11, when Homeland Security began to tighten our national borders. It became easier and more profitable to grow marijuana on remote public lands than to smuggle it across the heavily guarded border. Sequoia National Park has borne the brunt of the marijuana cultivation, but the problem is in fact widespread across other national parks and other public lands as well. Since 2001, Sequoia Park officials have discovered and eradicated some 109,000 marijuana plants in the backcountry.

Aside from the legal issues, illicit agriculture on our public lands raises some very serious environmental concerns. The marijuana farms represent a huge, unregulated use of fertilizers and pesticides. When the Park Service began restoration this year, they found evidence that 2,870 pounds of N-P-K fertilizer had been spread over a five acre garden area. In addition, they documented the use of two

See *Marijuana*, page 6



Tehipite Chapter

P.O. Box 5396

Fresno, California 93755-5396

Copyright © Tehipite Chapter, 2005

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

Tom Eliason (559) 439-7195
 tomeliason@comcast.net
 William Fjellbo (559) 642-4511
 jbfjellbo@sierratel.com
 Don Gaede (559) 434-5138
 gaede80@sbcglobal.net
 June Gill (559) 432-5344
 junegill@cvip.net
 Ron Mackie (559) 683-0293
 rmackie@sierratel.com

Chapter Committee Chairs

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

Marian Orvis (559) 226-0145
 Ione Scott. (559) 665-0460
 Ray Marx. (559) 641-7589

Newsletter Distribution

Marian Orvis (559) 226-0145

Outings and Outings Leader Training

Carolyn Ordway . . . (559) 449-7780
 jbord606@yahoo.com

Political Committee

Emily Templin (559) 486-3138
 emtem79@hotmail.com

Programs

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

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

Wilderness

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

Yosemite National Park

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

June General Meeting

“Update on California’s Water Wars”

presented by Lloyd Carter

June 8th at 7:00 P.M.

University of California Center
 550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno
 (across from Fashion Fair)

Lloyd will give an update on the San Joaquin River litigation, discuss water as the “new cash crop”, talk briefly about the ongoing Westlands-Kesterson drainage problem and the rapid Los Angelesization of the San Joaquin Valley.

Lloyd Carter is a prosecutor and appellate attorney for the California Attorney General’s Office in Fresno. His duties include writing respondent’s briefs in criminal appeals, handling state and federal habeas petitions and some trial work.

He is the water law instructor at San Joaquin College of Law. For more than two decades he served as a reporter for United Press International and the *Fresno Bee* in Fresno and San Francisco. In the first half of the 1990s, while attending law school, he was a freelance stringer or contributor to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *San Francisco Examiner*, *San Jose Mercury-News*, *Fresno Business Journal*, *Image Magazine*, and various environmental periodicals.



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) 384-2835

Group Secretary

Annette Allsup (209) 723-5152

Member-at-Large

Jule Biesiada juleb13@msn.com

Conservation Chair

Marsh Pitman (209) 723-2986

Publications

Rod Webster (209) 723-4747

Agriculture

Charlie Magnuson . . . (209) 394-7045

Membership

Tammy Johnson (559) 665-5507

Publicity

Rod Webster (209) 723-4747

Population

Tammy Johnson (559) 665-5507

Merced Group

Conservation and Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, June 9th at 7:00 P.M., Rod Webster's home,
345 E. 20th St., Merced

General Meeting

Thursday, June 16th, 7:30 P.M.
Sierra Presbyterian Church, 3603 M St.
(M St. and Yosemite Ave., across from Merced College)

"Hiking Glaciers in Patagonia"

presented by Richard Sloan

Tehipite Chapter member Richard Sloan went to Patagonia for twelve days in January. He will present a slide show about his adventures during a seven day, 70 mile hike to see the continental glacier in Chile. It will also include several day hikes from their base camp to hanging glaciers around Mt. Fitzroy in Argentina. The weather cooperated, the food was great, and the people friendly. This area is one of South America's best kept secrets. Come share in the secret.

Carpool to Chapter Meeting in Fresno

Wednesday, June 22nd, 7:00 P.M.
University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno

This meeting is for everyone in the Tehipite Chapter to discuss the focus and priorities for the coming year. Representatives will carry our local perspective to the Summit in San Francisco in September.

Meet at United Methodist Church of Merced, 899 Yosemite Parkway to carpool. Meet in the parking lot behind the church at 5:30 P.M. We'll pull out promptly at 5:40.

Annual Picnic

Mark your calendars for our annual planning meeting on Saturday, July 23rd. We'll look to the year ahead, discussing environmental issues of local concern, brainstorming speakers and outings for the year ahead, and ironing out the details of our December banquet. We'll start at 9:00 A.M. and probably finish around noon for a potluck lunch of salads and desserts. Location to be announced. (www.tehipite.sierraclub.org/Groups/Merced/)



Hiking Glaciers in Patagonia



Bill Maher's New Rules for the Environment

On May 4, Planet Senior Editor Tom Valtin spoke with comedian Bill Maher about his views on the environment. Maher, who will appear at this September's Sierra Summit 2005, drives a Toyota Prius hybrid.

Planet: I assume from the fact that you're the featured entertainer at the Sierra Summit this September that you take more than a passing interest in the environment.

Maher: Sure. I can't think of anything I worry about more. It's that little "wanting to live" clause in my contract, you know? All you have to do is read the paper and every day there's some bad news. It's either that the tuna are disappearing, or the ice caps are melting, or there's no snow on Mt. Kilimanjaro. It's just getting to a point where you can't ignore it. I asked Bobby Kennedy when he was on my show on Earth Day, when they put history on the clock of the day, how late in the day is it? Is it eleven at night? Is it two minutes to midnight? I don't know what has to happen to get people to wake up, but obviously something more than you or I are doing.

Planet: One problem seems to be that people are ill-informed, even though they're bombarded with so much information every day. You're an entertainer, but you're also an outspoken progressive. Do you feel educating the public is part of your role?

Maher: Yeah, and I bring up the environment as often as I possibly can without being such a bore that people turn it off, because then that doesn't serve anybody's purposes.

Planet: In speaking with Charles Schumer last Friday, you said there are some very important issues—and the environment was the first example you cited—that the Average Joe just finds too byzantine and boring to latch onto. How do we get people to pay attention?

Maher: If you ask Robert Kennedy, he'd tell you that the big villain in this is the media. And I tend to think he's got a good point. The media's job is to make what's important interesting, and they have abdicated that responsibility. They fill their pages and their programs with tales of runaway brides and molesting pop stars, the sexy stuff that's easily graspable. That was part of my point to Schumer. People read and care about the things that are easily graspable. The tsunami's an example. Americans loved that story. Not the tsunami itself, obviously, but there was a sense that,

"Oh, here's one that we can understand. Underwater earthquake makes big wave. I can get my head around that one." It was sufficiently far away, and of course, there was a super model involved, so it was the perfect storm of perfect storms.

Planet: You probably recall that in the immediate aftermath of 9/11, one of the things President Bush urged people to do was to get out and go shopping, to demonstrate that we weren't going to let the terrorists disrupt our daily lives. But unlike during WWII, say, it seems that Americans aren't being asked to make any sacrifices so far as our use of natural resources or reining in our consumption. We seem to be such a freedom-loving country that we almost don't want to take responsibility. What do we do about that?

Maher: That's a question that I've not found an answer for. I wrote a whole book about it after 9/11, called "When you Ride Alone, You Ride with Bin Laden," and that was the theme of that book. It's a grafting of the idea of those WWII patriotic posters that got people to help out and get involved in the war effort. We created new ones for the war on terror, but some of them were just redo's of the old posters. There was one WWII poster that was imploring people to save gasoline, and it said "When you ride alone, you ride with Hitler." So riding with Bin Laden was just an updating of that. We got into that subject—sacrifice, asking people to make sacrifices—quite a bit in the book, and that was the whole idea: if your government isn't going to ask you and inform you, then I'll do it.

But obviously people need the call from the top. There's no substitute for a president making something an issue. And the sad thing about this president is that he's actually good at making something an issue. He's a very willful person. Nobody was asking for tax cuts when he ran for president. Nobody was thinking that we should invade Iraq when he



See *Maher*, page 5

proposed that. Nobody was asking that social security be put on the table right now. These are all issues that came out of this president's singular mind, and his willful mindset. If he turned that willful mindset toward the environment, toward conservation, toward asking people to make a sacrifice, the momentum that would bring to the table would be incalculable. But obviously it's not what he feels is important. Or he's just such a corrupt #&*%@! that he doesn't care.

Planet: The Sierra Club is opposed to Bush's environmental policies, but we've found that when we criticize Bush personally, people aren't as receptive. How do we oppose the policies without criticizing the person?

Maher: You're falling into the Al Gore-John Kerry trap, which is "Don't attack the president too much because it will offend his supporters." Who gives a #%! if it offends his supporters? This man needs to be attacked. You can't separate the man from the policy. He is the policy, OK? People need to know that he's a corrupt person, that he's selling his country and his countrymen down the river to pay back his friends in the energy industry. I would not hesitate to make this case at all. If people can't accept that, then I don't know what to tell you. The problem with the left, and the Democrats, and environmentalists, is not that they're too hard on this president, it's that they're too easy on him.

Planet: For much of the 20th century, protecting the environment was a bipartisan endeavor. But recently the GOP leadership, at least at the national level, seems to have turned its back on this tradition. James Jeffords, a moderate Republican who cared about the environment, felt he had to bolt the party in 2001 because there was no longer a place for him there. Christie Todd Whitman says in her new book that her party has been hijacked. Is there a place for environmentalists in the Republican Party these days?

Maher: That's a great question. There should be, and there are—I mean, John McCain just made an appearance with Bobby Kennedy. I think he's on that page. I think any Republican who's not beholden to the Christian right is on that page. The Republican Party has been hijacked by this Christian wing of the party, and the problem is that pollution isn't mentioned in the Bible, so it's not really important to them. I'm sure you're familiar with the James Watt quote that I think says it all, about the environmental movement and Christianity. He was answering questions from angry senators about why he wasn't doing his job of guarding the henhouse, and he said, "I don't know how many more generations we can count on before the Lord

comes back and ends the world." So in other words he was saying, "Look, the Bible says the world's going to end soon, so what are we really knocking ourselves out for protecting the planet, because the end is near." Use it or lose it—that was his attitude about the environment. You cannot argue rationally with religious people, so as long as this country is on this path toward theocracy, the environmental movement is greatly threatened. And it's going to be a self-fulfilling prophecy because the world will end—not because God came down, but because we actually destroyed it.

Planet: On your Earth Day show, you said, "I hate to tell you this, folks, but gas doesn't cost too much; it costs too little." We've found when we make this argument, the rebuttal is often, "Oh, but that will hurt the poor the most." What would you say to that? What's your rationale for supporting higher gas prices?

Maher: Not everything can be organized around the principle that poor people are hurt the most. It's something we should consider, and I certainly have sympathy for that argument, but the air is something we all breathe—rich, poor, and middle class. And for those of us who are aren't poor, well, if we don't like higher gas prices, maybe don't have a \$3 latte at Starbucks.

This country was able to accept the fact that smoking was something that could be overtaxed to discourage it because it's bad for us, but not gasoline. Somewhere along the line in the last 20 years we came to understand that smoking in public places was just intolerable, because it meant that you were befouling the air we all breathe, and if we all breathe it then you couldn't be so selfish as to dirty it up for everybody. Well, what about the bar that we call Earth? It's a big bar, and some people are smoking in it, and we all have to breathe the air. George Bush is like a selfish bar owner who's catering to his smoking clientele because they're very good customers.

Planet: Given the dark times we're in, at least so far as the environmental policy coming out of Washington, D.C., is concerned, is there something that gives you reason for optimism?

Maher: Yes, that Bush will be out of office in three years.

Planet: In the century now starting to unfold, do you think the environment is going to be something people pay closer attention to?

Maher: It's going to have to be. People are just going to have to wake up. ☞

Marijuana, from page 1

gallons of Sevin, 1.1 gallons of Malathion concentrate, and smaller amounts of several other insecticides and rodenticides. It is not known what the full impact of these chemicals will be. One only has to look at the steep slope and the flowing streams in this area to know that these chemicals have not remained within the confines of the marijuana gardens. The town of Three Rivers lies directly below. I have to wonder where their water supply originates.

The armed contingent that accompanied our tour group raised yet another concern in my mind. If we needed such an escort to ensure our safety, what would become of a lone hiker or fisherman who unwittingly blundered into one of these marijuana farms?

Though the Park Service has been conducting surveillance and eradicating marijuana farms within Sequoia Park since 2001, only about half of the damaged areas have been



Marijuana growers have erected elaborate camping platforms in the forest. Unsafe storage of food items poses a threat to bears and other wildlife. Crews have restored 13 of these camps. NPS photo.



An abandoned stockpile of fertilizer and firearms, as it was discovered by Park Service officials. NPS photo.

What can you do to help?

- Contact your Congressman or Senator and encourage funding for restoration of areas damaged by marijuana cultivation.
- Keep your eyes open! Report any suspicious activity in Sequoia or Kings Canyon National Parks by calling 1-888-NPS-CRIME (1-888- 677-2746). Callers may remain anonymous. 🌲

restored. Funds for restoration have only recently become available, and they remain in short supply. Restoration is expensive. In addition, the heavily armed growers present a serious threat to restoration workers. They must do the majority of their work between November and February to avoid confrontation with the growers. The restoration is not an easy task, and much more work remains to be done.



Restoration workers excavate a garbage dump left by marijuana growers. The Park Service removed 5,515 pounds of garbage from 25 of these pits.

Painting National Parks of the World

An Exhibition by Heather Anderson

Coke Hallowell Center for River Studies (River Center)

April 1 through June 30, 2005

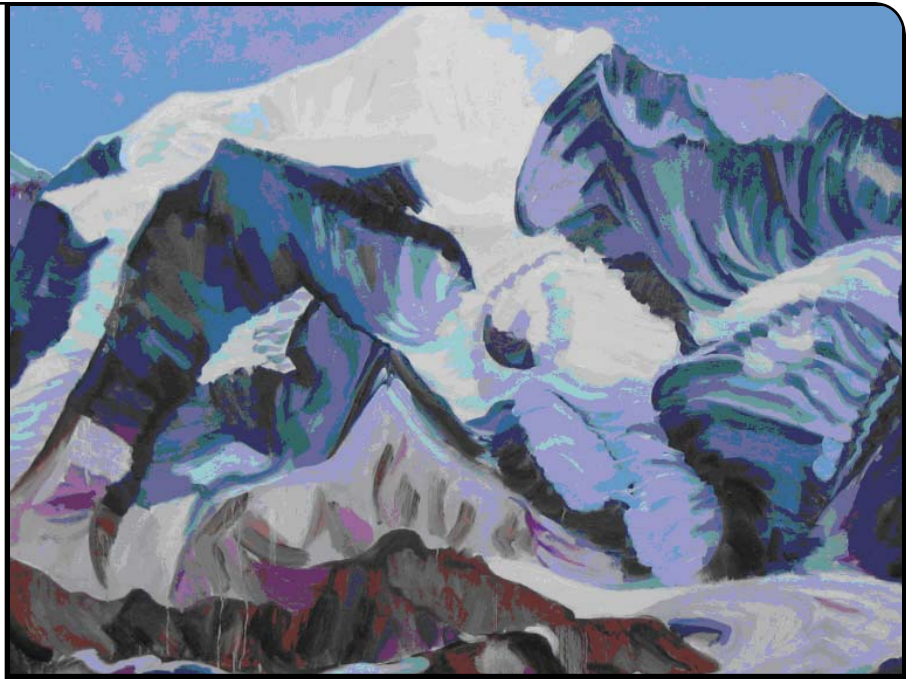
Friday through Sunday, 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

“My hope is for us to connect with others through art, sharing a sense of wonder and concern for our world of wilderness.”

Heather Anderson's landscapes are about her passion for the uniquely beautiful wilderness places on our planet. Her paintings are not only about her actual experience of hiking to or just being in these places, but about her visual memory of the colors, space, shapes, and feeling of the place. Painting these wilderness places is an attempt to show how unique they are and how important it is to protect them.

As art educator, Heather has worked with local teachers and students in colleges, at the Fresno Art Museum, and at the San Joaquin River Parkway to open students' eyes to our natural world and to help them express their artistic selves. Her hope is to convey Rachel Carson's "sense of wonder" for nature through art.

Heather holds a B.A., M.A. in Fine Art from the University of California, Berkeley, with minors in English, Art History, and Education, and a M.A., Ph.D. in Art Education from the University of Oregon. Heather has taught at CSU, Sacramento; CSU, Fresno; Fresno City College; Fresno Art Museum; and has presented lectures and workshops locally, nationally and internationally. Her work has been published in Art Education journals and in two books.



The Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge



Enjoy beautiful mountain trails and vistas, wildflowers, lakes and streams. Come on your own or join one of our exciting workshops or hiking weekends. 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 excellent family style meals, a friendly staff and a casual atmosphere.

Featured Programs

June 3–5, July 15–17, August 26–28 *Yoga Workshop* \$145 members, \$170 non-members

June 10–12, August 12–15 *Family Hike Weekend* \$125 members, \$150 non-members, \$75 kids

June 17–19 *Fly Fishing Workshop* \$145 members, \$170 non-members

June 19–24 *Sierra Serenity* \$250 members, \$275 non-members

June 24–26 *“Finding Your Way” Navigational Workshop* \$145 members, \$170 non-members

July 1–4 *Fourth of July Weekend Mountain Celebration*

July 8–10, August 19–21 *Tahoe Hiking Highlights* \$125 members, \$150 non-members

July 22–24 *History Hikes* \$125 members, \$150 non-members

July 29 – 31 *Bicycle Weekend* \$145 members, \$170 non-members

September 2 – 5 *Labor Day Weekend Celebration*

September 16–18 *Fall Work Party*

Prices for featured programs include meals and lodging. 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 or call (800) 679-6775.

La Naturaleza Entiende Todos los Idiomas y No Distingue Razas



"A los árboles no les importa de qué raza eres, siguen compartiendo su sombra. Al agua no le importa de qué nivel social eres, te sigue ofreciendo vida". Esas son las palabras de Juan Martínez, un joven de Los Angeles que encontró "la chispa de esperanza que tanto estaba buscando". Esa chispa la halló en un viaje a las montañas de Wyoming. "Allá recibí la terapia del alma de la Madre Naturaleza. Allá fue donde encontré la pasión de mi vida".

¿Está buscando su chispa de esperanza? Salga. Siéntese bajo un árbol o junto a un río. Conéctese de nuevo con la naturaleza. A todos nos hace falta la paz y el placer que sólo ofrecen los parajes especiales, para divertirnos y para meditar. Unase al Sierra Club, por nuestras familias, por nuestro futuro.

Este es el formulario para encontrar su chispa de esperanza:



UNASE HOY y reciba una bolsa de excursión.

Nombre _____
 Dirección _____
 Ciudad/Estado _____
 _____ Zip _____
 Teléfono _____
 Email _____

Cheque adjunto, a nombre del Sierra Club
 Por favor cargue mi cuenta de:

MasterCard Visa AMEX

Fecha de Expiración ____/____

Nombre del Titular de la Tarjeta: _____

Número de la Tarjeta _____

CATEGORIA DE MEMBRESIA (ELIJA UNA)		
	INDIVIDUAL	CONJUNTA
INTRODUCTORIA	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
NORMAL	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47

Las contribuciones, los regalos y las cuotas al Sierra Club no son deducibles de los impuestos. Apoyan nuestros efectivos esfuerzos de defensa comunitaria y cabildeo. La cuota incluye una suscripción a la revista Sierra, \$7.50, y otra al boletín de capítulo, \$1.00.

Incluya el pago y mándelo a:
Sierra Club, Membership Services,
 85 Second Street, San Francisco, CA 94105

F94Q W1300 1



Explore, disfrute y proteja nuestro planeta

ECOVIEW

by *Marian Orvis*

For those of you who are not aware of The Center for a New American Dream, you are missing out on a plethora of necessary information on how to consume responsibly to protect the environment, enhance quality of life, and promote social justice. Let's take an easy read from their Spring 2005 publication, *In Balance*.

World Banking on Wind. The World Bank is converting its huge Washington, D.C. office to 100% wind power. The amount of electricity involved equals that used by nearly 8,000 average homes. Switching the office from traditional sources of electricity like coal and gas to wind will reduce annual carbon emissions by an estimated 60,000 tons, the equivalent of taking 10,000 cars off the road or planting 15,000 acres of trees.

Can't find the studies? Maybe you should look under a pile of manure!

Recently disclosed documents re-

vealed that the manufacturer of atrazin, an herbicide banned by the European Union and linked to frog deformities and high levels of prostate cancer, spent over a quarter million dollars lobbying the

Environmental Protection Agency and government officials to allow its use on U.S. corn and other products. Following the blitz, the EPA approved the herbicide, claiming—surprise, surprise—it found no studies "that would lead the agency to conclude that potential cancer risk is likely from exposure to atrazine."

Sound familiar and scary? The book, *Pattern Recognition*, by sci-fi novelist William Gibson envisions a world in which corporations have become so powerful they can bribe average people to infiltrate your life and talk up products. Oops! Better file that under "non-fiction." BzzAgent, a successful new word-of-mouth advertising model enlists volunteers to casually tout products in social settings and then report interactions back to the company. Agents spend hours a week slyly shilling to friends and neighbors, receiving token free samples in return. The motivation? The buzzers claim it just makes them feel influential. (But not like Judas?)

And, I would be remiss if I didn't share at least one Eco-Mania silly with you before summer takes over (at last!):

No Close Shave. An environment-friendly alternative to the disposable razor, designed by young engineering graduates, is made largely out of recycled Stoneyfield Farms yogurt cups. The Preserve Razor Recyclable allows you to squeeze

in the arms, pop off the blade, recycle the one-piece handle. It's being touted as an

alternative to the two-billion-plus disposable razors being landfilled annually in the U.S. ♻️



Trip 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 Chair is Carolyn Ordway (559) 449-7780 jbord606@yahoo.com. Please contact her 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.

June 4th - Saturday

Day Hike (3B)

This hike will take you past Mist Falls into tranquil Paradise Valley. Paradise Valley is nestled along the South fork of the Kings River.

John Cameron (559) 896-6919

June 11th - Saturday

Day Hike (1A)

Panoramic Point in Grant Grove, Kings Canyon. Walk along the Park Ridge Fire Lookout trail. Maybe some cross country hiking.

Steve Fretz (559) 439-6673

June 18th - Saturday

Day Hike Moderate (3B)

Walt's superb annual Wawona Loop. Wawona Hotel to Mariposa Grove by shuttle bus. Lunch at the outlook. Optional dinner on the lawn at Wawona Hotel.

Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818

June 19th - Sunday

Fathers Day Family Hike (1A)

Little Baldy and Grant Grove. Steve and Jennifer are packing their baby on the easy 700', 1.7 mile hike to the top of Little Baldy. This hike will be appropriate for children, with rest stops and time to enjoy the wildflowers. Afternoon visit to Grant Grove.
Steve Cosner (559) 281-5983

June 25th - Saturday

Day Hike Moderate/Strenuous (3D)
This is Walt's Panoramic Hike. We leave from the Yosemite Valley floor and climb up the four mile trail to Glacier Point. From there, we follow the Panoramic Trail over the Illilouette, across the Panoramic Cliffs to Nevada Falls, then down the Mist Trail past Vernal Falls. Approximately 13 miles and 4000' elevation gain.
Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818

June 25th - Saturday

Day Hike (2C)

Chilnualna Falls. Your nose will continually be assaulted with the intoxicating smell of bear clover, which, together with manzanita and oaks makes up the majority of the vegetation along the route. Plus lots of waterfalls. Optional dinner at the Wawona Hotel.

Syd Bluestone (559) 439-8233

July 2nd - Saturday

Day Hike (1A)

Lewis Creek, a quiet getaway for those noisy weekends.

Carolyn Ordway (559) 449-7780 or (559) 281-8223

July 4th - Monday

Day Hike (3C)

Hike 14 miles from Tenaya Lake (Sunrise trailhead) to breathtaking Clouds Rest at 9,926 feet.

Optional: bring your sleeping bag and sleep under the stars at Wild Doves Rest in Mariposa (my home) on Sunday night. We'll have a gourmet pizza dinner and a shorter trip Monday morning.

*Paul Weiss (209) 966-6605
yosemiteman@starband.net*

July 9th - Saturday

Day Hike—Fishing Optional (1B)
Nellie Lake is in the Kaiser Wilderness above Huntington Lake. This hike will be accompanied by a friendly German Shepherd.

John Cameron (559) 896-6919

July 10th - Sunday

Mountain Bike

Nelder Grove

Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818

July 15th-17th (Friday-Sunday)

Car Camp/Day Hikes (4C)

Waterwheel Falls. If you do the entire route, you'll see enough waterfalls to get you through a 10 year drought. Maybe a little hike on Friday and hike Waterwheel Falls on Saturday. Return home on Sunday.

Must be moderate to strong hiker. Group size limited. Five dollar deposit required. Please sign up early for this one.

Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818

July 23rd - Saturday

Day Hike (1C)

Walt will take us to two historic vistas at the end of Glacier Point Road, Taft Point and Sentinel Dome.

Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818

July 24th - Sunday

Day Hike (2C)

Dinkey Lakes loop trail with dog leg to Island Lake. Dogs welcome if non-aggressive. Short swim in one of the lakes (the water is COLD!) "You will learn about the environmental geography and history of the area.

Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971

RiverRich1509@aol.com



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

It took a public outcry and an act of Congress to save the gray wolf from literally vanishing off the face of the earth. But we did it. Today, a lot of other creatures face similar extinction. And unless we step up our efforts to protect their habitats, they may not be so lucky. At the Sierra Club, we've mounted a major campaign to defend the Endangered Species Act and preserve threatened habitats before their inhabitants are gone forever. Please contact us to find out how you can help protect threatened and endangered animals. Because no amount of popular demand can bring an extinct species back to life.

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



My Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

email _____

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club
Please charge my MasterCard Visa AMEX

Exp. Date ____/____

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

Membership Categories **INDIVIDUAL** **JOINT**

INTRODUCTORY \$25

REGULAR \$39 \$47

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.

Enclose check and mail to: **F94Q W1300 1**
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

July 30th - Saturday

Come trek with me from Porcupine Creek to the top of North Dome. We will have an unsurpassed view of Yosemite (opposite Half Dome and Clouds Rest). Bonus: on the way, we will see (and climb, if so inclined) a rare granite arch. The hike is 9.4 miles RT, and gains 1,000 ft. Expect a long but unforgettable day. Optional après-hike barbeque dinner on lawn of Wawona Hotel.

Don Gaede (559) 434-5138

August 6th - Saturday

Day Hike
Idaho Lake. Some cross country hiking. Kaiser Pass area.

Steve Fretz (559) 439-6673

August 13th - Saturday

Day Hike—Strenuous (3D)
Past the Watchtower and Heather Lake, we go onward to Pear Lake.

Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818

August 19th-20th(Friday-Saturday)

Night Hike—Strenuous (4F)
Climb Half Dome by the light of a full moon. See the sunrise from the summit, beat the crowds and the heat.

Gerald Vinnard (559) 431-5780

August 21th - Saturday

Mountain Bike
Brewer Lake

Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818

August 27th - Saturday

Day Hike—Moderate (3A)
Dinky lakes cross country, lake to lake to lake.

Walt Taguchi (559)435-2818

September 3th - Saturday

John Muir Trail Day Hike (5C)
Tuolumne Meadows to Yosemite Valley floor, 21 miles one way. Must be moderate/fast hiker. Call for details.

Carolyn Ordway (559) 449-7780 or (559) 281-8223

September 10th - Saturday

Day Hike—Strenuous (2B)
Little Shuteye. A wonderful jaunt to a great lunch spot peak.

Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818

September 17th - Saturday

Day Hike (2A)
Grant Grove. Hike along the Ridge trail.

Don Redmond (559) 268-1537

September 17th-18th (Saturday-Sunday)

We will car camp at the Laguna Seca County Park, and spend Saturday afternoon exploring the Presidio State Park and the Huckleberry Hill Nature Preserve in Monterey. On Sunday, we will bicycle Seventeen Mile Drive, from Lovers Point to the Lodge at Pebble Beach and back. Call early for this one.

Gerald Vinnard (559) 431-5780



MOVING?

Attach current mailing label here and write in new address below.
(Please allow 4-6 weeks processing time.)

Sierra Club
P.O. Box 52968
Boulder, Colorado
80322-2968

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____



Photo by John Rasmussen

Marcia Rasmussen, your *Tehipite Topics* editor, runs through the ghost town of Ballarat in 106° heat on her way to completing a 50 kilometer training race. She is preparing for the Ben Jones Classic, a 130 mile race from Badwater to Mt. Whitney, which begins on July 4th. Temperatures during the 72 hour race may reach 130°.

September 24th - Saturday

Day Hike—Moderate (2B)
Mount Givens via the ridge route, for a special view into the Southern Sierra from the Kaiser Pass area.

Steve Fretz (559) 439-6673

September 25th - Sunday

Day Hike—Strenuous (4D)
Up Snow Creek, make a loop and come down Yosemite Falls. Needs an early start.

Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818

October 1st - Saturday

We will hike cross country from Kaiser Pass to Idaho Lake, approximately two strenuous miles each way.

Gerald Vinnard (559) 431-5780

October 2nd - Sunday

Coyote Lake via Brewer, Tocher, and Beryl Lakes. We will visit four High Sierra lakes, three of them seldom visited, on a ten mile round trip that ascends less than a thousand feet.

The hike will be partly cross country and may follow a jeep trail briefly.

Coyote is one of the prettiest lakes that can be reached on a day hike. A friendly German Shepherd will accompany us on this hike.

John Cameron (559) 896-6919

October 7th-10th (Friday-Monday)

Car Camp and Day Hike (3D)
Leave Friday evening and meet at Ballarat and camp out. In the morning hike 6 miles to Panamint city ghost town located in a juniper/pinon pine forest. we have seen big horn sheep three times in a row on this hike! Saturday night we will have steaks at Panamint Springs (if it hasn't sold yet.) Sunday we will explore either the lookout ghost town or go to the hot springs in the Saline Valley (and waterfalls in Beveridge Canyon) depending on what the group wants to do. Five dollar deposit required (refunded if you go on the trip) for this trip to handle mailing, maps, detailed itinerary, etc. High clearance vehicles required; 4wd not required. Possible extension trip in north part of Saline Valley for those interested. "You will learn about the environmental geography and history of the area." Please sign up early for this one.

Richard Sloan

1509 E. Fallbrook Ave.

Fresno, CA 93720

(559) 696-2971

October 8th - Saturday

Day Hike—Moderate (3C)
Ostrander Lake. A beautiful lake and a stone ski hut just south of Glacier Point Road in Yosemite.

Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818

October 15th - Saturday

Day Hike (2A)
Pincushion Ridge. Hike to a mesa above Millerton Lake.

Don Redmond (559) 268-1537





SIERRA CLUB

TEHIPITE CHAPTER

FOLK 3-11-1993 P.O. Box 5396 • Fresno, California 93755-5396

No Profit Org
U. S. Postage
P A I D
Fresno, Calif.
Permit No. 150

Inside *Tehipite Topics*

High in the Backcountry	Cover
Chapter General Meeting.....	2
Merced Group.....	3
Bill Maher's New Rules for the Environment .	4
Painting National Parks of the World.....	7
Ecoview	8
Outings.....	9
Sierra Summit 2005	Back

Current and back issues of the *Tehipite Topics* are available on the Web at www.tehipite.sierraclub.org.

September *Tehipite Topics* deadline August 15th

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Sierra Summit 2005

The Sierra Club's first-ever National Environmental Convention & Expo

September 8-11, 2005
The Moscone Center
San Francisco, CA



Register Now!

www.sierrasummit2005.org

Sierra Summit 2005 Delegate Election

In the April 2005 *Tehipite Topics* we announced the Sierra Club's first ever National Environmental Convention and Expo, The Sierra Summit 2005.

There will be a total of six delegates attending this event from our chapter. Five of those delegates will be appointed by the Executive Committee, and one will be elected by the Chapter. This election will take place at the June General Meeting on June 8, 2005. If you would like to participate in this election, please attend. If you are interested in being one of the appointed delegates, please contact one of the following committee members assigned to this process:

Aimee Leyva (559) 438-8670, Ron Mackie (559) 683-0293, or JoAnne Armstrong (209) 726-0636

Chapter Planning Meeting for Sierra Summit

June 22, 2005, 7:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.

University of California Center
550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno
(across from Fashion Fair)

The National Club has asked all chapters to participate in direction setting conferences, as part of the build-up to the Sierra Summit. These are supposed to take about three hours; materials have been provided. JoAnne and Heather (two of our delegates) will be leading our Chapter & the Merced Group. Come help with setting Sierra Club direction for the future!