



Tehipite Topics

March 2007 ☞ Vol. 53, No. 3

www.tehipite.sierraclub.org

Dear Tehipite Chapter Members and Friends,

*by Gerald D. Vinnard,
Chair, Tehipite Chapter*

Nearly every day, our television screens and newspapers remind us of threats to our environment. For instance, it is by now widely recognized that the earth's atmosphere is warming, and that the carbon dioxide generated by human activities is a major contributor to this alarming trend. Major oil companies continue their efforts to exploit petroleum deposits in Alaska and near the coasts of our continent, at great risk to the wildlife habitats in those locations.

Locally, the quality of the air we breathe is degraded by pollution, caused by our poor transportation choices and by poor management of agricultural and commercial activities in our community. The wildlife and fish habitats provided by our rivers and streams are threatened by competing demands from agricultural and development interests, as well as the needs of more distant communities. Farmland and open spaces continue to be lost to unwise development.

Our forests face competing demands from those who would exploit them for economic benefits, and our national parks face continued pressure from commercial interests and unwise

*See **Tehipite**, page 4*



Photo © Mikko I. Kangas

Please see back page for additional information about this photographer and his photos.

March General Meeting

"The Fresno Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides"

presented by Joan Poss and Judy Stege

Wednesday, March 21st at 7:00 P.M.
University of California Center
550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno
(across from Fashion Fair)

When the Fresno County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution in November, 2004, supporting biotechnology in Fresno County, with no public announcement or discussion, FresCAMP (The Fresno Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides) paid attention.

Why are genetically engineered (GE) seeds patented and GE crops hidden? Why are organic farmers very concerned

about GE crops in their areas? Has pesticide use lessened with GE crops? What foods contain genetically modified organisms (GMOs)? Join Joan Poss and Judy Stege, from FresCAMP, as they share information and concerns about GMOs, crop contamination, labeling (how do you know if you are eating a biotech marvel?) and what is currently being done to watchdog pharma crops in California.

Conservation & Executive Committees

Wednesday, March 14th at 7:00 P.M.
University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno



Tehipite Chapter

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Merced Group

Conservation and Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 1st at 7:00 P.M.
Thursday, April 5th at 7:00 P.M.
at Rod Webster's home, 345 E. 20th St., Merced.

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

March General Meeting

Thursday, March 15th at 7:30 P.M.
Sierra Presbyterian Church, 3603 M St., Merced

Backyard Organic Gardening

Part 1: Ecological Landscaping 101: Raised Beds and Good Bugs

Raised beds can be a great benefit to the yard when combined with proven organic gardening practices.

Examples will be given of construction materials and techniques. We will show how raised beds can benefit people with limited mobility or disabilities, how they can save water, and how they can increase productivity in limited space. Top dressing, composting and organic fertilizing will be a part of the presentation.

Alan Claunch, owner of Outdoor Creations from 1995 to present.

Part 2: Pest Control Without Poisons

We will discuss how to encourage beneficial insects and use handy homeowner tools to manage bugs, weeds and plant diseases.

Cindy Lashbrook, licensed Pest Control Advisor, Four Seasons Ag. Consulting, Inc. and organic farmer, Riverdance Farms.

April General Meeting

Thursday, April 19th at 7:30 P.M.
Sierra Presbyterian Church, 3603 M St., Merced

Antarctica

presented by Kara Middlebrooks and Tom Grave

Kara Middlebrooks and Tom Grave will make a presentation about their recent trip to Antarctica. The couple departed Merced on December 28, and, following two days in Buenos Aires, took a three-hour flight to Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world. From there, they boarded the Marco Polo for an eight-day cruise of the Antarctic Peninsula. On several occasions, they had the opportunity to take Zodiac craft and land on various islands, mainly to observe gentoo and chinstrap penguins. The Antarctic Peninsula is characterized by abundant wildlife, including marine mammals and many species of birds.

Outings

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



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Bear in mind the consequences.

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

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Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
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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Tehipite, from page 1

resource management decisions. The marine habitats on our coasts are threatened by overfishing, runoff pollution and the demands of developers.

As individuals, there is little we can do about these concerns. As members of an organization, we can do a lot. Your organization—the Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club—is such an organization.

Consider some of our efforts during the past year:

- Our representatives regularly attended and participated in meetings of the agencies responsible for dealing with the pollution in our air, and where necessary, they used litigation to ensure compliance with applicable standards.
- Our volunteers actively worked to enlist the support of local elected officials in the Sierra Club's "Cool Cities" campaign.
- We joined and successfully supported litigation to prevent excessive and unwise logging activities in the Sequoia National Monument.
- We were involved in the protection and enhancement of the San Joaquin River in several different ways. We supported the recently-settled litigation to increase flows in the river. We also collaborated with organizations that work to remove trash and debris from the river and to construct and maintain adjacent trails and parkways.
- We supported litigation that thwarted efforts to increase the commercialization of Yosemite National Park.
- We sponsored scholarships for junior high and high school students who have shown an interest in environmental issues.
- Our outings leaders promoted environmental interest and awareness by organizing and leading over fifty outings to a wide variety of locations in our area.

All of these efforts depend on your help and support. March is the only month in which Sierra Club chapters are permitted to appeal directly to their members for the funds they need to continue their efforts. We once again ask for your support. Your contributions will be used for public education campaigns, political efforts and litigation to protect our environment. We can only protect our resources by working together to protect the environment that is so important to all of us.

We thank you for past support. Please give generously! ♻️

Join The Sierra Club Online!

Visit www.sierraclub.org/membership

Sierra Club Outings Leader Training Workshop

The Outdoor Activity Training Program plans to bring its highly successful Outings Leader Training Workshop back to northern California.

The purpose of this training is to provide leaders with skills to address leadership and group management issues that may arise on short outings (day hikes) and longer duration, more remote outings. Leader training is a never-ending process, so whether you're an old hand or have never led before, you're invited to attend a weekend of interactive learning, networking with leaders from all outing programs, and of course, lots of fun. This training event is brought to you by the Outdoor Activities Training Program (OATP), managed by the Outings Department of the National office. This is the only Outings Leader Training workshop in the region this year!

WHERE: Clair Tappaan Lodge in Norden, CA

WHEN: June 8-10, 2007 (Friday - Sunday)

Check-in begins at 5:00 P.M. & dinner at 6:00 P.M.
Opening program begins Friday at 7:30 P.M. sharp.

The training weekend ends after workshop close, and after raffle and lunch on Sunday, around 1:00 P.M.

COST: \$45. This includes all meals, snacks, bunk style lodging, materials, raffle entry, and an Outings t-shirt.

WORKSHOP DETAILS:

The goals of the workshop are to teach and enhance leadership and group management skills; to bring people together to share and exchange ideas; to welcome new outdoor leaders; to teach leadership skills needed for other outings programs in the Sierra Club; and, once again, to have a lot of fun. This workshop is for new and seasoned leaders from Sierra Club's Inner City Outings (ICO), Group and Chapter Outings (GCO), and National Outings (NO).

The workshop agenda includes interactive modules on trip planning, group management, interpersonal leadership skills, emergency response and much more. Topics will be facilitated in both large group and small breakout group formats. Sessions will also include teamwork and scenario-based role plays.

The workshop is facilitated by OATP trainers (volunteer and staff) who speak from a wealth of personal trip leading experience.

As an added benefit, this workshop will fulfill both the Outings Leader Training 101 and Outings Leader Training 201 requirements.

REGISTRATION - To learn more about the workshop and register online, visit the upcoming events on the training Web site at <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/training/>.

There are three other ways to register:

Be sure to include your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, membership number, and workshop number (07991A).

MAIL check or money order for \$45 to
Sierra Club Outings
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105.

CALL - credit card only:
(415) 977-5588
Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00, PST.

FAX - credit card only:
(415) 977-5795.
Include card number, expiration date and signature. ✂

Limited to 60 people, first come, first served. Questions? Contact the Sierra Club Outdoor Activities Training Manager at outings.training@sierraclub.org or at (415) 977-5711. ✂

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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 and Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971 or 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.

Some of the outings listed are sponsored by other entities of the Sierra Club. Contact the trip leader for information about their policies and procedures.

March 3rd - Saturday

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

March 4th - Sunday

Trail Run
Sky Harbor. Five mile run, with approximately 800 feet elevation gain. This is a hard uphill the first half mile, followed by mild rolling hills the remainder of the run. I am training for a marathon and would encourage anyone training for any event to come out and try this strenuous but fun run near the lake. Even if you are not training, this is a fun day of exercise in the great outdoors.
Aimee Leyva (559) 438-8670 or 301-3977

March 10th - Saturday

Cross Country Ski (2A) Intermediate
This will be out of Tamarack area.
Gerald Vinnard (559) 431-5780

March 11th - Sunday

Trail Run
San Joaquin River Gorge. This is a 6 mile loop of mild rolling hills. A great run, including both beauty and challenging terrain.
Aimee Leyva (559) 438-8670 or 301-3977

March 11th - Sunday

Day Hike (2A) Moderate
Merced River Trail
Merced River Canyon below Briceburg to the North Fork of the Merced and Back.
John Flaherty (209) 742-4668

March 18th - Sunday

Sky Harbor trail run.
Five mile run, with approximately 800 feet elevation gain. This is hard uphill the first half mile, followed by mild rolling hills the remainder of the run. I am training for a marathon and would encourage anyone training for any event to come out and try this strenuous but fun run near the lake. Even if you are not training, this is just a fun day of exercise in the great outdoors.
Aimee Leyva (559) 438-8670 or (559) 301-3977

March 24th - Saturday

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

March 24th - Saturday

Trail Run
San Joaquin River Gorge. This is a 6 mile loop of mild rolling hills. This is a great run, including both beauty and challenging terrain.
Aimee Leyva (559) 438-8670 or (559) 301-3977

March 31th - Saturday

Day Hike (2C) Moderate
Chilnualna Falls
Elevation gain 2,100 feet.
Carolyn Ordway (559) 449-7780

March 31st - Saturday

Yokuts Group of the Motherlode Chapter
Day Hike (3A)
Pardee segment of Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail. We will begin near Valley Springs (near Highways 12 & 26) and walk 6 miles (one-way) of this historic trail toward Pardee Reservoir. Grassy valleys, oak woodlands, 19th century buildings and sites, and early spring flowers await us. Bring lunch, beverage, \$ for carpool and hiking permit, rain gear, and other "essentials. Limited to 20 participants.
Elaine Gorman, (209) 524-7630 or goford@sbcglobal.net

April 13th - 16th (17th) Friday night to Monday or Tuesday night

Car Camp and Backpack (3D)
Panamint City ghost town. Located at 7,000 ft. elevation in the Panamint Mountains, it is an 11 mile bushwhack, sometimes in a stream bed with flowing water. The rewards of this difficult hike are worth it. Historic remains of the town, Indian pictographs, wild animal encounters. 2wd vehicles should be okay.
Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971

April 15th - Sunday

Day Hike (2B)
Goat Mountain lies just 2 miles southwest of Bass Lake. If the weather stays warm, there should be beautiful wildflowers in bloom.
Beth Leacox (559) 446-1825

April 22nd - Sunday

Day Hike (2A)

Hite Cove

We will follow the South Fork of the Merced at Savage Trading Post to the ruins of an old mining camp. Some sections of the trail have steep dropoffs.

John Flaherty (209) 742-4668

May 13th - Sunday

Day Hike (2D)

Yosemite Falls

Possibly change due to late Snow.

John Flaherty (209) 742-4668

May 5th - Saturday*Yokuts Group of the**Motherlode Chapter*

Day Hike (2A)

Lake Chabot

This 8.5 mile east bay hike features sandy beaches, waterfowl, oak chaparral, canyons and creeks. Modestans meet at No. Modesto Park 'n' Ride on Sisk Rd. (near Vintage Fair Mall) at 8 AM. Others call/email for alternative meeting place. Bring lunch, beverage, \$ for carpool, rain gear, and other *essentials*. Probable dinner stop.

Elaine Gorman, (209) 524-7630

or goford@sbcglobal.net

June 2nd - 10th

National River Cleanup

San Joaquin River

RiverTree Volunteers, in conjunction with many other organizations and groups will be helping to clean up parts of the river, from Friant Cove, near the base of Friant Dam, to Kerman—almost 58 miles away—safe river flow permitting. Something new for this year is that RiverTree will offer a very early morning cleanup by canoe on June 2nd, from Friant Cove to Fort Washington Beach. If we can get an early sunrise start there is a high probability of seeing animals, as well as doing some good for the river.

You must be quiet for this particular activity. Later in the morning, we will be doing some other cleanup float trips and cleanups from the shore as well, if you are not an early riser. Please call for more details and reservations (free). Space is limited. You are welcome to bring your own canoe or kayak.

Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971

June 17th - Sunday

Day Hike (2C)

Stanford Point

An uphill walk to one or two wonderful viewpoints of Yosemite Valley from Wawona Tunnel on hwy. 41. Possible change due to late snow.

John Flaherty (209) 742-4668

July 15th - Sunday

Day Hike (2A)

Pothole Dome and Tuolumne River

An exploratory stroll on the edge of the meadow to various points along the river.

John Flaherty (209) 742-4668

July 20th - 21st Friday night Car Camp, Hike Saturday

Dinkey Wilderness (2B)

Trailhead at 8,200 ft. Flowers should be nice, with mosquitoes disappearing by now. Hike by 6 lakes. Non-aggressive dogs welcome.

Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971

August 19th - Sunday

Day Hike (3C)

Chilnualna Falls

John Flaherty (209) 742-4668

September 16th - Sunday

Day Hike (2B)

Gaylor Lake

A walk up to silver mine ruins near the Tioga entrance station in Yosemite.

John Flaherty (209) 742-4668

October 14th - Sunday

Day Hike (2B)

Lewis Creek

Route to be determined by group interest.

John Flaherty (209) 742-4668

The Village It Takes To Raise a Child

The Village It Takes To Raise a Child is a free talk on Sunday, February 25th from 2:00 to 3:30 P.M. It is sponsored by Fresno Cohousing, a group of families, singles and elders, creating an environmentally sustainable community on a 2.8 acre site they own in north Fresno. Presenter is national educator, *Parenting in Community* author, cohousing resident and mother, Neshama Abraham Paiss of Boulder, Colorado. Location: Mommy Matters, 1010 E. Perrin Ave. at Champlain. For more information, or to reserve a seat at the talk, please call La Querencia Fresno Cohousing at (866) 246-7717 or visit www.FresnoCohousing.org.

Lynn Bassman, A Sierra Club member, is hosting this event. She may be contacted at (559) 367-9529. ✉

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

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



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The *Tehipite Topics* is available, in color, on the Chapter website at <http://tehipite.sierraclub.org>.

Submission deadline for the April issue of *Tehipite Topics* is March 9th. Deadline is the second Friday of the previous month. Submit articles to Topics@BigBaldy.com.

Front Page Photo

Ansel's Rock, Merced River, Yosemite National Park, photographed by Mikko Kangas. Mikko is the son of Richard Kangas, one of our Chapter's forest activists. Though he works in the financial industry, Mikko's passion is digital black and white photography. You can enjoy some of his other photos at <http://www.MikkoKangas.smugmug.com>.

Photos in the *Tehipite Topics* are better viewed on the Adobe PDF version, available on the Tehipite Chapter Web site at <http://www.tehipite.sierraclub.org>. ❀

Articles and Stories Wanted

The *Tehipite Topics* is your newsletter. It is produced by volunteers and most of the articles come from volunteers. We need you to be an environmental news reporter; write a story about an outing; submit an article about bears, trees, or peaks. Or submit an article about how people interact with bears, trees and peaks. Afraid of dangling participles? Marcia can help. Please send your articles to Topics@BigBaldy.com. Submission deadline is the second Friday of the previous month. Let us know if your article is time critical or if it can wait to be published. ❀



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.

Springtime in the Sierra is a magical time. In early spring you can take advantage of longer and warmer days with extended ski and snowshoe tours or using the Lodge's own groomed trails. Later in the spring you can experience the explosion of wildflowers as you hike miles of trails behind the Lodge or on the Pacific Crest trail just 1.5 miles from the Lodge.

Guests enjoy excellent family style meals, a friendly staff and a casual and communal atmosphere.

See you on Donner Summit...



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