

# Tehipite Topics

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*Jesse Morrow Mountain*

*photo © Mikko Kangas ([www.mikkokangas.smugmug.com](http://www.mikkokangas.smugmug.com))*

## **In Our Backyard** *Preserving the Kings River*

*by David Cehrs*

Preservation of riparian habitat is a goal of conservationists. In the central San Joaquin Valley, the San Joaquin River has had much positive activity in the last two decades, including the purchase of adjacent, riparian property by the San Joaquin River Parkway and the water release settlement for salmon runs on the river, spearheaded by the Natural Resources Defense Council. Yet, both of these are post-development projects, with many natural areas already lost to anthropogenic encroachment. The San Joaquin River, its adjacent flood plain, and the surrounding terraces (the adjacent areas at the tops of the cliffs adjacent to the flood plain) have been disturbed by development, housing within the flood plain and along the terrace cliff edge, and gravel excavation within the channel and the adjacent flood plains. This has greatly reduced, eliminated, and divided natural riparian habitats.

To the south of metropolitan Fresno, something similar is about to happen on the Kings River. Currently the Kings River and its floodplain is one of the more pristine rivers in the San Joaquin Valley. Housing development has not yet encroached to the extent seen on the San Joaquin in the Fresno area, nor has gravel mining yet decimated the river bottom. But this all might change in the very near future.

There is an Environmental Impact Report due to come out shortly for expansion of the Vulcan Materials aggregate operation, just south of Highway 180 at the Kings River, between Centerville and Minkler. This will expand the size

of the Vulcan extraction operation from some 200 acres to over 600 acres. Yet, this may be the tip of the iceberg.

Another gravel operation, three miles downstream, has been approved by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors with the caveat that the operator must rebuild all the bridges, a caveat which is currently keeping the operation shut down. An international cement operation is also trying to open a crushed rock operation on Jesse Morrow Mountain. If any of these operations succeeds in opening, it will allow the others to plead their case before the Fresno County Board of Supervisors for exemptions, and fairly soon all the operations will be in business.

The San Joaquin River sand and gravel source has been nearly mined out and the development community, housing developers, business developers, and CalTrans (which is interesting considering that we are in a non-attainment air quality basin) all need a close, continuous source of sand and gravel to supply their ever-increasing demands for concrete and foundation materials. They are all looking to the Kings River now, for this new source of aggregate. The Kings aggregate source is actually a larger volume of sand and gravel than was present within the San Joaquin flood plain, as it is wider and much deeper. Because of this, the Kings River bottom, from Highway 180 south to the Reedley narrows, could potentially become one continuous aggregate operation, leaving ponds 150 feet deep, dissected by narrow dikes.

*See Kings River, page 3*

# June General Meeting

## "People, Places, and Patterns in the Himalaya, 1980s"

presented by  
Heather Anderson

Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.  
University of California Center  
550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno  
(across from Fashion Fair)

As a hiker and artist, I have always looked for images and patterns. So, when the opportunity came to trek in Nepal (after raising a family) it was only natural to look for patterns. I confess to the beckoning summit; I love to reach the top. But, I don't neglect smelling flowers along the way and soaking up images: a milky river seen through rhododendron blossoms, or the first view of a snowy serrated ridge of

the Himalaya. Mountains, for many of us, hold not only the exhilaration of a satisfying hike, but the enticement of beauty, the curiosity of what is beyond the next turn of trail, and the wonder, as that last step to the summit shows a world at our feet and rows of distant overlapping peaks under a cloud-flung sky. Come check it out.

### Conservation & Executive Committees

Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.  
University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno



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## Merced Group

### June General Meeting

Thursday, June 21<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 P.M.  
Sierra Presbyterian Church, 3603 M St., Merced

### Share Your Slides Night

*organized by Linda Lagace*

Bring your photos on CDs or slides. We're still working out details. Contact Linda Lagace at (209) 384-1354 to let her know what you might want to bring, what equipment you might be able to lend (slide projectors, *etc.*) or what equipment you will need.

### 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.

### Kings River, from page 1

This mining would be a disaster for any remaining riparian habitat adjacent to the Kings River. There are still some areas of native habitat next to and near the river channel, with more of the adjacent property in agricultural operations. This entire river corridor just begs for preservation before it is decimated. Preservation may be accomplished by the purchase of adjacent properties, the acquisition of conservation easements, or changes in zoning; but for any of these to occur, we need time. And we may not have much of that.

When the Vulcan Final EIR comes out—I do not know when that will be, but it could be soon—it will be too late to protest the lack of investigations or studies for mitigation procedures. In January, several of us submitted comments on the weaknesses of the Draft EIR.

Some of the suggestions would take the consultants up to a year to perform. My guess is that the Final EIR will be out much sooner, without considering our suggestions. The next step would be for the Final EIR to come before the County Planning Commission, and if it passes there, it would go before the Fresno County Board of Supervisors for final

approval. It is now time for our local environmental movement to try to preserve this riparian habitat BEFORE it has been decimated or lost, as happened with the San Joaquin River. We will need all of your comments and help to influence and convince both the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors to reject the mining expansions planned within and near the Kings River. A major part of our problem is that since tax cuts have become *de rigueur*, there is no more Federal or State money filtering down to the counties leaving the counties to acquire their own operational and infrastructure money. The easiest source of this money is now from development fees, so counties are now reluctant to stop or slow development. They are also in competition with each other for this development and these fees.

When the Vulcan EIR does come before the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors, we will need your help—both in writing and in person—to influence these bodies, with regard to the preservation of a native riparian habitat in our own backyard. ☘



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

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# Making Green Choices in Our Housing

by Geoffrey L. Smith

Recently I was talking to some fellow Sierra Club members about urban sprawl in the Central Valley. We were bemoaning the loss of farm land and plans for more highway projects which will inevitably lead to more development.

After I got home that evening I continued to think about the problem and wondered what "green-minded" folks could do to help stem what seems to be the inevitable tide of out-of-control urban sprawl.

The first and most obvious answer that came to mind was to make sure that we don't have wasted space in our current homes. As a Realtor®, I very often see people living in more space than they would need. It's fairly common to see one or more bedrooms in a home that are only occasionally used by the occupants. One time I went into a home that was almost 3,000 square feet with five bedrooms. There were only two people living there so most of the home was unused. They did have solar panels that helped reduce their carbon footprint, but the excess housing definitely was contributing to over-development.

So, what should we do if we own "too much house?" There are a lot of options to consider. If you have an extra bedroom, maybe you could rent it out to a college student. Hosting an exchange student is another way to share excess housing. We had an exchange student last year and it was a richly rewarding experience. What better way to use an extra bedroom than to have a foreign student stay with you for a school year.

Of course, another option is to reduce the amount of housing that you're using. In particular I'm thinking of the local cohousing community that is being built on Alluvial. They purchased a property that had a single family home on it and they are rebuilding the site so that several families will live there: each in their own home and each in a home that is smaller than the average size home being built today. (For more information see [fresnocohousing.org](http://fresnocohousing.org).)

For those who aren't interested in the cohousing concept, downsizing is also a legitimate option. Fifty years ago the average home size was around 900 square feet. Now the average new home being built is more than twice that size. Downsizing doesn't only help reduce urban sprawl, but it can also greatly decrease the amount of energy that we're using to heat and cool our home. We can also choose to live closer to our work, family, favorite shopping areas, and community resources. These choices can make it easier for us to walk or bike or at least reduce the length of our commute.

When it comes to urban sprawl, it's important for us to remember that our choices do make a difference and that there are things that we can do to help. 🐾

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# Temperance Flat Dam

by Dylan Blackshear

Governor Schwarzenegger recently visited Friant Dam to push for increasing surface water storage in California. Local news agencies have shown local farmers discussing how, if there was another dam on the San Joaquin River, there wouldn't be a problem with water delivery this year. About every idea has been thought of, to justify building an unjustifiable dam. Just this month, the governor suggested that a new dam be built a Temperance Flat, because many of California's reservoirs are located in areas with a high risk of seismic activity, thus putting the state at risk of water shortages in the event of a natural disaster. The governor seems to be searching for any justification he can.

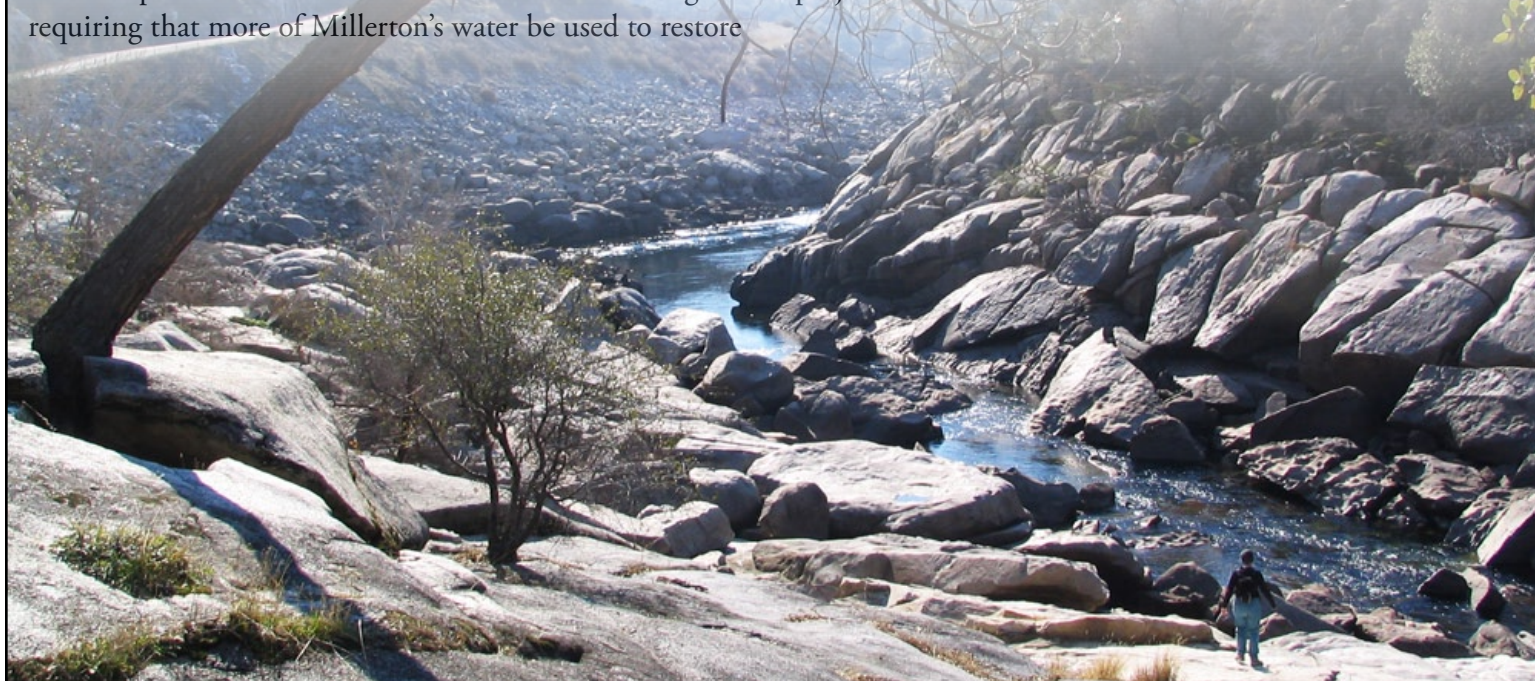
Several ideas have been used to attempt to persuade residents why we should build this dam, but most take a stretch of the imagination to get beyond the faulty reasoning. The fact of the matter is that dams are expensive to construct and they are environmental disasters. Temperance Flat will attempt to hold back water that isn't there. In average years, Millerton Lake does not fill to capacity. The California Department of Water Resources' Division of Flood Management reports that Millerton Lake reaches its high water mark in June with an average volume of 416,936 acre-feet, far below its capacity of 520,000 acre-feet.

I am concerned that those who oppose the dam are not doing all they can to help stop it from being built. Temperance Flat has bipartisan support from most of the valley legislators, local newspapers, and the financial backing of developers and farm bureaus. With the court ruling requiring that more of Millerton's water be used to restore

the San Joaquin River, why is there a need for a new dam? Why would valley legislators not push for a less expensive and less destructive alternative, such as water banking, especially when reports show that restoring the river will further lower the surrounding area's ground water table? Politicians and farmers are too busy flexing their political muscle by showing tangible evidence of their power rather than showing environmental and fiscal responsibility by using a less expensive alternative.

It is important that everyone do what they can to fight this tremendous waste of taxpayer dollars that will put another one of California's amazing natural resources underwater. I encourage everyone who can to walk the San Joaquin River trail and uncover the countless landscapes that makes Temperance Flat unique. An excellent example is Big Sandy Creek which runs north from Auberry through a maze of underground granite caves. Nowhere else in the surrounding foothills can this one-of-a-kind environment be seen if the dam is built.

Please remember how important it is to remain aware of these issues and not grow complacent. I realize that there are a lot of battles to be fought, but the time to act to save Temperance Flat is running short. The Final Environmental Impact Report is scheduled for completion in 2009 and approximately \$4 billion in state funding is trying to be allocated by the same year. Write your representatives and government officials in opposition to this dam and remain aware of upcoming town hall meetings from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the agency spearheading the project. ✂



# La Querencia Fresno Cohousing Is Fresno's First Multi-Family Neighborhood to Receive "Fresno Green" Designation

*Innovative, Resident-Involved Planning Helps Set Local Green Standards*

by Lynette Bassman

In a world of increasing environmental challenges it is nice to be able to report a solution! It is especially nice when that solution reflects a grassroots earth stewardship movement that is mitigating urban sprawl, fossil fuel emissions, home energy use, and vanishing crop and grass lands.

The movement is cohousing, an intentional neighborhood housing style with nearly 100 communities across the U.S. In cohousing, the future residents gather before the homes are built to get to know each other and give input into the planning of their new community. Cohousing home buyers have historically influenced their designers and builders to consider the well-being of the environment. The result is pleasant, attractive, sustainable housing that focuses on people rather than automobiles, exists on a smaller ecological footprint, uses less energy and water, preserves existing eco-systems, and is proving that earth-friendly housing costs no more than conventional.

The best news? Cohousing is coming to Fresno.

Recently, the City of Fresno recognized La Querencia Fresno Cohousing as the first multi-family neighborhood to receive the pilot "Fresno Green" designation. Fresno Green is an incentive project through the Fresno City Planning Department to encourage designers, builders and developers to utilize earth-friendly techniques and technologies when planning and building both commercial and residential facilities. The future residents share a vision of creating a model of sustainable development.

To receive the residential designation, individual homes, complexes or subdivisions must earn 20 points in five out of seven categories pertaining to environmental sustainability. La Querencia Fresno Cohousing received 28 points, well exceeding the Fresno Green criteria, including extra points for innovative building design that mitigates the "Heat Island Effect" by utilizing reflective roofing materials and minimal paving, extensive use of shade design on buildings, fans and ventilation, and large canopy shade trees.

La Querencia also rated high in their plan to lower energy usage by installing exclusively Energy Star appliances, to exceed energy use reduction for California Title 24-2005 by 25%, to install solar water heaters for the swimming pool, and to work in partnership with PG&E to establish an Energy Star rating for entire buildings on the site.

In another category, Materials and Resources, Fresno Cohousing met requested considerations such as lower than average square footage of homes, advanced framework that uses less lumber, environmentally sustainable flooring such as bamboo, and 10% recycled materials in the building envelope. The builders are also attending to the inner environment of each home by employing low/no VOC paints, sealants and adhesives, environmentally preferable materials for interior finishes and the carpets in the homes.

La Querencia Fresno Cohousing broke ground on May 6, 2007 in "A Celebration of Community" attended by environmentally oriented citizens from Fresno and surrounding areas who came to enjoy music, good company, and hear Chuck Durrett and Katie McCamant, cohousing pioneers and co-authors of *Cohousing: a Contemporary Approach to Housing Ourselves*, speak on sustainable community.

The Fresno Cohousing site is located at 2658 East Alluvial Avenue in Fresno, a 2.8-acre property that will have 28 homes, a Common House where residents will share weekly meals, and hold classes and meetings, a workshop for woodworking, bike repair and crafts, an exercise room, teen lounge, kids' play room, lots of outdoor gathering areas, and a swimming pool and spa. The community members, who have helped plan their community and have gotten to know each other in the process, plan to move into their neighborhood in Spring 2008. They range in age from pre-school to seniors, and have come together with the intention of living sustainably, both socially and environmentally.

But sustainability is not just about creating an earth-friendly physical environment. Ask any cohousing resident and they will agree that good neighbors make good earth stewards. In a community where you know everyone, socialize regularly, and share trips to the grocery, people begin to care about the environment because they no longer see themselves as separate from one another, nor from the earth. In a cohousing neighborhood, everyone helps work on the common property such as the landscaping or community gardens. This stewardship typically also extends to the greater community, as cohousing neighbors are actively involved civically to improve mass transportation, and clean up or preserve waterways and green or natural areas. In locations where cohousing has been included in urban areas, these convivial communities remind conventional neighbors of the joys of socializing locally on the front porches of



your homes or in a sitting area in the shared village green space, thereby helping to decrease the need to drive to reconnect with your neighbors.

The Fresno Cohousing residents are enthusiastic about walking to nearby stores, biking with their kids to local parks, and participating in helping Fresno “go green.” Fresno Cohousing residents plan to use organic pest and weed controls, and native plant species. Decisions are often made by consensus, where each member of the community will have a voice.

Cohousing was brought to the United States from Denmark in the late 1980s, where it had emerged as a solution to housing density issues. By designing privately-owned homes with adjoining walls facing each other over pedestrian walkways and green space, and by keeping vehicles at the perimeter, cohousing architects were able to create a sense of outdoor spaciousness and plenty of play areas for both children and adults. By adding a Common House with a dining area and state-of-the-art kitchen, residents had a place to share meals and socialize, effectively extending every member’s living room by 500 square feet or more. The Common House can also include a guest room, game or exercise room, laundry, and meeting or office rooms, creating a true multipurpose area that decreases the need

for a family room, home office or extra bedrooms in one’s private home.

The cohousing life is not for everyone, but imagine for a moment seeing cohousing communities throughout the Central Valley. Nearly a third of what is currently housing would be green space, winding its way through small clusters of close-knit neighborhoods and a few local retail stores and restaurants that are easy and pleasant to reach by bike or on foot. Water and energy use would decrease by nearly 50%, according to cohousing statistics. Our town, homes, and environment would be cooler due to additional trees and fewer paved surfaces. And we would recapture old-fashioned neighborhood life, where connecting with friends and family, sharing ideas and resources, looking out for each other and enjoying life in a community are the norm!

Fresno Cohousing is still welcoming new neighbors. Informational meetings are listed on the website at [www.fresnocohousing.org](http://www.fresnocohousing.org), or you can email [info@fresnocohousing.org](mailto:info@fresnocohousing.org) or call (866) 246-7717. ✨

*Lynette Bassman is a member of the Sierra Club’s Tehipite Chapter, a psychotherapist, and faculty member of Alliant International University. She is a founding future resident of the Fresno Cohousing Community. She and her family eagerly look forward to moving into their new green home!*

# Victory at Sea

## Sierra Club Members Help Shut Down Polluting Offshore LNG Terminal

The words “historic victory” don’t do it justice. After more than three years’ work, Sierra Club members, community volunteers and our coalition partners this month won a pair of major victories over a multi-national corporation and its \$800 million plan to further industrialize the California coast with a massive and polluting Liquefied Natural Gas terminal.

Australia’s BHP Billiton, the world’s largest mining corporation, had proposed the coast of Oxnard and Malibu for the first LNG terminal on the West Coast of the United States. But

on Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, more than 2,000 Sierra Club members and other Southern California residents put on blue “Terminate the Terminal” t-shirts and attended the California State Lands Commission hearing in Oxnard. While Commissioners inside the packed hearing room listened to community leaders, public officials and concerned citizens speak out against the project, 1,500 more project opponents, unable to squeeze into the overfilled room, waited outside in the courtyard, listening to the proceedings on speakers.

Sierra Club’s Great Coastal Places Campaign had helped to mobilize what Coastal Director Mark Massara has called the “best attended environmental hearing in California in the last four decades.” In the face of this massive opposition, two of the three Commissioners—Lt. Governor John Garamendi and State Controller John Chiang—refused to allow the dirty and dangerous terminal access to the California coast.

Just three days later, when another 500 activists attended a hearing of the California Coastal Commission in Santa Barbara, we won another major victory with a unanimous vote against the project.

“It’s fair to say that Sierra Club has won a victory at sea,” said Massara. “BHP Billiton’s dirty and dangerous LNG project appears to be dead in the water.”

If approved, the untested, floating terminal and its tankers would have lived off the coast of Oxnard and Malibu for at least the next 40 years, emitting more than 200 tons of smog-producing air pollution every year. It would have also posed significant risks to migrating whales, fragile coastal wetlands and the health and safety of communities throughout Southern California.



In voting to deny the project, Commissioners from the two agencies focused on many of these issues as well as global warming and the lack of credible evidence that California even needs the foreign gas.

Leading up to these critical hearings, the project had spent months mired in controversy. Congress Members Henry Waxman and Lois Capps and Senator Barbara Boxer had initiated

federal investigations into an unexplained EPA reversal granting the project an unjustified and unlawful exemption from the Clean Air Act. The local cities of Oxnard, Malibu and Port Hueneme all passed resolutions in opposition to the project as did the PTA and school districts in Oxnard.

By the final hearings, our coalition was as diverse as the communities in which they were based—with Sierra Club members standing side-by-side with Latino groups, business leaders, union members, public officials, realtors, farm workers, community leaders and surfers.

By virtue of the Federal Deep Water Ports Act, Governor Schwarzenegger now has until May 21<sup>st</sup> to decide if he too will oppose this polluting project. The governor can be reached by email by visiting <http://www.govmail.ca.gov> or by fax at (916) 445-4633.

For more information on the project visit <http://www.sierraclub.org/ca/coasts/lng/>. ☞



# The Owl and the Oak: *the Climate Change Novel* (ISBN 1-4241-6709-4)

by Robert Emmett Morris

Review by Russell Edwards, Washington, D.C. school teacher and Cool Climate Action team leader

Grassroots activism in America has been bogged down in a marsh of apathy for the three decades since both the left and right exhausted themselves in the conflict over Civil Rights, the Vietnam War and Feminism, losing their leaders to assassination or impeachment. There have been some semblances of popular unrest and action, but for the most part, these were either isolated local reactions or they were centrally controlled by political/governmental/religious/corporate ideologues who used public furor on trigger issues to obtain and hold the levers of power and wealth.

Robert Emmett Morris, known to many as an indefatigable promoter of decentralized action in service of environmental protection and social justice, has signaled with publication of *The Owl and the Oak: The Climate Change Novel* that the time is ripe for a resurgence of individual uprisings, bound together by a pervasive and profound anger at the cultural preoccupation with material indulgence that has muffled the rough but honest best parts of the American character. Earthy and irrepressible Aaron Woods is the catalyst for the growth of a movement to “move our culture away from wasteful consumption and towards thoughtful conservation,” but this book is populated by a full cast of characters who are unafraid of taking action to change, or defend, the world in which they live. The Henry James quote, “What is great about a life is doing something that will outlast it,” not only hangs over the desk of Tony Albritton, the manipulative environmental leader who seizes on Aaron as a tool to further his own ambitions, but it also drives the main protagonists on both sides of the central issue of climate change.

And rightly so. This is a novel about Washington D.C., by someone who knows it—from homeless shelters and local gang disputes to the inner workings of Congress, the White House and K Street. Those who come to pursue careers in the nation’s capitol do so in order to be part of the major issues of their time and beyond. Climate change certainly fills that criteria and readers will enjoy the way that the characters that people the pages of this book bring human scale and sense to this huge and complex concern. The strong, true strokes that define the characters of *The Owl and the Oak* make us aware that government, corporations, lobbying groups and non-profits, no matter how large and powerful, are defined by the people who fill those offices and those people are subject to the same faults and weaknesses as every one of us.

*The Owl and the Oak* engages readers in a strong narrative, introducing characters through their words and actions, with a minimum of explanation. The prose is direct, pressing a wealth of well-paced action into a sparse 260 pages, although, in truth, it seems the publisher has been overly frugal by squeezing the maximum words into the minimum of space. The cover, however, is attractive and engaging. *The Owl and the Oak: The Climate Change Novel* is Bob Morris’ first novel, and readers will come away with an appreciation for a new writing talent, a deeper understanding of the way power is wielded in our nation, and a sense of what drives those who commit to an ideal beyond what is considered reasonable or prudent. Most of all, however, readers will enjoy the pleasure of meeting characters who will last in their memory, and a good story well told. ✎

## It’s a Dry Year

by John Rasmussen

As of early May, there was approximately 28% of average precipitation in the Merced River Drainage, 15% of average in the San Joaquin River Drainage, 34% of average in the Kings River Drainage, 24% in the Kaweah River Drainage, and 5% in the Kern River Drainage. For additional snowpack information see <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/snow/>. It may be a dry year, but what *is* average? Usually when averages are referred to, it means comparing the current data to the average of the last 30 years of data. But is the last 30 to 100 years average? Probably not. If you look at data from tree ring research, the one thing that seems clear is that the average doesn’t stay average for long. A dry spell like this can continue for 50 years or more. Maybe we should consider that we live in desert, as we plan on doubling and tripling the population in our area. Will new dams help, when there may not be enough water to fill them for 10, 20 or 50 years? Will the long range planning efforts—usually a short 20 to 50 years—look at the worst case? Hopefully, they will at least consider that what is average water availability today may not be the average in years to come. ✎

# Outings Schedule

## Outing Ratings

Distance	Elevation Gain
1) up to 6 miles	A) under 1,000 feet
2) 6 to 10 miles	B) 1,000 to 2,000 feet
3) 10 to 15 miles	C) 2,000 to 3,000 feet
4) 15 to 20 miles	D) 3,000 to 4,000 feet
5) over 20 miles	E) over 4,000 feet

Our Tehipite Chapter Outings Co-Chairs are Carolyn Ordway (559) 449-7780 or [jbord606@yahoo.com](mailto:jbord606@yahoo.com) and Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971 or [RiverRich1509@aol.com](mailto:RiverRich1509@aol.com). Please contact them with any questions concerning our outings program. Contact the trip leader directly if you are interested in one of the listed trips.

Tehipite Chapter outings are free and open to the public. All leaders are unpaid volunteers assuming responsibility for a good trip, and your cooperation is mandatory. Please review additional trip and participant requirements at [www.tehipite.sierraclub.org/outings](http://www.tehipite.sierraclub.org/outings).

### June 9<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Nellie lake (2C) Moderate  
A steady climb brings us to one of the Kaiser Wilderness jewels, where rainbow trout as long as 16" swim. We will be accompanied by a friendly German Shepherd.  
*John Cameron (559) 896-6919*

### June 17<sup>th</sup> - 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*

### June 23<sup>rd</sup> - Saturday

Day Hike (3B) Moderate  
Walt's spectacular annual Wawona Loop hike. Wawona Hotel to Mariposa Grove by shuttle bus. Lunch at the outlook, return to the hotel for optional swim and BBQ on the lawn.  
*Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818*

### June 30<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Day Hike (4D) Strenuous  
A bus shuttle to Mirror Lake then up Snow Greek to Indian Arch. Indian Arch is the only natural arch in Yosemite. Then on to North Dome and down Yosemite Falls. This is a long, butt-kicking trip.  
*Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818*

### July 4<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday

Day Hike (1A)  
This is Don's famous hike for the Fourth of July. A wonderful place for lunch.  
*Don Redmond (559) 268-1537*

### July 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> - (Friday - Saturday)

Day Hike and Car Camp - easy to strenuous.  
**Easy part:** Car camp in Sample Meadow Campground, and just kick back while the rest of us hike.  
**Optional moderate hike:** Upper Twin Lake, via the Sample Meadow trail, for a total of 5 miles with 1,000 feet of elevation gain (1B)

**More strenuous hike:** Conquer Kaiser Peak from Upper Twin Lake for an additional 4 miles and an additional 1,500 feet elevation gain (2C) We can arrive at Sample Meadow Campground anytime Friday. The leader will come up Friday morning in order to secure a campsite. Those up for a moderate hike can come with us to upper Twin Lake, then stay around the lake fishing, swimming (brrr...) or just kicking back while those in need of a more serious workout ascend the trail to George and then go cross country to the top of Kaiser Peak to enjoy vistas of the High Sierra. We will be accompanied by a friendly German Shepherd. Please call before July 4<sup>th</sup>.

*John Cameron (559) 896-6919*

### July 14<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Day Hike (3C) Moderate  
Ostrander Lake  
A beautiful wide blue lake and a stone ski hut just south of Glacier Point Road in Yosemite.  
*Walt Taguchi (559) 438-2818*

### July 15<sup>th</sup> - 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 16<sup>th</sup> - Monday

Cloud's Rest (9,926') Very Strenuous  
14 miles, 2,900 feet elevation gain. One of Yosemite's truly great hikes. We'll meet in Oakhurst at 7 A.M. in the parking lot by Payless Shoes, across from Von's.  
*Paul Weiss (209) 966 6605*

### July 20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> (Friday-Saturday)

Friday Night Car Camp,  
Hike Saturday (2B)  
Dinkey Wilderness  
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*

### July 21<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Day Hike (1B)  
Willow Creek  
Hike will end up at Angel Falls.  
*Don Redmond (559) 268-1537*

### July 28<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Day Hike (3C+) Moderate  
Pear Lake  
First the Watchtower, a 1,600-foot granite cliff that offers incredible vistas of Tokopah Valley and beyond. Then three gem-like lakes: Heather, Emerald, and Pear. Pear Lake is a great place for lunch.  
*Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818*

**July 28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> Saturday - Sunday.**

Overnight Hike (4E) Strenuous  
Our annual Half Dome by moonlight hike. Start from Happy Isles at 9:30 P.M., reach the top of Half Dome by dawn, and return on Sunday.

*Gerald Vinnard (559) 431-5780 or  
Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971*



**July 31<sup>st</sup> - August 4<sup>th</sup>  
(Tuesday-Saturday)**

We need to meet at the trailhead for the following 3 hikes since I will be camping at Ellery Lake (9,500') to acclimate:

**Tuesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>**

Mono Pass (10,604') Moderate-Strenuous 9 miles. Elevation gain: 1,300 feet. Meet at TH (5 miles past Tuolumne Meadows) at 8 A.M.

**Thursday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Mt. Dana (13,057') Very Strenuous 6 miles, 3,100 feet elevation gain. A challenging but non-technical climb of the second highest peak in Yosemite. Meet at TH (Tioga Pass Park Entrance Kiosk) at 7 A.M.

**Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup> White Mountain (14,246')** Very strenuous.

15 miles, 3,300' elevation gain. White Mountain Peak is the third highest mountain peak in California. It houses the highest research facility in North America. As 14'ers go, it is probably one of the easier peaks to summit, due mainly to the 7-mile "road" that leads nearly to the summit. Meet at TH (outside research station gate) at 5 A.M. We car camp outside the gate; restroom available. Caution: we had to turn back twice

last year because of severe winds; ski goggles would be a very good thing to bring with you.

*Paul Weiss (209) 966 6605 before  
August 1<sup>st</sup> to reserve.*

**August 4<sup>th</sup>- Saturday**

Day Hike - Very Difficult  
Moose Lake

This 18-mile hike starts at the Wolverton Parking Lot. Take the trail to Alta Peak, then cut over to Alta Meadow. The trail reenters the forest where it continues as an unmaintained route to Moose Lake, becoming increasingly hard to follow after exiting the forest. Walt will make a loop back to the parking lot. Call for details.

*Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818*

**August 11<sup>th</sup> - Saturday**

Day Hike (2A)

Kings Canyon

Mist Falls fans out over a 45-foot wide granite ledge and crashes into a boulder-lined pool. Only 650 feet elevation gain. It's a nice place to have lunch on the large slabs of granite below the falls. Call early for this wonderful hike.

*Beth Leacox (559)446-1825*

**August 18<sup>th</sup> - Saturday**

Day Hike (1A)

Grant Grove in Sequoia and Kings Canyon Natinal Parks.

*Don Redmond (559) 268-1537*

**August 19<sup>th</sup> - Sunday**

Day Hike (3C)

Chilnualna Falls

*John Flaherty (209) 742-4668*

**August 25<sup>th</sup> - Saturday**

Day Hike (3C) Moderate

Jennie Lake and Weaver Lake

Just outside the border of Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks. Cross country hike.

*Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818*

**September 1<sup>st</sup> - Saturday**

Day Hike (2B)

8.5 miles around trip

Bi-summited Goat Mountain lies just 2 miles southwest of Bass Lake. The trail starts at Spring Cove Campground. The trail stops at the inactive lookout tower.

*Don Redmond (559) 268-1537*

**September 8<sup>th</sup> - Saturday**

Day Hike- 3C) Moderate

Coyote Lake via Brewer, Beryl, and Tocher Lakes. We will get to visit four high Sierra lakes on this trip, two of which are seldom visited. Part of this trip is cross-country, so the limit is 8 people. All hikers must stay within view of each other.

*John Cameron (559) 896-6919*

**September 15<sup>th</sup> - Saturday**

Day Hike (2B) Moderate +

Little Shuteye

A wonderful jaunt to a great lunch spot peak.

*Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818*

**September 16<sup>th</sup> - Sunday**

Day Hike (2B)

Gaylor Lake

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

*John Flaherty (209) 742-4668*

**September 22<sup>nd</sup> - Saturday**

Day Hike (4C)Very Strenuous

Table Meadows and Table land

Start at Wolverton trailhead in Sequoia National Park. We will be on the Pear Lake trail until we reach the ranger hut. From the ranger hut it is all cros-country. All hikers must stay within view of each other after leaving the trail.

*Carolyn Ordway (559) 449-7780*

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

Day Hike (2B)

Lewis Creek

Route to be determined by group interest.

*John Flahery (209) 742-4668*



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

Deadline for *Tehipite Topics* is the second Friday of each month—August 10<sup>th</sup> for the September issue. Submit material to [Topics@BigBaldy.com](mailto:Topics@BigBaldy.com).

## Your Articles and Stories Wanted

*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; photographer; 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](mailto: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. 🌿

## Visit the Tehipite Chapter

### Web Site

by John Rasmussen

The *Tehipite Topics* will take a summer break and then return in September. The Tehipite Chapter Web site at [tehipite.sierraclub.org](http://tehipite.sierraclub.org) will be updated throughout the summer. If you would like something included on the website, email the information to [Topics@BigBaldy.com](mailto:Topics@BigBaldy.com). Please consider sending us an outings trip report or pictures from an outing. 🌿



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Built by Sierra Club members in 1934, this rustic, hostel-style lodge stands atop historic Donner Pass, just an hour and a half from Sacramento.

Clair Tappaan Lodge is the perfect summer base camp for anyone who enjoys the wide variety of activities offered by the Tahoe area. Explore wildflower gardens and expansive views while hiking the nearby Pacific Crest Trail. Short hikes to secluded mountain lakes begin at the Lodge and are perfect for introducing the family to the mountains. Donner Lake offers great kayaking, swimming, and fishing while Donner Summit has long been a destination for rock climbers and mountain bikers.

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

See you on Donner Summit...



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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](http://www.ctl.sierraclub.org) or call (800) 679-6775.