



Tehipite Topics

April 2010 ♣ Vol. 56, No. 4

www.tehipite.sierraclub.org

REJOICE IN EARTH DAY, JOHN MUIR'S BIRTHDAY, AND RENEWAL!

First, a Sequoia Size Thank You to you for your contribution to last month's fund-raiser! Tehipite Chapter could not continue the important job of working for the planet without your generous contributions. You make it possible for Tehipite to rejuvenate and continue up John Muir's trail.

The Tehipite Reformation

No, it is not 1517, and Martin Luther is not taking over Tehipite Chapter. The green buds are popping out all over, and wild flowers are in bloom. It's April and spring, a time of renewal and rebirth. It all makes one feel like chanting a few lines of Chaucer: "Whan that April with his shoures soote, the drought of March hath pierced to the root, ... and smalle fowles maken melodie that sleepen all the night with open eye...." Chanticleer croweth in his barnyard, and Renard stalketh in the nearby wood. Earth Day is April 22, and of course John Muir's birthday is April 21. We are reminded of the Earth and our duty to "Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet."

See "Reformation," page 5

Tell Me Again, Why Are We Doing This?

by Marcia Rasmussen

About forty years ago, a young teenage boy--maybe thirteen years old--pedaled his bicycle to a public hearing in Fresno. The meeting was called by Sierra National Forest, to discuss the fate of the Pincushion Wilderness Study Area, and the public was invited to testify. Why should this area be set aside as Wilderness? Toward the end of the meeting, the boy made his way to the podium and gave his answer: "Because I haven't seen it yet."

The Pincushion area was eventually set aside as Wilderness--part of the Ansel Adams Wilderness perhaps. But our story lies elsewhere. The youth was a Sierra Club member. He had recently joined Tehipite Chapter, attracted by a rock climbing class that was offered by our Outings program.

I would like to think this young man was exactly the sort of person John Muir had in mind when he said, "If people in general could be got into the woods, even for once, to hear the trees speak for themselves, all difficulties in the way of forest preservation would vanish." Sometimes, all it takes is a few volunteers to take a kid up into the mountains, awaken something inside him, and inspire him to speak up. "Wait, save the wilderness for ME. I haven't had a chance to see it yet!"

In 1901, the Sierra Club dreamed up the grand idea of taking an annual summer outing, known as the High Trip. The purpose of this excursion was to let people see for themselves the fabulous High Country that the Sierra Club sought to preserve. "An excursion. . ." wrote William Colby, who led these early trips, "if properly conducted, will do an infinite amount of good toward awakening the proper kind of interest in the forests and other natural features of our mountains, and will also tend to create a spirit of good fellowship among our members."

Over 100 years later, if our Chapter needs reason to maintain a vibrant, active Outings program, there it is. I cannot say it any better than Muir or Colby. Our goal is still to inspire. Our goal is to motivate conservation activists. And our goal is to have fun.

See "Tell Me" page 6

Chapter Meetings

General Meeting

April 21, 7 PM:

**Film: *The American Southwest:
Are We Running Dry?***
and

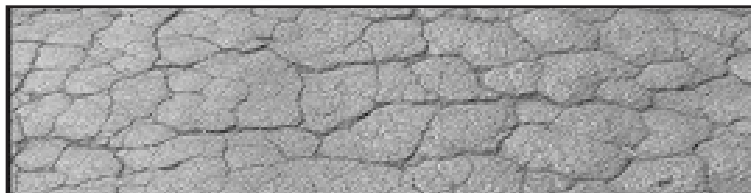
Celebration of

John Muir's Birthday

Narrated by actress Jane Seymour, "The American Southwest: Are We Running Dry?" is a definitive look at how the water crisis affects the American Southwest states and its escalating economic toll.

More at www.RunningDry.org

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



Will the San Joaquin Valley soon look like this photo from RunningDry.org?

Conservation & Executive Committee Meetings

Wednesday, April 14, at 7:00 P.M.

The Conservation Committee meets at 7 PM

The Executive Committee meets at 8 PM

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



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Conservation and Executive Committee Meetings

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

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

Merced Group General Meeting

Thursday, April 15, 7 P.M.

Location TBA- will either be on campus at UC Merced or at our usual venue at Sierra Presbyterian Church. Those on our email list will be notified- others keep an eye out in the Merced Sun-star or phone Rod at 723-4747.

General Meeting Topic:

"Climbing El Cap - 5 Days on the Rock"

Speaker Mark Tuttle, a Merced local, has been climbing for some 30 years. While a professional climber he lived in Yosemite and "worked on the rocks" full time. Mark has over 300 first time ascents to his name. He was a guide for the Yosemite Mountaineering School. He has also been an instructor for various outdoor programs, including a High Adventure

Program which took 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to the top of Mt. Whitney. Mark formerly owned and ran his own backpacking and mountaineering shop in Merced. He still designs and creates custom outdoor gear.

Mark's enthusiasm for the outdoors is indeed contagious. His adventures have been many and varied. Come see slides and hear stories about scaling the largest granite monolith in the world. The Shield Route is one of the most imposing up the face of El Capitan. It is named after "the Shield", a 1000 foot long overhang which must be negotiated. To give an indication of its difficulty,

this route was not climbed until 14 years after the first ascent of El Cap along "the Nose" route.

Mark and his climbing mates spent 5 days on the Rock. What is life like suspended 1000's of feet above the Yosemite Valley floor? Not just the technical aspects of the climb, but what about sleeping, cooking, going to the bathroom, maintaining energy and mental focus. One of the most harrowing sections is "the Groove". Mark led this pitch that has some 35 "rurps" in a row. (What's a rurp?- come find out!) The climber who first tackled this pitch in 1972 fell on it. So did Mark. What saved his life and allowed him to complete the climb?

For some of us vicariously is the only way to climb. Come join us for an exciting one!

Annual Picnic, Saturday, May15th

Instead of our normal general meeting on the third Thursday, come share lunch at Jean Okuye's home midst the almond orchards of Livingston. Jean's straw bale construction home has many green features that make it an interesting destination in and of itself. Bring a potluck item to share--main course, salad, appetizer, or dessert--somehow it always seems to work out. Also bring silverware, plate, and if you can a lawn chair. Ice tea and water provided but feel free to bring other choices too.

Directions to 10181 W. Olive Ave., Livingston, just west of Cressey Way:

From Merced go north on 99 to Sultana/Liberty offramp, bear right onto Liberty about 1/2 mile to 4 way stop. Left on Cressey Way which will take you to another 4 way stop at the Sensient onion/garlic plant (Walnut Ave) Keep going on Olive to next street (1/2 mile), go left on Olive Ave over canal, past asphalt driveway on the left to 10181 W Olive Ave on the left (in the almond orchard is the house.)

From Turlock you can follow the same directions except you will turnleft over freeway at Sultana/Liberty as you exit the freeway.

Come as early as 11:00 A.M., we'll eat around noon, leave when you need to, we'll linger no later than 2:00 P.M. or so.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Bear in mind the consequences.

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

Get grizzly and JOIN Sierra Club.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____
 Zip _____ Phone (____) _____
 Email _____

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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A Farewell to Ed Wayburn

Five-time Sierra Club President Edgar Wayburn died on March 5. The following story comes from SierraClub.org. More on Ed Wayburn at www.sierraclub.org/history/wayburn/, including how to donate to a memorial fund.

JUST NORTH of San Francisco across the Golden Gate, the rugged Marin Headlands marks the edge of an unlikely wilderness -- a hodgepodge of discrete but nearly contiguous parks covering an area many times larger than the city itself. For the more than six million inhabitants of the San Francisco Bay Area, that blessedly undeveloped landscape -- comprising among other public lands the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Mount Tamalpais State Park, and Point Reyes National Seashore -- is a near-at-hand escape to a place where urban man exists in startling proximity to elk, coyote, and ancient redwood.

It is easy, for both visitors and residents alike, to take that open space for granted, but it could so easily have been otherwise. No land is preserved by accident, and San Francisco's backyard wilderness was no exception.

The man who, more than any other, deserved credit for keeping this much of the Bay Area wild was Dr. Edgar Wayburn, a five-term president of the Sierra Club and America's most effective (and least known) wilderness advocate. Dr. Wayburn was the leading force in the expansion, first, of Mt. Tamalpais State Park, from a mere 870 acres to more than 6,000 acres.

He also spearheaded the establishment of Point Reyes National Seashore, the first national park unit of any size near a major metropolitan area. That would be followed by the formation of Golden Gate National Recreation Area, which would tie together nearly all the open space in south and west Marin, and even some lands in San Francisco and beyond, including the city's beaches, Alcatraz and the Presidio. All told, it amounts to some 200,000 acres. No other city in America -- perhaps the world -- has anything that can compare with it.

For all his accomplishments, Ed Wayburn was never a full-time conservationist. A practicing physician and a family man, he dedicated his spare hours and weekends to the health of the planet. Neither was he well-known, even within the environmental movement, having never gained the wide recognition of such contemporaries

as David Brower and Ansel Adams. The low profile suited him fine. Dr. Wayburn preferred to do his work quietly, behind the scenes. He was a born facilitator and diplomat, someone who exuded the kind of authority and integrity that gets people -- even powerful people -- to listen.



Edgar Wayburn

When the National Park Service opposed Dr. Wayburn's plan for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, favoring the establishment of a much smaller park instead, Nixon's Secretary of the Interior Rogers Morton was called upon to testify before the Senate Interior Committee. No great fan of environmentalists, Morton surprised everyone by supporting the Sierra Club's proposal in full. Morton told the shocked hearing: "The Park Service wants me to support their plan, but I went out there to the site with my friend Dr. Wayburn, and he convinced me otherwise."

Dr. Wayburn may have been a diplomat, but he was never keen on compromise. Where others might have been content to save random parcels of land -- whatever scraps could be spared by the agents of so-called progress -- he wanted nothing less than the protection of whole watersheds. As he explained in his memoir, *Your Land and Mine*, "It wasn't enough simply to add a few acres here and there; nature doesn't divide herself into measured plots. A watershed encompasses the chain of life; if any part is developed, the integrity of the whole ecosystem is threatened."

That devotion to ecological principles guided him through many subsequent wilderness campaigns, including the decades-long struggle to found, and later expand, Redwood National Park. Years of travel in the Alaskan backcountry with his wife

Peggy -- herself a prominent wilderness advocate -- led eventually to his crowning achievement: Passage of the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, which created ten new national park units and effectively doubled the size of America's National Park system. When Dr. Wayburn was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1999, President Clinton said of him, "He has saved more of our wilderness than any person alive."

By his own account, Dr. Wayburn was neither a "joiner" nor an "organization man," but he saw the Sierra Club as both a way to explore his beloved Sierra Nevada and as the most effective way to salvage the wild character of an America he saw vanishing before his eyes. In 1939, when he paid his first dues, the Sierra Club numbered only 3,000 members. Today it has more than 750,000, and Ed Wayburn carries the title of Honorary President.

Looking back, Dr. Wayburn recalled for his friend Harold Gilliam how it all began one day in the 1940s in San Francisco, as he gazed across the Golden Gate to the Headlands and Mt. Tam. "It seemed incredible to me that there were no cities or suburbs built on those Marin hills so close to San Francisco. I wondered how long that miracle would last."

Thankfully, he did more than wonder. He did something about it, and the miracle lasts to this day.

—Pat Joseph

Pat Joseph is the executive editor of California magazine.

From "Reformation," page 1

Tehipite Chapter is in the process of self-evaluating and restructuring. Why? We believe we need to be more accountable and transparent to you, our members. We also want to make it easier for you to participate.

We think it is time to start using state-of-the-art communications technology to bring Tehipite Chapter together so we can work better as an arm of John Muir's club.

We know that all members of Tehipite Chapter have knowledge, skills, and expertise that will be valuable in meeting the many environmental challenges our planet faces. We therefore encourage and invite you to participate.

Expert Knowledge Wanted!

The Tehipite Chapter would like to generate a list of members who have specific ex-

pertise or knowledge that would be of use in defending environmental issues and points of view. This would be of most use in making comments to EIR/S's put forth by the National Park Service, the Forest Service, and commercial interests developing projects within our communities. We are interested in folks within all the counties covered by the Tehipite Chapter, not just Fresno County. We may not need your expertise right now but it could very well be of great use in the future.

Speakers Bureau

The Tehipite Chapter is interested in setting up a speakers bureau for members who have expertise or experiences that would be of interest to other organizations or groups. Topics can run the gamut from trips and outings to climate change, growth, water, solar energy, and much, much more; really what ever interests you. If you are interested, let us know and we will put your name and topic on the list and get it out for others to see.

We understand that our members have full and busy lives, that it is difficult for them to attend meetings and events. While we of course encourage your participation at events and meetings, we also want to offer other ways to participate.

Online Participation

We are in the process of upgrading the chapter web site at www.tehipite.sierraclub.org. Soon you will be able to participate online on several Tehipite Chapter online forums where you can discuss issues like wilderness protection and environmental advocacy. There will be opportunities there to participate in online campaigns directed by Sierra Club California and Sierra Club National.

The web site will be ready soon. In the mean time, please use the phone numbers on pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter to tell us how you would like participate.

Correction

In last month's Topics, the editor accidentally mixed up two stories--one by Dennis Pollack, who should be credited with the story on snowshoeing in the Outings section, and another by Don Gaede.

Thanks to Karen Hammer, who led the snowshoe trip Dennis wrote about, this editor learned of his error. (Please take no notice of the editor's writing about himself in the third person.)

The editor learns more every month about what can go wrong in this complicated job; and he and his staff (he, him, and himself) optimistically hope soon to have exhausted every last possibility for human error.

The editor needs your help in his learning experience. So if you notice errors in the Topics, please email or call and let him know.

Help put the California Symbol back in the Bear-Flag State

www.californiagrizzly.org
thecaliforniagrizzly.blogspot.com



Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

May 7-9; Jul 16-19; Aug 6-9;
 Sep 10-12

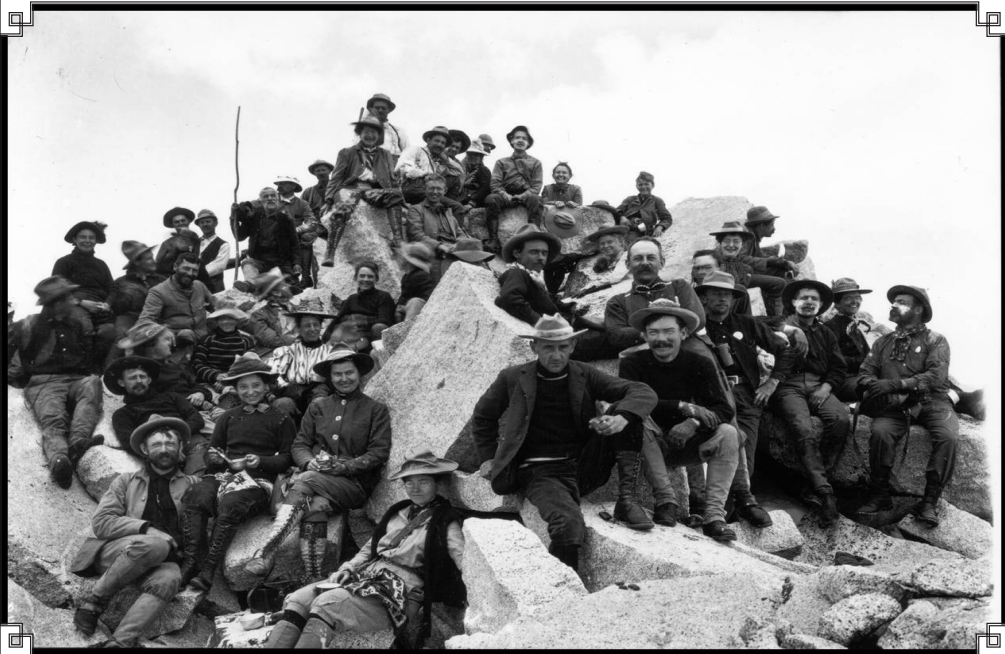
Explore the wild, windswept islands of Channel Island National Park. The pristine waters of the Marine Sanctuary will entice both snorkelers and kayakers. Watch for the highly endangered Island Fox. Marvel at the sight of whales, dolphins, sea and land birds, endemic plants, and reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Each island offers special charm: San Miguel for white sandy beaches and a huge congregation of elephant seals; Santa Rosa for a rare stand of Torrey Pines; Santa Cruz for high mountains, deep valleys and the famous Painted Cave, Anacapa for the brown pelican rookery, a picturesque lighthouse, excellent snorkeling waters and a colony of friendly sea lions who will swim with snorkelers and follow kayaks.

These live-aboard, eco-tours depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68' twin diesel Truth. The fee, \$590 for May & September; \$785 for July & August, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes on each island and present evening programs.

To make a reservation mail a \$100 check, payable to Sierra Club to leader: Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. For more information: (626)-443-0706: jholtzhl@aol.com



“Tell me,” from page 1



One of the early High Trips. Sierra Club archives. All rights reserved.

As our Chapter's new Outings Chair, I have high hopes for the future of our Outings program. My overall goal is to make a wider range of trips available to a wider range of people. Over the coming weeks and months, expect good things to happen. But realize, of course, that I need your help. If you have led trips in the past, the Outings program needs your expertise and experience. If you have been a participant, perhaps it is time to look into becoming a trip leader or assistant. You do not need to be an expert. We can help you with the training you need. And always, always, always we will need participants for our trips!

To help us learn more about the members of our Chapter, we will post a questionnaire on our chapter website beginning in April. Go to the Chapter's home page at <http://www.tehipite.sierraclub.org> and click "Interest & Expertise Questionnaire." You will have the opportunity to tell us what types of trips you would like to attend. You will also have the option to let us know of any ideas you have, or special skills you can offer as a volunteer. If you have questions or want us to contact you about becoming a trip leader, you will be able to leave us a message. If you have trouble accessing the questionnaire, or would simply rather interact with a live person, you are more than welcome to do so. My contact information is listed at the end of this article.

We apologize for not listing upcoming trips in the March issue of Tehipite Topics.

It was an unfortunate oversight. Continue to look for trip listings in the Topics and on our website at <http://www.tehipite.sierraclub.org>.

Continue to look for trip listings in the Topics and on our website at <http://www.tehipite.sierraclub.org>.

If you have not been involved in our Outings program before, now is the time. Expect great things. See you on an outing soon!

Marcia Rasmussen
Tehipite Chapter Outings Chair
Marcia@BigBaldy.com
(559) 332-2419

Muir's March to Restore Hetch Hetchy

August 1 - 7, 2010

San Francisco, CA - Restore Hetch Hetchy opened the registration process today (www.muirmarch.dojiggy.com) for the second annual Muir's March, a 7-day backpacking trek across Yosemite National Park for 20-30 activists and leaders. Each participant must raise a minimum of \$1913 for Restore Hetch Hetchy in order to participate in the trip. For more information about Muir's March visit www.hetchhetchy.org or call (415) 956-0401.

John Muir traveled in and wrote extensively about the Hetch Hetchy Valley. This remarkable glacial valley was initially protected by the establishment of Yosemite National Park but in 1913 the San Francisco won congressional approval to build a dam and bury this extraordinary wilderness val-

ley under 300 feet of water. John Muir led the national campaign to prevent this from happening, and Restore Hetch Hetchy is leading the national campaign to bring the valley back to life.

For more information please visit www.hetchhetchy.org.

Earth Day at Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno

In addition to Tehipite Chapter's celebration of Earth Day and John Muir's Birthday on April 21 (as listed on page 2 of this newsletter), the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno will hold an event on April 24, from 1-4 PM at the UU church at 2672 E. Alluvial Ave. There will be live music and speakers, as well as workshops, discussions, and displays about current environmental issues. Visitors will sample organic food and learn to cook vegetarian dishes. There will be green fun for kids. Tehipite Chapter will have a table there.

Water Forum

Hundreds of activists participated in **Central Valley Water Forum: Facts vs. Fictions** at Fresno City College on Saturday, March 15th. The event was the culmination of months of organizing led by Tehipite Chapter leader Jean Hays, with the help of many.

Good humored former broadcast Journalist Bill Murphy moderated the event, which was kicked off in the plenary by Mark Arax, who wrote *The King of California*. Arax's anecdotes about ag titans J. G. Boswell and Cockeye Salyer, men who controlled hundreds of thousands of acres of West Side farmland and millions of acre feet of water to irrigate those acres, created interest that was sustained throughout the day in break-out sessions led by experts like geologist/hydrologist David Cehrs, economist Jeffrey Michael, journalist and attorney Lloyd Carter, muckraking journalist and environmentalist Dan Bacher, activist Chris Acree of Revive the San Joaquin, Maria Herrera of the environmental justice community, Nancy Price of WILPF, geologist Robert Merrill, Kerman area farmer and water conservation activist Walt Shubin, and Dr. Karl Longley, professor emeritus of civil engineering at CSUF.

The event culminated with a debate on the Water Bond to be decided in the November election. Assemblyman Juan Arambula provided a spirited defense of the Water Bond, while Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, Campaign Director of Restore the Delta passionately exposed the measure's many weaknesses.

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 Dave Wallace at wagga@comcast.net and Steve Cosner at stevec@sfsu.edu. 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.

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



Sierra Club California Needs Your Help

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

April 17-18, Saturday-Sunday

Snow camping/backpacking (IB)

Strawberry/Dodge Ridge area of Stanislaus National Forest (Yokuts group)

Enjoy the snowy Sierras in spring. A moderately strenuous (but slow pace) 2-mile snowshoe backpack to set up tents in snow. Suitable for backpackers new to snow camping. Basic backpacking gear and snowshoes required. Some group gear supplied. Contact leader for gear list. Can stop on way to rent snowshoes. Meet Saturday 9 am, Oakdale. Back around noon Sunday. Bring \$\$ for driver. Optional brunch on way back. Yokuts Leader Derek Castle, castlem-odesto@gmail.com, 209.529.7816.

Every Saturday in April

Cross Country Skiing

Location to be determined, weather and snow permitting.

Walt Taguchi 559-435-2818

May 3-6 - Monday - Thursday

Car camp and hiking: Inyo Mountains

Possible overnight backpack or two day hikes to the Trepier Cabin area of the Inyo mountains. Hikes will in the range of 3D or 3E if day hikes 2D or 2E if backpacking. We will be looking for a gold mill rumored to be within a few miles of the Trepier Cabin. At the same time a group will be doing research on the Salt Tram across Daisey Canyon from where we will be. We may be asked to support their efforts with radio feedback. Adding a fifth day is desirable. We will pass thru the Cerro Gordo ghost town and be camped where we can look down at Lone Pine and across at Mt Whitney. Wild flowers should be good this year on top of the Inyos where we will be.

For more information call Richard Sloan at 559 696-2971 or email at riverrich1509@aol.com

Our Tehipite Chapter Outing Chair is Marcia Rasmussen (559) 332-2419, email: Marcia@BigBaldy.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. Steve Cosner (559) 281-5983, email: stevec@sfsu.edu maintains this webpage.

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. For your safety, participation on a trip is at the sole discretion of the outings leader. Please call the leader well in advance for details, reservations, or if you plan to cancel. Outings officially start at the trailhead. Travel responsibility rests on each participant. Carpooling is encouraged, but leaders can not be responsible for the organization of carpools. The Sierra Club does not provide insurance for transportation. Drivers are normally reimbursed eight cents per mile by passengers. No guns, pets, or radios are permitted on trips.

Would you like to be an Outings Leader?

Being an Outings Leader can be very rewarding. Basic qualifications include a desire to lead outings, basic first aid or the ability to devote a day to getting qualified in first aid, and reading the Sierra Club Outings Leader Handbook. The Tehipite Chapter would like to offer outings to people of all abilities and ages. If you are interested, phone Marcia Rasmussen (559) 332-2419 or email her at Marcia@bigbaldy.com



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

EARTH DAY HEROES By Heather Anderson

This time, instead of writing about John Muir Day and Earth Day (April 21, 22), I want to pay tribute to some of the folks who have had a keen sense of awareness and dedication to protect the exquisitely wild places of our Earth. Growing up in urban Southern California, I cherished the wilderness of a few vacant lots with gnarled old trees for climbing, high spring grasses and March winds for flying kites, and a view of the ragged San Gabriel Range to the north. Now, my heritage includes part ownership of national parks, forests, monuments, and wilderness areas. That is all due to a few insightful and determined people.

We are familiar with John Muir and his role in founding the Sierra Club, serving as president for 22 years, and fighting to save Hetch Hetchy Valley. Teddy Roosevelt (my hero), a stalwart, signed into permanent protection some of the most unique natural resources and habitat, totaling some 230 million acres (including 5 national parks, 150 national forests, 55 national wildlife preserves, and 18 national monuments) with the stroke of a pen. We

know about Dave Brower; we are perhaps familiar with Michael McClosky, both former directors of the Club. Ansel Adams showed us visually and artistically what was at stake if we didn't rise up and protect our beautiful land. But how many of us have heard about Dr. Ed Wayburn who recently passed on at age 103?

We might have been able to link Senator Gaylord Nelson with Earth Day. Nelson's idea to hold a nationwide "Environmental Teach-In" on college campuses resulted in the first Earth Day in 1970; it attracted twenty million people. In Earth Day 2000, more than five hundred million people worldwide participated in environmental events. Over a billion folks from 190 countries are expected to celebrate the fortieth anniversary in 2010.

These actions were all part of recognizing the urgent need for protection and then doing it. That is what Ed Wayburn did. A physician and five-term president of the Sierra Club, he worked for the planet on weekends. He started with what he could see from his San Francisco office window, the Marin Headlands. And he wasn't satisfied with a few parcels; he wanted whole watersheds, whole ecosystems. From there

he went north and didn't stop until Redwood National Park was established. Farther north, his work in Alaska came to fruition in 1980 with the Alaska National Interest Lands Act, which created ten new national parks. Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, he was credited by President Clinton as saving "more of our wilderness than any person alive."

Howard Zahniser was another quiet, behind-the-scenes activist who worked tirelessly writing for the Wilderness Society and persuading legislators—work which culminated in the passing of the Wilderness Act of 1964. There are many more foot soldiers in our conservation quest. They are among us. But I am tremendously and forever grateful for these towering figures who gave us so much, the remarkable gift of open space and wilderness. That is surely worth celebrating. You can learn more about wilderness and how to preserve and protect wilderness at www.westernwilderness.org.



Dr. Edgar Wayburn was a five-term president of the Sierra Club in the 1960s.