

Tehipite Topics

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Really Seeing

by Heather Anderson

I am in my ninth decade and just learning to see. See what? For me, it is our natural world. For others it might be birds or bridges. A cycling partner, civil engineer, long ago on a European trek, saw and recognized the beauty of bridges, while I saw the beautiful canyon beneath. We each see differently. An artist once told me that we see what we want to see. Our span of interest, however, may be expanded. In a college geology course, I learned to see rocks, minerals and landforms. Now, I always book a window seat when in flight to see the land from the sky instead of only from ground level. A professional geologist not only sees the land, but can read it; ornithologists not only see birds, but know their names, habits and habitat.

After seeing many paintings in galleries and museums over the years, I gradually learned to see better, as well as to “read” paintings. Educating myself to really see art or land takes time, and involves focused seeing. It may or may not be done faster by taking a class and learning a vocabulary to describe, analyze and interpret a work of art. You can ask yourself questions: Do I like (or not like) the art? Does it speak to me? What does it say? Am I an inspired work? Or, am I beautiful but lack feeling?

A native of the West, I am mostly in love with mountains. I rarely walked in the California desert. I thought it was not dramatic, not eye-catching, with bland colors and little contrast, without breath-taking elevations and with a beauty more vast and macroscopic than up-close and microscopic. Until I learned to see it! To see the fire of a single, flaming yellow daisy or a whole golden field of daisies. To fail to look up at a desert sky, you may miss an entire sunset world of brilliant colors,

purples of a stormy winter, the warm yellows of a faded summer sky, or the dark sky. I never knew there were so many varied sky and cloud formations until I was shown photographs taken by a glider-pilot friend. We miss them by not looking up.

Bergitta Jansen speaks of having a conversation with the landscape in her piece, “Journey to Seeing the Natural World.” It is necessary to stop, see and even converse with the land. John Muir was once overheard addressing a tiny plant out of its familiar habitat, “Dearie, why are you so far from home?”

In my book, *Art Education and Eco Awareness*, the word aware is very important. If students are not even aware of the landscape, how will they ever learn about it, care for it and protect it for our grandchildren?

Art teachers have noticed that children living in urban environments do not have as much detailed visualization as those living in rural areas, since city images whiz by so rapidly that visual memory may be impaired. A child in a farm environment is able, for example, to draw a tractor in great detail from memory; perhaps the eye may see more clearly in a rural environment with more time and space allowed for seeing.

Coming home late one night, a deer crossed my path. We both froze for a few moments. I said “hello” and wished it a long life before driving on, mentally filing the visual details of his alert stance, his antlers aloft, the shine in his eyes. Kimon Nicolaidis wrote in his little book, “If you haven’t learned to draw, it is because you haven’t learned to see.” Let’s start. It will enrich our lives. There is so much to see and so little time.

An exhibition of Heather Anderson’s wilderness paintings has been mounted in the Lodgepole Visitor Center in Sequoia National Park, where it will open for viewing once again in the spring. Most of the paintings are for sale and are catalogued on her website at heatherandersonwilderness.appspot.com.

see also:

Wilderness Evaluation within Forest Plan Revision

Coyote Project

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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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Join us on Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at 7:00 pm for:

A Digital Slide Show by Helen Gigliotti

CRUISING THE SUBANTARCTIC ISLANDS OF NEW ZEALAND

at the University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw (across from Fashion Fair)

Free and open to the General public, with plenty of free parking

New Zealand's remote Subantarctic Islands (the Antipodes, the Auckland Islands, the Bounty Islands, the Snares Islands, and Campbell Island) are wild and beautiful places. Most are nature reserves with no habitation and no landings, but can only be experienced by expedition ship and zodiac outings. In addition to being a birder and photographer's paradise, these volcanic islands are home to some of the most abundant and unique wildlife on earth. Their many endemic flora and fauna species indicate how long these islands



have been isolated by miles of ocean. The islands are particularly notable for the large number and variety of pelagic seabirds and penguins that nest there — 126 bird species including 40 seabirds, five of which breed nowhere else in the world. The Subantarctic Islands were honored with World Heritage status in 1998, meaning they represent the best of the world's natural heritage.

Running along the sea floor in this region is the boundary between two tectonic plates, the Australian and the Pacific plates. Macquarie Island, an Australian possession, lies on the ridge created by action of these two plates and is the only place on earth where mid-oceanic crustal rocks, all formed on or below the sea-bed, are exposed on the surface. Often described as one of



the "wonder spots of the world," Macquarie is said to rival Antarctica's South Georgia in its magnificence, scenic diversity, and prolific wildlife, including King Penguins, Royal Penguins, Elephant Seals, Skuas, and Petrels. The sights, smells, and sounds are just fantastic.

Be sure to join Helen as we cruise the coastline of these magnificent islands on the MV Orion, landing by special permit to explore the beaches and tussock-covered headlands of Campbell and Macquarie Islands.



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Merced Group Conservation & Executive Committee Meetings

The first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM — 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.

Merced Group Monthly Meetings/Programs

The Merced Group does not hold general meetings in the months of July and August.

We will continue to meet on the third Thursday of each month. Meetings start at 7:00 PM and are usually over by 8:30 or so. We meet in the Fireside Room at Merced United Methodist Church, 899 Yosemite Parkway (that’s Hwy 140 to Yosemite). Other events are often going on, so park in the lot off of Cypress Avenue and use the entrance there.

We try to have a variety of programs — some more topical and informational, some more entertaining and inspirational. Speakers cannot always be confirmed in time for the *Topics* so some program info may be “TBA”. You can either phone Rod Webster at (209) 723-4747 for specific months or details or send him your email at rwebster@elite.net and he will put you on the regular notification list.

Your 10 Best Outings

We are looking for suggestions on your top 10 best hikes. Please submit your best hikes, time of year, and the difficulty rating to our Outings Chair Bill Fjellbo ~ jbjfjellbo@sti.net ~ 559-642-4511. All Tehipite Chapter hikes & activities are open to the general public.

Outing Ratings

- 1 — up to 6 miles
- 2 — 6 to 10 miles
- 3 — 10 to 15 miles
- 4 — 15 to 20 miles
- 5 — over 20 miles

Elevation Gain

- A — under 1,000 feet
- B — 1,000 to 2,000 feet
- C — 2,000 to 3,000 feet
- D — 3,000 to 4,000 feet
- E — over 4,000 feet

Chapter members wanting to learn how to become an outings leader should contact Marcia Rasmussen at (559) 332-2419, or Marcia@bigbaldy.com, to get on the list for an upcoming weekend training session.

MERCED SIERRA CLUB ANNUAL POTLUCK AND FUND RAISER

6:00 – 9:00 PM SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5th, 2015

The Pacific Odyssey 2012 Hawaii to New Zealand in Six Easy Months!

Presenters: JoAnne Clarke & George Deane

In 2012, JoAnne Clarke and George Deane sailed their 45-foot sailboat, Hana Hou, from Hawaii to New Zealand. From boat repairs and passage preparations to sailing, hiking, biking, kayaking, snorkeling, and scuba diving, you will join JoAnne and George on their six-month voyage.

Come and get a good look at beautiful remote islands and atolls that can only be reached by sailboat. Take a look at some of the islanders' dwellings and construction techniques as well as their subsistence lifestyle and local customs.

Along the way, there will be stops at National Parks, bird rookeries, and some of the finest dive locations in the Pacific. Visit local markets and government buildings and share some personal observations as you travel along with JoAnne and George on this epic journey.



**Location: Hoffmeister Center at 1920 Canal Street in Merced
(convenient parking at the rear entrance on 19th Street)**

In the interests of a balanced diet for the evening, we are recommending that if your last name begins with A to G: bring a salad, H to N: bring dessert, O to Z: bring a main dish.

Arrival time is 6:00. Dinner will begin at 6:30 and the Program at 7:15. Donation tickets will be available for door prizes from local businesses and a two-night stay at a Lake Tahoe resort home.

Sierra Club calendars will be on sale at this event. Or for delivery, call Annette at 723-5152.

Wilderness Wall Calendar: \$15.07 — Engagement Calendar: \$16.15

In 2011, the Jake and Fran Kirihara Memorial Scholarship Award was created in honor of two of our founding members. Each year, the Merced Sierra Club awards two scholarships to UC Merced students working towards preserving and protecting the environment. **If you would like to give a tax deductible donation to the Scholarship Fund but are unable to come to the potluck, please mail it to: Merced Group of the Sierra Club, Box 387, Merced, California 95341.**

If you have any questions: call Rod at (209) 723-4747.

Upcoming Tehipite Chapter Meetings

Tehipite Chapter Conservation & Executive Committee Meetings

Second Wednesday of each month ~ members welcome

December 9, January 13, February 10, March 9, April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13 (if necessary),
August 10 (if necessary), September 14, October 12, and November 9

The Conservation Committee meets at 7 PM. The Executive Committee meets at 8 PM.

University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Avenue, Fresno (between First and Fresno Streets)

Tehipite Chapter General Meetings

Meetings are the third Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9 PM except in July, August, and November

OUR GENERAL MEETINGS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, AND PARKING IS FREE.

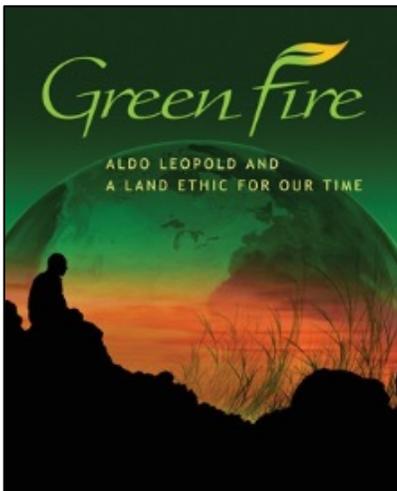
University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Avenue, Fresno (between First and Fresno Street)



Wednesday, December 16, 7:00 PM

Cruising the Subantarctic Islands of New Zealand, with Helen Gigliotti

The Subantarctic Islands are a largely uninhabited circle of islands off the coast of New Zealand. Designated a World Heritage site, these islands are rich scenically and abound with endemic flora and fauna. (See page 3 for more information.)



Wednesday, January 20, 7:00 PM

Movie Night — Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time

Aldo Leopold is considered the most important conservationist of the 20th century because his ideas are so relevant to the environmental issues of our time. He is the father of the national wilderness system, wildlife management, and the science of ecological restoration. His classic book *A Sand County Almanac* still inspires us to see the natural world as a community to which we belong. "Green Fire" explores Leopold's personal journey of observation and understanding, revealing how his ideas resonate with people across the entire American landscape, from inner cities to the most remote wild lands.



Wednesday, February 17, 7:00 PM

Great Scenic Views of the American West: an old-fashioned Kodachrome slide show, with Bob Turner

Tehipite Topics editor Bob Turner will combine Kodachrome slides from his own travels in the 1970s & 80s with extraordinary images he has found on the Internet in recent years, with the aim of finding the greatest scenic viewpoints in the American West.

Save the date: Thursday, March 24 will be the Chapter's Annual Potluck Banquet

National Forest News

Wilderness Evaluation within Forest Plan Revision

By Trudy Tucker, National Forest Chair

Pacific Southwest Region 5 has three early adopter forests working through the 2012 Planning Rule for revising their forest plans. The new rule requires forests to identify and evaluate lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) and determine whether to recommend any such lands for wilderness designation.

The four primary steps in this process are: inventory, evaluation, analysis and decision. The identification and evaluation of areas for wilderness recommendation will be in an appendix in the draft and final Environmental Impact Statements for each of the forest plan revisions. If areas are recommended for wilderness, the forest supervisor will include plan direction to protect ecological and social characteristics so that the wilderness character of the recommended area(s) is not reduced before congressional action regarding the recommendation can take place.

Wilderness Inventory

In early June 2014, preliminary inventory maps for the Inyo, Sequoia and Sierra National Forests were posted on the Region 5 website, where public feedback was accepted until June 30, 2014. The agency made adjustments and finalized inventory maps of lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the NWPS. For more information concerning wilderness criteria, inventory, and evaluation, and a look at the detailed preliminary and final maps of the analysis of inventoried lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the NWPS, check out the Pacific Southwest Region 5 website:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/landmanagement/planning/?cid=STELPRD3803608>

Maps available are:

- Overview map of the three-forest area
- Inyo National Forest — North
- Inyo National Forest — South
- Sequoia National Forest
- Sierra National Forest

Evaluation Basics

The detailed wilderness evaluation took place from September through mid-December of 2014, each forest reviewing wilderness characteristics and manageability of each area in the inventory. The agency is considering 10 areas for analysis as recommended wilderness: three of these are potential new recommended wilderness areas, and seven are potential recommended additions to

current wilderness areas.

Inyo National Forest recommendations are for three potential new areas and three additions to two existing wilderness areas:

- three potential new recommended areas, one each in the Glass Mountains, Deep Springs South, and the Deep Springs North areas,
- one potential addition to the eastern side of the South Sierra Wilderness,
- two potential additions to the White Mountains Wilderness.

Sequoia National Forest recommendations are for seven potential additions to two existing wilderness areas:

- two potential additions to the west side of the Domeland Wilderness,
- one potential addition to the north side (Fish Creek area) of the Domeland Wilderness,
- four potential additions to the western and southern sides of the South Sierra Wilderness.

Sierra National Forest recommendations are for two potential additions to existing wilderness areas:

- one potential addition to the Ansel Adams Wilderness,
- one potential addition to the Monarch Wilderness.

Agency Inventory Results

Across all three forests, adjustments resulted in a net reduction in the total acres considered in the wilderness inventory: reduced by 5,879 acres to a total of 1,971,928 acres. Of these total acres considered, 791,595 are on the Inyo National Forest, 663,175 are on the Sequoia National Forest, and 517,157 are on the Sierra National Forest.

The agency removed 23,168 acres to correct errors found in the preliminary inventory, and added 17,289 acres from the Sequoia National Forest's Travel Analysis, and from public feedback received regarding the Inyo National Forest's wilderness inventory.

Of the 1,971,928 acres considered in the inventory, approximately 528,000 acres of land were considered and excluded from the final inventory because they did not meet the size, roads, or improvements inventory criteria found in the proposed Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12, Chapter. 70 — Wilderness Evaluation.

The Pacific Southwest Region 5 expects the DEIS to be completed and released to the public later this fall where wilderness alternatives for the three forests will be displayed.

“The Hatchery: Fortress,” was an early November installation of multi-media art, set up near the foothills community of Badger, fifty miles east of Fresno, which explored the idea of fortress in a variety of non-literal, non-representational ways. The exhibition included works dealing with social issues such as housing and homelessness, law enforcement and budgeting policies, immigration and marginalization, as well as climate change, drought, and the recent spate of local wildfires. Other works took a subjective and internal spin on the topic, from the bolstering effects of commercial products on personal image, to the walls of blithe misunderstandings which pile up around attempts at sincerity. One personal exploration of the natural world in retreat is included here from this exhibition.

Situated in a rural, remote environment, the property's natural beauty is compromised by the detritus of failed human endeavor, giving it an oddly decayed urban feel. Next to an abandoned runway, the building is a large airplane hangar built as such and later used as a community center and school. The property was first developed by Synanon, a drug-rehab organization which was progressive in its time for its culture of racial integration, but fell into disrepute as its founder became delusional and authoritarian. The property was subsequently re-purposed as a Muslim religious community and boarding school for children from Oakland's worst neighborhoods, but was abandoned after 9/11 amid accusations of fraud. The sagging walls, dangling insulation, metal bars, broken glass, and crooked, rusting chandelier presented a real danger that required visitors to sign a waiver before entering the gallery area.

The current drought and the effects of pine bark beetles on the forest have devastated the area surrounding the Hatchery. Many thousands of dead ponderosa pines and incense cedars surround the property. The seasonal creek and a large pond, attractive to deer, bear, wild pigs, raptors, water birds, and songbirds, have dried up. But rainstorms preceded the event, bringing drips and streams of rainwater, shallow puddles spreading throughout the building, and cold drafts through the broken windows, missing doorways, and collapsed walls. The curators relished this incursion of inclement weather, which enhanced the site's besieged and ruined ambience, building a fire fueled with trashed wooden furniture in the site's enormous hearth. The dilapidated state of the buildings and property created an evocative atmosphere in which to contemplate the interface between urban edges and nature, between humans and animals of the wild.

— text adapted from the description of the exhibition, curated by Bill Doherty, Anné M. Klint, and Bachrun LoMele.

Coyote Project

by Nicole Shaffer

My mother and I were with my grandma when she had a panic attack in this very tunnel back when I was 2 years old. I had nightmares about it my whole life. My grandmother suffered schizophrenia and a lifetime of abuse from those taking advantage of her vulnerability. I wonder what she saw that frightened her so in that tunnel. I placed an arch of local wildflowers to honor my grandma's vision and what she saw in the dark.

A year ago a coyote led me to its den fifty yards from the aforementioned site. It was only then, thirty years later, that I re-experienced the place from my recurring dreams. I was out gathering wild sweet peas for a personal ritual to be completed that full moon evening centered on the action of cleaning the skull of a dead coyote I found a few days prior. The gestures I had choreographed for this action were those of reclaiming past experiences, honoring endings, and recognizing the disruptive spirit of coyotes as being an integral part of this process for me.

Flowers and their acquisition have been and continue to be a prominent theme in my personal mythology. As a girl, my mother would whirl me away from bed, spinning out into nighttime adventures of accumulating flowers in devious ways. Sometimes we would rummage for them in flower shop dumpsters, sometimes forage from the wild, sometimes we would steal them from neighbors' gardens. Thievery was my personal favorite means of acquisition. Flowers at night become very mysterious, as most things do.

Color alters if not disappears altogether. Our arms and fabric of our clothing would be filled with grey toned blooms, whose color would climactically be revealed thanks to the overhead light in the car. The next day I took with me to school vibrant secrets of a car filled with soft velvety plant life that brushed up on my skin and filled my lungs with fragrance and that only drove through the dark of night.

We stole ethically, spending all night hopping from one yard to the next, being sure to take only select blooms, those that would not be missed. We turned them into things.

So I gather. This day I was gathering sweet peas, but also bay leaf, pine, redwood, and fern. I tucked the plants into the holes in my stockings, waist of my shorts, straps of my top. While doing so, I bumped into a young coyote. I was able to identify her general age and sex. I removed a forget-me-not from the hole in my stocking and tossed it in her direction. She came to investigate. We took some time together. She was gnawing at some nasty wounds on her side. Eventually she left me on my own to continue foraging.

After about an hour, I was ready to leave. I stopped to fill my water bottle further down the road, looked over, and there on the other side of the fence was my coyote friend again. I hopped the fence, left my shoes, and followed her.

I followed her down the mini train tracks where I discovered that she'd play with me. I ran ahead; she ran with me. She pounced; I pounced. We played with sticks, thrashing them around. I tossed her a stick and she'd retrieve it, just like a dog. She tired of our games and led me off trail, further into the woods. We again approached the train tracks, crossed them, and reached the site seen in the second photo. This site marks an entrance to a landscape not occupied by humans. The arch in the branches is a form reinforced by the coyotes creating paths and tunnels in the brush. From this point onward, I had to follow on my hands and knees, at times dragging myself on my forearms and stomach because the brush was so low. The fabric of my clothing was still filled with flowers, leaving behind a sparse trail of wild sweet peas snagged by reaching branches.

She led me so deep into the brush, I questioned if I could find my way out. It's totally disorienting not being able to stand up. She disappeared. I was left alone in a hollowed out bush. I was in her den. I looked down to see a dead baby coyote. I realized what the flowers were for. I released them from my clothing and offered them to this space and to this recently lost life. As I crawled out of the den, I was overwhelmed with sadness. I lay in the dirt and cried, knowing no person could hear me. I cried for all the loss in life, for myself, and for my coyote friend, for our wounds. I opened my eyes, sat upright, and saw the coyote was sitting at my feet, watching me cry.



TUNNEL

PHOTOS BY CARRIE ELZEY



COYOTE DEN

Our journey led us deeper through the tunnels, scattered with bones of long lost life; the skull of a fawn, the jaw of a coyote... hips and bits and pieces of a way of life occurring just outside of everyday human consciousness. She led us back to the street. We stepped into a redwood grove off the road and played one last game. We took turns pouncing on low-lying redwood branches that would amusingly bounce back at us from the force of our weight. We were much closer now, occupying space no more than three feet apart. We exited the redwood grove. She went down the road; I went up.

I never saw her again. By happenstance, I discovered that she was killed a week later. Shot by the Department of Fish and Wildlife after deeming trapping her a drain on resources. She had been fed, becoming familiar with humans, and her life was taken for blurring the boundaries between human and non-human space.

Nicole Shaffer lives and works in Oakland, CA. Her installations have been exhibited throughout the Bay Area and U.S. at galleries such as Southern Exposure, New Langton, and Krowwork, as well as in non-traditional spaces varying from abandoned schools and trucks to hotels and of particular interest, homes. In order to cater to her work's unusual exhibition venues, she has gained experience in organizing events to showcase her work and build community. Nicole holds a BFA in sculpture from the California College of Arts and Crafts, and is a former resident of the Vermont Studio Center and the Stonehouse Residency for the Contemporary Arts, and is a co-founder of The Hatchery Art Space. More information about Nicole can be found at nicolekshaffer.com.

Antler: Bard of Nature, Heir to Walt Whitman

Allen Ginsberg declared him to be “one of Whitman’s ‘poets and orators to come.’” He received the Whitman Prize in 1985 from the Walt Whitman Association, given to the poet “whose contribution best reveals the continuing presence of Walt Whitman in American poetry.” He was the poet laureate of Milwaukee in 2002 and 2003. And he is a fierce advocate for the preservation of wilderness.

Born in 1946, Antler has lived most of his life in his native Wisconsin, where he gave his heart to poetry as a young teen. His urban poetry expresses cutting satire and generous humor in its wry observations of civilization’s ongoing “progress,” while his wilderness poems demonstrate his extraordinary presence in the natural world. Those who explore further into his oeuvre will find that he also calls to mind Whitman with his expansive sexuality and naturalism, guilelessly and openly presented.

Last Words, first published in 1986, is still in the catalogue of Ballantine Books. Along with 65 other poems by Antler, this volume contains the complete text of his 1980 epic poem “Factory,” originally published by Lawrence Ferlinghetti’s City Lights Books to acclaim by poets, ecologists, and factory workers. Other smaller volumes, such as Soft Skull Press’s *Antler: The Selected Poems* (2000) and Falling Tree Press’s *Subterranean Rivulet* (1996), are out of print but can be still be purchased from booksellers online. His works have appeared in over 700 literary magazines and 80 anthologies.



A Second Before It Bursts

Seeing my reflection on a river
and seeing a bubble float into my reflection
the bubble also reflecting me,
So I see the reflection of my face in the bubble
in the reflection of my face
on the river,
While below on the bottom
the shadow of the bubble passes over
golden fallen sunken leaves
So it looks like inside my face is a riverbottom
of golden fallen sunken leaves
with the shadow of a bubble passing over
while on the surface
My reflected face with a bubble moving in it
also reflecting me
and me thinking
It will burst any second
just before it
bursts

What the God Says Through Me

You won't hear my poems at the poetry reading.
You won't hear my poems over the radio.
If you want what the God says through me
Come alone with me into Quetico
and we'll canoe across lake after lake
where there are no roads or houses
To a perfect lake with a perfect island
Where you and I will pitch our camp
and catch fish for twilight supper.

Sitting around the fire at night
Ask me to read something I wrote
For this is the place to hear me,
More stars overhead than you ever saw,
no other light in the woods for miles,
no other sound but the loon
And the night wilderness smells of September.
This is the place to hear my voice
if you want what the God says through me.

Campfire Talk

Lonely, contemplating suicide?
Go alone into the forest, find a clearing,
Gather wood, build a fire, stay up all night
 with the fire and the stars.
Have a little blackberry brandy as your telescope
 to bring the stars closer in.
The sound of the fire, the smell of the fire,
The light and heat of the fire
 will help you, heal you.
A campfire's a Paleolithic experience
 we can all still have.

Renew the pledge of brotherhood round the fire.
Renew the pledge of sisterhood round the fire.
Hold hands in a circle and each make
 the sacred vow and pledge
And then silence, silence
 and the fire,
But really you're alone
You only imagined your friends
 and lovers near,
Only imagined all the poets you love
 holding hands round the fire as one.

The flames recede,
The logs fall in among themselves,
Sparks fly up, a puff of smoke, a sigh,
 the fire dies down.
The cold creeps in and you draw nearer
 the ebbing flame,
And then the embers, the embers glowing
 softly red
While above the startling stars
 and forest smell rush in
 as eyes adjust to the dark.

The towering ancient trees nearby
Cease being lit
 by flickering light.
Warm your hands one last time
 over the dying fire.
Remain. Remain long
 after the fire is out,
Long after the cold creeps in.
Look up at the stars
 longer than you ever have
 and maybe ever will.

Renew the pledge of friendship round the fire.
Renew the pledge of love around the fire.
Make the vow of vows under the stars.
Renew, renew around the campfire
 in the wilderness under a wilderness of stars.
And then silence, silence and the expiring fire
 and the silent continuous movement
 of Stars and Earth in Space
Till the embers fade away —
 and with the first light of day
 shoulder your pack and head forth.

— Antler



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Tehipite Topics is published three to four times per year. Color versions of the *Topics* are available on the chapter website at www.sierraclub.org/tehipite/newsletters. Back issues are archived on the website beginning from April 2004. Articles and photographs from Sierra Club members are always welcome for our coming issues. Send your contributions for the Winter 2016 issue by email to robertsturner52@gmail.com before January 1st.

DECEMBER 16th GENERAL MEETING

The Tehipite Chapter invites the public to a presentation by Helen Gigliotti:

Cruising the Subantarctic Islands of New Zealand

The Subantarctic Islands are a largely uninhabited circle of islands off the coast of New Zealand. Designated a World Heritage site, these islands are rich scenically and abound with endemic flora and fauna. Macquarie Island, in particular, offers a near-Antarctic experience.

We will be gathering at our usual location in the University of California Center at 550 E. Shaw in Fresno, across from Fashion Fair Mall, at 7:00 PM.

There is plenty of free parking.

THIS SHOWING IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

