



Tehipite Topics

May 2007 ☞ Vol. 53, No. 5

www.tehipite.sierraclub.org



photo © Miko Kangas (www.mikkokangas.smugmug.com)

Letter from Tehipite Chapter Scholarship Awardee

Dear Members of the Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club, Before anything, I want to say, “Thank you.” My freshman year at CSUMB will end in three weeks, but the academic and personal experiences have been rewarding. At the conclusion of my fall semester, I received a 4.0 for my academic coursework. My academic achievements have continued and I am proud to say that I plan on completing my freshman year with a grade point average of 4.0. Your financial support has motivated me to perform to my best abilities. More importantly, your financial support removed the stress that comes with tuition and textbooks fees. Becoming a finalist and being chosen for your scholarship has allowed me to continue my dream of getting a Ph.D. in conservation research.

During the summer of 2006, I worked for a nonprofit organization called the Aquarius Aquarium Institute. I was volunteering for Tom and Aletha Lang, founders of the aquarium. Volunteering as an active member of the insti-

tute required patience, devotion, good people skills, and the courage to present to visiting crowds. We had different fundraising events this summer to help build the aquarium. Events like a “Tropical Breeze Gala” and “Swim for the Shore” involved a lot of time commitment. You can learn more about the aquarium if you visit the Web at www.aquariusaquarium.org. Besides volunteering at Aquarius Aquarium Institute, I covered for my aunt at her restaurant and prepared for college. These summer experiences increased my hospitality and communication skills as well as giving me the chance to meet amazing people.

The learning environment at CSUMB, has given me the opportunity to devote all my energy to my academic classes. Writing essays, completing math assignments, and creating a website were some of my academic responsibilities. You can explore my website at www.homecsumb.edu/g/gonzalesmyray/world/. Planning my academic schedules, making

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May General Meeting

“Wildlife of Southern Brazil—a Digital Slide Show”

presented by Helen Gigliotti



Wednesday, May 16th at 7:00 P.M.
University of California Center
550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno
(across from Fashion Fair)

Join Helen on a fabulous safari to several relatively untouristed areas of Brazil, as we explore regions of remarkable biodiversity and a high degree of endemism – rare and endangered primates, and over 400 species of birds are there to be seen. We will visit Caratinga and Caraca, the two most spectacular reserves in Brazil’s threatened and fragmented Atlantic forest system, less well-known, but 20 million years older than the Amazon. In Serra da Canastra

National Park, we will experience the world’s highest concentrations of giant anteaters. The highlight of our safari will be several days in the Pantanal, the planet’s largest wetland area, supporting huge numbers of capybara (the world’s largest rodent), giant river otters, the elusive jaguar and numerous exotic water birds. Our finale will be a visit to the celebrated Iguacu Falls. Come join us!

Conservation & Executive Committees

Wednesday, May 9th at 7:00 P.M.
University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno



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Merced Group

Conservation and Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 3rd at 7:00 P.M.

Thursday, June 7th at 7:00 P.M.

at Rod Webster's home, 345 E. 20th St., Merced.

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

No General Meeting in May

Annual May Picnic

Saturday, May 5th at 11:00 A.M.

at Sally and Charlie Magnusen's
10235 El Capitan, Ballico

Bring a potluck item to share, your place setting, and a chair. If you wish, bring meat or fish to barbecue.

June General Meeting

Thursday, June 21th 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.

Outings, from page 7

do some other cleanup float trips and cleanups from the shore as well, if you are not an early riser. Please call for more details and free reservations. Space is limited. You are welcome to bring your own canoe or kayak.
Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971

June 17th - Sunday

Day Hike (2C)

Stanford Point

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

John Flaherty (209) 742-4668

July 15th - Sunday

Day Hike (2A)

Pothole Dome and Tuolumne River
An exploratory stroll on the edge of the meadow to various points along the river.

John Flaherty (209) 742-4668

July 20th - 21st (Friday-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

August 19th - Sunday

Day Hike (3C)

Chilnualna Falls

John Flaherty (209) 742-4668

September 16th - Sunday

Day Hike (2B)

Gaylor Lake

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

John Flaherty (209) 742-4668

October 14th - Sunday

Day Hike (2B)

Lewis Creek

Route to be determined by group interest.

John Flaherty (209) 742-4668



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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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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Tehipite Chapter Appeals the Kings River Project

by Richard Kangas

Longtime forest activist Richard Kangas wrote an administrative appeal of the Kings River Project planned by Sierra National Forest. This appeal was approved and submitted on behalf of the Sierra Club's Tehipite Chapter Executive Committee. Other environmental organizations and the State of California also filed appeals; together these appeals document how the Kings River Project would harm our local forests and ask the Forest Service to reconsider their decision on the project. As expected, all the appeals were rejected by the Forest Service. Court action is the only recourse if this project is to be stopped.

The Sierra National Forest, headquartered in Clovis, has been studying how to manage 131,500 acres of forest in an area around Dinkey Creek, southeast of Shaver Lake. The first project in this area is the 13,700 acre Kings River Project. The Forest Service recently gave final approval to this project, despite receiving countless letters of concern from scientists, organizations and the public.

Edward Cole, the Sierra National Forest supervisor, said the plan is designed to restore the forest to its pre-1850 condition. That sounds exciting, because it means that, in the future, this forest, currently fragmented by decades of logging, would look just like it did before the forty-niners arrived in California. The forest would be filled with giant, old ponderosa, sugar pine, and cedar trees, just as it was before 1850.

Mr. Cole plans to create this giant old forest by more logging.

Because there is no scientific evidence to back up his premise that logging will actually restore the forest and make it full of old trees, Forest Supervisor Cole includes scientific experiments in his plan. He says that logging must be done in a certain way, so the experiments can prove that logging trees of different sizes and ages will make the forest just like it was before 1850.

At first, Mr. Cole said that trees up to 35 inches in diameter would be logged. But, in his final plan, Mr. Cole changed that to 30 inches, because some environmentalists complained. Some trees in this area take 10 years to grow an inch in diameter: a tree 35 inches in diameter could be 350 years old.

A scientist named Malcolm North has been studying how a logged forest can be restored to original conditions. His work, done right next to the Kings River Project area, at the Teakettle Experimental Forest, shows that no trees larger than 20 inches in diameter should be logged if we want a forest with big old trees, as before 1850. Other scientists suggest that even logging 20-inch diameter trees will sabotage forest recovery.

Forest Supervisor Cole says thinning the forest over a mile from cabins would help to prevent fires from burning the cabins down. Evidence points to the contrary. U.S. Forest Service chief fire specialist Denny Truesdale has said that the woody materials that need to be reduced are shrubs, twigs, and saplings less than three inches in diameter—not the mature trees that loggers will cut. The Forest Service's own National Fire Plan warns against the use of commercial logging to address fire management. The Forest Service found that "the removal of large, merchantable trees from forests does not reduce fire risk and may, in fact, increase

such risk.” Logging allows wind and sun to dry and heat the forest. It also encourages the growth of flammable brush.

So how are we to protect structures? The work of Jack Cohen, a prominent Forest Service fire scientist at the Forest Service Fire Lab in Missoula, Montana, has shown that the “home ignition zone,” the distance which a structure must be from a forest fire, in order not to ignite, is about 200 feet. Mr. Cohen says thinning within about 200 feet and using fire-safe measures such metal roofs and prudent placement of woodpiles can protect most structures from burning.

Forest Supervisor Cole says he wants to help wildlife survive by logging in the Kings River Project. Despite his own agency’s science, he insists the forest needs to be logged to protect it from burning down. There are many animals that depend on what remains of the older forest in the area. A very important animal is the Pacific fisher, a large weasel that lives in dark old forests. Biological studies show the Pacific fisher population is at risk in the Kings River Project area and all over the southern Sierra Nevada, because too many large trees have already been

logged and many conditions the fisher needs to survive have been destroyed. The Pacific fisher needs a messy forest with large, downed logs and a dark forest with little sun reaching the ground.

Mr. Cole says the Kings River Project will log slowly enough not to hurt the Pacific fisher, even though his project will open the forest to the sky even more than it is today. But William Zielinski, a scientist who is an expert on the Pacific fisher, says this project will put the fisher in grave jeopardy. Today the forest blocks about 60 percent of the sky. But Mr. Zielinski says the Pacific fisher needs to have 70 to 90 percent of the sky blocked in its habitat. It needs dark areas for resting and nest building. If we want the Pacific fisher to survive, we can’t let more light into the forest. That means the larger trees must be left in the forest to shade the ground.

The Pacific fisher qualifies for listing under the Endangered Species Act, but it has not been listed because of agency financial difficulties. The National Forest Management Act requires the Forest Service to manage its lands so that no species becomes threatened or endangered.

Regardless, Mr. Cole says his plan will protect the habitat for wildlife.

Another law, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), requires clear and careful explanations for Federal projects. It requires each plan to be written so an ordinary person can read and understand it. NEPA also requires that the latest and best science is used to guide a project. A project is supposed to make sense.

If Mr. Cole’s reasons for approving this project are to protect homes and wildlife and to restore the forest to its condition before 1850, the Kings River Project plan doesn’t make sense. Cutting larger trees to increase the number of large trees more quickly doesn’t make sense. Removing essential habitat requirements from a species in trouble doesn’t make sense.

However, if the project is designed to produce logs to feed a timber industry that is running out of places to log because of past over-logging, then we might begin to see one reason for the project. Mr. Cole’s Kings River Project planners do not seem to have followed the advice of their own Forest Service scientists. But they have written a plan that would provide a large amount of timber to the mill. That is unfortunate, because planners are required by law to follow the best science available. And that is why we have written appeals contesting the Kings River Project plan. ❀

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Getting Smart Growth Candidates Elected

Question: How do you shift growth management decision-making from what's good for the development industry to what's best for local residents and the environment?

Answer: By electing decision-makers committed to smart growth and other responsible growth management policies.

This is the focus of the latest addition (Chapter 42) to *How to Win Land Development*, a 280-page book which can be downloaded free from the Community & Environmental Defense Services (CEDS) website: <http://www.ceds.org/>

The book was written by CEDS president Richard Klein, who is the former chair of Greater Baltimore Group of the Sierra Club and a former member of the Sierra Club's National Sprawl Committee.

The intent of Chapter 42, Electing & Retaining Decision-Makers Committed to Responsible Growth Management, is to encourage anti-sprawl activists to focus their limited time and dollars on getting good decision-makers elected rather than just fighting specific devel-

opment projects. In fact, for what it costs to fight one project, local activists can frequently get one or two good candidates elected to local growth management decision-making positions. Once the local decision-making body is dominated by responsible growth management candidates, activists will prevent far many more bad development ventures than they ever could, fighting sprawl one project at a time.

The other 41 chapters in *How to Win Land Development Issues* focus on stopping projects that are so poorly planned that the impact to the environment or nearby residents cannot be ignored. In addition to this book, a number of other publications can be downloaded free from the CEDS website. Additionally, CEDS will attempt to answer specific questions from activists free of charge by phone or email:

(800) 773-4571 or info@ceds.org. They will also review plans of concern to local activists free of charge. During the review, CEDS will identify potential impacts and how the project might be modified to resolve adverse effects. But plan reviews must be scheduled, so contact CEDS before forwarding any documents.

CEDS exists solely to help people defend their community and environment from the impact of sprawl, bad zoning decisions, and other flawed development projects. CEDS is a nationwide network of more than 130 attorneys and dozens of other professionals, including planners, environmental scientists, traffic engineers, political strategists, and fund raisers, to name but a few. CEDS clients win 75 percent of the time, which is a far greater success rate than citizens usually experience. The CEDS success rate is so unusually high because of the unique approach taken to waging land use and zoning battles. The CEDS approach is not only more successful, but also far less expensive compared to that employed by many attorneys outside our network. About two-thirds of CEDS clients take the free assistance and run with the campaign on their own. The other third hire CEDS to manage a portion or all of their campaign, which is how CEDS stays in business. ☞



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.

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See you on Donner Summit...



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

Outings Schedule

Outing Ratings

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

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

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

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

May 5th - Saturday

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

May 5th - Saturday

*Yokuts Group of the
Motherlode Chapter*

Day Hike (2A)

Lake Chabot

This 8.5 mile east bay hike features sandy beaches, waterfowl, oak chaparral, canyons and creeks. Modestans meet at N. Modesto Park 'n' Ride on Sisk Rd. (near Vintage Fair Mall) at 8 A.M. Others call/email for alternative meeting place. Bring lunch, beverage, \$ for carpool, rain gear, and other essentials. Probable dinner stop.

*Elaine Gorman, (209) 524-7630
or goford@sbcglobal.net*

May 12th - Saturday

Day Hike (1A)

Muir Grove

Hike to a nice redwood grove in Sequoia. Bears usually seen.

Don Redmond (559) 268-1537

May 13th - Sunday

Day Hike (2D)

Yosemite Falls

Possible change due to late snow.

John Flaherty (209) 742-4668

May 19th - Saturday

Day Hike (2B) Moderate

Our very own Twin Lakes in the Kaiser Wilderness. At Potter Pass you spy Ritter and Banner 30 miles north.

Kathy Hart (559) 299-1752

Call after 6:00 P.M.

May 26th - Saturday

Day Hike (3D) Strenuous

Four Mile Trail

This is Walt's Panoramic Hike. We leave from Yosemite Valley Floor and climb to glacier Point. From There, we follow the Panoramic Trail over the Illilouette, across the Panoramic Cliffs to Nevada Falls, then down the Mist Trail past Vernal Falls.

About 13 miles and 4000' elevation gain.

Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818

June 2nd - Saturday

Day Hike (2B)

Redwood Canyon

Annual event through a great Sequoia area. Goodies supplied afterward.

Don Redmond (559) 268-1537

Teach the River

San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust and California Department of Fish & Game

May 2007

5/1 (Tues.) Educator Appreciation

Afternoon at the River Center

5/5 (Sat.) Weekend Nature Walk

5/5 (Sat.) River Workdays

5/12 (Sat.) Weekend Nature Walk

June 2007

6/7 (Sat.) National River Cleanup

6/9 (Sat.) Celebrate California's Free Fishing Day

Space is limited. For more information or to register, please call (559)433-3190 ext. 3# or go to www.teachtheriver.org.

June 2nd - Saturday

Day hike (2C) Strenuous

Join me in climbing to the top of the world's 5th highest waterfall, Yosemite Falls. How tall is it? Stack the Eiffel Tower on top of the Sears tower, and you get the idea. Learn about flaky rocks, and why it's called Yosemite Falls and not Yosemite Fall.
Don Gaede (559) 434-5138

June 2nd - 10th

National River Cleanup

San Joaquin River

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

See Outings, page 3



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The *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—May 11th for the June issue. Submit material to Topics@BigBaldy.com.

Scholarship, from page 1

new friends, and volunteering at Aquarius Aquarium have kept me really busy. With the Aquarius Aquarium Institute, I clean and maintain a fresh water tank and a salt water tank for two clients in Carmel, California. Another valuable work experience is working for the Science Leadership office at the Earth System Science and Policy building. I work for Herbert Cortez and the office is created to help first generation, low income students and underrepresented minorities with academic advancement in science, technology, engineering, and math.

My job is to meet with the freshman and sophomore students, find their interests and career goals, and connect them with an internship, scholarship, and job opportunity. The office supports the costs of their textbooks and funding for any research or internship experiences. I have taken advantage of assisting students by focusing on my personal career interests. For example, I met with Mauricio Madueño, a recruiting representative for the Monterey Bay Aquarium, at a career fair at CSUMB. I found two positions to work there as an on call summer representative for the aquarium and a husbandry assistant. These experiences have also led me to actively participate in the ESSP Science Club. Through this club I met Cheryl McCormick, who

works for the Santa Lucia Conservancy. This is a possible internship site for the academic fall semester.

Your support has opened the door to my academic and professional success at CSUMB. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. I hope to remain in contact with you throughout my four years at CSUMB. Your commitment to the community and the earth helps students achieve their educational goals, which I admire greatly. What you have done for me has not gone unappreciated and will certainly not be forgotten. Thank You!

Myra Y. Gonzalez ✨

May General Meeting (page 2)

