



Tehipite Topics

December 2007 ❧ Vol. 53, No. 9

www.tehipite.sierraclub.org

Alaskan Summer

by Heather Anderson

After a year of communication and three weeks preparation for art classes and a visual talk, I was finally on the way to Anchorage, Alaska as Artist-in-Residence. My first volunteer tour-of-duty was at Copper Center in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, our largest national park, about four hours northeast of Anchorage. The art lessons, sponsored by the National Park Service for local elementary students, focused on Alaskan wilderness and wildlife. This included trees, flowering plant life, birds, mammals, mountains, and glaciers. I wanted students to learn about their environment as well as to draw it.

Lessons were also given at the Kennicott Center, where once a great copper mining operation thrived. Getting there was a 60-mile drive over a dirt road, with terrific views of the spectacular Chitina River Canyon. Kennicott and McCarthy are adjacent villages with opposite origins. In former years McCarthy was a small sprawling gold mining center with saloons, gambling and dance halls, while Kennicott was the industrial mining center with side-by-side housing in one neat row fronting the glacier. Now, both areas operate sport centers for rafting, glacier hiking, camping, climbing, and flight seeing. The Park Service operates a Visitor Center in Kennicott—soon to be replaced with a more modern facility—to educate and enlighten tourists. McCarthy supports a hostel, a hotel, and the hardware store where I stayed, a kind of bed and breakfast, complete with outhouse and outdoor shower. Presently it is summer home to a six-week university glacier ecology study group. My two-week session concluded with a sunny day off for glacier hiking, while discovering turquoise potholes and glacial creeks trickling through miniature icy canyons.

In June, the vegetation was thriving with poplars and pines, grasses and wildflowers, chief of which is the flaming pink fireweed, the state flower. The distant snowy mountains played hide and seek with the clouds, making it difficult to find a clear view for painting them. I did,



See *Alaskan Summer*, page 6

December General Meeting

“Movie Night at Tehipite”

Wednesday, December 19th at 7:00 P.M.

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

Interested in learning more about international trade and its impacts on communities and the environment? Join us for a screening of the film *Maquilapolis: City of Factories* and share in the riveting tale of women factory workers’ fight for justice and a healthy environment.

Since the inception of NAFTA, many U.S. factories have left the States and set up shop in Mexico, where environmental standards are less stringent and labor is cheaper. With many small farmers out of work (thanks also to NAFTA), new factory jobs on the border are highly sought after, despite the fact that workers often labor in highly toxic environments and receive wages insufficient to support them or their families.

See *General Meeting*, page 3

Conservation & Executive Committees

Wednesday, December 12th at 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, January 9th, at 7:00 P.M.

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



Tehipite Chapter

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Merced Group

Conservation and Executive Committee Meetings

Thursday, December 6th at 7:00 P.M.
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 get informed or get as involved as you wish.

Merced Group General Meetings

Third Thursday of each month
Sierra Presbyterian Church
3603 M St., Merced
Meetings start at 7:00 P.M. and are finished by 9:00 P.M.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Below is a listing of our proposed future meetings. Since planning is still in progress, there may be changes in this schedule.

Thursday, January 17th

General Meeting

Nick Robinson, Melissa Kelly Ortega (Asthma Coalition), David Lighthall
Forum on the proposed Wal-Mart and air quality
This may possibly be a Special Meeting depending on the timing of the EIR.

Thursday, February 21st

General Meeting

Bill Nicholson and Kim Espinoza
General Plan update for the City and County of Merced

Please see the Tehipite and Yokuts (Modesto area) chapter listings for outings. Phone Rod Webster at (209) 723-4747 to coordinate carpooling.

Calendars, note and Christmas cards, and planners will soon be available. We are looking for a volunteer willing to sell these items. Contact Rod Webster or Annette Allsup if you are able to help us out.

We are in need of a laptop to use with our newly acquired projector. It doesn't have to be fancy. If you are upgrading, please consider donating your old laptop to us for our programs.

General Meeting, from page 2

Moreover, the factories routinely dump their waste into the surrounding neighborhoods, affecting the environment and health of children and family members of the factory workers.

Maquilapolis documents the heroic efforts of women factory workers in Tijuana to fight for their basic rights as workers and people, and to end their mistreatment at the hands of foreign corporations.

Below is our tentative schedule for upcoming months.

January 26th Tehipite Chapter Awards Banquet at the Old Spaghetti Factory. Ron Stork will speak on Central Valley Rivers.

February 20th Barbara Boxer's office on California's Environment in Politics.

March - no meeting

April 16th Helen Gigliotti on Tibet. Don't miss this!

May - no meeting

June 18th To be announced.



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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 Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX
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 Card Number _____
 Exp. Date ____/____/____

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Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
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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

F94Q W1300 1

Ron Stork

Senior Policy Advocate, Friends of the River



For the last 15 years, Ron has had the principal responsibility of organizing Friends of the River's flood-management advocacy efforts in the American River watershed. During that time he has worked with the Sacramento Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) to fashion floodwater man-

agement approaches in the Sacramento Region that could garner strong community and environmental support. As part of that effort, he served as a liaison to the National Research Council's Committee on Flood Control Alternatives in the American River Basin and continues to serve as a member of SAFCA's Lower American River Task Force.

In recent years, Ron has worked on a number of Central Valley and California flood management issues, serving on the California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) California Floodplain Management Task Force and on working groups of the Corps/Reclamation Board Sacramento & San Joaquin Basins Comprehensive Study. He continues to serve on the interagency Yuba Feather Workgroup, focusing on flood-management issues in this basin. He recently served as a member of the independent review panel chaired by General Gerald Galloway on *A California Challenge—Flooding in the Central Valley*, a report to the DWR.

Ron is a member of the Sacramento Area Water Forum, a group of community leaders working to fashion water-development approaches that protect the area's riverine environments (including the American River Parkway) while helping to satisfy developing community water supply infrastructure needs.

Before beginning his work on the American River for Friends of the River, he held the primary responsibility for dam licensing and permitting proceedings (and associated legal and legislative policy initiatives) before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the State Water Resources Control Board, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. Ron has also had responsibilities for Friends of the River's wild & scenic river designation and planning programs, including serving on the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Lower American River Parkway Plan update. He has also worked with major water-quality challenged rivers as well—serving on the DWR/Department of the Interior Citizens Advisory Committee for the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program.

Ron received his Bachelor of Science degree from the School of Agriculture at the University of California at Davis in Plant Science. In his occasional spare time, Ron can be found ambling along mountain trails or floating western rivers with a hand lens and a large Flora in hand, searching for rare wildflowers. 🌿

September 27, 2007

Tehipite Chapter Annual Awards Banquet

Saturday, January 26th

Ron Stork, a former member of our chapter, will be the featured speaker at our Awards Banquet, where he will present "Rivers Run Through It, Central California Rivers and You." For the last 15 years, Ron has held the principal responsibility of organizing Friends of the River's flood-management advocacy efforts in the American River watershed. Ron has worked on Central Valley and California flood management issues, serving on the California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) California Floodplain Management Task Force, on working groups of the Corps/Reclamation Board Sacramento & San Joaquin Basins Comprehensive Study.

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Banquet tickets are \$25.

Checks should be made out to "Tehipite Chapter, Sierra Club."

Mail to

Ron Mackie

1617 Highway 49 South

Ahwahnee, CA 93601

Start time is 6:00 p.m. on January 26th at The Old Spaghetti Factory, 1610 E. Shaw Avenue (east of Cedar).

There are three entree selections. Please indicate your choice when you send in payment for the banquet. The restaurant needs to know this information in advance. Please choose from the following:

1. Meatballs & Spaghetti with Tomato Sauce
2. Spinach and Cheese Ravioli (vegetarian option) topped with Savory Tomato Sauce
3. Breast of Chicken Fettuccine

Dinner includes entree; salad; bread; dessert; one bar drink of beer, wine or a soft drink; and ice tea/milk/coffee at the table upon request.

For more more information, call Ron Mackie at (559) 683-0293 or email rmackie@sierratel.com.

however, manage to paint Donaho Peak previously, from my last trip there. I plan to return for another Alaskan summer in a different landscape next season, perhaps a Si-

erra Club raft trip. Any joiners? (Check the Outings in the Nov./Dec. *Sierra* or in the forthcoming Jan./Feb. issue.) 🐾



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.

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.

December 5th - December 9th Wednesday - Sunday

Leave Wednesday evening, return late Sunday. Car camp on the west side of the Panamint Mountains. We will possibly be going into the Stripped Butte area (about 100 miles of dirt road). Exact route depends on weather. Call for more information.
Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971

December 8th - Saturday

Day Hike (2B) Moderate
San Joaquin River Gorge
Expect to do some climbing. Enjoy an expansive view from the Lunch Rocks on top of the bluff (1800 ft.) The trail makes a loop back over the bridge to the parking lot.
Gerald Vinnard (559) 431-5780

December 8th - Saturday

Cross Country Skiing—Intermediate
Location to be determined, weather and snow permitting.
Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818

December 16th - Sunday

Snowshoeing
Five mile round trip to a beautiful vista at Panoramic Point in Kings Canyon National Park. This trip can be easy or strenuous depending upon snow conditions.
Karen Hammer (559) 298-5272

Fledglings Outings

The Fledglings is not a Sierra Club or an Audubon organization. It is just a bunch of people that use birds for an excuse to go outside and appreciate nature. Anyone who is interested, please contact fledglings@sbcglobal.net.

2007

December - ?

2008

February - Pinoche Wildlife Area

March - Arizona

April - Arena Plains

May - River NWR

June - Del Puerto Canyon

Island Hopping, from page 8

lived on these islands for thousands of years. Activities include guided hikes on each island, kayaking, beachcombing, or just relaxing at sea. All cruises depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68-foot twin diesel, *Truth*. Fee includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, beverages, and the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes and point out items of interest. Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit Sierra Club's political program in California. To make a reservations, send a \$100 check payable to Sierra Club to Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. For questions, contact leader (626) 443-0706; jholtzhln@aol.com. ☞

"Lake" Manly and the Panamint Range, seen from Dante's View in Death Valley National Park



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Inside *Tehipite Topics*

Alaskan Summer.....	Cover
Chapter Meetings	2
Merced Group	3
Ron Stork	4
Tehipite Chapter Annual Awards Banquet	6
Outings	7
Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park	Back

Deadline for *Tehipite Topics* is the second Friday of each month—December 14th for the January issue. Submit material to Topics@BigBaldy.com.

Been on a Sierra Club outing lately?
Send us your photos!

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

Six Fundraising Cruises Offered in 2008

February 9-11, 3 islands (\$475)

April 4-7; May 2-5; July 18-21 4 islands (\$775)

August 23-27; September 13-17 all 5 islands (\$925)

Come and explore the wild, windswept Channel Islands National Park. This beautiful area abounds with wildlife—plants, animals, birds—some known only here. All islands are ringed with rugged shorelines and dotted with sea caves. In spring, the islands are ablaze with wildflowers; in summer, the pristine waters of the Marine Sanctuary surrounding the islands entice swimmers, snorkelers and kayakers. Each island offers special charm: **San Miguel**, white sandy beaches and a huge congregation of elephant seals; **Santa Rosa**, its rare stand of Torrey Pines; **Santa Cruz**, high mountains, deep valleys and the famous Painted Caves; **Anacapa**, a huge brown pelican rookery, picturesque lighthouse, and excellent snorkeling waters; tiny **Santa Barbara** island, a friendly colony of sea lions who swim with snorkelers and follow kayakers. Visitors marvel at remains of the rich culture left behind by the Chumash people who

See Island Hopping, page 7



clair tappaan a lodge close to nature

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.

The Lodge grooms its own cross country ski and snowshoe trails, rents equipment for these activities and offers cross country ski lessons. The unbeatable location of the Lodge provides quick and easy access to the legendary Donner Summit backcountry ski terrain or any of its downhill or cross country ski resorts.

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

See you on Donner Summit...



For more information about the Lodge 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.