



# Tehipite Topics

March 2010 ☞ Vol. 56, No. 3

[www.tehipite.sierraclub.org](http://www.tehipite.sierraclub.org)

## National Board of Directors Election

The Sierra Club's national election for the Board of Directors is now underway. The candidates are listed below in the order they will appear on the ballot:

Katherine Pendleton (TN) P  
Phil Wheeler (CA) N  
Jared Duval (CT) N  
Jim Dougherty (DC) N  
Allison Chin (VA) N  
Donna Buell (IA) N  
Robbie Cox (NC) N  
Jonathan Ela (WI) N

N = Nominating Committee candidate; P = Petition candidate

Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet for those who chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club's website.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation. Your Board of Directors is required to stand for election by the membership. This Board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the Executive Director and staff to operate the Club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. Visit the Club's election website: :

<http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2010election/default.aspx>

This site provides links to additional information about candidates, and their views on a variety of issues facing the Club and the environment.

You should use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate. Then make your choice and cast your vote. Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, please go to the user-friendly Internet voting site to save time and postage. Alternatively, you will find the ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark and mail.

## Funding Appeal

Dear Members and Friends of the Tehipite Chapter,

March is the only time your Tehipite Chapter is permitted to appeal directly to their members for financial support. In the past you have responded generously to our requests for financial assistance and I thank all of you for your support. I wish to take this opportunity to mention a few of our Chapter's efforts on your behalf.

Our Chapter's conservation and executive committees were very active during the past year keeping the Chapter informed of local events including organizing the wonderful speakers and presentations at our general meetings. The Chapter has continued the fight to improve the health of our local rivers, the Kern, Kings and San Joaquin. Our members have closely monitored the first releases of water last fall to the San Joaquin River as the result of a decades long legal settlement. Despite seeing water flow again in parts of what was once the second longest flowing river in California, issues regarding water persist, and Tehipite Chapter remains involved.

The Chapter, through its Yosemite Committee, submitted extensive scoping comments as a preliminary part of the new planning process for Yosemite National Park. The planning effort shall be the largest ever undertaken by the National Park system and participating in this process will continue to consume massive amounts of our time and energy for the next several years. Our efforts will help ensure adoption of a plan, which will be protective of Yosemite's natural resources and provide a quality visitor experience.

The Chapter provided comments regarding a proposed cell phone tower above Grant Grove, replacement Vehicle Bridge in Kings Canyon National Park and continues to monitor issues regarding Sierra National Forest.

Our newsletter and online web page provides valuable communication regarding issues that affect our region and daily lives. Members have focused on energy issues, land use, air quality and climate change. Many hours have been spent analyzing the impacts of potential power generation projects, such as the Parlier natural gas plant, the Avenal Power Plant, power transmission corridors and renewable energy projects. Our political committee is presently preparing to monitor and potentially endorse local, state, and federal candidates for the elections this fall.

All of these efforts are made possible by your help and support. So I ask you, please use the enclosed envelope to contribute generously so that the Chapter can continue to work together to protect our resources and environment for future generations.

Thank you so much for your support.

Sincerely,  
Jeremy Clar  
Chapter Chair

# Chapter Meetings

## General Meeting

There will be no general meeting in March

The General Meeting in April will be  
**April 21 at the University of California  
 Center, 550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno**

**April 21, 7 PM:  
 Movie Night  
 and  
 Birthday Celebration  
 for  
 John Muir**

## Conservation & Executive Committee Meetings

**Wednesday, March 10, at 7:00 P.M.**

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



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 of the Sierra Club  
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# Merced Group

## Merced Group

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### Membership . . . . . open

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### Population

. . . . . open

## Conservation and Executive Committee Meetings

**Thursday, March 4**  
**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, March 18, 7 P.M.**  
**Sierra Presbyterian Church, 3603 "M" St.**  
(Yosemite Ave and M, across from Merced College)

### "A Month in Papua, Indonesia and Bali"

Jean Okuye

Local farmer and Merced Group member Jean Okuye will share her photos and adventures from a full month in this exotic destination. Most have heard of Papua, New Guinea, Jean was on the other side of the island- Papua, Indonesia. She was hosted by her niece, who with her family, has lived for ten years in Sentani, Papua. A memorable part of Jean's trip was a flight back into a jungle village where she stayed for four days. Jean is know for her passion for birding which has taken her all over the world. In Papua she actually saw few birds because "the kids are great with sling shots and I think they eat anything that moves." Sounds as though Jean might have had some interesting culinary experiences to share with us! In all Jean spent 26 days in Papua and four in Bali. She found Bali to be a totally different experience. This piques my curiosity to find out in what ways that was so. Jean took many photos during her adventures, including some very colorful native celebrations. She definitely had the connections to see more than the customary "tourist" version of these exotic places. In addition, a full month provides insights into what daily life and local culture are really like.

This should be a fascinating evening. Hope you can join us.

## Help Save Our State Parks!

Please help gather signatures and get this initiative on the ballot!

From the Bay Chapter Yodeler: "Call it death by a thousand budget cuts. Our parks are falling apart because of persistent underfunding. The state still owns the lands - the spectacular vistas, historic sites, and beaches - but roofs and sewage systems leak, restrooms aren't washed out regularly but trails are, and campgrounds and visitor centers are shuttered. The repair backlog in California state parks tops \$1 billion, and it's growing."

A ballot initiative sponsored by the Sierra Club, the California State Parks Foundation, and Audubon California would establish funding to correct these and other serious problems. Volunteers would undergo a brief training session of about an hour and then work in teams to collect signatures.

Please contact Tehipite Chapter Secretary Richard Kangas at (559) 896-5337 or rkangas02@comcast.net.

## Tehipite Awards Banquet

Our awards banquet on February 6th turned out to be an entertaining evening of conversation and remembrances of the past year. The chapter thanked members for their dedicated service to the Sierra Nevada and to the environment. Steve Haze, candidate for U.S. Congress to serve the 20th Congressional District, was introduced. Internationally recognized photographer Stephen Johnson, whose work has appeared in many books and exhibitions, including the Getty Museum, told us how he became interested in digital photography and provided guidance as to how to use the medium to represent nature realistically.

Former Tehipite Chapter vice chair John Honnette received the Outstanding Conservation Award for his exceptional work in energy, sprawl, and air quality. John is an excellent networker who made many useful contacts at out of town meetings.

Tehipite member Helen Gigliotti was honored with the Outstanding Education Award for her superb photographic presentations on the culture and environment of the many countries she has visited.

See "Banquet", page 5



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
<b>Special Offer</b>	<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](http://www.sierraclub.org)

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# Central Valley Water Forum

## Facts Vs. Fiction

March 13, 9 A.M.-4:00 P.M.

Fresno City College

For more information on the event, call 559-313-7674. Visit the Revive the San Joaquin Web site ([www.revivethesanjoaquin.org](http://www.revivethesanjoaquin.org)) for registration forms.

### Agenda:

Registration and coffee/tea

Introductory Remarks - Mark Arax

### Plenary:

Is Our Water Supply Sustainable? - David Cehrs

Water Law: Whose Water Is It? - Lloyd Carter

Facts About the Delta: Can It Be Restored?

Barbara Barrigan-Parilla, Restore the Delta

What Ecological Issues Result from Our Water Crisis? - Dan Bacher

Should We Worry About Our Water Quality?

Community Water Center

Question & Answer Period - All Plenary Panelists

### Lunch

### Break-Out Sessions:

Our Bodies Our Water: Community Rights to Health vs.

Corporate Rights to Profit - Dr. Nancy Price

Water and Jobs - Dr. Jeffrey Michael

Water and Land Use/Planning - Chris Acree, Revive the San Joaquin

Where Our Water Is Going - Walt Shubin

Water Conservation - City of Fresno Staff

### Break

**Break-Out Sessions** - Participants Second Choice of Topics Listed

Above

Pro and Con Presentation of Water Bond Ballot Initiative

One legislator and one environmentalist will represent each side of the issues



from "Banquet", page 3

An exceptional photographer, Helen is a chemistry professor and chair of the CSUF Chemistry Department.

The Outstanding Outings Award went to Karen Hammer in recognition for her service as an outings leader of both winter and summer outings. Karen is a former Tehipite Executive Committee member, and has also served as Chapter secretary. She is now our Publicity Chair. Karen organizes wonderful outings and always gets everyone home safely.

One of the evening's highlights was Hank Urbach, who was honored with the Outstanding Community Service Award in recognition for his many years of service to reviving the Kings River and its fisheries. Thanks to Hank, the Kings is once again becoming a fine trout fishery. He founded the Kings River Parkway Trust, and is president of Fly Fishermen for Conservation.

Thanks to all who attended, and many thanks to Conservation Chair Heather Anderson and Chapter Chair Jeremy Clar for their duties as masters of ceremony. Above all, Tehipite Chapter thanks Marcia Rasmussen for again devoting many difficult hours to organizing the banquet and bringing it off flawlessly. Hats off to you, Marcia!

### Correction

Last month I attributed the story "Whose Water Is It?" to Jean Hays. Jean emailed me and said she didn't write the story. Jean had emailed the story to me, and I mistakenly assumed she had written it. Mea culpa! As near as I can tell from my research, someone at a web site called usafishing.com wrote the article, which is unsigned. So I can only give credit to the anonymous writer at usafishing. I will check more carefully next time.

### Film Review: *Avatar*

The blockbuster film *Avatar*, written and directed by James Cameron, is a must-see for environmentalists and those interested in environmental justice. One hopes the film, which has shattered the record for box office receipts, will signal a reawakening of environmentalism. The film strikes hard at corporate capitalism and the environmental disasters and injustices to human communities corporate capitalism continues to perpetrate.

Set in the year 2154 on Pandora, a moon of a giant planet in the Alpha Centauri system, the film depicts the struggle between the indigenous Na'vi and a mining corporation from Earth supported by a well-armed security contingent. The corporation is willing to do whatever it takes to obtain unobtainium, a fabulously valuable mineral, the richest deposit of which is located under the gigantic mile-high Home Tree, the dwelling of the Na'vi. The Na'vi merely wish to be left alone to live according to their traditions.

Paralegic protagonist, Jake Sully (Sam Worthington), agrees to gain the confidence of the Na'vi and to spy on them in return for an expensive operation to restore the use of his legs. To facilitate his spying, Sully allows his consciousness somehow to be uploaded into a test-tube raised Na'vi body. Thus he succeeds in collecting actionable intelligence about the Na'vi, but falls in love with Neytiri (Zoe Saldana), a Na'vi princess, and winds up leading the Na'vi in defense of their territory and way of life against the technocratic military assault of the mining corporation.

The predictable plot is made up for with artistic beauty and imagination, superb special effects, philosophical and spiritual depth, and good acting. One criticism is that the Na'vi are the "noble savages" of outer space. I remarked early on, "This is Dances with Wolves in space." But this criticism is maybe a bit too cynical. Some of the so-called "savages" were indeed noble, and it does us good now and then to be reminded of their nobility. I remembered what Sir Francis Drake's nephew said of the Miwok people after an encounter in 1579 on the northern California coast:

"They are a people of a tractable, free, and loving nature, without guile or treachery ... the men [are] commonly so strong of body, that that which 2 or 3 of our men could hardly bear, one of them would take upon his back, and without grudging carry it easily away, uphill and downhill an English mile together: they are also exceeding swift in running, and of long continuance, the use whereof is so familiar with them, that they seldom go, but for the most part run." This is also an apt description of the guileless and graceful Na'vi.

Soon after Drake recognized the nobility of the Miwok, he took possession of their lands for Queen Elizabeth I, guilefully using as justification that the Indians needed Christianity. Fortunately, Drake's plans for

See "Avatar" page 6

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

[www.californiagrizzly.org](http://www.californiagrizzly.org)  
[thecaliforniagrizzly.blogspot.com](http://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](mailto:jholtzhl@aol.com)



“Avatar” from page 5.

Northern California had to wait 270 years to be accomplished in the Gold Rush. “Superior beings,” like the English, did terrible deeds in the past in the name of “national interest” (profit), and they continue today to perpetrate similar injustices. *Avatar* is a good reminder of the dark side of “Western Civilization” and a warning that unless we collectively come to our senses, this destructive behavior will continue.

## Answers to Climate Change Deniers

Did you ever get into a discussion at the water cooler about AB 32, California’s Global Warming Solutions Act, and feel at a loss for facts to support climate-change legislation?

Well, here are the facts:

**Fact:** AB 32 will CREATE jobs and economic growth. Researchers estimate that AB 32 policies could increase the Gross State Product (GSP) by about \$76 billion, increasing household incomes by \$48 billion and create as many as 403,000 jobs in the next 12 years. From 1995-2008, the number of California green businesses increased 45 percent, and green jobs expanded by 36 percent, while total jobs in California expanded only 13 percent.

**Fact:** AB 32 will FURTHER drive private investment into clean/green tech. Each \$100 million in venture capital funding helps create 2,700 jobs. Between 1990 and 2006, green technology businesses in California grew by 84 percent. In 2009, while other sectors saw little or no investment, the clean technology sector in California received \$2.1 billion

**Fact:** AB 32 will help hard-working families SAVE money on energy. Californians have already saved \$56 billion on household energy costs between 1972 and 2006 as a result of smart energy policies, creating 1.5 million full-time jobs. The energy savings from AB 32’s increased efficiency policies are expected to save California \$20 billion annually by the year 2020.

**Fact:** AB 32 will DECEASE dependence on Foreign Oil. Climate change and energy are two key issues that will play a significant role in shaping the future security environment. The average Californian household sends more than \$2,500 out of the state each year to buy fossil fuels.

**Fact:** Our environment and economy CAN’T bear a delay in implementing AB 32. If AB 32 is suspended, California could lose more than \$80 billion in Gross State Product and more than a half million jobs by 2020. The suspension of AB 32 could “delay investments in energy technologies reaping longer-run savings, or dampen additional investments in clean energy technologies or in so-called ‘green jobs’ by private firms, thereby resulting in less economic activity than would otherwise be the case.” Unchecked climate change would devastate California’s environment and economy.

Don’t let anyone fool you into believing that we can afford to suspend AB 32!

AB 32 stimulates job creation and clean technology, while helping to relieve our economic, environmental and national security dependence on fossil fuels. AB 32 does not directly regulate or impose fees or taxes on any small business.

Spread the knowledge. Together, we can ensure CA a clean energy future.

## EPA Ozone Changes

On February 4 Sierra Club California paid for buses to Sacramento so that Sierra Club members and others could testify regarding proposed U.S. EPA rules changes on ozone. Current rules, established during the Bush administration, call for a national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) of 75 parts per billion (ppb). The U.S. EPA is reducing the standard to 60-70 ppb for human populations and 15 ppm-hours for ecosystems.

According to the U.S. EPA, “Motor vehicle exhaust and industrial emissions, gasoline vapors, and chemical solvents as well as natural sources emit NOx and VOC that help form ozone. Ground-level ozone is the primary constituent of smog. Sunlight and hot weather cause ground-level ozone to form in harmful concentrations in the air. As a result, it is known as a summertime air pollutant. Many urban areas tend to have high levels of “bad” ozone, but even rural areas are also subject to increased ozone levels because wind carries ozone and pollutants that form it hundreds of miles away from their original sources.”

Once standards are adopted each state must adopt strategies to attain and maintain the NAAQS. According to the American Lung Association, the rules changes would reduce asthma and asthma-related deaths by 50-60 times. Representatives of Fresno Metro Ministries and the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition (CVQC) also attended the hearings and provided testimony. Tehipite

Chapter officers Rod Webster and Chip Ashley presented testimony, and CVQC representative Laura Fultz Stout also testified.

## Book Review: *Democracy Incorporated: Managed Democracy and the Specter of Inverted Totalitarianism*, By Sheldon S. Wolin

Sheldon S. Wolin’s *Democracy Incorporated: Managed Democracy and the Specter of Inverted Totalitarianism* (Princeton University Press) is not about the outdoors, the environment, or nature. But it has everything to do with how our society treats nature and the environment and is likely to treat them in the future.

Wolin taught political philosophy at U.C. Berkeley and Princeton for many years and has many publications and is a well respected scholar.

Wolin explains how in becoming a superpower that controls a global empire the U.S. has evolved away from democracy to become a totalitarian society governed by powerful elites. These elites are of two types: political elites and economic, or capitalist, elites. These two groups—a very small number out of the entire society—share power in an “inverted totalitarianism,” which Wolin describes as an inverted form of fascism. In the fascism of Nazi Germany and fascist Italy, industrial capitalism was subordinate to the state but still enjoyed considerable power. In inverted totalitarianism, the relationship of state and capital is reversed, with capital taking predominance over state.

In inverted totalitarianism, “political elitism displays an affinity with capitalism. Both [political and capitalist elites] believe that the powers of high office, whether in government or business, should be reserved for those who earn them by their personal qualities and exceptional talents—demonstrated under highly competitive conditions—rather than for those who gain power by virtue of popular approval. In the best of worlds, political elites would be entrusted with power and rewarded with prestige; capitalist elites would be rewarded with power and wealth. Because both represent the best, they are, in that view, entitled to power and reward.”

This entitlement to power and reward is similar to “manifest destiny,” which entitled American elites of the 19th century to implement genocide against Native Americans and seize what is now the western United States from Mexico in the Mexican War of the 1840s. The usurping elites, it was argued successfully, had a better use for the land and

See “Wolin” page 8



# 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](http://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](http://www.sierraclubcalifornia.org) and donate generously.

## April 17-18, Saturday-Sunday

### Snow camping/backpacing (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.

### Snowshoe to Buck Rock

By Don Gaede

Adaptability is a good quality for any leader of a Sierra Club outing.

Karen Hammer made good use of that quality recently when she led nine hikers on a snowshoe walk along Lewis Creek, a trail of many faces.

Just one trivial example: Karen and the others decided to circle for lunch. She led them as they tromped around and packed the snow. The plan was to make the circle away from trees to avoid being pelted by snow falling from branches above.

There was one miscalculation. Some snow came down and dropped directly on the outing's leader as she sat and snacked. She laughed, stood up and simply moved out of the line of fire.

Other changes in plans were the order of the day. Initially, the snowshoe outing was going to be at Panoramic Point in Kings Canyon. That was before a weeklong storm

brought rain and several feet of snow and prompted warnings of an avalanche risk in Sequoia-Kings Canyon.

Though the risk did not apply to the trail to Panoramic Point, Karen decided to opt for Lewis Creek instead. Aside from any trepidation hikers might have, there was the fact that many were beginners. The Panoramic Trail, likely in fresh powder, would be more arduous.

And there was the issue of chains and the certainty they would be needed for the higher elevation hike. As it was, chains weren't needed for the

drive that took hikers in three vehicles to the Lewis Creek Trail parking lot. Along the way, they passed up utility crews that had spent hours on Highway 41 repairing downed power lines.

At the trailhead, some beginners needed help strapping on their snowshoes. Some put them on the wrong feet or – in one case –

See "Snowshoe" page 8



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:TehipiteTopics@gmail.com)

### “Snowshoe” from page 7

backwards. But everyone was quickly on the way.

The group didn't make it to the falls at trail's end because of fallen trees. And they took an uphill, cross country detour for a time, trying to skirt the downed branches. But the scenery – fresh snow piled high on branches and hugging trees – made the choice of Lewis Creek a good one.

One of the hikers remarked that she had hiked Lewis Creek many times. But this was her first snowshoe hike there and it appeared to be a much different world.

A footnote: On the return trip, the group stopped for coffee at a supermarket in Oakhurst. One of the hikers bought a pair of Yaktrax walkers, traction devices to strap to the bottom of shoes for walking on ice.

That purchase was prompted by a previous Sierra Club outing along Lewis Creek, which was led by Don Redmond. On that one, hikers wearing boots – not snowshoes – were greeted by an unexpected icy trail.

Someone who was not part of the group had a pair of Yaktrax, and Don marveled at how well they performed. He borrowed them briefly, put them on and did a little dance.

It was yet another face for Lewis Creek.

### “Wolin” from page 6

natural resources than either the Mexicans or the indigenous peoples; therefore, it was right that they should take them by force of arms.

While Nazism sought to give the masses a sense of collective power by inviting them to sacrifice their individual power to the state (as visually exemplified in the famous propaganda film *Triumph of the Will*, which chronicles the joyous mass celebrations—*Kraft durch Freude* (strength through joy)—of the 1934 Nazi Party Congress at Nuremberg), inverted totalitarianism, on the other hand, promotes in the masses a sense of weakness and futility. Made to feel weak and powerless, the masses do not vote, leaving the field clear for the elites.

According to Wolin, “Ideally a public servant of democracy would combine knowledge and skill with a commitment to promoting and defending democratic values, lessening the inequalities in our society, and protecting the environment. For decades that ideal has been the target of corporate inspired attacks on ‘government bureaucrats’ aimed at preventing the revival of effective regulation of corporate power and social democracy.”

## Quotations about Wilderness and Environment

Edward Abbey: “Wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit”

John Muir: “In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.”

Aldo Leopold: “We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson: “Without enough wilderness America will change. Democracy, with its myriad personalities and increasing sophistication, must be fibred and vitalized by the regular contact with outdoor growths -- animals, trees, sun warmth, and free skies -- or it will dwindle and pale.”

## The Western Wilderness Conference

will be held in Berkeley, April 8-11  
 Learn about it at

[www.westernwilderness.org](http://www.westernwilderness.org)