



Tehipite Topics

March 2011 ✂ Vol. 57, No. 3

www.tehipite.sierraclub.org

Groups Call for Feds to Invest Transportation Funds in Local Jobs, Clean Air

Representatives Jeff Denham and John Mica Hold Hearing in Fresno on Federal Bill

By
Elizabeth Jonasson of Coalition for Clean Air
Gary Lasky of the Sierra Club

FRESNO – Advocates packed a closed hearing today to call for reauthorization of the nation’s federal transportation bill, which will go through a crucial committee chaired by Florida Republican Congressman John Mica and including freshman California Congressman Jeff Denham. Fresno is one of 14 locations Rep. Mica will visit as part of a series of national field hearings and public forums on the pending major surface transportation legislation.

The San Joaquin Valley faces an unemployment rate hovering around 18%, the highest in California. The region also leads the nation in air pollution, with transportation contributing a whopping 80% of pollutants. Transportation investments, if targeted correctly, could create local jobs and significantly cut air pollution, setting the stage for a healthier future in the Valley.

“The Valley’s air quality woes are a burden on our economy – for businesses, as well as for households struggling to cope with rising fuel costs, asthma and other diseases, and neighborhoods where it’s unsafe for children to walk and play,” said Elizabeth Jonasson of the Coalition for Clean Air. “We need federal investment in infrastructure solutions, such as bus rapid transit and cleaner freight rail, that will cut down on air pollution and offer more options for everyone, to support a comprehensive air pollution reduction strategy in the Valley.”

The nationwide meetings with state and local officials and transportation stakeholders is designed to help inform the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee’s drafting of a long-term reauthorization of

the nation’s highway, transit, and highway safety programs.

The San Joaquin Valley is particularly primed to take advantage of transportation funding to leverage economic growth. The first phase of California’s high-speed rail project, planned to extend from Fresno to Bakersfield, is expected to yield 80,000 jobs in the region, and accommodate increased travel with clean, efficient trains.

“Investing in high-speed rail will put the San Joaquin Valley back to work now building communities for the future,” said Daniel Krause, Executive Director of Californians for High Speed Rail. “Support for this project is evident throughout the San Joaquin Valley, and we’re further ahead than anywhere else in the nation. Yet to fulfill this vision and realize the full impact, Congress must commit to longterm **See Federal Bill, page 4**

Help Make Fresno Greener

Are you tired of dirty air, urban sprawl, and so many other results of bad government policies? It doesn’t have to be this way.

A strong majority of residents in Fresno support a wide range of progressive issues. In a democracy with majority rule we could have policies that serve the common good not the powerful few.

But politicians who do not support a clean livable environment continue to win local races and dominate local politics. This happens due to high voter turnout in the northern parts of the city and low voter turnout in the more progressive southern areas.

The Monarch Wilderness

By Ron Dickerson

A few miles south of Tehipite Valley are two of the truly primitive areas in the Sierra. I call it two areas because Highway 180 heading towards roads end in Kings Canyon bisects the Monarch Wilderness. It is primitive because prior to being designated Wilderness in 1984, this 45,000-acre area was known as the High Sierra Primitive Area.

Even with the highway access, only small numbers of people venture off the road onto the few rarely maintained trails that leave the pavement. Even fewer intrepid hikers will ever attempt to travel over steep terrain off trail--lest they risk being skewered by Spanish bayonet, tangling with thorny and toxic impenetrable brush or being surprised by a western rattler in a quest for the increasingly rare wilderness experience.

The Monarch Wilderness is a spectacularly diverse area containing the unofficially deepest canyon in the continental U.S. The record is unofficial **because fans of Hells Can-**

See Monarch, page 5

Volunteer for Earth Day

Now is the time for all good earthlings to come to the aid of their planet! Tehipite Chapter has partnered with the 2011 Fresno Earth Day planning team to create a wonderful Earth Day fest coming Saturday, April 30th. Last year was terrific, with at least 500 attending to browse booths of many green organizations, sample earth-friendly food and drink prepared by green vendors, and just enjoy a beautiful day with friendly people. We are looking at even more fun this year. So if you would like to volunteer to help, please email Fresno Earth Day Volunteer Coordinator Katie Clark at Kates821@yahoo.com.

Chapter Meetings

General Meeting

March 11 at 6 p.m.
550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno

March Program: Annual Awards Banquet

In lieu of a March general meeting, we will have our annual awards banquet. Guest speaker Gus Smith, Fire Ecologist for Yosemite Park, will be our guest speaker this year. Gus has extensive experience in monitoring fire effects both in our National Forests and National Parks. Gus will talk about the importance of fire in the Sierra, where we've been, where we're going and all the obstacles that get in the way. Among other topics Gus will discuss the future of fire in Yosemite in light of climate change and political and funding changes. Mr. Gus Smith has a Ph.D. in Natural Resources from the University of New Hampshire and an MS in Natural Resources from the University of Wisconsin.

Upcoming General Meeting Programs:

March 11th, 6 PM Annual Awards Banquet (See page 5)
April 20th: Joe Fontaine and William Tweed present their books on the Sierra
May: No General Meeting

Conservation & Executive Committee Meetings March 9th

The Conservation Committee meets at 7 PM
The Executive Committee meets at 8 PM
University of California Center
550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno



Tehipite Chapter
of the Sierra Club
P.O. Box 5396
Fresno, California 93755-5396

Copyright © Tehipite Chapter, 2008

Chapter phone (559) 229-4031
Web www.tehipite.sierraclub.org

Officers

Chapter Chair

John Rasmussen (559) 332-2419
..... John@BigBaldy.com

Chapter Vice-Chair

Gary Lasky (559) 790-3495
..... data.nations@gmail.com

Chapter Secretary

Jeremy Clar (acting) (559) 681-0517
..... jclar440@gmail.com

Chapter Treasurer

Wayne Dill
..... wd@whcpafirm.com

Executive Committee Members

Marcia Rasmussen (559) 332-2419
..... Marcia@bigbaldy.com
Chip Ashley (559) 855-6376
..... wattsvalleypreservation@gmail.com
David Cehrs (559) 875-9495
..... dcehrs@Juno.com
William Fjellbo (559) 642-4511
..... jbfjellbo@sti.net
Richard Kangas (559) 896-5337
..... rkangas02@comcast.net

Ron Mackie 559) 683-0293
..... rmackie@sierratel.com

Merced Group Appointee:

JoAnne Clarke (209) 726-0636
..... jo_clarke@att.net

Council of Club Leaders ExComm

Gary Lasky (559) 790-3495

Council of Club Leaders Delegates

..... Open
Gerald Vinnard (559) 431-5780

Chapter Committee Chairs

Honors & Awards

Marcia Rasmussen (559) 332-2419
..... Marcia@bigbaldy.com

Tehipite Topics Editor

Chip Ashley (559) 855-6376
..... wattsvalleypreservation@gmail.com

Tehipite Topics Website Editor

John Rasmussen (559) 332-2419
..... John@BigBaldy.com

Hospitality

..... Open

Membership/Newsletter Distribution

Marian Orvis (559) 226-0145

Outings and Outings Leader Training

Marcia Rasmussen Marcia@bigbaldy.com
..... (559) 332-2419
Steve Fretz safretz@earthlink.net
..... (559) 439-6673

Political Committee

William Fjellbo (559) 642-4511

Programs

Heather Anderson (559) 681-6305
Conservation Committee

Conservation Chair

Chip Ashley (559) 855-6376
..... wattsvalleypreservation@gmail.com

Energy, Climate Change, Sprawl, Population

Chip Ashley (559) 855-6376
..... wattsvalleypreservation@gmail.com

Sprawl, Air Quality

Gary Lasky data.nations@gmail.com

Kings Canyon National Park /Giant Sequoia National Monument /Sequoia Forest

John Rasmussen (559) 332-2419
..... John@BigBaldy.com

Sierra National Forest

Richard Kangas (559) 896-5337
..... rkangas02@comcast.net

Water, Kings River

David Cehrs (559) 875-9495
..... dcehrs@Juno.com

San Joaquin River

Chris Acree (559) 709-4913

Wildererness/Desert

Ron Mackie (559) 683-0293
..... rmackie@sierratel.com

Yosemite National Park

George Whitmore (559) 229-5808
..... geowhit1954@comcast.net

CNRCC ExComm

Gerald Vinnard (559) 431-5780

CNRCC Delegates

Heather Anderson (559) 681-6305
Chip Ashley (559) 855-6376

CNRCC Alternates

Richard Kangas (559) 896-5337
Brian Cohen (559) 227-6028

Publicity

Karen Hammer (559) 298-5272
..... ecuagirl45@yahoo.com

Merced Group

Merced Group

Sierra Club
Box 387
Merced, CA 95341

Group Chair

Rod Webster (209) 723-4747
. rwebster@elite.net

Group Vice-Chair

Jon Hawthorne (209)723-5152

Group Treasurer

JoAnne Clarke (209) 726-0636

Group Secretary

Annette Allsup (209) 723-5152

Member-at-Large

Jule Biesiada juleb13@sbcglobal.net

Conservation Chair

JoAnne Clarke (209) 726-0636

. Jo_Clarke@att.net

Publications

Annette Allsup (209) 723-5152

Agriculture

Charlie Magneson (209) 394-7045

Membership open

Publicity

Rod Webster (209) 723-4747

Population

. open

Merced Conservation and Executive Committee Meetings

(the first Thursday of each month)

Next meeting is Thursday, March 3, 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

The third Thursday of each month (except Dec. and May)

Starts at 7:00, usually over by 8:30 or so

Our new meeting place is at Citibank, 1840 M St., downtown Merced.

We meet in the community room accessed from the parking lot behind, off 19th street. It's through the door to the left at the top of the ramp. There will be signs.

Regretfully Sierra Pres. is no longer available. We are grateful to them for their years of accommodating us.

Our next meeting is Thursday, March 17th, at 7:00 P.M.

Linda Lagace will present on "Birds of the Merced and Stanislaus Wildlife Refuges"

Linda is a former member of the Sierra Club in Merced. She moved to Riverbank with her husband

David Tucker to be closer to her job as a Social worker for Community Hospice.

Linda still thinks the Merced Wildlife Refuge is the best way to unwind after a hard week at work.

The challenge of getting enough light and a high enough speed to catch a great white egret or great blue heron in flight is somehow relaxing to her.

Linda is bringing back a collection of her new and old photos. She really looks forward to meeting her Merced friends and feels very grateful for the opportunity to present her slide presentation.

Linda sure hopes there will be some birders there to help identify all her feathered subjects.

EARTH DAY 2011

By Heather Anderson

How coincidental that Earth Day (April 22) almost coincides with John Muir's birthday (April 21). Although Muir became an inspiration to environmentalists everywhere, he was aware of the need for a wake-up call. Gaylord Nelson, former governor and later, senator from Wisconsin, took up Muir's challenge. Nelson sponsored many environmental policies from a ban on DDT and a promotion of gas mileage standards, to the landmark Wilderness Act of 1964. He worked endlessly to help pass the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act. He staged the first Earth Day celebration. In 1970 twenty million people took part; in 2000, more than five hundred million people worldwide participated in environmental events. In 2010, however, there were more than forty million Acts of Green. 400 elected officials from forty countries dialogued with constituents about sustainable green economies. 25,000 cngregations celebrated Earth Day Sunday. 70 high-profile speakers and entertainers worked to promote environmental advocacy and work events.

Population, a rarely mentioned issue, was important to Nelson. He couldn't imagine what it would be like with twice as many everything: twice as many

See Earth Day, page 6



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Bear in mind the consequences.

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

Get grizzly and JOIN Sierra Club.

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

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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

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

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

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

F94Q W 1

Analysis of recent elections shows that the north of Shaw turnout is at about 80% and the southern parts of Fresno is at about 40%. Henry Perea won the majority of precincts in his run for Mayor two years ago but lost the election because of this disparity in voter turnout.

A local group has developed a plan to turn this situation around. They plan to increase voter turnout and political participation in neighborhoods in the southern part of Fresno by building a grassroots precinct structure in these areas.

You can help out in this effort. Precinct walks will be held on Saturdays and Sundays in the southeast part of town in the month of March. Conversations at the doors will include voter registration, vote by mail, and a discussion with voters about what they would like to see fixed.

You can help to increase civic participation by building this grassroots people's movement. Call to volunteer today. Please call Pam Whalen at 994-9390 or email pamwhalen@comcast.net. You can make a difference!!!! Together we can win.

Federal Bill, from page 1

funding for a national high-speed rail program that these goals."

"We must invest in 21st century transportation infrastructure that breaks our addiction to oil, protects clean air and public health, and provides transportation choices to all Americans while putting the country back to work," said Chip Ashley, Sierra Club California Executive Committee member and Fresno County resident.. "We look forward to working with members of the Committees to achieve these goals."

Additionally, a recently awarded \$4 million federal Sustainable Communities Grant will help the Valley's cities conduct strategic planning to guide new development and transportation priorities through the Smart Valley Places program. "Transportation investments shape not only our economy, but also the very structure of our communities," said Mayor Virginia Madueno of Riverbank. "As the San Joaquin Valley develops local land use and transportation plans to shape our future, federal transportation dollars will make or break our efforts to create regions with more choices and sustainable communities. Smart growth policies can make our communities better places to live, but only

if we have access to transportation programs that support options like public transportation, walking, and biking."

"We're already working together to solve these problems here in the region," said Mike Dozier, Lead Executive of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley. "If the federal government can align transportation policy with local strategies for cleaning the air and strengthening the economy, it would provide a huge boost to our efforts. We are most efficient when we work together." And efficiency is the name of the game in a still-struggling economy. The most cost-effective options are those that help communities and households stretch dollars farther while still achieving the desired results.

"Mile for mile, dollar for dollar, investments in biking and walking facilities are extremely cost-effective," said Ed Smith, Chair of the Fresno County Bicycle Coalition. "Fresno recently added 30 miles of new bike lanes that will improve safety and mobility for all road users. The price tag was a fraction of what you'd pay for similar increases in automobile capacity, and the value of these projects will only increase as our bike network grows."

The need is clear, but Washington is a long way away. The Valley needs Representatives Denham and Mica to advocate for investment in cleaner transportation options if our region is to thrive in the decades to come. "It's not every day that the San Joaquin Valley welcomes a visit from the chairman of a committee that can really make an impact on our lives," said Jonasson. "Hopefully Congressmen Mica and Denham hear what San Joaquin residents are demanding—we want more transportation options, local jobs and less air pollution."

Postcard from Antarctica

By Bill Sanford

I never thought I'd see it, but when our cruise itinerary offered it, I jumped at the chance to go. Now it's true: we did not actually land, and there are vast portions of the huge continent we didn't glimpse even from a distance, but we got pretty intimate with some of the Antarctic peninsula and with a sprinkling of nearby islands.

Before saying more about our personal experience, let me offer you a 15-question quiz:

1. Did you know, for example, that the continent bristles with high mountains? Yes, 50

peaks 12,000 feet or higher. The highest? Vinson Massif at 16,864'.

2. Did you know volcanoes abound? The World Almanac says: "Roughly 540 volcanoes are known to have erupted during historical times." Two are active now: Mt. Erebus (12,448') with a molten lava lake, and the other on Deception Island.

3. Did you know the continent is twice as large as Australia, slightly less than one and a half times larger than the U.S.? It lies 600 miles south of South America.

4. Did you know the warmest Antarctica gets is 32 degrees F. Some of the Antarctic Peninsula gets a bit warmer. The coldest temperature recorded was on July 21, 1983, when a Russian base registered -128.6 F. And did we mention winds exceeding 150 miles an hour?

5. Did you know 98% of the continent is covered by ice, the remaining 2% by barren rock? The ice contains about 70% of the fresh water in the world. If it were all to melt, the world's oceans would rise by 200 to 210 feet. So, what would that mean to Atwater, currently listed at 155 feet above sea level?

6. Did you know that possibly the biggest iceberg ever broke free from the Ross ice shelf in 2000? It had a surface area about the same as Connecticut.

7. Did you know the whole continent can be classified as a desert, meaning it has less than ten inches of rain (falling as snow) per year? It has not rained in Antarctica's 'Dry Valleys' region for at least two million years. How's that for a dry spell?

8. Did you know there are no trees or bushes? There are, however, about 350 species of lichens, mosses and algae.

9. Did you know the offshore waters abound in krill (small shrimp-like creatures)? It is estimated that a full grown blue whale – which can range up to 100 feet in length – consumes about 4 million krill per day. That amounts to four tons.

10. Did you know that of the world's 18 species of penguins six can be found in Antarctica?

11. Did you know it is the only continent in all 24 time zones? If you were to walk around the South Pole, you could step into all of them in seconds. Actually, all the research stations in Antarctica operate on New Zealand time.

12. Did you know the elevation of the South Pole research station (built on ice) is 9,300'?

13. Did you know that at the South Pole the sun sets on or about March 21, and is not seen again until on or about September 21?

14. Did you know that during the 2006-2007 southern hemisphere summer an estimated 30,877 tourists visited Antarctic? More are going every year, predominantly by cruise ship.

15. Did you know that the 1985 "Ocean Drilling Project" found ice sheets of E. Antarctica 37 million years old?

The ice history may be old, but the human history is comparatively recent. It was in 1840 that Antarctica was determined to be a continent and not a group of islands. 'First time' records were still being established near the end of the 20th century. In 1989 Victoria Murden and Shirley Metz became the first women "to reach the South Pole overland when they arrived with 9 others on Jan. 17." The 51-day trek on skis covered 740 miles. In 1996-97 Borge Ousland of Norway became the first person to traverse Antarctica alone. He covered 1,675 miles in 64 days. He was at the Pole on Dec. 19.

Antarctica reminds me of an experience I had in Atwater just before the U.S Penitentiary received its first inmates. Along with many other locals, I toured the facility, and afterward volunteered to friends: "Well, I found it an interesting place to visit, but I wouldn't want to live there." Exactly my sentiments about Antarctica!

Maonarch, from page 1

yon in Idaho incorrectly boast that its 8050 feet makes it the deepest. However, when standing on the summit of Spanish Mountain facing south towards the Kings River at the confluence of Rough Creek, one is looking at an 8250 foot drop in elevation. And on those days when the air is clear, the view isn't bad either, as one can spot iconic Sierra peaks from Mount Ritter far to the north, the Palisades and Split Mountain at the crest to the northeast, and a plethora of the majestic peaks that make up Great Western and Kings Kern divides to the southeast.

All that elevation offers the traveler a taste of every biotic zone of the Sierra and an amazing buffet of the range's ecological and plant communities. One can start in the southern portion of the Monarch Wilderness in a millenniums old Sequoia Forest and then head down slope past **See Monarch, page 6**

Great

San Joaquin River Clean-up

Please contact Richard Sloan at 559-696-2971, riverrich1509@aol.com, Steve Starcher, 559-289-8874, sastarcher@gmail.com or Steve Haze, 559-970-6320 re opportunities to help clean up the San Joaquin River.

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

Reserve early for 2011 !!

July 16-19; July 30-August 2; September 9-11; October 17-19

Explore the wild, windswept islands of Channel Island National Park. Enjoy the frolicking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on unusual sea and land birds. Hike the trails to find blankets of wildflowers and plants found in no other place on earth. Kayak or snorkel the pristine waters--- or just relax at sea. These live-aboard, eco tours depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68' twin diesel Truth. Fee (\$785 for July trips; \$590 for September and October) includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes, call attention to items of interest 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.

Contact leader for more information (626-443-0706; jholtzhl@aol.com)



Monarch, from page 5

hidden chimneys venting deep underground limestone and marble caverns while descending through mixed conifer forest, oak and laurel woodlands before crossing the river gorge to climb the south facing slope's semi-desert of chaparral, yucca and succulents growing on the impressive quartzite turrets, and eventually climb up to the dwarfed white bark pine forest residing on the alpine crown at Harrington Peak. All these worlds are encountered in about ten miles—as the Clarks' nutcracker flies.

Like all the great canyons in the world, the Kings Canyon has a river running through it, and the compact Monarch Wilderness has two wild rivers, as well as a number of mighty tributary streams. The South and Middle Forks come together in the heart of the Monarch and the visitor is hard pressed to pick which fork is more impressive.

As it winds through the Monarch, the South Fork of the Kings drops in elevation as fast as any other Sierra river. Over the ages it has cut a magnificent canyon. Anyone who has driven into Cedar Grove in the National Park has witnessed the awesome power of the melting snows on display in the gorge just west of Boyden Cavern at the Horseshoe Bend where rushing waters are in a perpetual contest with the canyon's rock, which is older than the range itself. Limestone, marble, quartzite and schist make up the colorful and impressive lower ramparts of Wren Peak, the south side of this formidable mountain has no recorded ascents—one look explains why. The drive up view at Convict Flat is as impressive as any other in the Sierra.

The other river, the Middle Fork of the Kings, breaks through Junction Ridge, the wall containing Wren Peak at the west end of the Monarch Divide. The winter of 1995-1996 was one of the dry seasons that happen in the Sierra when the Pacific high seems too persistent to let storms bring their annual gift. The following summer, a traveling companion and I took advantage of this dry spell to wander the six miles from Tehipite Valley to Yucca Point, near the junction of the south and middle forks of the Kings. This little trek is a classic Sierra bushwhack that follows the streambed—sometimes in the water, next to it, or the traversing cliffs that are adjacent. I'm fortunate to be able to say I've seen every mile of all three forks of the Kings River from the headwaters to the respective confluences of each with the main river. All are spectacular, but this six miles

of the Middle Fork is by far the wildest and most humbling of all.

From just below Little Tehipite Valley to about half a mile above the junction with the South Fork at Deer Creek, we passed through one sublime paradise after another. Words can hardly describe the magnificent deep blue pools, giant cobble lined alcoves, ancient canyon oaks and the side tributary canyons beckoning to be explored. Here were no signs of humans, save some old clothing high in a tree in the river channel, which appeared to have been washed downstream from points unknown during previous flooding. A truly wild place—may it always be so

During cold winter nights I often ponder about what warm weather Sierra exploration awaits. And although it's compact and not on the Sierra Crest, the Monarch Wilderness is a place I regularly dream about.

CINECULTURE FILM SERIES: CSU Fresno

Film Screenings Friday, 5:30 p.m., McLane Hall
March 25:

Living Downstream (2010)

Based on the acclaimed book by ecologist and cancer survivor Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D., *Living Downstream* is an eloquent and cinematic feature-length documentary. This poetic film follows Sandra during one pivotal year as she travels across North America, working to break the silence about cancer and its environmental links. *Living Downstream* is a powerful reminder of the intimate connection between the health of our bodies and the health of our air, land and water. 85 minutes.

<http://www.livingdownstream.com/>

Earth Day, from Page 3

people, twice as many schools, highways, and parking lots. Global population is expected to rise from three billion in 1960 to nine or ten billion in 2050 and we know that excessive population growth threatens environmental sustainability.

Global climate change is one of the major world issues. Brian Fagin in *The Great Warming* notes how drought in earlier times brought cultures to the edge of collapse. Currently, climate is changing faster and will affect billions. In the richest nations, people are ill prepared to cope with severe

water shortages, depleted aquifers and dry aqueducts. The energy problem is related to global warming. We can shift to a safer, cleaner energy future by smart energy solutions and efficiency with renewable sources like wind power, solar power, hydropower, bioenergy, geothermal energy, and stopping our dependence on nuclear, coal, and oil.

Mark Hertzgaard, author of *Earth Odyssey: Around the World in Search of Our Environmental Future*, states that not only could we reduce the impact on our air, water, and other natural systems, but we could make money doing so. He also admonishes that we have no time to lose; water scarcity, climate change, and species extinction are getting worse, and accelerating. Poverty is a central problem; four billion of the earth's six billion are inconceivably deprived and as they strive to improve their condition, our environmental footprint will expand with the need for more cars, more computers, and more everything. We have the technology to solve the problem. We can work more efficiently, do more with less. We urge cool cities, cool companies and cool cars as well.

Hertzgaard traveled around the world reporting on environmental problems and possible solutions. In his new book, *Hot: Living Through the Next Fifty Years on Earth*, he travels to the future, and the news is worrisome, yet challenging: how to keep humanity alive in the face of global warming and climate change. A new father, Hertzgaard realized that his daughter and some two billion youth born after 1988 will need to spend their lives confronting the impacts of global warming.

Where to start? First, check your carbon footprint (http://myfootprint.org/en/quiz_results). Join the policy of Every Day, Earth Day (www.action.earthday.net) and work to make environmental education, clean energy, and the green economy a reality, in your own way. Teachers can include it in their curricula (see my new book, *Art Education and Eco Awareness*), homemakers in their homes, businesses in their workplaces. We can write, phone, email, or fax our senators and representatives (capitol switchboard 202-224-3121). We can write a Letter-to-the-Editor (www.fresnobee.com/email), plant a tree, or grow a vegetable garden. Check out the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition (CVAQ, call 486-3279).

Our wild places, urban and rural; each of us as an American citizen.sh and protect our planet.

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 Chair is Marcia Rasmussen, Marcia@BigBaldy.com, 559-332-2419. Please contact Marcia 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.

Outings Leaders may post their own trips on the web page or send them to Marcia@BigBaldy.com.

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.

DONATE NOW
SECURE DONATIONS
BY GROUNDSPRING.org

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 Metropoulos, and Annie Pham do a terrific job, and they need our help. Please go to the Sierra Club California web site at

www.sierraclubcalifornia.org

Donate generously!

Required Liability Waiver

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the Liability Waiver before you choose to participate on an outing, please go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or contact the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version.

Intermediate Back Country Ski Tour

Saturday, March 19, 2011 - 8:00am - 5:30pm Rating: Intermediate

Intermediate XC ski tour to Tamarack Ridge above Shaver Lake. Begin at the Snow Park (snow park permit required - \$5/day) on Tamarack Ridge and ski south along the top of the ridge (via the Taguchi/ Bull route) to the overlook of Shaver with views of Bald Mt and Red MT. (Trip subject to change depending on snow conditions!) Contact: Steve Fretz at 559-439-6673

Day Hike: Exploring the Kings River Canyon

Saturday, March 26, 2011 - 8:00am

Rating: Intermediate, leader: John Cameron

View one of the deepest canyons in North America, half again as deep as the Grand Canyon of the Colorado. Day hike to Spring Creek Meet for an optional no host breakfast, then carpool/caravan around Pine Flat Reservoir and up the King's River Canyon for a pleasant hike along the river. Wildflowers should be profuse, insects few, and weather pleasant. Be prepared for spring showers. Limit: 8, difficulty, moderate, all trail, no cross country.. Contact leader at 559 903 5138

Day Hike: Los Vaqueros and Morgan Territory

Saturday, March 26, 2011 - 8:00am

Leader: Randy Brown; Intermediate; distance 10 miles.

Los Vaqueros and Morgan Territory are adjacent to each other. This will be a "split-group" hike, with one group starting in Morgan Territory and the other in Los Vaqueros. The two groups will meet for lunch and do a car key exchange to avoid car shuttling. The hike will be about 10 miles, with approximately 2000' elevation gain for the Vaqueros group and 700' for the Morgan Territory group. Bring lunch, snacks, raingear, and extra layers depending on the weather that day. Meet 8:00 AM, Modesto Park & Ride next to Vintage Faire Mall. For further information and details, please contact Yokuts trip leader Randy Brown. Contact: 209-632-5994

Carrizo Plain National Monument (1A)

April 2nd, 2011 (all day)

Guided tour and hikes on Sat. (9:30 - 2:30 p.m.). Visit Painted Rock and Soda Lake among other sites. Possibly catch a good wildflower display. Option to camp out overnight Fri. and/or Sat. night. Rustic conditions. Must carry in water. Karen Hammer 298-5272

Mt. Diablo

Saturday, April 2, 2011 - 8:00am

Leader: Elaine Gorman. Type: Day Hike. Rating: Intermediate. Climbing Elevation: 1,800 feet. Distance: 9.00 miles

"The Giant Loop" will begin and end on the north side of Mt. Diablo. Almost 9 miles and 1800' elevation gain, wahooo! Hopefully, we will see early spring wildflowers, small waterfalls, and if we are lucky, some rattlesnakes. Beware of poison oak and ticks. Bring lunch and beverage, hiking boots, hiking poles (recommended), rain/cold weather gear, sun hat, \$\$ for carpool and probable dinner stop, and other essentials. Meet at Modesto Park 'n' Ride (north of Vintage Faire Mall) at 8:00 AM. Contact leader to sign up. Rain cancels. Contact: Elaine Gorman, 209-524-7630, goford@sbcglobal.net

More Outings, Page 8



SIERRA CLUB TEHIPITE CHAPTER
 OF THE SIERRA CLUB
 FOUNDED 1892 P.O. Box 5396 • Fresno, California 93755-5396

Non Profit Org
 U. S. Postage
 P A I D
 Fresno, Calif.
 Permit No. 150

Inside *Tehipite Topics*

Fed Transportation Hearing.....Cover
 Monarch WildernessCover
 Volunteer for Earth DayCover
 Vounteer: Make Fresno GreenerCover
 Fresno Info2
 Merced Group Info3
 Merced Group Info3
 Antarctica4
 Earth Day6
 Outings7-8

Deadline for *Tehipite Topics* is the 15th of each month. Please submit material to wattsvalleypreservation@gmail.com.

More Outings

San Joaquin River Trail Run

Saturday, April 16, 2011 - 8:00am - 11:00am

Rating: Intermediate; Climbing Elevation; 500 feet; Decending Elevation: 500 feet; Maximum Elevation: 600 feet; Elevation Gain:500 feet; Distance: 6.00 miles

We will park near the end of Sky Harbor Rd., and walk up the more level part of the trail. The trail is quite scenic as it winds along the San Joaquin River. We will run at about a 9 minute/mile pace, and have a snack at the turn around point. Experienced (but not elite!) runners only. Contact: Don Gaede 960-5661

Ascent to Glacier Point and post hike barbecue

Saturday, June 4, 2011 - 7:30am - 8:30pm
 Day Hike, Rating: Intermediate
 Ascend to Glacier Point via the 4 mile trail with views of Yosemite Falls across the valley. This is moderately strenuous and is for hikers who are reasonably

fit and accustomed to doing hikes of this length and elevation. Bring a minimum of 2
 Leader: Karen Hammer 298-5272

Flyfishing Upper Twin Lakes Car Camp

Day Hike. Rating: Intermediate. Distance: 7.00 miles.

Ever want to try your hand at casting a fly for trout? Want to have a better than even chance of catching something on your first trip? Like hiking the high Sierra? Here's an opportunity. Car camp Friday evening. On Saturday Morning, we will break camp and head for Upper Twin Lake. This is a moderate hike, all on trail (no cross country). Fishing here is good for brook and rainbow trout, all wild (not hatchery raised). We will practice catch and release with barbless hooks.

If people arrive at the campground in time, the leader will go over basic knots, how best to handle trout to be released, and answer any angling questions the group may have. The leader will be going up Friday Morning in order to secure a campsite, so the participants will have to organize their own caravan/car pool, or simply drive up on their own. Email flyfing-er78@yahoo.com for a printable topographic map of the hiking area. If you're willing

to share your email to facilitate carpooling, say so. Fishing License required. Call John Cameron at 559 903 513838.. No experience is necessary.

Mt. Whitney Summit - (date to be decided)

Thursday, July 21, 2011 - 12:00am - Saturday, July 30, 2011 - 12:00am

Day Hike, Rating: Difficult

Interested in climbing the highest peak in the 48 contiguous US states? We are excited to offer this fabulous trip. It is one of THE premier hikes in the country, not only because of Mt. Whitney's "highest 14er" status, but because of the hike's extreme, rugged beauty. This is simply a must do hike.

Wilderness Permits for Mt. Whitney are in great demand and are distributed by lottery in February. We will request July 21, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, or 30. We hope to be granted a permit for ONE of these dates, with space for ten hikers. As soon as we know, we will need \$15 from each hiker for the permit. Leader: Gerald Vinnard 559-431-5780 or gvinnard@hotmail.com or Marcia Rasmussen, 559-332-2419 or Marcia@BigBaldy.com