

February 2006 & Vol. 52, No. 2

www.tehipite.sierraclub.org

## Tehipite Chapter Annual Awards Banquet

February 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-9:00 P.M. California State University, Fresno Dining Hall on Cedar, North of Shaw

# Giant Forest

Dr. William Tweed, Chief Park Naturalist for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, will share with us the encouraging story of how the Giant Forest of Sequoia National Park, home of the world's largest trees, was rescued from decades of congestion and commercial overdevelopment and restored to its rightful place as the park's crown jewel. This amazing project took twenty years and over \$70 million to carry out, and is now essentially complete. We'll explore how the problem developed, how the park built support for restoring the grove, and what lessons have been learned during this very prolonged project.

Tweed, who has been on the staff of Sequoia and Kings Canyon since 1978, played a major role in the Giant Forest project, serving as design coordinator for the Park Service as the grove was redesigned to become once again a wild place, albeit one with 600,000 visitors each year.

A native of Central California, Tweed holds degrees in history from the University of the Pacific and Texas Christian University, and has held the position of Chief Naturalist at the two southern Sierra national parks for the past ten years. Prior to that, he held positions as a park ranger and as manager of the parks' planning and concessions management functions. He has been a Sierra Club member since 1969.

For tickets, send \$24 per person, payable to "Tehipite Chapter Sierra Club."

Ron Mackie 1617 Hwy. 49 South Ahwahnee, CA 93601 (559) 683-0293 rmackie@sierratel.com

Please indicate meal choice(s) of Tri-Tip, Chicken or Vegetarian.

## February General Meeting

Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. University of California Center 550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno (across from Fashion Fair)

"Forest and Wildlife Management at Shaver Lake" presented by Stephen Byrd

Stephen Byrd has been Southern California Edison's (SCE) wildlife biologist for the past ten years at Shaver Lake. SCE owns 20,000 acres of forested lands surrounding Shaver Lake. Stephen, with the help of a small staff, manages the land and its many resources, including fire management and the lake's intense recreational uses.

Stephen will discuss his team's unique management approach and objectives. He'll talk about the wildlife that resides in the Shaver area and how forest management

practices must continually be modified, in order to harvest timber, improve wildlife habitat for all species, and restore the forest to its historic beauty. During the past decade, Edison's forest management team has increased the volume of timber around Shaver Lake while harvesting fifty million board feet; have you noticed? Come and hear their secret of success and witness a biologist who promotes a certain type of timber harvest that must be done for the health and protection of all wildlife species.

Sounds impossible, doesn't it?

## Dinner Date with the Speaker

Meet at the Imperial Gardens Restaurant at 5:15 for our monthly no-host Dinner Date with the Speaker, an opportunity to interact with fellow Sierrans.

6640 N. Blackstone, east side, just south of Herndon.

## Conservation & Executive Committees

Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno.



Tehipite Chapter P.O. Box 5396 Fresno, California 93755-5396 Copyright © Tehipite Chapter, 2006 Chapter phone . . . . (559) 229-4031 Web .... www.tehipite.sierraclub.org Officers Chapter Chair Gerald D. Vinnard. . (559) 431-5780 ..... gvinnard@cvip.net Chapter Vice-Chair JoAnne Armstrong. . (209) 726-0636 .....sierrafer@peoplepc.com Chapter Secretary Aimee Leyva ..... (559) 438-867 ..... aimee\_leyva@yahoo.com **Chapter Treasurer** Joe Ruff . . . . . . . . . (559) 436-4880 .....2tehipite@sbcglobal.net Executive Committee Members William Fjellbo .... (559) 642-4511 ..... jbfjellbo@sierratel.com

### Chapter Committee Chairs

Council of Club Leaders Delegate JoAnne Armstrong. .(209) 726-0636 Awards Gerald Vinnard . . . . (559) 431-9606 Hospitality Rae Marx..... (559) 641-7589 Tehipite Topics Editors / Website Marcia & John Rasmussen. . . . . . ..... Rasmussen@BigBaldy.com Membership/Hospitality Rae Marx..... (559) 641-7589 Membership/Newsletter Distribution Marian Orvis . . . . . (559) 226-0145 **Outings and Outings Leader Training** Richard Sloan ..... (559) 696-2971 ..... RiverRich1509@aol.com **Political** Committee William Fjelbo . . . . . 559) 642-4511 Programs Heather Anderson . . (559) 434-2510 .....ha062@cvip.net

**Conservation** Committee **Conservation Chair** Heather Anderson . . (559) 434-2510 Air Quality / Transportation / **Global Warming** Kevin Hall..... (559) 227-6421 ..... hallmos@aol.com Kings Canyon National Park /Giant Sequoia National Monument /Sequoia Forest John Rasmussen.... (559) 332-2419 .....John@BigBaldy.com Sierra National Forest Tom Eliason..... (559) 439-7195 .....tomeliason@comcast.net Water Chris Acree ..... (559) 709-4913 ..... chris.acree@comcast.net San Joaquin River Richard Sloan ..... (559) 696-2971 Wilderness/Desert Ron Mackie . . . . . . (559) 683-0293 ..... rmackie@sierratel.com Yosemite National Park George Whitmore . . (559) 229-5808 ..... geowhit1954@comcast.net **CNCC** Delegate Heather Anderson . . (559) 434-2510

Merced Group Sierra Club Box 387 Merced, CA 95341 Group Chair JoAnne Armstrong. .(209) 726-0636 .....sierrafer@peoplepc.com Group Vice-Chair Rod Webster ..... (209) 723-4747 .....rwebster@elite.net



### Conservation and Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 P.M at Rod Webster's home, 345 E. 20<sup>th</sup> St., Merced.

Conservation meeting is first, and usually lasts 30-40 minutes. Anyone with an interest in local, state or national conservation issues is welcome. Come just to get informed or get as involved as you wish.

## General Meeting

Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 P.M. Sierra Presbyterian Church, 3603 M St. (M St. and Yosemite Ave., across from Merced College)

## "Being Caribou"

presented by Karsten Heuer

Wildlife biologist Karsten Heuer and filmmaker Leanne Allison spend five months migrating on foot with more than 100,000 caribou. Both gripping adventure and stark portrayal of an Arctic ecosystem threatened by oil development, Being Caribou, the film created by Heuer and his wife, won the 2005 Telluride Film Festival's "Best Environmental Film Award." It was a very different kind of

honeymoon. In April 2003, wildlife

 Agriculture

 Charlie Magneson . (209) 394-7045

 Membership

 Linda Lagace . . . . . (209) 384-1354

 Publicity

 Rod Webster . . . . . (209) 723-4747

 Population

 Tammy Johnson . . . . (559) 665-5507

biologist Karsten Heuer and his newlywed wife, filmmaker Leanne Allison, set off on an epic journey: to follow the Porcupine caribou herd as it migrated from its Yukon winter range to its endangered Alaskan calving grounds in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—and back. What they learned along the way would not only show what was at stake in the decades-old debate about whether or not to drill those same calving grounds for oil, but also what was possible when two people immerse themselves in a wild, intact landscape for five months.

For more than a thousand miles, Heuer and Allison traveled the roadless, trailless, structureless expanse of northern Yukon and Alaska. Both on foot and on skis, they tracked caribou over four mountain ranges, hundreds of passes, and dozens of rivers. To keep up, they knew they would have to move, act, and even think like caribou, skiing and walking with no schedule, no route plan, and no objective other than finding and staying with the wild herd. The result was an adventure that brought them face to face with wolves, hungry grizzly bears, voracious mosquitoes, arctic blizzards, and the need for an open mind. Physically and mentally exhausted, the young couple found themselves on the cusp of a different way of knowing, and, after months of migrating, walked into a dimension of consciousness neither had experienced before.

*Being Caribou* is more than a story of grand adventure and an endangered caribou herd. It is a story about the roots of human instinct that are alive in all of us, and how wild landscapes and wild animals hold the power to release us from the avalanche of technology and advertising that typifies the modern civilized world.

Karsten Heuer is a wildlife biologist and park warden who has worked in Banff and Jasper National Parks in the Rockies, in Inuvik in Canada's far north, in Slovakia and Poland, and in the Madikwe Game Reserve in South Africa. A recipient of the Wilburforce Foundation Con-

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## SAVE OUR WATERWAYS!



photo/R

While the Clean Water Act has been instrumental in keeping millions of tons of sewage and toxic chemicals out of our waterways each year, we are still a long way from cleaning up ALL of the nation's water bodies. The goals of the Clean Water Act are still achievable — all that's missing is the will of our leaders to achieve them. We need to strengthen the enforcement of the Clean Water Act. And we could use your help to do it. Join the Sierra Club today.

Join today : receive a Ff Club Weeke Bag!	REE Sierra	
My Name		
Address		
City		
State	Zip	

Phone #	
email	
[ ] Check enclos Please charge my	ed, made payable to Sierra Club 「 [ ] MasterCard [ ] Visa [ ] AMEX
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Cardholder Nan	ne

Contributions, gifts and dues to the 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 \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose check and mail to: **F94Q** W1300 **1** Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, C0 80322-2968 Activist Outings

**W**ild Legacy Advocates and Adventurers Team Up

#### by Uicky Hoover, Activist Outing Chair

Sign up for a 2006 Sierra Club national activist outing and become part of the new Wild Legacy Conservation Initiative that the Club inaugurated as a result of the 2005 Sierra Summit. Our nation's Wild Legacy is at the heart of the Sierra Club mission, and our outings program is tied to this proud tradition. National Activist outings inspire people to fight to preserve our wild legacy and also train participants to become strong advocates for preservation upon their return home.

In 2006, four Wild Legacy activist adventures await you in wild Nevada, Utah, Idaho, or Vermont. Join one, for fun and advocacy training! (Our first event, January's popular trip to Florida's Everglades and Florida Keys Marine Sanctuary has already taken place.)

**Nevada,** July 6-12. Endangered Wilderness of the Toiyabe Crest. Follow leader Melinda Goodwater on a 43-mile moderate backpack along the lofty dazzling crest of this unprotected roadless area in the longest of this wild state's 300 mountain ranges. The trail weaves among peaceful meadows at 10,000 feet, cascading trout streams, and sheer cliffs with bighorn sheep. Trip #06101A, \$395.

**Utah,** August 27 through September 4. From the Tushar Highlands to the Aquarius Plateau. Enjoy Central Utah's undiscovered National Forest plateaus on two short moderate backpacks separated by a rest day. From these remote heights, admire broad views over Utah's basin and range to spectacular Escalante canyonlands. Learn Utah wilderness history and issues with Vicky Hoover and Jim Catlin. Trip #06102A, cost \$545.

**Idaho, Oregon, and Nevada's Owyhee,** September 8-16. Big Sky and Winding Rivers. A hidden land of high desert and a vast, undulating volcanic plateau deeply cut by abrupt gorges is known to few people. We'll day hike the Owyhee's dramatic ridges and rivers while van-camping along obscure backcountry roads. Leader Craig Deutsche shows off this prime habitat for pronghorn antelope, eagle, sage grouse and more. Trip 06103A, cost \$725.

**Vermont,** September 10-17. Autumn Wanderings in Wild Vermont. Come enjoy our mixture of moderate backpacking and trail maintenance in Vermont's proposed Glastonbury Mountain Wilderness. Early autumn colors and an exciting wilderness campaign enhance our two separate short "working" backpacks in the legendary Green Mountains, with leader Debbie Smith and Vermont activist John Harbison. Trip #06104A, cost \$595.

Sign up now while space is still available. For details, contact Vicky Hoover at (415) 977-5527 or vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org. Ask about partial trip scholarships for applicants for whom cost is a deterrent. Some Chapters may be able to help if you become an official Chapter representative. For a trip brochure and application form, call the Sierra Club Outing Department's 24-hour voicemail at (415) 977-5522, or visit www.sierraclub.org/outings/national. 🌾

## Wow! Visitors Remove Six Tons of Rubble from Crystal Cave

by Joel Despain, Cave Specialist for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

The Crystal Cave staff, with the help of perhaps 5,000 park visitors, has accomplished an amazing feat! Bit by bit and pound by pound, they moved six tons of brick, concrete and plumbing from the Cave entrance to the parking area, a half mile away and 320 feet higher. This tremendous amount of work was completed as part of the long-running restoration project at Crystal Cave. This work restores habitat for rare cave-adapted animals and restores cave processes such as the growth of stalactites and stalagmites.

The brick and concrete originated just inside the western-most entrance of the cave as walls for four rooms—two bathrooms, a work room, and a lengthy pipe alley. These bathrooms have been out of service and abandoned for six years. Standards for water quality that protect the park's pure mountain streams no longer allowed for a waste treatment system in such steep terrain.

Demolition of the bathrooms has been undertaken by the park and groups of hearty volunteers from across California on work weeks and weekends during the past two years. Most of these hard working people have been members of grottos—caving clubs. Other groups have included scouts, university outing clubs, corporate groups, nonprofits, and others who have cleaned formations, removed blast rubble, installed handrails, walls and bridges and much more to restore sections of Crystal Cave.

The Park Service's key partner in this latest effort was the Sequoia Natural History Association staff at Crystal Cave. They organized cave visitors, encouraged participation in carrying the material up the hill on their tours, broke the rubble into smaller carry-size pieces, moved large quantities of the debris up the hill every day, and also removed more of the infrastructure over approximately five weeks' time. Cave Naturalists Leslie Babich and David Golightly spearhead the effort, but all of the staff made large contributions and rallied the visitors. "It was incredible the amount of effort put forth by the visitors to get that up the hill—Boom! It was done! The floor has been swept," says Jimmy Williams, Assistant Manager at Crystal Cave, who worked on the project. 🔻



Installation of a bridge protects fragile formations in Crystal Cave.



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. Expect convenient access to all mountain activities, excellent family style meals, a friendly staff and a casual atmosphere.

#### FEATURED PROGRAMS

**FEBRUARY 3–5 Snow Camping Skills Course** Price: \$145 members, \$170 non-members.

**FEBRUARY 10–12, MARCH 24–26 Bay Area Ski Bus Trips** Ride in comfort from Oakland to Clair Tappaan. Price: \$175 members, \$200 non-members, \$140 children (includes lodging/meals).

**FEBRUARY 17–19, MARCH 24–26 Snowshoe Ecology Tours** Enjoy guided snowshoe day tours and broaden your knowledge of alpine ecology. Price: \$145 members, \$170 non-members (includes lodging/meals).

**MARCH 10-12 Kids Ski Weekend** Start kids off right with lessons and short trips on CTL trails. Price: \$125/child (includes equipment rental/lodging/meals).

MARCH 17-19 Snow Camping Trip Price: \$145 members, \$170 non-members.



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.

## **ECOVIEW**

by Marian Orvis

Dear Readers,

Please extend a round of thundering applause to the ladies and one gentleman who make up the group that slaps labels on your monthly *Topics*.

MARIE CARNAHAN, BARBARA LUEDEKE, FRANK ORVIS, JOAN WEEKS, HELEN SCHULTZ, LOUISE DORMAN, and NANCY HOWARD. [Editors' note: MARIAN ORVIS, out of humility, left her own name off the list, but deserves to be recognized as well.]

Louder, I can't hear you...

Life is much too serious lately, so let's start this column out with some salient sillies.

Dubious Honors. 2005 Ig Nobel Prizes—described as achievements that first make people laugh, then make them think-were handed out in ten disciplines last October.

- The chemistry prize went to two U.S. researchers who studied whether people swim faster in syrup or water.
- The fluid dynamics award was given to two Germans, who calculated the pressure that builds up in a penguin when it defecates.
- A Japanese researcher claimed the nutrition prize for photographing and analyzing every meal he ate for 34 years.
- The medicine prize went to the inventor of "neuticles," artificial dog testicles that come in three sizes. (Guess it's for dogs who suffer depression over losing a body part?)
- The physics award went to the world's longest experiment, begun in 1927, in which a congealed blob of black tar has been dripping at the rate of one drop about every nine years.
- The biology prize was shared by many researchers for smelling and cataloguing odors produced by 131 frog species when the frogs were feeling stressed.
- The peace prize went to British researchers who electrically monitored the activity of a brain cell in a locust that was watching highlights from the Star Wars movies.
- In what may be a candidate for the next Ig Nobel, researchers at Clark University in Massachusetts have determined that the perfect sandcastle is made from eight parts sand to one part water.

Wheel Wars. In 2005, more bicycles—about 19 million—were sold in the U.S. than cars, probably because of soaring gas prices. At the same time, 2005 was a record year for the sale of gas-guzzling Hummers.

Scentsless Killing. A black market has grown up around Brazilian rosewood, the main ingredient in Chanel No. 5 perfume and many soaps, balms, scented candles and aromatherapy products. Brazil has put the rosewood tree on its list of endangered species, but lack of enforcement has allowed invaders to cut down trunks from mature trees that stand as high as 100 feet.

Bottled Up. Every day, about 30 million used water bottles-most of which are petroleum-based and take 1,000 years to decompose—are thrown away in the U.S. Only 15% of the water containers are recycled! (The solution is obvious, ves?)

Exterminators. The deceptively named federal agency, Wildlife Services, killed more than 2.7 million animals deemed public nuisances in 2004, a million more animals than in 2003. (Perhaps a new name: Ex-Wildlife Services?) Among the dead were more than 75,000 coyotes, 359 cougars, 397 black bears, 32,000 beavers, 3,900 foxes, and 191 wolves. An advocacy group for wolves and other predators noted that Wildlife Services "killed more than five animals per minute in 2004. The toll on ecosystems wrought by this one agency is jaw-dropping." (Well, are you angry enough to do something about this travesty, like writing your Congressperson?) Has the world gone mad, or is it just me? 🤻

Eco-Mania at ECONEWS 1105 is the good source for this stuff.

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#### **TEHIPITE TOPICS February 2006**

## **Outings Schedule**

#### February 4<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Day Hike (1A) San Joaquin River hike. Meet at Riverside Golf Course parking lot (NW corner) at 10:00 A.M. Be prepared to wade across the river twice. About 2.5 miles. Dogs on leash welcome. *Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971 RiverRich1509@aol.com* 

#### February 11<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Snowshoe (any level) Dewey Point. Carolyn Ordway (559) 449-7780

#### February 11<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Day Hike (1A) Millerton Lakeshore back from Sky Harbor Road. *Don Redmond (559) 268-1537* 

#### February 26<sup>th</sup> - Sunday

Cross Country Skiing—Intermediate Panoramic Point in Kings Canyon. Meet at 8:00 A.M., place to be determined. *Gerald Vinnard (559) 431-5780* 

#### March 11<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Day Hike (1A) San Joaquin River Trail at San Joaquin River Gorge. Don Redmond (559) 268-1537

#### March 18<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Day Hike (1A) McKenzie Table Mountain Loop Trail. *Don Gaede (559) 434-5138* 

**April 8<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** Day Hike (2A) Horseshoe Bend, a super flower hike. *Don Redmond (559) 268-1537* 

May 6<sup>th</sup> - Saturday Day Hike (1A) Pincushion Peak. Hike from Lake Millerton to a tabletop overlook. Wildflowers should be abundant. Easy pace, kids welcome. *Steve Cosner (559) 281-5983* 

### May 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Friday-Sunday

Day Hike (3D) Panamint City Ghost Town in Death Valley N.P. This is a hard hike with bushwacking involved. *Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971* 

#### May 13<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Day Hike (2B) Goat Mountain, views of Bass Lake. Don Redmond (559) 268-1537

#### May 20th-21st

Saturday and/or Sunday San Joaquin River National River Cleanup, shore-based and by canoe. *Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971* 

#### June 3<sup>rd</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Day Hike (2A) Redwood Canyon. An Annual event through a great Sequoia Grove. *Don Redmond (559) 268-1537* 

#### July 4<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday

Day Hike (1A) Lewis Creek. Cool off along this nice stream. *Don Redmond (559) 268-1537* 

### August 6<sup>th</sup> - Sunday

Possible moonlight hike to Half Dome in Yosemite. Watch for details. Assistant hike leader needed for sweep. *Call Gerald Vinnard 431-5780 or Richard Sloan 696-2971* 

August 12<sup>th</sup> - Saturday Day Hike (1A) Willow Creek, which flows into Bass Lake, and Angel Falls. Don Redmond (559) 268-1537

**October 14<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** Day Hike (2B) Grant Grove. A combination of three trails. *Don Redmond (559) 268-1537* 

#### **Trip 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 Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971 RiverRich1509@aol.com. Please contact him 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 <u>www.tehipite.</u> <u>sierraclub.org/outings</u>.

## Would you like to be an Outings Leader?

Do you have a favorite hike you would like to share with fellow outdoor lovers? 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, email Richard Sloan at RiverRich1509@aol. com or phone (559) 696-2971. Current Outings Leaders please contact Richard with your proposed hikes.

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## Inside Tehipite Topics

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Did you know that <i>Tehipite Topics</i> is avail-			
able online, approximately one week before			
you receive it in the mail? In color!			

See <u>www.tehipite.sierraclub.org</u>.

March Tehipite Topics deadline February 10th.

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servation Leadership Award, he is the author of *Walking* the Big Wild: from Yellowstone to the Yukon on the Grizzly Bear's Trail.

## Request for Trip Photos

Choose 20-40 photos from one of your favorite nature outings or vacations. At one of our general meetings this year, we will have five or six people share their adventures with the group. Email photos to Linda Lagace at llagace@bigvalley.net, and she will compile them on one disc so we can project them. OR bring your slides and we'll use a Kodak projector. If you choose the latter, email Linda and let her know your topic and how many slides, so she has you on the list for that program.

## Outings

Please see the Tehipite Chapter and Yokuts Group of the Mother Lode Chapter (Modesto area, <u>motherlode.sierra-</u> <u>club.org/yokuts/index.html</u>) listings. Phone Rod Webster at (209) 723-4747 is you would like to coordinate carpooling with others from our area.

