

Tehipite Topics

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www.tehipite.sierraclub.org

Sequoia Monument: Sierra Club Goes to Court!

Groups Point to Neighboring National Park for Better Way to Manage National Treasure

In federal court, conservation organizations have challenged the Bush administration's decision to log Giant Sequoia National Monument. The Sierra Club, Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign, Earth Island Institute, Tule River Conservancy, Sequoia ForestKeeper, and Center for Biological Diversity jointly filed the complaint in San Francisco Federal District Court. The groups also encouraged the administration and the court to look to neighboring Sequoia National Park for a better way to manage the rare forest.

"These magnificent Giant Sequoia forests are found nowhere else on earth," explained Bruce Hamilton, Sierra Club Conservation Director. "It makes no sense for the Bush administration to sacrifice such a spectacular national treasure. It also happens to be illegal."

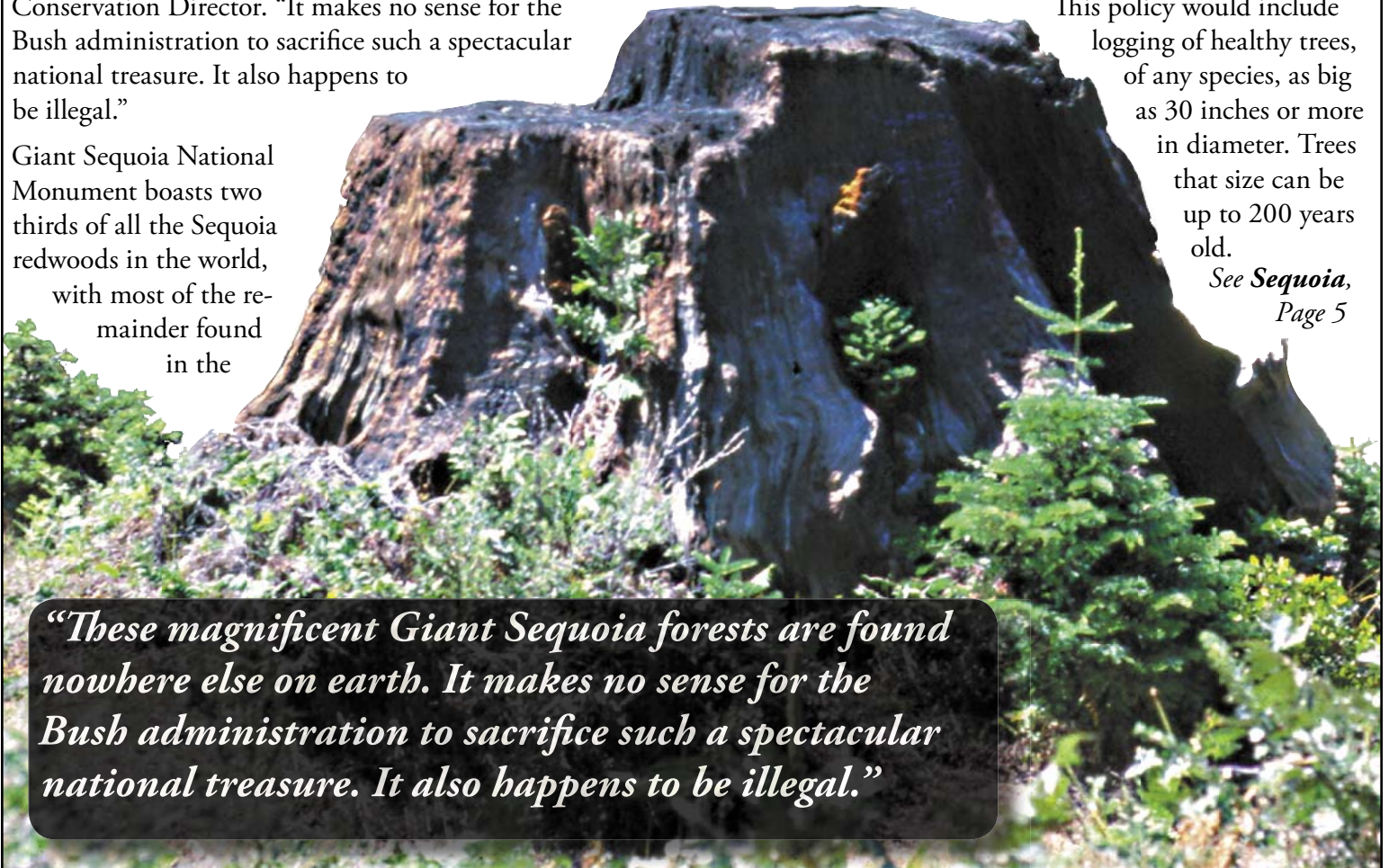
Giant Sequoia National Monument boasts two thirds of all the Sequoia redwoods in the world, with most of the remainder found in the

adjacent National Park. The popularity and awe-inspiring beauty of the Sequoia forest and its wildlife led President Bill Clinton to permanently protect the forest as a National Monument under the Antiquities Act. Earlier, President George Bush, Sr. had proclaimed the Sequoia groves off limits to commercial logging.

The Bush administration officially reversed those policies by finalizing plans to allow what amounts to commercial logging in the Monument, including the prized Giant Sequoia groves. The administration's plan would allow 7.5 million board feet of timber to be removed annually from the Monument, enough to fill 1,500 logging trucks each year.

This policy would include logging of healthy trees, of any species, as big as 30 inches or more in diameter. Trees that size can be up to 200 years old.

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"These magnificent Giant Sequoia forests are found nowhere else on earth. It makes no sense for the Bush administration to sacrifice such a spectacular national treasure. It also happens to be illegal."



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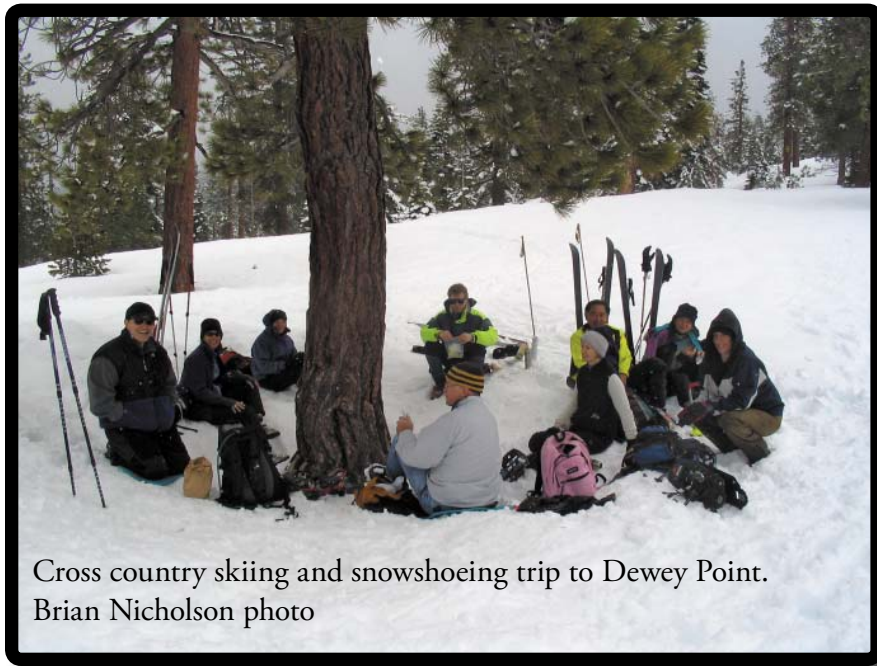
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The Chapter Needs You!

Membership in the Sierra Club provides many opportunities for service to the Chapter, the Club and the community. The Tehipite Chapter Executive Committee is currently inviting applications for the following positions and opportunities.



Cross country skiing and snowshoeing trip to Dewey Point.
Brian Nicholson photo

General Meeting Chair

After eleven years, Heather Anderson will be leaving her position as Program Chair in June of this year. The Executive Committee is inviting applications for her replacement.

This position is a challenging one, and Heather's performance will be a difficult act to follow. The Program Chair recruits and schedules speakers for our monthly meetings, usually chairs the meetings, and does whatever else is necessary to make the meetings a success.

Regional Conservation Committee Delegates

Regional Conservation Committee meetings take place four times a year—twice at a location

See *Volunteer*, page 3

Merced Group

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Merced, CA 95341

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Jule Biesiada juleb13@msn.com

Conservation Chair

Marsh Pitman (209) 723-2986

Publications

Rod Webster (209) 723-4747

Agriculture

Charlie Magneson . . . (209) 394-7045

Membership

Tammy Johnson (559) 665-5507

Publicity

Rod Webster (209) 723-4747

Population

Tammy Johnson (559) 665-5507

Merced Group

Merced Group Conservation and Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 10th at 7:00 P.M.
Rod Webster's home, 345 E. 20th, Merced

General Meeting

Thursday, March 17th at 7:30 P.M.

Sierra Presbyterian Church, 3603 M. St.
(M St. and Yosemite Ave., across from Merced College)

"Using Nature's Secrets to Manufacture New Products" *presented by Professor Christopher Viney*

The work of Christopher Viney was recently cited in an article entitled "Brave New Nature," which appeared in *Sierra* magazine. Viney is a professor of materials chemistry at U.C. Merced. He looks to nature for clues about how we can manufacture new high tech materials. One area he personally explores is how spiders make their silk, which has amazing strength to weight properties. In his lab, gossamer threads are harvested from golden orb-weaver spiders. Professor Viney hopes that we can learn to duplicate nature's manufacturing system as the raw product is changed from the glands to the spinnerets and the microstructure of the fibers is established.

Sierra magazine quotes Viney saying, "When we scale this journey up for industrial use, we have to be able to give

the manufacturing crew exact specifications: what concentration of protein they should use, how big the rods in the liquid crystal should be, how much calcium they will need, how much water they should squeeze out, and how fast they should spin out the fibers. By tweaking any one of those variables, we may be able to customize the silk for different uses."

Christopher Viney comes to U.C. Merced from Scotland's Heriot-Watt University. His enthusiasm for his topic and the twinkle in his eye make him a captivating speaker. His perspective as a pupil of nature and the wonders that exist therein—awaiting our discovery—brings a fresh perspective and respect for the natural world. He views the natural world as a treasure trove of ideas for mankind's tutelage and harvest.

Outings

None planned for March. Saturday, April 10th, vernal pools outing to the Cunningham Ranch is currently full. Contact Marsh Pitman for an alternative. (209) 723-2986.

Special Note

Members with Los Banos region environmental issues are urged to inform Conservation Chair Marsh Pitman of your concerns at (209) 723-2986 or marshpitman@sbcglobal.net.

Volunteer, from page 2

near San Luis Obispo and twice at Davis. The meetings near San Luis Obispo involve an overnight stay in a youth camp at the expense of the Club; the meetings in Davis involve only one day.

Our Chapter is entitled to send two delegates to each meeting, and the Executive Committee always attempts to appoint at least two alternates. All members of the Chapter

are eligible to apply for these positions. Anyone interested should contact one of the Chapter officers, whose names and contact information are as follows:

Gerald D. Vinnard (559) 431-5780, gvinnard@cvip.net
JoAnne Armstrong (209) 726-0636, sierrafer@people.com
Aimee Leyva (559) 436-8670, aimee_leyva@yahoo.com

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Oil Drilling and Budget Legislation Target This National Treasure

Protecting the Arctic Refuge has long been a top priority for the Sierra Club. Drilling the Arctic Refuge will not help meet America's energy needs. Instead of ruining lands that have been entrusted to our care, our nation must adopt a 21st century plan that reduces America's oil dependence. The Arctic Refuge is too special to sacrifice, and it is our responsibility to protect this unique place for future generations to explore and enjoy.

Wildlife and Native Culture Threatened

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's coastal plain—the area specifically targeted for drilling—harbors an unparalleled diversity of wildlife, and is the only place in North America where the full spectrum of arctic life is protected in one seamless expanse. This thin crescent of land is one of the most important onshore denning areas for polar bears in the United States. Muskoxen have made a comeback on the coastal plain. Grizzly bears and wolves range the open tundra, and Dall sheep thrive in the foothills. More than 130 species of birds rely on the coastal plain for breeding,

Sierra Club members on arctic activist outing observe a herd of caribou. (Andrew Nicholls photo)

nesting, and migratory stopovers. The coastal plain is also home to the 130,000-member Porcupine River caribou herd, which sustains the Gwich'in Indians of Interior Alaska and northwest Canada. For the Gwich'in, the coastal plain is integral to their subsistence culture and way of life.

Oil and Wilderness Don't Mix

Oil drilling in the coastal plain would require 280 miles of pipelines, 50 million cubic yards of gravel scoured from nearby ponds and rivers, and a sprawling industrial complex of roads, airstrips, power lines, pumping stations, worker housing—and tankers to transport oil, risking further spills. More than 400 spills occur on the North Slope each year. Such activities would forever alter and irreparably harm the coastal plain's spectacular landscapes and habitat.

Energy Freedom for America

Even oil companies admit the six months worth of oil would not reach the market for ten years. We need a new energy vision that sets America free from our dangerous



dependence on fossil fuels. We can use modern technology to make cars go farther on a gallon of gas, encourage the production and purchase of hybrid cars, develop innovative energy sources and invest in clean, renewable energy. Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge would not put a dent in our dependence on foreign oil, strengthen our national security, or save consumers a dime at the pump. But the harm to wildlife, wilderness, and the Gwich'in way of life would be permanent and irreparable. Americans deserve a cheaper, safer and cleaner energy policy that safeguards our last, best wild places.

Take Action:

Arctic Wilderness Bills in Congress

Two bills currently before Congress would provide permanent protection for the coastal plain. Please contact your Senators and ask them to co-sponsor Senator Lieberman's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Wilderness Act (S.261), and urge your Representative to co-sponsor H.R. 567, the Udall-Eisenhower Wilderness Act.

To call or write Congress:

U.S. Capitol Switchboard (202) 224-3121

Your Representative

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

Your Senator

U.S. Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510



Muskoxen on the arctic coastal plain. (Ken Madsen photo)

Take Action:

Keep the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Out of the Budget

In the face of overwhelming public support for protecting this national treasure, drilling proponents will try to attach controversial arctic drilling provisions to the upcoming FY 2006 Federal Budget bill. Such an attempt represents an abuse of the budget process. Call the brand new ARCTIC ACTION HOTLINE at 1-888-8-WILDAK (1-888-894-5325) which will connect you to the offices of your Congressional delegation. Tell your member of Congress to protect America's national heritage. Keep the Arctic Refuge out of the budget! ☛

Sequoia, from page 1

"This plan opens up huge areas to logging and specifically targets trees big enough to sell, undermining the whole purpose of the Monument. The Bush administration is shirking its responsibility to current and future generations to take care of this ancient and treasured forest," added Carla Cloer, representing the Tule River Conservancy.

As a model for better management, the Sierra Club and others are asking the Bush administration to look to nearby Sequoia National Park, where innovative conservation and fire prevention strategies have revitalized the Sequoia groves and made nearby communities safer. "In stark contrast to the very successful management techniques used for decades by the National Park Service in the Sequoia National Park," reads the complaint, "[the Bush administration] approved a Giant Sequoia National Monument Management Plan...that would permit extensive logging and cause

the degradation of old forest habitat and irreparable harm to the Monument's wildlife, directly conflicting with the purposes of the Sequoia Monument."

"The plan proposed by the Forest Service reverts back to an outdated strategy that ignores the clear recommendations of fire scientists on the Monument Science Advisory Committee, that fire risk reduction is not about logging large trees," stated Craig Thomas, Director of the Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign.

To view maps of the areas within the Monument where logging will be permitted, go to <http://www.sierraclub.org/wildlands/sequoiaplan>. ☛

To join the Sequoia Activist news list, send an email to info@sequoianet.org with the message, "Subscribe."

ECOVIEW

by Marian Orvis

OLD AND NEW

Do you have an old fur coat in your closet? Is your gr'ma's mink stole stored in the attic? Many of us have fur apparel (shudder) that we no longer want, or that was left to us by a family member.

If you'd like to see that old fur put to good use, give it back to the animals. The Humane Society of the U.S. collects furs and sends them to wildlife rehabilitators, who use the garments to warm and comfort orphaned and injured wildlife. More than three dozen rehabs across the U.S. now participate in the program. All fur apparel, fur-trimmed items and fur accessories such as hats, gloves, and muffs (including shearling) are acceptable.

Rehabers will cut the fur into appropriately sized blankets that become surrogate mothers to orphaned animals, reducing their stress and giving them comfort.

One rehaber spoke about a restless, orphaned river otter who chirped constantly.

Once given a fur blanket, it settled down contentedly.



Donating is easy.

Simply place the fur item in a sturdy box or a large padded envelope and mail to: The HSUS, ATTN: Andrea Cimino, 2100 L St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037. You'll receive an acknowledgement for your donation if you want to claim a tax deduction for its value—*i.e.*, the amount for which you could sell the fur today, not the original cost. More info available at <http://www.hsus.org/furdonation>, or call Andrea at (301) 258-3109.

Locally? Call me at (559) 226-0145, or for donations to Fresno Wildlife Rehab call (559) 298-3276.

Thought for March: "Is the hokey-pokey really what it's all about?" ❀

Volunteers are Needed at LeConte Memorial Lodge

by Harold Wood, LeConte Lodge Committee Chair

Summer volunteers are needed at Sierra Club's home in Yosemite Valley. The LeConte Memorial Lodge is a one hundred year old museum, library, and education center operated by the Sierra Club in Yosemite National Park.

We are looking for Sierra Club members interested in volunteering one week this summer to assist in keeping the doors of the Memorial open to our many visitors. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet families and friends from around the world and to share your own interests in wilderness. Please consider spending one week this season with us at LeConte Memorial Lodge. As a volunteer, entrance to the Park is free, and you may camp with us, free of charge, under the Ponderosa Pines near the Merced River with a wonderful view of Half Dome. Many weeks are still available for the 2005 summer season. Bring a friend or family member and volunteer together.



Please call or email Bonnie Gisel to discuss volunteering at LeConte Memorial Lodge this season.

For more information, see:

www.sierraclub.org/education/leconte/volunteering.asp

Dr. Bonnie J. Gisel, Curator,

Phone: (209) 403-6676

leconte.curator@sierraclub.org

Harold Wood

harold@planetaryexploration.net ❀

Trip 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 Carolyn Ordway (559) 449-7780 jbord606@yahoo.com. Please contact her 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.

March 5th - Saturday

Cross Country skiing
Beginners' Lesson
Location to be determined.
Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818

March 5th - Saturday

Foresta (2B/3B)
A perfect time to visit Foresta. Enjoy this historic area of Yosemite. Several big waterfalls and less-traveled trail. If no snow at the top, we will do a shuttle. Dave will take the downhill trail. Carolyn will take the uphill trail.
Dave Wallace (559) 284-2586
Carolyn Ordway (559) 449-7780

March 12th - Saturday

Snowshoeing
Location to be determined.
Carolyn Ordway (559) 449-7780 or 281-8223

March 12th - Saturday

Day Hike (1A)
A repeat of a favorite along Lewis Creek to see the big falls from all our precip this winter.
Don Redmond (559) 268-1537

March 13th - Sunday

San Joaquin River Gorge to Sky Harbor (4A)
Visit scree slope cave and see progress on the new bridge. Dogs OK on this trip if non-aggressive and capable of 16 mile hike. You will learn about the environmental geography and history of the area.
Richard Sloan, 1509 E. Fallbrook Ave., Fresno, CA 93720 (559) 696-2971, RiverRich1509@aol.com

March 19th - Saturday

Day Hike (2A)
San Joaquin River Gorge Trail.
Aimee Leyva (559) 438-8670 or (559) 301-3977

March 19th - Saturday

Cross Country Skiing—Intermediate
Panoramic Point in Kings Canyon
Gerald Vinnard (559) 431-5780

March 26th - Saturday

Cross Country Skiing—Intermediate
Location to be determined.
Steve Fretz (559) 439-6673

March 26th - Saturday

Day Hike (2A)
Experience a wildflower extravaganza as we walk along the South Fork of the Merced River to the abandoned mining community at Hite Cove.
Paul Weiss (209) 966-6605 yosemiteman@starband.net

March 26th - Saturday

Join me to view wild flowers in very unique setting—vernal pools at the top of McKenzie Table Mountain. Learn about paradoxical valleys. The view from the top is unequalled. (Some have experienced their first

epiphany there.) The hike is 6 miles RT with 1,000 ft. elevation gain.
Don Gaede (559) 434-5138

April 2nd - Saturday

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

April 9th - Saturday

Day Hike (2C) Moderate
Chilnualna Falls. The top cascade, just 100 yards to the right of the granite-lined trail, consists of five pool-and-drop tiers. Off Highway 41 near Wawona in Yosemite National Park.
Carolyn (559) 449-7780 or 281-8223

April 10th - Sunday

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

April 16th - Saturday

Cross Country Skiing—Intermediate
Location to be determined, weather and snow permitting.
Gerald Vinnard (559) 431-5780

April 16th - Saturday

Day Hike (2A+)
Up, up, up the Burma Road above the Merced River at Briceburg.
Paul Weiss (209) 966 6605 yosemiteman@starband.net

April 23rd - Saturday

Day Hike (2A)
A rarely done trail to Horseshoe Bend near Auberry. Should be lots of flowers and a big river pool for lunch.
Don Redmond (559) 268-1537

April 30th - Saturday

Cross Country Skiing—Intermediate
Location to be determined, weather and snow permitting.
Steve Fretz (559) 439-6673

See www.tehipite.sierraclub.org for additional trips, updates, and information about our outings program.



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TEHIPITE CHAPTER

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April *Tehipite Topics* deadlineMarch 15th

Chapter General Meeting

Another quick speaker switch! Our beloved world hiker, Keith Sauer, will be in the hospital and unable to present his program "From the North Slope to North Fork" on March 9th. We do plan to hear from him in April. At the March meeting, you will have the privilege of seeing parts of two superb DVDs, "Being Caribou" and "Oil on Ice."

"Being Caribou" is a professionally documented and beautifully photographed film about two young people who camped out in the arctic wilderness with the caribou for three months during their migration, calving, and post-calving.

"Oil on Ice" shows specific views of the refuge, the wildlife, the Gwich'in people, and of the resulting upheaval and destruction if oil drilling were to be allowed. This will enable you to be an informed activist to save our Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Don't miss it! Plan to attend and support our last meeting at the Unitarian Church, before we move to the University of California Center.

Upcoming Chapter General Meeting Presentations

March 9	Heather Anderson	Alaska and ANWR
April 13	Keith Sauer	North Slope to North Fork
May 11	John & Marcia Rasmussen...	A Trek to the Top of Mt. Rainier

Unitarian Church, 4144 N. Millbrook, Fresno, 7:00 P.M.
(University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Ave, Fresno, across from
Fashion Fair, beginning in April)

Join The Sierra Club!

Visit www.sierraclub.org/membership