



*The Sierra Club • Tehipite Chapter*

# Tehipite Topics

February 2007 ❧ Vol. 53, No. 2

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



*Photo by Syd Bluestone*

Hike at Lake Hensley on January 20, led by Don Gaede.

***We had 15 people!***

(Check out the Outings page for more fun trips.)



# February General Meeting

## “Climate Change and Global Warming: Past, Present, and Future; Facts and Impacts”

presented by Bob Merrill

Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 P.M.  
University of California Center  
550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno  
(across from Fashion Fair)

Climate change has a geologic history, and that history, along with current scientific investigations, can be used to make future projections. The science behind climate modeling is good, and U.S. policy makers need to pay far more attention, and move rapidly to counter the causes of global warming. Carbon emissions are the greatest problem, but methane and other gasses are also involved.

Past changes in climate display both rapid and gradual changes. Geologic history displays times of an earth with-

out glaciers and higher sea levels and times of rapid glacial melting accompanied by rapid sea level rise. Today's concern is with the multiple impacts, sea level rise is just one, of a rapid change in climate. Our large human population, with its vulnerable economic infrastructure, is poorly prepared to deal with the many consequences of global warming. The costs of denial and inadequate response extend beyond the human population to the global ecosystem and our food resources.

See *General Meeting*, page 8

### Conservation & Executive Committees

Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.  
University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno



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## **Merced Group**

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### **Population**

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

# **Merced Group**

## **Conservation and Executive Committee Meeting**

Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. at Rod Webster's home, 345 E. 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **February General Meeting**

Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:30 P.M. at Sierra Presbyterian Church, 3603 M St., Merced.

### **Electric Cars**

*presented by Heather Bernikoff and David Raboy*

Heather Bernikoff and David Raboy will make a presentation on and bring their electric car. This technology has such a huge connection with the air quality issues facing the Valley today. According to Heather and David, the issue of oil is at the root of many environmental problems, yet leadership on the national level has been far from helpful in the effort to find other options.

## **Outings**

Please see the Tehipite and Yokuts (Modesto area) chapter listings. Phone Rod Webster at (209) 723-4747 if you would like to coordinate carpooling with others from your area.

## **March General Meeting**

Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 P.M. at Sierra Presbyterian Church, 3603 M St., Merced.

### **Ecological Landscaping 101: Raised Beds and Good Bugs**

#### **Part 1: Raised Beds**

Raised beds can be a great benefit to the yard when combined with proven organic gardening practices.

Examples will be given of construction materials and techniques. We will show how raised beds can benefit people with limited mobility or disabilities, how they can save water, and how they can increase productivity in limited space. Top dressing, composting and organic fertilizing will be a part of the presentation.

*Alan Claunch, owner, Outdoor Creations 1995 to present.*

#### **Part 2: Pest Control Without Poisons**

We will discuss how to encourage beneficial insects and use handy homeowner tools to manage bugs, weeds and plant diseases.

*Cindy Lashbrook, licensed Pest Control Advisor, Four Seasons Ag. Consulting, Inc., and organic farmer, Riverdance Farms.*

## **Volunteer**

Our local group needs someone who can volunteer to be in charge of our calendar and card sales. Contact Rod Webster at (209) 723-4747 if you are willing to help.



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 (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
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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)

F94Q W1300 1

# National Club Election Coming This Spring

The annual election for the Sierra Club's Board of Directors is now underway. In March, those of you who are eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you 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/2007> election. 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 choices and cast your votes. You will find the ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark. A growing number of members find the user friendly Internet voting option to be very convenient as well as saving postage. ♻️



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## January 2007 Annual Award Banquet



### **Congratulations to Our Award Winners!**

- Mary Savala—Community Service
- JoAnne Armstrong—Conservation
- Gene Rose—Education
- Don Redmond—Outings
- Carolyn Ordway—Outings
- Rae Marx—Service

# 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 Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971, or 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 [www.tehipite.sierraclub.org/outings](http://www.tehipite.sierraclub.org/outings).

### February 3<sup>rd</sup> - Saturday

Cross country ski—beginners' lesson  
Location to be determined.  
*Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818*

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

Cross country ski—intermediate  
Location to be determined.  
*Steve Fretz (559) 439-6673*

### February 17<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Day hike (2A)  
If you're tired of the snow, come hike the beautiful San Joaquin River Gorge trail above Auberry.  
*Beth Leacox (559) 446-1825*  
or 355-7529

### February 18<sup>th</sup> - Sunday

Cross country ski (2B)  
Trip will be the Coyote Trail. Meet at 8 A.M. at Krispy Kreme near River Park. Three person minimum. Please call by Friday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>  
*Gerald Vinnard (559) 431-5780*

### February 24<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Cross country ski—intermediate  
Location to be determined.  
*Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818*

### February 24<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Snowshoeing  
Snowshoe to Dewey Point. Afterward, we can go to Badger Ski Lodge for something hot to drink.  
*Carolyn Ordway (559) 449-7780*

### March 3<sup>rd</sup> - Saturday

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

### March 4<sup>th</sup> - Sunday

Trail run  
Sky Harbor. Five mile run, with approximately 800 feet elevation gain. This is a hard uphill the first half mile, followed by mild rolling hills the remainder of the run. I am training for a marathon and would encourage anyone training for any event to come out and try this strenuous, but fun, run near the lake. Even if you are not training, this is a fun day of exercise in the great outdoors.  
*Aimee Leyva (559) 438-8670*  
or 301-3977

### March 10<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Cross country ski—intermediate (2A)  
This will be out of Tamarack area.  
*Gerald Vinnard (559) 431-5780*

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

Trail run  
San Joaquin River Gorge. This is a 6 mile loop of mild rolling hills. A great run, including both beauty, and challenging terrain.  
*Aimee Leyva (559) 438-8670*  
or 301-3977

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

Day hike (2A) Moderate  
Merced River Trail  
Merced River Canyon below Briceburg to the North Fork of the Merced and Back.  
*John Flaherty (209) 742-4668*

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

Sky Harbor trail run.  
Five mile run, with approximately 800 foot elevation gain. This is a hard uphill the first half mile, followed by mild rolling hills the remainder of the run. I am training for a marathon and would encourage anyone training for any event to come out and try this strenuous but fun run near the lake. Even if you are not training, this is just a fun day of exercise in the great outdoors.  
*Aimee Leyva (559) 438-8670*  
or (559) 301-3977

### March 24<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Cross country ski—intermediate  
Location to be determined.  
*Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818*

### March 24<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Trail run  
San Joaquin River Gorge. This is a 6 mile loop of mild rolling hills. This is a great run, including both beauty and challenging terrain.  
*Aimee Leyva (559) 438-8670*  
or (559) 301-3977

### March 31<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Day hike (2C) Moderate  
Chilnualna Falls  
Elevation gain 2,100 feet.  
*Carolyn Ordway (559) 449-7780*

The Merced Birders would like you to know some of the activities that they are planning. Feel free to contact Carolyn at (209) 722-2104 for more information about these trips.

- Snelling (Henderson Park and Cathy's place)—winter
- Magneson farm—winter
- Cosumnes River Preserve—?
- Copperstown Road—spring
- Arena Plains—?
- Pinnacles National Monument—fall/spring
- Santa Fe Grade—?

**April 13<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> (17<sup>th</sup>) Friday night to Monday or Tuesday night**

Car camp and backpack (3D)  
Panamint City ghost town. Located at 7,000 elevation in the Panamint Mountains, it is an 11 mile bush-whack, sometimes in a stream bed with flowing water. The rewards of this difficult hike are worth it. Historic remains of the town, Indian pictographs, wild animal encounters. 2wd vehicles should be OK.  
*Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971*

**April 15<sup>th</sup> - Sunday**

Day hike (2A)  
Lewis Creek to Red Rock Falls  
*Beth Leacox (559) 446-1825*  
*or (559) 355-7529*

**April 22<sup>nd</sup> - Sunday**

Day hike (2A)  
Hite Cove  
We will follow the South Fork of the Merced at Savage Trading Post to the ruins of an old mining camp. Some sections of the trail have steep dropoffs.  
*John Flaherty (209) 742-4668*

**May 13<sup>th</sup> - Sunday**

Day hike (2D)  
Yosemite Falls  
Possibly change due to late Snow.  
*John Flaherty (209) 742-4668*

**May 19<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>**

National River Cleanup activities  
*Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971*

**June 2<sup>nd</sup> - Saturday**

Day hike (2C) Strenuous

Join me in climbing to the top of the world's 5<sup>th</sup> highest waterfall, Yosemite Falls. How tall is it? Stack the Eiffel Tower on top of the Sears Tower, and you get the idea. Learn about flaky rocks, and why it's called Yosemite *Falls* and not Yosemite *Fall*.  
*Don Gaede (559) 434-5138*

**June 17<sup>th</sup> - Sunday**

Day hike (2C)  
Stanford Point  
A uphill walk to one or two wonderful view points of Yosemite Valley from Wawona Tunnel on Hwy. 41. Possible change due to late snow.  
*John Flaherty (209) 742-4668*

**July 15<sup>th</sup> - Sunday**

Day hike (2A)  
Pothole Dome and Tuolumne River  
An exploratory stroll on the edge of the meadow to various points along the river.  
*John Flaherty (209) 742-4668*

**July 20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> Friday night Car Camp, Hike Saturday (2B)**

Dinkey Wilderness. Trailhead at 8,200 ft. elevation. Should be good flowers, with mosquitoes disappearing by now. Hike past six lakes. Non-aggressive dogs welcome.  
*Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971*

**August 19<sup>th</sup> - Sunday**

Day hike (3C)  
Chilnualna Falls  
*John Flaherty (209) 742-4668*

**September 16<sup>th</sup> - Sunday**

Day hike (2B)  
Gaylor Lake. Walk up to silver mine ruins near the Tioga entrance station in Yosemite.  
*John Flaherty (209) 742-4668*

**October 14<sup>th</sup> - Sunday**

Day hike (2B)  
Lewis Creek  
Route to be determined by group interest.  
*John Flaherty (209) 742-4668*



Built by Sierra Club members in 1934, this rustic, hostel-style lodge stands atop historic Donner Pass, just an hour and a half from Sacramento.

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

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

See you on Donner Summit...



For more information about our special programs or to receive a full schedule and description of Clair Tappaan programs please visit our website at [www.ctl.sierraclub.org](http://www.ctl.sierraclub.org) or call (800) 679-6775.





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The *Tehipite Topics* is available, in color, on the Chapter website at <http://tehipite.sierraclub.org>.

Deadline for the March *Tehipite Topics* will be February 9<sup>th</sup>.  
Deadlines are almost always the second Friday of the previous month.

### *General Meeting, from page 2*

The longer we postpone taking action, the worse the outcome and the greater the cost will be, but continued denial could eliminate the Florida voting problem.

...

Dr. Robert Merrill lived in Death Valley until age five; did another choice besides geology exist?

Education: UC Riverside, BA 1963; Univ. of Mass. at Amherst, MS 1965; University of Texas, Ph.D. 1974

Geologic employment: Mobil Oil, Bear Creek Mining, Texas Bureau of Economic Geology, California State University, Fresno (34 years), variety of consulting assignments.

Areas of expertise & research: geomorphology (earth's surface processes and landforms), reconstruction of ancient depositional environments, land use, and the use of geology in archaeology.

University positions: faculty member, department chairman, California Faculty Association (faculty union) chapter president, chair General Education Committee. ☞

## The Village It Takes To Raise a Child

The Village It Takes To Raise a Child is a free talk on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 3:30 P.M. It is sponsored by Fresno Cohousing, a group of families, singles and elders, creating an environmentally sustainable community on a 2.8 acre site they own in north Fresno. Presenter is national educator, *Parenting in Community* author, cohousing resident and mother, Neshama Abraham Paiss of Boulder, Colorado. Location: Mommy Matters, 1010 E. Perrin Ave. at Champlain. For more information, or to reserve a seat at the talk, please call La Querencia Fresno Cohousing at (866) 246-7717 or visit [www.FresnoCohousing.org](http://www.FresnoCohousing.org).

Lynn Bassman, A Sierra Club member, is hosting this event. She may be contacted at (559) 367-9529. ☞