

Tehipite Topics

November 2018 – Vol. 64, No. 1

www.sierraclub.org/tehipite

From the Editor

We Must Carry on the Fight

As this issue of *Tehipite Topics* goes to press, citizens across the nation are voting for a new House of Representatives, as well as 35 Senate seats, 36 state governor offices, and numerous other state and local officials. Whatever the outcome, whether or not there is a change in leadership in one or both or neither house of

Congress, the executive branch is still in the hands of an administration with unprecedented hostility to the natural environment.



When Election Day has passed, activists who have been working hard for months to educate the public about the issues and to get larger numbers of citizens to the polls may feel burnt out and ready to move on to other activities.

But the fight is not over, and we must carry on. The president, after pulling the United States out of the Paris Climate Accord, will continue working to eliminate regulations that protect workers, consumers, and the environment, while appointing federal judges who are friendlier to the monetary interests of large corporations than they are to the health and well-being of ordinary citizens.

In many states, the party in power is making it harder for citizens to exercise their right to vote, while further diluting the popular mandate with gerrymandering.



Here at home, the development wing of the Fresno City Council is methodically carving away elements of the city's advanced urban plan, eliminating agricultural mitigation when farms and orchards are leveled for new housing or industrial development.



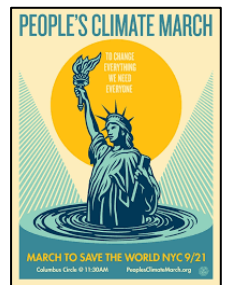
At the county level, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors recently attempted to sneak by the citizens a wholesale rewriting of the general plan as if it were a

minor update, keeping the process hidden away from voters and taxpayers, until alert observers from the League of Women Voters, the Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, and other citizen watchdogs called the Board on their subterfuge. Not only has the process gone on in secret, but the new plan leaves out elements required by state law, as well as others that need to be addressed in this age of rapidly changing climate and environmental degradation.



We must not become complacent now that Election Day is over. We cannot let our guard down. The Sierra Club continues to campaign to end coal mining and to transform the powering of our society away from fossil fuels, to stop the destruction of riverine habitat and scenery from additional hydropower projects, and to contain the damage caused by encroachment on our wildlands. Our allies in Fresnoans Against Fracking work to protect underground fresh water resources from toxic chemicals used in oil and gas extraction, while members of the Citizens Climate Lobby walk the halls of Congress to win more legislators to the cause of arresting the flow of greenhouse gases into our atmosphere.

Here in the Tehipite Chapter we will continue to educate the public about the dangers of groundwater depletion and the stupidity of spending three billion dollars on an unnecessary Temperance Flat Dam, and to lobby the Forest Service to set aside more wilderness areas. Next month the chapter will be voting for five positions on our eight-person Executive Committee. Now is an opportunity for new activists to participate in bringing the Club's national campaigns to the local level, informing the public of the need to address these crucial issues at home. There are many ways to help. Contact any of the chapter leaders on the next page to join the fight to save our environment.



see also:

- Call for Candidates for the Chapter Executive Committee
- Climate Change as Shown by River Hydrology and Precipitation
- Heather Anderson Receives National Sierra Club Service Award
- The Sierra Cup — A Sierra Club Icon

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- on page 10
- on page 12
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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.



Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club

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Upcoming Tehipite Chapter Meetings

Tehipite Chapter Conservation & Executive Committee Meetings

Second Wednesday of each month ~ members welcome

November 14, December 12, January 9, February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, and October 9

The Conservation Committee meets at 7 PM. The Executive Committee meets at 8 PM.

University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Avenue, Fresno (between First and Fresno Streets)

Tehipite Chapter General Meetings

Third Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9 PM, except for July, August, and—in 2018—November
OUR GENERAL MEETINGS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, AND PARKING IS FREE.

University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Avenue, Fresno (between First and Fresno Street)



November 2018: no meeting

Wednesday, December 19, 7:00 PM

“Travels through Southern Utah and a First-hand Update on the Crisis at Bears Ears National Monument,” with Brenda and Chuck Markham

On December 4, 2017 the Trump administration drastically cut the size of both Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments in order to allow the mining of uranium, oil, and coal with cut-rate leasing costs. Sierra Club and other groups quickly filed lawsuits challenging this illegal rollback of public lands protection. Back from an October visit to the endangered Bears

Ears National Monument, Brenda and Chuck Markham will show slides from their travels through southern Utah and report on the imminent danger of the region becoming despoiled by mining exploration and exploitation.

From the website of the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) — dateline September 24, 2018:

AN UPDATE ON BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT: CASE WILL CONTINUE IN D.C.

Federal Judge Tanya S. Chutkan ruled on Monday, September 24, that the cases filed against the Trump Administration’s revoke and replacement of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments will remain in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia—where they were filed—and that the Department of the Interior must alert the tribes at least 48 hours before they allow any ground disturbing activities on the disputed lands.

Although the president does not have any authority to revoke or modify a monument, that is exactly what President Trump has attempted at Bears Ears National Monument. Removing protections for these lands affects all Americans, but significantly affects the five tribes (Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and Pueblo of Zuni) in the region who consider the area sacred and have long-standing and ongoing connections to the land in question. With the issue of venue decided, this significant case can move forward; Chutkan’s order calls for the parties to begin briefing in early October.

NARF Staff Attorney Natalie Landreth stated, “We are eager to move forward with this case and to stop President Trump’s illegal actions against these lands, which are of utmost importance to the Native peoples in the region but important to the legacy of America for all citizens. The administration’s actions lack any legal authority and would open the Bears Ears region to exploitation by individuals and industries seeking profit regardless of the historical, cultural, and scientific importance of the area to tribes and others. The removal of these protections is not only morally wrong, it is illegal.”

NARF continues to fight for the Native nations who have spent years working to protect their sacred, ancestral lands and the millions of people who declared their support for our national monuments. We will not allow the rights of our Native nations and our local people to be willfully pushed to the side for the benefit of corporate interests. We will stand firm for justice.

<https://www.narf.org/bears-ears-update/>

Upcoming Tehipite Chapter General Meetings in 2019



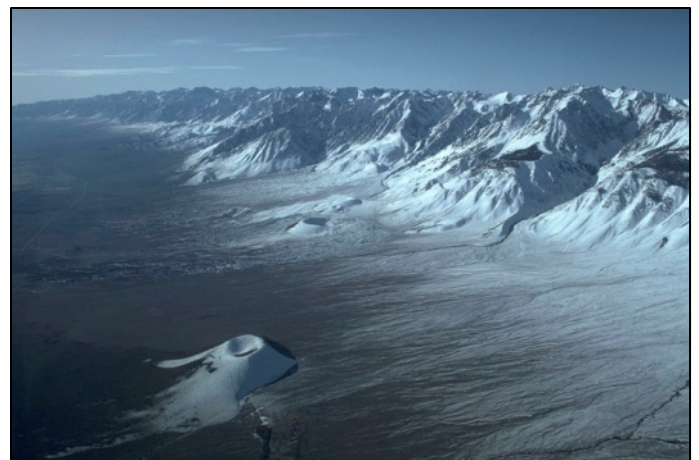
Wednesday, January 16, 7:00 PM — “Creating Inspirational Backpacking Challenges for Kids,” with Mike Murphy, co-founder and guide for Trans-Sierra Xtreme (TSX)



Wednesday, February 20, 7:00 PM — “Searching for Downed WWII Aircraft in the High Sierra,” with Tony Krizan, aircraft enthusiast



Saturday, March 16, 5:00 PM, at The Big Red Church, 2131 N. Van Ness Avenue, Fresno — Our Annual Potluck Banquet — “Sustainability, Walkability, and Economic Growth in Fresno City Planning,” with Keith Bergthold, retired city planner and director of Fresno Metro Ministry



Wednesday, April 17, 7:00 PM — “Geology of the Sierra Nevada,” with Bob Turner, former high school geology and physics teacher



Wednesday, May 15, 7:00 PM — “Heat & Drought and the Growth & Death of Sierra Forests,” with Anne E. Kelly, Director, UC Merced Yosemite and Sequoia Field Stations



Wed, June 19, 7:00 PM — “Wilderness Medicine,” with Susanne Spano, MD, Professor of Clinical Emergency Medicine at UCSF Fresno and member of the Fresno County Sheriff’s Search and Rescue Mountaineering Team



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Merced Group Conservation & Executive Committee Meetings

The first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM — at Rod Webster’s home, 345 E. 20th St., Merced.

The 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.

Merced Group Monthly Meetings at the Methodist Church

Reminder: There is no general meeting scheduled for November of 2018.

Our next gathering will be the Merced Group’s annual potluck and awards banquet on Saturday, December 8, 2018. See the announcement on the opposite page for details.

Merced Group Monthly Meetings Resume in January

The Merced Group will resume its monthly meetings in January 2019. We meet at 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of each month. Our thanks to Merced United Methodist Church, 899 Yosemite Parkway, whose Fireside Room provides a convenient and inviting venue. Park in the lot on Cypress Ave. and enter there.

Programs vary — some educate on environmental issues and others are more entertaining and hopefully inspire folks to get out and enjoy the great outdoors.

The Merced section of the Tehipite Chapter website, local newspapers, and *Tehipite Topics* often describe the program planned for the month, BUT sometimes it is hard to get confirmation of speakers ahead of time or there are last minute changes. Getting on Rod’s email list assures that you get up-to-date information as well as occasional reminders as events approach. If you are not on “The List” already, just email Rod at rwebster@elite.net and ask to be added.

Details on our 2019 programs are TBA at this point, so again check our page on the Tehipite Chapter website at www.sierraclub.org/tehipite/merced-events-meetings-outings, scope out the local papers (*Merced Sun-Star* and *The County Times*), or sign up for email alerts. Questions? Call Rod Webster at (209) 723-47470.

Merced Group Needs a Little Help

Many hands do make lighter the work, so the leadership of the Merced Group is looking for some folks willing to provide some support in the following areas:

- **Secretary:** attend the conservation/executive committee meetings on the first Wed. of each month (7:00-8:30) and take minutes, type up and submit.
- **Web site updater:** update our portion of the Tehipite Chapter's website once or twice a month with news on what we've been up to and info on upcoming speakers and events.
- **Agriculture chair:** help keep the executive committee

and conservation chair apprised of any topics or issues in the ag arena, particularly within Merced County.

- **Conservation Chair:** this is a little meatier position since it covers a wide umbrella of topics. Others will provide info and input but someone needs to serve as a central clearing house and filter to help us focus on the most pertinent issues for our Group. Usually our attention is centered on issues of air and water quality, land use and wise growth, and protection of farmland and natural spaces. Share info by attending the ExCom meetings on the first Wed. of each month, 7:00-8:30.

If you can help in one of these capacities, or have a relevant area of interest of your own, please contact Rod for more info at (209) 723-4747.

MERCED GROUP'S ANNUAL POTLUCK & AWARDS BANQUET

**Endangered Species Advocates
Jim Bland and Mini McGindren
present:**

**“A Visit to the Galapagos Islands”
6:00 – 9:00 PM, Saturday, December 8, 2018
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
1455 E. Yosemite Avenue, Merced**



Jim Bland and his wife Mini McGindren have been activists for the preservation of endangered species all of their adult lives. Over the years they have had wide and varied experiences as residents of several continents. During that time Jim has had a particular passion for the plight of pheasant species and Mini for crane varieties. With an academic background and widespread worldly wanderings they should offer us a particularly insightful tour of the Galapagos Islands. Currently Los Angeleans, they have been lured back to their old stomping grounds in Merced to share a program about their most recent adventure.

No RSVP or reservation is required — just come if you can and bring your friends.

Food: Bring a main dish or salad to share. Beverages and dessert will be provided.

Times: Doors open at 6:00. Dinner begins at 6:30. Program starts at 7:15.

Questions to Rod Webster: rwebster@elite.net or (209)723-4747.



Sierra Club calendars will be available for purchase:

Wilderness wall calendars are \$16 / Engagement books are \$17 (sales tax is included).

Plastic mailing envelopes will be provided this year. To purchase and receive them ahead of time, call Annette at 723-5152 or Rod at 723-4747.

Scholarship Fund: In 2011 the Jake and Fran Kiriara Memorial Scholarship Award was created in honor of two of our founding members. Each year the Merced Group awards two scholarships from the fund to further the education of UC Merced students working towards preserving and protecting the environment.

If you would like to make a donation to the fund but are unable to come to the potluck, please mail the check to:
Merced Group of the Sierra Club
345 E. 20th St., Merced CA 95340.

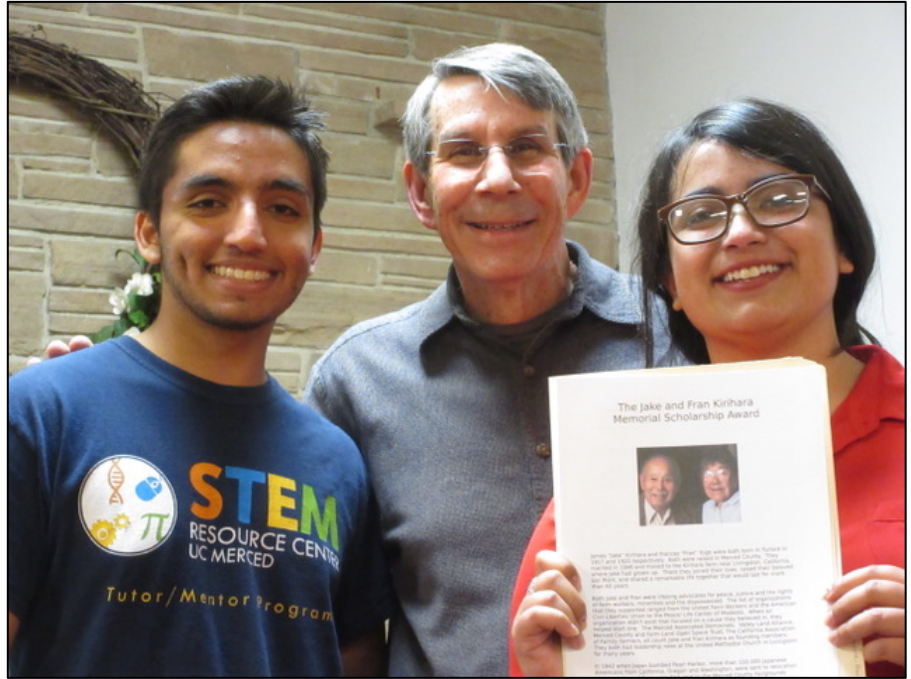
Merced Group News

Kirihara Scholarships Awarded to UC Merced Students

Jake and Fran Kirihara were founding members of the Merced Group of the Sierra Club, who throughout their lives were intimately involved with groups dedicated to peace and justice. They found many pathways to support and help protect the underprivileged and under-represented. In their honor the Merced Group formed the Jake and Fran Kirihara Memorial Scholarship Award in 2011. Each year we select two students at UC Merced who have demonstrated a passion for the environment and in their studies a commitment to its stewardship.

Our most recent recipients were UC Merced students Anthony Javiya and Jeniffer Amezquita Marin. Both students are involved with the Yosemite Leadership Program, which is an on campus outreach of the National Park Service. Participants help to staff Yosemite's campus information desk and also do outreach at schools in the community.

Anthony studies Biological Sciences with an emphasis in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. He just completed his second year in the Yosemite Leadership Program where participants complete a capstone project. His involved organizing, cataloging, mapping and researching permits granted in Yosemite over the last ten years. This last school year he also worked as an undergraduate researcher in Dr. Danielle Edwards' Genetics Lab, where he helped a grad student in a phylogenetic study focused on the reintroduction of Western Pond Turtles in Yosemite. This summer Anthony is doing research at UC Berkeley under the



KIRIHARA AWARD RECIPIENTS ANTHONY JAVIYA AND JENIFFER AMEZQUITA MARIN WITH MERCED GROUP CHAIR ROD WEBSTER

auspices of the National Science Foundation. His work will explore the different oxygen consumption levels in crickets of different morphology. Upon graduation Anthony hopes to either pursue a PhD to conduct wildlife research or attend veterinarian school.

Jeniffer is a local who was lured to UC Merced by the University's outreach at our local high schools. First of all she joined the Sierra Science Academy, which gave her first exposure to Yosemite. Later visits from students in the Yosemite Leadership Program helped her decide that UC Merced was for her. Jeniffer is an Earth System Science major with a minor in Natural Science Education. This summer she has been working in Yosemite as an education ranger. That includes assisting summer interns, helping in the Adventure Risk Challenge, and educating visitors about the Park. Career plans are to teach, either as an education ranger or in a traditional classroom.

We wish both our honorees success in their pursuits and are confident that Jake and Fran would echo that.

Merced Group News

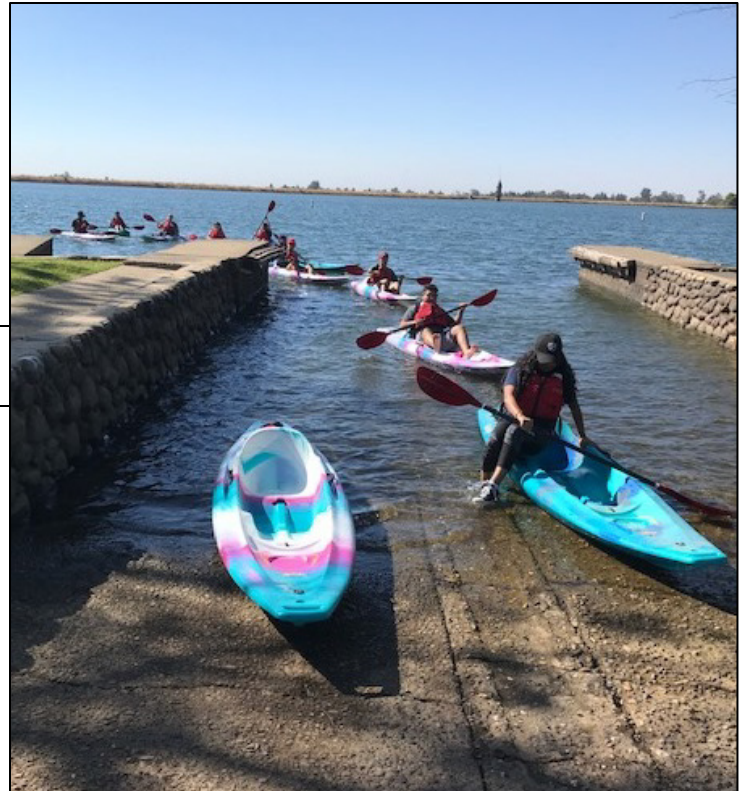
Merced Group Helps Teach Kayaking Skills to UC Merced Students

The Merced Group and the East Merced Resource Conservation District co-sponsored a basic introductory kayaking session for UC Merced students at Yosemite Lake in Merced this fall. Many thanks to Jean Okuye and the EMRCD for providing all the equipment and instructors.



INSTRUCTORS SHANNON GILMORE AND DAVID NEESE (RIGHT) WALK THEIR CHARGES THROUGH THE BASICS.

KAYAKERS BRING IT IN FOR LUNCH AFTER PRACTICING THEIR NEWLY LEARNED SKILLS.



STEPHEN HO, MAIN ORGANIZER OF THE EVENT AND HEAD CHEF FOR THE DAY, SHOWS OFF HIS CULINARY SKILLS WITH HELP FROM SOUS-CHEF ROD WEBSTER.



Merced County Outings: D.I.Y. Winter Birding

Winter is prime time to visit Merced County's three National Wildlife Refuges. Being so close they make a perfect quickie outing to get a dose of nature and still leave time on your Saturday or Sunday for other obligations or diversions. For the next several months (on into March even) literally 1000's of birds use our Valley wetlands as a stopover on their migrations or to stay for the duration and join us as seasonal residents. Most famous are the hordes of Sandhill Cranes and the clouds of Ross' snow geese, but there is also an eclectic mix of ibis, coots, blackbirds, herons, raptors, shorebirds, and many, many varieties of ducks. So grab your binocs and head to Merced National Wildlife Refuge, San Luis NWLR, or San Joaquin River NWLR. Check their websites to see what each has to offer. And BTW don't let a little rain or fog, or overcast deter you, sometimes those are the best viewing days, especially if you plan to play photographer.

CLIMATE CHANGE AS SHOWN BY RIVER HYDROLOGY AND PRECIPITATION

by David Cehrs

There are now 122 years of annual flow data on the Kings River, and the Fresno precipitation data go back even further to 1878. To show changes in both the Fresno precipitation and the Kings River annual flows I have split the Kings River and Fresno precipitation data, using just the 1896 to 2017 data, into three groups—the first two groups are for 41 years each and the most recent group is for 40 years. The table below shows the statistics for the three groupings and it can be seen quite easily that things are changing. The average Fresno precipitation data show that it has become wetter through time by a full two inches and the Kings River averages show an increase of 200,000 acre-feet from the drainage.

FRESNO PRECIPITATION — in inches (NOAA)					
		avg precip	precip std dev	max precip	min precip
	1896-1936	9.1	2.4	16.7	4.4
	1937-1977	10.2	3.7	23.0	5.3
	1978-2017	11.3	4.4	23.6	4.8
KINGS RIVER ANNUAL FLOW — in thousand acre-feet (KRWA)					
		avg flow	flow std dev	max flow	min flow
	1896-1936	1633.7	753.8	3899.6	391.6
	1937-1977	1643.7	847.5	4386.2	396.0
	1978-2017	1808.5	1098.4	4476.3	361.0
KINGS RIVER DRY PERIODS					
	1896-1905	7 out of 10 yrs dry (below normal)			
	1918-1935	15 out of 18 yrs dry			
	1944-1961	14 out of 18 yrs dry	1946-1951	6 consecutive dry yrs	
	1985-1994	8 out of 10 yrs dry	1987-1992	6 consecutive dry yrs	
	1999-2004	6 consecutive dry yrs			
	2012-2016	5 consecutive dry yrs			
Dr. David Cehrs					
Data: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration & Kings River Water Association					

So what is happening to cause these increases? The increases are a consequence of climate change; global air temperatures are warming and warmer air can hold more water moisture which results in more precipitation. More precipitation over the Kings River drainage results in higher annual flows. But of even more importance, as shown in the second column of the table, the standard deviations of the 40-year increments are increasing. The standard deviation is a measure of the spread of the data—the larger the spread the greater the standard deviation. This increased standard deviation means the Fresno precipitation and the Kings River annual flows are becoming more diverse, more highs and lows and fewer values near the average, than in the past. The Kings River standard deviation for the most recent cohort is greater than half the average flow for the period. This is a huge standard deviation, but what it means is that the Kings River annual flows are now either too much, floods, or not enough, droughts, and very few years are near the average. Climate change modeling has predicted that weather will become more chaotic now and into the future and this Kings River annual flow standard deviation is indicating just this point. It is also of note that the highest and lowest recorded Kings River annual flows have occurred in the last 40-year cohort.

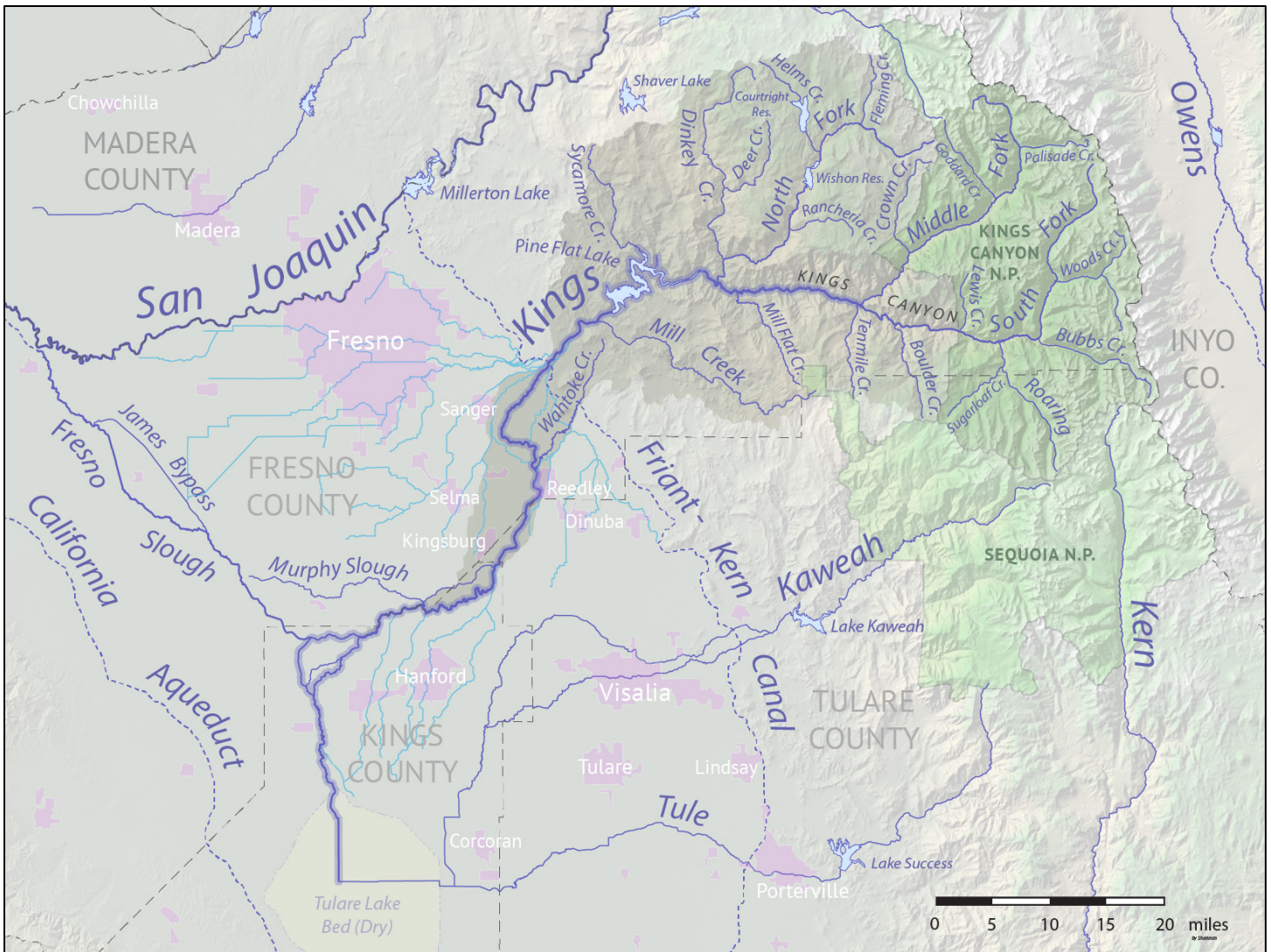
The last part of the table indicates the number of years of consecutive below normal (below average) annual flows. This gives you an indication of how many drier to dry years can occur over a period of time. It is not uncommon to have five or six consecutive years of lower Kings River annual flows. This equates to drought conditions. But notice, earlier in the data set there were two sequences where fourteen or fifteen years out of eighteen years were dryer; this is an extended period of dry that today would severely impact all of us in the San Joaquin Valley, as our demand for water has increased with our ever expanding population.



KINGS RIVER AS IT ENTERS THE LOWER SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

PHOTO BY BOB TURNER

The Kings River flows and Fresno precipitation, like many other natural systems in California, are showing the impacts of climate change. These changes indicate that in the future we in the San Joaquin Valley will be experiencing more and longer dry periods interspersed with single year (extreme) wet events.



THE KINGS RIVER DRAINAGE BASIN WITH TRIBUTARIES, DISTRIBUTARIES, AND THE NETWORK OF CANALS FED BY THE KINGS RIVER

MAP COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA, LICENSED UNDER CREATIVE COMMONS

Heather Anderson, longtime Tehipite Chapter leader, receives national Sierra Club Special Service Award — leaves Fresno for Oregon

At a September 29 event held in Denver during the Sierra Club's annual meetings of the Board of Directors and Council of Club Leaders, longtime Tehipite Chapter activist and leader Heather Anderson was awarded the Special Service Award, a national Sierra Club honor "for strong and consistent commitment to conservation over an extended period of time."

Heather, a favorite member of this chapter, who regularly contributed stories of her love of wilderness and travels in the wild to *Tehipite Topics*, recently relocated from Fresno to Bend, Oregon to be with family members who live there.

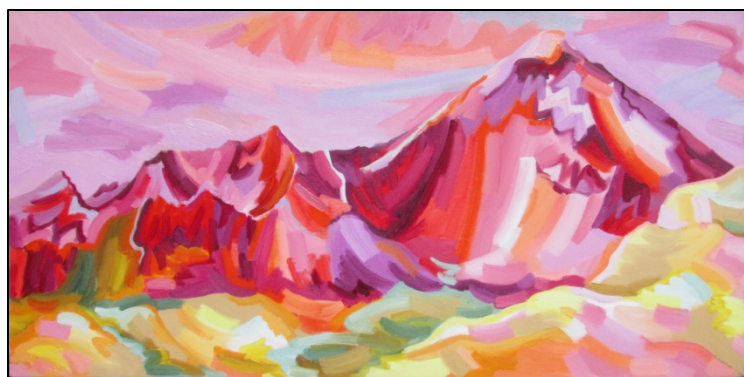
Activism Combined with Art

An avid nature lover, Heather Anderson was so inspired by Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring* that she named her daughter after the author and activist. Heather was appalled to learn about the damage of pesticides detailed in the book. "She used her art to express those ideas so eloquently," Heather says.

Just as Rachel Carson used words, Heather has used her painting to inspire others. An accomplished painter and art teacher, Heather has depicted mountains, glaciers, rivers, and deserts in a career spanning fifty years, including a doctorate focusing on art education. Heather always encouraged her students to find their inspiration in nature, and she mentored other teachers to create lessons around environmental issues.

Facing gender discrimination in the mid-20th century art world, Heather went on to develop a unique style of painting, using bright colors and broad brush strokes that make her paintings instantly recognizable as her own. Heather's work, displaying scenes in America's national parks, in the Alps, and in Patagonia, can be viewed on her personal websites at www.heatherandersonwilderness.appspot.com and www.heatherandersonart.com.

A long-time leader of Sierra Club's Tehipite Chapter, Heather served as chapter chair and conservation chair. She planned programs to entertain and educate chapter members and to engage a new generation of activists.



HEATHER ANDERSON'S PAINTINGS OF THE HIGH SIERRA WILDERNESS, INCLUDING THIS ONE OF RED SLATE MOUNTAIN, ARE ON DISPLAY IN THE GALLERY OF THE LODGEPOLE VISITOR CENTER IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK, WHICH REOPENS IN MAY.



HEATHER SENDS HER LOVE AND HUGS TO THE TEHIPITE CHAPTER.

Heather's love for the land in the Tehipite Chapter runs deep, and she's committed to protecting the mountains that John Muir called the "Range of Light." From her first Sierra experience — a honeymoon hike after her wedding in Crescent Meadow — to getting involved in the passage of the California Desert Protection Act, Heather has always enjoyed nature and taken a stand to protect it. An inveterate hiker, Heather at 90 can still outpace many of her younger companions on her daily walks and summer outings.

Heather Anderson's friends, colleagues in the art community, and fellow activists in Tehipite Chapter will miss her presence in Fresno. We hope she finds equal enjoyment hiking in the forests and hills of the Cascades close by her new home.

Fresno County Outing: Hiking the Kings River Trail to Garlic Falls

Saturday, November 10, 2018 at 6:15 AM – 8 PM

Description: This is a strenuous hike, but it is out-and-back, so we can revise our end point based on weather and group pace. I am still coordinating with other groups like Audubon, CalWild, and Sierra Forest Legacy, so we might have a large group stopping in different locations. My goal is to swim in Garlic Falls if there is any water. We will be hiking along the Kings River the whole way, so there will definitely be a swim at the end.



Contact: call, message, or text Sam H. to RSVP (925) 951-7378.

Time: Depart Fresno by 6:15, meet at trailhead at 8:30. Hike out, have lunch at 12:30 wherever we end up. Turn around at 1:30pm, return to trailhead at 5:30pm. Depart for Fresno by 6:00pm, return to Fresno Grocery Outlet at 8:00pm.

Carpool: I can't coordinate carpools, but I have four seats in my car, so feel free to call/text if you need a ride. I will be at the Grocery Outlet at Peach/Belmont at 6:00, leave shortly thereafter and meet at the trailhead at 8:30.

Directions (From Fresno): There are way too many directions to type out and convert to miles. If you have trouble accessing OpenStreetMaps, please contact me at the above phone number.

OpenStreetMaps link (Google Maps can't direct to the trailhead):

https://www.openstreetmap.org/directions?engine=osrm_car&route=36.7508%2C-119.7204%3B36.8645%2C-119.0272#map=11/

NaturalAtlas link:

<https://naturalatlas.com/trails/kings-river-2219076>

Sierra National Forest Trail Description:

https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/regions/Pacific_Southwest/KingsRiverTrail/index.shtml

Distance/Elevation: 12 miles round trip, 1400 feet elevation gain

Nearest Facilities: Vault toilets at campgrounds along Trimmer Springs Road

Safety: This is a low elevation area, 1,000 to 3,000 feet. The hike is in Fresno County, in November, which means it could be 95 degrees, or it could snow that day. Bring water, food, and proper clothing for all scenarios.

THE FINE PRINT — PLEASE READ **Every participant must sign a liability waiver before any Sierra Club outing. **Please read outing write-ups thoroughly. **The Club will not assume responsibility for carpools, and carpool transportation is at the sole risk of the participants. **You must be appropriately in condition, experienced, and geared up, for this trip, and must be leader approved. If not, you might not be allowed on this outing. **This outing is led by a Sierra Club Outings Leader; you must be willing to follow the leader's directions. **Sierra Club members AND non-members welcome! **We advocate conservation (<http://sierraclub.org/>), Leave No Trace ethics (<http://lnt.org/learn/7-principles>), and carrying the ten essentials (<http://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/ten-essentials.html>). **Please be considerate! If you can't go, change your RSVP to "NO", at least by 8pm the evening before, so those on the wait list can go. "No Shows" will lose preference for future spots. **Please check the night before that the hike is still on. **Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

From the annals of the Sierra Club: A Sierra Club Icon — The Sierra Cup

by Bob Turner

When I started backpacking in the 1970s we all had Sierra cups. Small, stackable, and inexpensive, pressed from stainless steel with a wire rim that curves out into a handle, their wide tops make them well suited for dispensing food out of a group pot or as a personal bowl or plate, and they are easier to clean than straight-sided cups.



In our age of highly specialized camping equipment the reputation of the Sierra cup has suffered. While they may be used for cooking food or purifying water, they were not designed for these uses and do them poorly. The narrow base makes the cup easy to tip over. The broad rim creates more surface area for water to evaporate, thus increasing time to boil water in it. The cup becomes scalding hot when heating water and cannot be drunk from directly until it has cooled down somewhat. Many users have their own memories of having burned a lip on the metal rim. However, liquids cool from simmering to drinkable faster than in narrow double-walled cups.

If the Sierra cup is ideal for anything, it is for something now considered dangerous, dipping in a stream to drink. We could do this in any Western mountain range in those days, the era before giardia, shigella, and cryptosporidium were brought back to America by mountaineers adventuring in Asia. Snowmelt is the best water in the world, and with the cup hanging off a belt one could kneel down for a drink without having to take off your backpack.

Often called the Sierra Club cup, the design actually dates back to the early days of the Appalachian Mountain Club. Early 20th century hikers didn't have much specialized gear. They wore cotton and wool and leather. But in many photographs from that era is a trailblazing item: a tin AMC cup, often seen dangling from backpacks or hanging by its wire handles from belts. David Brower, the Sierra Club's first executive director, even admitted in his 1990 autobiography, "the Sierra Club imitated the Appalachian Mountain Club's cup, but that is a secret."

In John McPhee's 1971 profile of Brower, *Encounters with the Archdruid*, the author describes how the renowned mountaineer and Sierra Club trip leader would rub pennyroyal mint leaves over the embossed letters in the bottom of his cup and then add snow and whiskey for a kind of high-altitude julep.

The Sierra Club popularized the cup in the 1930s. Pre-World War II cups were stamped of tin plate, but after the war they were changed to stainless steel.



In the 1960s the Sierra cup received a new endorsement in the books of Colin Fletcher, an ultralight backpacker who would cut the handle off a toothbrush to save a half-ounce. Frequently hiking in more arid areas, Fletcher found the cups good for scooping water out of shallow depressions or digging for water in a dry desert wash, something you don't have to bother with in the High Sierra.

The Sierra cup is an excellent multipurpose utensil. Coffee cup, berry-picking basket, water bowl for your hiking companion dog, noisemaker to scare away black bears, even as a miniature gold pan — all of these uses are secondary and just things that people have tried. The Sierra cup's original purpose was to grab a drink of water from a small stream or spring.

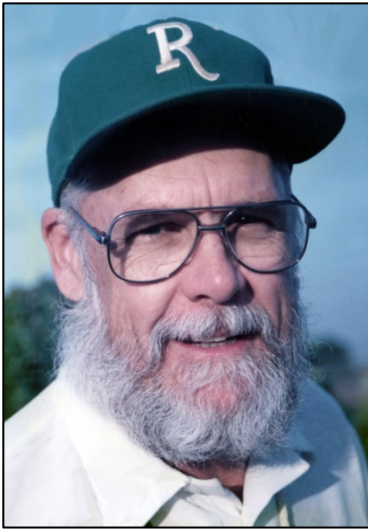
One primary early purpose of the Sierra Club was preserving the wildness of high altitude watersheds. The 1890 lobbying effort by John Muir and other soon-to-be founders of the Sierra Club in expanding protection for the Yosemite region involved delineating a park that included the entire Merced and Tuolumne River headwaters. Thus, the Sierra cup, with its connection to the pure mountain stream, is the perfect symbol of what the Sierra Club stood

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Paul Mitchell — 1930-2018

Founding Member of Tehipite Chapter Passes Away

by George Whitmore



Tehipite Chapter, which was chartered in 1953, has lost one of its founding members. As a local member of the Sierra Club in 1953, Paul Mitchell was one of those who successfully petitioned the national Sierra Club to allow formation of the new Tehipite Chapter covering the counties of Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, and Merced, as well as all of Yosemite and Kings Canyon National Parks, and part of Tulare County. Those areas were split off from the previously-existing Kern-Kaweah Chapter to the south.

Paul passed away in mid-January following a very active life. He participated in Tehipite Chapter activities for many decades, and was appointed to be the official Chapter Historian.

It is possible that Paul was the last surviving founding member of the Chapter. He was pretty young at the time, and that was 65 years ago. Does anyone know of other survivors? For that matter, does anyone know the names of others who were present at the beginning?

Paul “had wide and varying interests, including but not limited to traveling the country and the world to study and collect agaves and cacti, collecting stamps, and taking a lively interest in human history, as well. A science teacher at Reedley High for many years, Paul was also very involved in the sports program and announced Reedley games even after his retirement.” (Quote from *Carpenteria*, the newsletter of the Sequoia Chapter of the California Native Plant Society)

My favorite recollection of Paul is of his good-natured equanimity in the midst of sometimes rancorous Sierra Club debates. Somehow it seemed as though he could not entertain an unkind thought.

Thank you, Paul. We need more like you!

– CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE –

for in its earliest days, the preservation and enjoyment of high mountain wilderness.

Kenneth Bower, recounting his father David Brower’s proud devotion to the Sierra cup in “On the Power of the Sierra Club Cup,” published in the March/April 2015 issue of *Sierra*, eloquently describes his own spiritual attachment to this Sierra Club icon:

In middle age, a father now myself, I flew by bush plane into the wilderness of Alaska's Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, on an assignment for National Geographic. We were backpacking into a region seldom visited. Our guide, an Everest climber who knew the country, specified at the end of the equipment list he sent: Do not bring a Sierra Club cup. I bristled at this. At our first camp, when I debated him on it, he pointed out that the cup is not insulated. It burns your lips and tongue. And by the same principle that scalds the tongue—instantaneous heat transfer—the cup quickly turns hot food cold. It's an awful little cup.

I knew all this, in a subliminal way, though I would never have put it so brutally.

But it misses the point. Communion goblets are not insulated either. Nor is the chalice in which wine is transmuted into the blood of Christ. For some of us, wild country really is like religion. For others—me, for example—it is religion, for we have been instructed in no other kind.

John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, was one of those who found the notion of a creator problematic, but creation, he had verified its hard granite under his boots. He wrote often of the mountains as cathedral.

... In the High Sierra, this silver vessel comes up brimming with cold, pure water transmuted from snow just minutes before. You drink an essence of wilderness, the place where life on Earth was born.



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Tehipite Topics is usually published three times during the year. Color versions of the *Topics* are available on the Chapter website at www.sierraclub.org/tehipite/newsletters. Back issues are archived on the website beginning from April 2004. Articles and photos from Sierra Club members are always welcome for our upcoming issues. Send your contributions for the December 2018 issue by email to robertsturner52@gmail.com before December 1.

Submit Your Comments on the Trump Administration's Management Plans for Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments

A message from the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA):

Why bother writing comments on the Trump administration’s management plans for Utah’s eviscerated monuments if they’ll just be ignored? Ever since Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke released the rushed plans for what’s left of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments (as well as the lands removed from monument status entirely), we’ve received calls and emails asking this understandable question.

Simply put, submitting well-written, heartfelt comments on these spectacular places establishes a permanent historical record of public opinion (and these are, after all, *our* public lands). For example, after the sham Bears Ears “comment period” in the summer of 2017, we could confidently, and with evidence, point to the 2.9 million public comments submitted, 98% of which favored keeping the Bears Ears boundaries established by President Obama.

While it’s true that the very legality of the monument roll-backs are being challenged in court, we cannot allow the Trump administration to proceed with its inadequate planning process as if nobody’s watching, or worse, nobody cares. You care, so please help establish the public record.

To comment on Bears Ears National Monument by the November 15 deadline, go to:

<https://suwa.org/talking-points-bears-ears-national-monument-planning-comments/>.

To comment on Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument by the November 30th deadline, go to:

<https://suwa.org/talking-points-grand-staircase-escalante-national-monument-planning-comments/>.

