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 21st 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 without 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 14th at 7:00 P.M.
University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno
Conservation and Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 8th at 7:00 P.M. at Rod Webster’s home, 345 E. 20th St., Merced.
Conservation meeting is first and can last 30-40 minutes. Anyone with an interest in local, state or national conservation issues is welcome to attend. Come just to get informed or get as involved as you wish.

February General Meeting
Thursday, February 22nd, 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 15th 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 Clauch, 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.
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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E-mail: bughost@yosemitebug.com

Paid Advertisement 7/10
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Elevation Gain</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) up to 6 miles</td>
<td>A) under 1,000 feet</td>
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<tr>
<td>2) 6 to 10 miles</td>
<td>B) 1,000 to 2,000 feet</td>
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<tr>
<td>3) 10 to 15 miles</td>
<td>C) 2,000 to 3,000 feet</td>
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<tr>
<td>4) 15 to 20 miles</td>
<td>D) 3,000 to 4,000 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) over 20 miles</td>
<td>E) over 4,000 feet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our Tehi Site 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.

Tehi Site 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.

February 3rd - Saturday
Cross country ski—beginners’ lesson Location to be determined.
Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818

February 11th - Sunday
Cross country ski—intermediate Location to be determined.
Steve Fretz (559) 439-6673

February 17th - 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 18th - 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. 16th
Gerald Vinnard (559) 431-5780

February 24th - Saturday
Cross country ski—intermediate Location to be determined.
Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818

February 24th - 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 3rd - Saturday
Cross Country Ski–Intermediate Location to be determined.
Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818

March 4th - 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 reminder 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 10th - Saturday
Cross country ski–intermediate (2A)
This will be out of Tamarack area.
Gerald Vinnard (559) 431-5780

March 11th - Sunday
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 31st - Saturday
Day hike (2C) Moderate Chilnualna Falls
Elevation gain 2,100 feet.
Carolyn Ordway (559) 449-7780

March 18th - 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 reminder 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 24th - Saturday
Cross country ski–intermediate Location to be determined.
Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818

March 24th - 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

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 13th - 16th (17th) 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 15th - Sunday
Day hike (2A)
Lewis Creek to Red Rock Falls
Beth Leacox (559) 446-1825
or (559) 355-7529

April 22nd - 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 13th - Sunday
Day hike (2D)
Yosemite Falls
 Possibly change due to late snow.
John Flaherty (209) 742-4668

May 19th - 27th
National River Cleanup activities
Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971

June 2nd - Saturday
Day hike (2C) Strenuous
Join me in climbing to the top of the world’s 5th 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 17th - 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 15th - 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 20th - 21st Friday night Car Camp, Hike Saturday (2B)
Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971

August 19th - Sunday
Day hike (3C)
Chilnualna Falls
John Flaherty (209) 742-4668

September 16th - 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 14th - Sunday
Day hike (2B)
Lewis Creek
Route to be determined by group interest.
John Flaherty (209) 742-4668
Inside *Tehipite Topics*

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The *Tehipite Topics* is available, in color, on the Chapter website at [http://tehipite.sierraclub.org](http://tehipite.sierraclub.org).

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

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**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.

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**The Village It Takes To Raise a Child**

The Village It Takes To Raise a Child is a free talk on Sunday, February 25th 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. ✩