

The Roadrunner

A bimonthly publication of the Kern-Kaweah Chapter of the Sierra Club — March/April 2008

KERN-KAWEAH CHAPTER ANNUAL BANQUET

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008, CHALET BASQUE RESTAURANT, 200 OAK STREET, Bksf

A time to celebrate together all our environmental enterprises with successes on many different levels,
and our joys at the prospects of the new year

GUEST SPEAKER: PAUL GIPE, EXPERT ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

The Kern-Kaweah Chapter's Annual Banquet will be held on Saturday, April 12, at Chalet Basque Restaurant, 200 Oak Street, in Bakersfield. It is our annual tradition to gather in the spring near John Muir's birthday and Earth Day to meet new members and renew old friendships. Highlights of the evening include recognizing Chapter activists with awards, hearing about local environmental issues, enjoying a delicious meal with friends, and hearing a special speaker.

We are very fortunate to have as our guest speaker Paul Gipe, a world-class expert not only on wind energy, but other renewables as well. Paul will be speaking about an exciting new campaign he is starting to bring to California: "ARTs" (Advanced Renewable Tariffs). Simply put, ARTs are the single most successful policy for the rapid development of renewable energy IN THE WORLD! In addition, Paul recently paid a visit to Al Gore, so we will hear about his conversation with the "Inconvenient Truth" author.

Our delicious dinner this year is a complete Basque set-up, featuring soup, chicken, beef tri-tips, beans, salsa, salad, French bread, tongue, vegetable, French fries, ice cream, and beverages. The charge is \$24 per person, which includes tax and tip. A glass of wine is \$3 extra.

Social Hour is from 5 to 6 PM, with a no-host bar, with tasty hors d'oeuvres provided. Dinner will be served from 6 to 7 PM, followed by award presentations and our guest speaker.

We look forward to seeing you at this year's ANNUAL BANQUET.

IMPORTANT: Please complete the coupon on p. 8 and mail it to: Georgette Theotig, P.O. Box 38, Tehachapi, CA, 93581, so it is received by Monday, April 7. We must have your reservation with a check by April 7. There can be no payments at the door. Our dinner policy states that if you make a reservation and don't come to the dinner, we are unable to refund your check. For a refund, cancellations must be received by April 7.

Georgette Theotig

"Polar Bear Survival and Global Warming: What to do?"

Speaker: Arctic expert, author Chad Kister

Thur, Mar 13th. Bksf, East Bakersfield Veterans Hall, East Bakersfield, 2101 Ridge Rd, 7-8 PM

Fri, Mar 14th, Visalia, College of the Sequoias, 915 Mooney Blvd, Ponderosa Lec Hall, Rm 350, 7 PM

Author and traveler **Chad Kister** is the author of *Arctic Quest*, *Arctic Melting*, and *Against All Odds*. He has spoken all over the U.S. and Canada as part of his polar bear survival tour. His powerpoint presentation will focus on the effects of climate change on the Arctic, and show solutions and gather support for legislation mandating a cap on and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. "We can't change the past—we've got to focus on the future," Kister said. "We need to act dramatically and rapidly to derail the runaway global warming freight train." For starters, he said, "We need to enact corporate average fuel-economy standards" that U.S. Rep. John Dingell is blocking. Another urgently needed step put forth by Kister is "enacting a federal cap and a reduction on vehicle emissions ... And I'm a huge advocate of trains and mass transit." Chad Kister is director of the Arctic Refuge Defense Campaign and has been fighting for the environmental sanctity of natural Alaska since his first trip there in 1991. Based in Ohio, he said he has made three more trips to Arctic Alaska since then, documenting them in books and a film. Kister said he'll definitely focus on some practical solutions, because he can't stand it that "people think that it's too late and we have to give up."

The program is free and open to the public.

Harry Love

San Luis Obispo—Here we come!

Two California-wide Conservation meetings that give YOU the opportunities to learn and be a part of the Sierra Club's vital conservation efforts. Mark your calendar now.

The first: Saturday–Sunday, March 15–16

This is the meeting of the California Nevada Regional Conservation Committee. The CNRCC establishes conservation policy for California and is also part of the process for possible endorsements of statewide political candidates and ballot measures.

Before the actual meeting, resolutions concerning environmental concerns have been submitted. These will be the center of the official discussions and actions of the meeting. Unofficially there will be many opportunities to meet individual fellow Sierrans, contacts that can be very valuable in terms of cooperation and talents joined to deal with common environmental challenges.

The second: Saturday–Sunday, June 21–22

This is the Convention, held each year in order to give an opportunity for all the activists to meet with our Sierra Club California lobbying staff in order to discuss the environmental political scene in California and brainstorm as to what types of legislation should be encouraged or discouraged in the coming year.

A little background: Sierra Club California was created to give California Sierra Club members a strong effective voice in the State Capitol. As a legislative advocacy organization, Sierra Club California lobbies the State Legislature, the administration, and state government agencies to protect California's natural resources and to improve the health and safety of Californians.

Bill Magavern is the new Director after the resignation of Bill Allayud, who served us well for seven years. Magavern has served as part of the lobbying team of four for some years, so he comes to this position with many years of Sierra Club California experience. The staff is located in Sacramento so as to be on the scene of action.

Both of these meetings are held at the San Luis Obispo Education Center. Registration is \$40 (as usual, dinner, breakfast, overnight facilities). There is always a possibility of our Chapter providing financial backing for your attendance. Contact our chair, Arthur Unger, 661.323.5569 if you wish to make inquiry in regard to this.

PS. San Luis Obispo is a wonderful place to visit—marvelous beaches, good birding, a lovely nature museum and fine weather. You could come early and stay longer to make your trip a real treat!

Kern Kaweah Chapter Puts Global Warming on our Local Agenda

Initiated by Gordon Nipp, the Excom adopted these two areas for action:

Education including meeting with local authorities

Initiatives including Planning, Regional Blueprints, General Plan Updates and CEQA compliance.

The full text of this proposal is on the electronic version of the *Roadrunner*. Read it over and let us know your reactions and your ideas on the new Kern-Kaweah Forum (see p. 8). Your input will be appreciated.

KERN KAWEAH CHAPTER OFFICERS for 2008:

Chair: Arthur Unger (Bksf), 661.323.5569. *Vice-chair:* Gordon Nipp (Bksf), 661.872.2432. *Secretary:* Georgette Theotig (Tehachapi), 661.822.4371. *Treasurer:* Lorraine Unger (Bksf), 661.323.5569. Donnel Lister (Bksf), 661.831.6784. Jan de Leeuw (PMC), 661.245.1725. Richard Garcia (Min King), 559.592.9865. Mary Ann Lockhart (PMC), 661.242.0432. Ara Marderosian (Kernville), 760.378.4574,

Chapter Ex-com Meetings: All Sierra Club members welcome to attend:

Saturday, March 8, 10 AM, Merced Building, Bakersfield. *Saturday, April 12, 2 PM*, Chalet Basque Restaurant (Bakersfield - before the Annual Banquet). *Saturday, May 10 AM*, Merced Building, Bakersfield.

Call 661.323.5569 or e-mail artunger@att.net to confirm all meeting dates, as well as location and time of day.

KERN KAWEAH ROUNDUP

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY IF YOU PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN SIERRA CLUB HIKES: *Everyone is welcome, Sierra Club members and non-members, to join in any of the outdoor activities. Requirements: You must be in condition for type of hike, equipped appropriately for the activity, and prepared to sign a Sierra Club release from liability. You must be willing to follow leader's directions. Be sure to bring any personal medicines you might need. Customary appropriate equipment includes good hiking shoes, plenty of water, snack, sunglasses, suntan lotion, layered clothing. The following might be helpful but definitely not required: compass, whistle, matches or lighter, and a good first aid kit. Long pants recommended. Unprepared for the prospective hike? It will be a no-go for you. Please let the leader know ahead of time that you are intending to participate. Check individual group listings for desired means of communication. Participation must be leader approved. Since unexpected change of plans may be necessary, it is recommended that YOU contact the hike leader the night before to be assured that the hike is still going to happen.*

New CA legislation designed to protect the consumer requires us to publish this notice: CST 2087755-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California. This legislation was designed to protect the user of outdoor activities that require cash payments of more than \$50 for participation.

Mini-Hike Notes

March 15 (Sat) Joshua Mountain (Owens Peak Gp)

March 22 (Sat) Windwolves (Condor Gp)

March 29 (Sat) Hike along Salt Creek in Three Rivers (Mineral King Gp)

Apr 19 (Sat) Flower Hike Ridgcrest Area (Owens Peak Gp)

April 26 (Sat) 1. Cache Peak Segment, Pacific Crest Trail (Buena Vista Gp);

2. Cedar Creek (Condor Gp); 3. Wishon Trail in the foothills above Springville (Mineral King Gp)

Buena Vista Group More info? Call Donnel Lester, 661.831.6784 or Isabel 661.246.6195

Every Tuesday Conditioning Hikes. 7 PM, 4–5 miles. Corner of Highways 178 & 184. Gordon 661.872.2432 or Larry 661.873.8107.

Mar 1 (Sat), 8:30 AM John Moorhouse of the Kern Tree Foundation. Breakfast meeting at the Garden Spot, 3320 Truxtun Avenue (NW corner of Oak and Truxtun). Optional breakfast for \$6.50/person. For more information contact Donnel at 661.831.6784.

Mar. 15 (Sat) 9 AM “Adopt-A-Highway” cleanup, third Saturday of each month. We meet at the Monte Carlo Club parking lot at the intersection of Hwy 119 and Old River Road. Bring water, gloves, and a hat. We will work for about an hour and a half. For information, phone Donnel at 661.831.6784.

Apr 1 (Tues) 7–8 PM Sierra Club Social Gathering at Metro Gallery, 1604 19th Street, downtown Bakersfield. Special welcome to new and transfer-in Sierra Club members. *Enjoy* wine, cheese and more. *Explore* the art including contemporary, *plein air*, Basque woodcuts, and pottery. Hosts: your Buena Vista Group, Kern-Kaweah Chapter leaders and gallery CEO Don Martin. More information: Ann Gallon, 661.589.7796.

Apr 5 (Sat) 8:30 AM: Paul Gipe, author of several books on wind power and related technical documents, will discuss: “Advanced Renewable Tariffs: New Policy Option for North America.” Breakfast meeting at the Garden Spot, 3320 Truxtun Avenue (NW corner of Oak and Truxtun). Optional breakfast for \$6.50/person. For more information contact Donnel at 661.831.6784.

Apr 19 (Sat) 9 AM “Adopt-A-Highway” cleanup. We meet at the Monte Carlo Club parking lot at the intersection of Hwy 119 and Old River Road. Bring water, gloves, and a hat. We will work for about an hour and a half. For information, phone Donnel at 661.831.6784.

April 26 (Sat) HIKE: Cache Peak Segment, Pacific Crest Trail. In area near Tehachapi. Moderate, approx. 1300' elevation gain, 6-8 miles RT. Great views of Mojave Desert, Tehachapi Mountains, and possible wildflowers. Call Georgette Theotig, 661.822.4371, for details, meeting place, and time.

Meeting Notices If you would like to receive BV Group meeting and activity information by email, please contact Membership Chair, Ann Gallon, at amgallon@atg1.com, with *Add me to the email list*. You can opt out of the mail notices at any time. We try to keep this to once-a-month emailings.

Battery Recycling at BVG Meetings – bring us your old batteries, lithium ion, nickel metal hydride, NiCad, small sealed lead-acid batteries and from cordless & cell phones, power tools, laptops, etc.

Condor Group Hikes? Dale Chitwood, 661.242.1076. *More info?* Lockhart, 661.242.0432 jmal@frazmtn.com Meets Pine Mountain Club

March 22 (Sat). Windwolves is our destination. Meeting at Pine Mountain Club at 8 AM, we will drive down into Windwolves Preserve to the Crossing and then up to the San Emidio Trail. Here we will start our “on foot”

round trip adventure of 8 miles—easy going for the most part—just one rather short but steep place to contend with. Altitude gain is minimal. We will be challenged to search for fossils along the way and if all goes well weather-wise, we should see bountiful quantities of poppies, lupine and more. Return time to Pine Mountain Club: approximately 3 PM. For those wanting to join us along the way, the final meeting place will be the Starbucks in TIC West at Laval Road at 9 AM. Locals coming from between PMC and the Flying J: we can arrange to pick you up at the Flying J. Bring along all the regulars (water, etc) listed above and PLEASE be sure to make that telephone call to let the hike leader, Dale Chitwood, know you are coming, 661.242.1076.

Apr 5th (Sat) Condors, past, present and future. Dave Clendenen, our speaker, is exceptionally qualified to present a broad overview of the program to protect these famous birds, as he was associated with the Condor program of protection from the very beginning. With his “old-fashioned” slide projector he will be presenting photos that have been taken over the years. Potluck 6 PM, Program 7 PM Pine Mountain Clubhouse. This is an evening you definitely won’t want to miss.

April 26 (Sat) Flower filled (we hope) hike to Cedar Creek. Meet at PMC parking lot, 8 AM. Cedar Creek has become one of the most popular trail camps on the area, owing to its easy accessibility and pleasant surroundings. Deriving its name from the stately California Incense Cedars growing in the area, Cedar Creek has numerous Jeffrey Pine, Sugar Pine, Big Cone Spruce and hardwoods which add to the overall beauty of the site. Approximately four to six miles round trip with little altitude change, this is an easy delightful hike. Call Dale 661.242.1076 if you plan to go.

Look ahead to Saturday, MAY 10th. NatureFest. Outdoors and indoors experiences with the natural world. Noon to 3:30 at the Frazier Park Elementary School in Frazier Park. Great for all, young to 100-plus. Free!

Kaweah Group *More info? call Pam, 559.784.4643 or Diane, 559.781.8897*

Our aim is to **attend the Chad Kister** program in Visalia, Friday, March 14th at 7 PM. (See p. 1) Chad is the author of *Arctic Quest*, *Arctic Melting* and *Against All Odds*. **Please call Pam for further details.**

Mineral King Group. *More info? Call Janet Wood, Chair 559.739.8527. Please visit mineralking.sierraclub.org for more info on group events and activities.*

March 12 (Wed) 6 PM. Dinner social, Black Bear Diner. 1790 W. Lacey Blvd., 210 Hanford. Please RSVP to Bev at 559.732.3785 or garciamachine@comcast.net

March 14 (Fri) 7 PM, The local Sierra Club Mineral King Group proudly presents Chad Kister, author of “Arctic Quest” and Arctic Refuge expert. Kister will share an inspiring and fascinating powerpoint presentation (including time for questions and answers), showing the accelerating effects of climate change and the need to save the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from the proposed development by oil companies. Kister has backpacked and rafted through more than 100 miles of the Arctic Refuge, living off the roots, berries, greens and fish that he gathered and caught. 350 (Ponderosa), 915 Mooney Blvd., Visalia. Free to the public. Please call 559.303.1134 for more information and visit www.arcticrefuge.org. Friday evening, 7 PM, March 14th @ College of the Sequoias, Rm. 350.

March 24 (Mon) 6 PM - ExCom Meeting at Something Fresh Restaurant, 505 S Chinowth St, Visalia. All members are welcome. Please RSVP to Bev at 559.732.3785 or garciamachine@comcast.net.

March 29 (Sat) 9AM We will hike along Salt Creek in Three Rivers. This will be an easy five-mile hike to enjoy a bounteous wildflower display. Meet in front of Taco Bell in Mary’s Vineyard at Noble and Ben Maddox. Call Joanne or David at 559.733.2078.

April 9 (Wed) 6 PM Dinner social, Los Portales, 210 N. Santa Fe, Visalia. Please RSVP to Bev at 559.732.3785 or garciamachine@comcast.net.

April 19 (Sat). Join us for the celebration of “Earth Day 2008”. Event between 8 AM and 12 noon at Visalia Recreation Park, 345 North Jacob Street, Visalia. Sierra Club will have a booth at the event promoting our conservation message.

April 26 (Sat) 8 AM We will hike the Wishon trail in the foothills above Springville. This will be a moderate 6 mile hike along the Tule River. Meet in front of Taco Bell in Mary’s Vineyard at Noble and Ben Maddox. Call Joanne or David at 559.733.2078.

April 28 (Mon) 6 PM - ExCom Meeting at Something Fresh Restaurant, 505 S Chinowth St, Visalia. All members are welcome. Please RSVP to Bev at 559.732.3785 or garciamachine@comcast.net.

Owens Peak Group *More info?* **Dennis Burge**, Chair 760.375.7967 **email:** dennis93555@yahoo.com
Jim Nichols, Hikes 760.375.8161 **email:** jnichols@ridgecrest.ca.us Mtgs: Maturango Museum, Ridgecrest. Please use email for hike questions.

Mar 15 (Sat) JOSHUA MOUNTAIN (Located E of Olancho in the Coso Wilderness, 7130 ft max elevation, 2800 ft elevation gain, 10.5 mi RT to Joshua Mountain, or shorter to Vermillion Canyon only). Last year, we gave up the goal of Joshua Mountain to explore Vermillion Canyon. This year, we will try to climb this peak via a fine undescribed route from the W. Joshua Mountain, which forms the western boundary of Joshua Flat and is rarely, if ever, climbed from the W, from Owens Valley. We will pass some of the most colorful terrain in Vermillion Canyon on our way up this peak, and it should inspire our photographers. An early bailout into Vermillion may be possible for hikers not able to make the peak. This will be a moderate/strenuous hike due to altitude gain and distance. Meet Sat, Mar 15 at 7:30 AM at the Ridgecrest Cinema parking lot. Call Dennis Burge at 760.375.7967 or Jim Nichols at 760.375.8161 for more info.

Mar. 24 (Mon) Mar. 24(mon.), 7:30 pm. Bob Parker, wildlife biologist with the BLM, will present a program: "All about guzzlers". Maturango Museum. Call Dennis Burge at 760. 375.7967.

Apr 19 (Sat) FLOWER HIKE (Best flower site we can find; details to be announced, max elev. 4000/5000 ft, 1500/2000 ft elev. gain, 4–8 mi RT) We will find a good flower display and hike that, and maybe bag a peak in the process. We want to see how the patterns develop before picking the exact location. The hike will be announced a week before via email, or you can call the numbers below. This will be an easy/moderate hike and a great photo opportunity. Meet Sat, Apr 19, at 7:30 AM at the Ridgecrest Cinema parking lot. For more information, call Dennis Burge at 760.375.7967 or Jim Nichols at 760.375.8161.

Apr. 28 (Mon) Apr. 28(mon.) Steve Smith will present a program on his 2007 trip to Peru and Bolivia, including Lake Titicaca. Maturango Museum. Call Dennis Burge at 760.375.7967

Angeles Chapter's WIND WOLVES OVERNITER. April 12–13

All invited! Meet fellow Sierrans from the "south"

Enjoy pine forests and the picturesque high country of our San Emigdio Range and the grasslands of Wind Wolves. We will be immersing ourselves in an environment that is very similar to Tejon Ranch, by visiting the Wind Wolves Preserve. We will tour areas similar to the proposed development areas, as well as the highly unique areas within Wind Wolves. We may see deer, elk, raptors, flowers, rock art, more. Take time to learn from our naturalists about the fauna and flora, help us plan the next stages in our goal to create a new state or national park. Lots of driving. Some easy hiking. We'll carcamp at Wind Wolves for one night, so bring your best potluck items, ideas (become an integral part of the campaign). For further details contact: Kent Schwitkis, schwitkii@earthlink.net. If "internetless," call Angeles Chapter office, 213.387.4287, for information.

Another Outing Possibility—Be a Yosemite Valley volunteer!

Ask Lorraine for more info—She has been there and loved it !

The LeConte Memorial Lodge is a 104-year-old museum, library and visitor center operated by the Sierra Club in Yosemite National Park. We are looking for Sierra Club members interested in volunteering for one or two weeks between May 1 and September 28th. Hours of operation are from 10 AM–4 PM, Wed–Sun, and 8–10 PM for weekend evening programs. Volunteers enjoy free entrance to Yosemite National Park and free camping at the group campsite during the time they volunteer. For more information visit www.sierraclub.org/education/leconte/volunteering or contact Bonnie Gisel, the LeConte Lodge curator, at leconte.curator@sierraclub.org or 209.403.6676 (before May 1). After May 1 call 209.372.4542.

A Remembrance Victoria Araujo

1918–2008

Ms. Araujo was a true community activist. Many of her efforts were directed toward the environment. In addition to being a Sierra Club member, she was a founding member of CALM and a commissioner for California State Parks. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that Sierra Club be one of the recipients of donations. You can read more information in the electronic edition of the *Roadrunner*, below.

GOOD MORNING SUNSHINE Life in a newly solar electric home

Stan and Jeannie Haye, from their own account, have had a most interesting time remaking their home into a solar wonderland. You can read the full account of the ins and outs of that experience in the electronic version of the Roadrunner. Here are their final thoughts:

And we can see that there is a big potential for solar. Parking lots, shopping centers, industrial buildings all should be covered with solar panels and utilities required to pay for the electricity at the avoided cost of generating it themselves. This could also avoid unnecessarily covering and destroying a lot of desert with solar. These plants take a lot of room, and right now the BLM Desert District is trying to balance the need to protect fragile desert habitat against the need for green energy.

One thing we learned is that solar electric is not for the fainthearted. It takes a lot of time, planning, and money. We are retired, but working people might need to take time off at the whim of solar contractors, the local electrician, the handyman who built the shed for the equipment, the building inspector, and finally Edison. All were cooperative, but running our own Cirque de Soleil was a major job.

Would we do it again? Sure. It feels good when the installation is over and we're up and running! The BLM right now has many, many applications to cover our desert with solar and wind plants, and maybe one little corner of our desert won't need to be covered

We forgot a little addendum. Although we couldn't recommend everyone going out and getting solar electric on their house, we would highly advocate everyone going to their city council, school board, shopping center, etc. and ask them to put solar panels on their roofs, parking lots,, etc. Cerro Coso College has them and is saving money. Financing is available for public entities, and in the long run they not only benefit the environment but, as I said, save taxpayer money.

Poorly Planned Developments Threaten Our Environment, Our Health, Our Quality Of Life. We All Must Speak Up!

"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe."

John Muir, 1911

Those words come to mind constantly, particularly when considering the large number of land-use choices to be made just in our Chapter's area.* Do these projects, even though they are strung out over 70 miles along I-5 and 99, affect all of us? Yes, indeed they do. These projects will put more negative pressures on the Central Valley air you breathe, the water you use, the roads you drive on, and probably cost you, the taxpayers who will not live in these projects, extra money for their infrastructure and support services *as well as needlessly destroying agricultural lands and wild habitats.*

What can you do? Take the message to your local elected officials for the need to increase housing density in already established communities, emphasizing the values of improving urban life by supporting more parks, better schools, better medical care, public transportation and more within the city. Contact local groups that may already be organized to support better planning in your area. Call attention to the potential cumulative impact of all these proposals in the our part of the Central Valley. Check Sierra Club information in the electronic version of the *Roadrunner* for still more background on SPRAWL.

You need to talk with your friends, write to your representatives, to the newspapers expressing your views. Prepare yourself to speak up with your opinions concerning local projects at your local governmental meetings. Join with others to protest needless destruction of our ag and wildlands for unnecessary developments. Each individual's efforts make a difference, believe it or not.

*Proposed developments, all great distances from present urban areas: *Kern County:* You have often heard of Centennial, 23,000 homes on the south border of Kern County, Falling Star, 700-plus, Gorman Ranch, 500-plus, and Tejon Mountain Village, all in the Frazier Park Area. Tejon industrial complexes on both sides of I-5 just a few miles below the 99-15 split. *King and Tulare County:* two more huge development projects: Quay Valley Ranch, 50,000 homes, 41,000-seat Motor Speedway, and more, plus Yokohl Ranch, 10,000 homes, 36,000 acres.

Midgebuzzings

WHEN IN 1973 I moved to a neighborhood near the Kern River, I discovered a trail leading down from the Panorama Bluffs to a natural area of vast acreage along the south side of the river, with an abundance of sycamores, cottonwoods, native plants and wildlife. I dreamed of it becoming a preserve some day.

Now, after years of negotiations between dedicated citizens and various corporate owners, we are fortunate to have the Panorama Vista Preserve. Land north of the river has been included, and is currently undergoing restoration efforts after decades of grazing and oil extraction had stripped it nearly bare.

The person most involved in returning native plants to the north side of the preserve is Kern-Kaweah Chapter member Andy Honig. His own garden, already full to bursting with trees and plants of all kinds, is also home to rows of containers sprouting young native plants grown from seeds collected from the more verdant south side of the preserve. When the seedlings are ready, Andy takes them to the restoration area for transplanting. They are watered by a drip system which he and fellow volunteer Steve Hampson installed, using a hookup with a well that serves a nearby residential development. Among the species are sycamore, red willow, bladderpod, wild rose, elderberry, and button willow. Acorns from the Valley Oak have also been planted experimentally, though there is no certainty that they are native to the immediate area. Out of thirty-five oak plantings, two have survived, and other acorns are continually being sprouted. Andy says frankly that he is working on a trial and error basis. Nearly every week, and in all seasons, he makes several trips to the area, sometimes watering by hand, always checking to see how the seedlings are coming along, noting the presence of insects and birds, and keeping in good condition the protective wire guards around the plants. While he and other volunteers work, they envision the area as thriving, and foresee field trips being made available to school children for environmental education in the decades to come.

For a fuller appreciation of this preserve please go to the remarkable website installed and maintained by Sasha Honig: Panoramavista.org. There, illustrated with fine photographs, is an abundance of information about the site and its native inhabitants.

The clear consensus among thinking people is that severe climate change is upon us and that we are moving rapidly into a new world altogether. Where the preservation of species is concerned, much thought is being given to new ways and means that may accommodate change. Healy Hamilton, director of the California Academy of Sciences, was recently quoted as saying: "We have over a 100-year investment nationally in a large suite of protected areas that may no longer protect the target ecosystems for which they were formed." As ecosystems set aside for preservation undergo change, species traditionally successful in them will very likely be forced to move out, or will die. Scientists everywhere are laboring to understand what is happening and to find ways to cope with and even take advantage of change.

Given these uncertainties, the work and concern of people like Andy grow ever more important. Grass roots efforts by thoughtful and informed citizens are invaluable, and we witness them constantly throughout the Kern Kaweah Chapter of the Sierra Club. By determined vigilance volunteers learn what works and what does not. They believe that we have a future, and they never give up planning for it. They are not dissuaded by failures, seeing them instead as discoveries. And they invite us to join them in their work for a viable environment.

Ann Williams

Western Turf Wars: The Politics of Public Lands Ranching. By Mike Hudak. Binghamton, New York: Biome Books, 2007. \$26.95 + \$4.00 shipping. 396 pages.

There's no other book like *Western Turf Wars*. Hudak's work is in the tradition of "oral history," the stories of people who have participated in public lands politics as told by themselves. What Hudak has done is to document, not just that public lands ranching is bad, but why it happens this way, what the forces of resistance are, and what happens when people with a conscience take action against the political corruption rampant throughout the West.

A complete copy of this review by Keith Akers can be seen in the electronic version of the Roadrunner.

Recommended by Todd Shuman, member of National Sierra Club Grazing Committee.

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Want to contact Chapter Chair?

artunger@att.net
note new e-mail address

Want to contact Roadrunner editor?

Mary Ann Lockhart,
jmal@frazmtn.com or 661.242.0432

Yes, I want to join the Sierra Club. Check enclosed.
 Name _____
 City _____ State _____
 Zip _____
 Indicate one:
 Intro \$25 _____ Sing \$39 _____ Joint \$47 _____
 Send to Sierra Club, PO 52968, Boulder, CO 80322
 F94Q W 6000-1

Insider News on All Things of Kern Kaweah Concern
Coming to you Paperless and Stampless. Try it. You'll like it!

Join our KERN-NEWS Email List if you would like to receive up-dated news along with notices of when the *Roadrunner* is posted on our website. (Call Arthur Unger if you wish to be put on the list to receive the paperless edition of the Chapter newsletter. 661.323.5569)

And/ or

Join our KERN-FORUM Email Discussion list if you want to read, write about and respond to environmental challenges of the day that are of special interest to you.

You can join either or both of these lists at
<http://kernkaweah.sierraclub.org/>

Looking forward to reading you soon!

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I wish to attend the 2008 Annual Banquet of the Kern-Kaweah Chapter, Sierra Club, on Saturday, April 12th. I include a check at \$24 per person. Name(s) _____ Tel. no. _____
Number Attending: _____ @ \$24 each Total Amount _____
Please mail check, coupon to Georgette Theotig, P.O. Box 38, Tehachapi, CA 93581
PLEASE REMEMBER THE MONDAY, APRIL 7TH DEADLINE

When we try to pick out anything by itself,
we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe.”

My First Summer in the Sierra. John Muir 1911

BOOK REVIEW: Western History Rediscovered

Western Turf Wars: The Politics of Public Lands Ranching. By Mike Hudak. Binghamton, New York: Biome Books, 2007. \$30.00. 396 pages. Includes guide to acronyms, glossary, bibliography, and index. Order through <http://www.westernturf wars.com/> or 38 Oliver Street, Binghamton, NY 13904-1516, phone (607) 330-0351.

Public lands ranching, built around the image of the "all-American cowboy," is perhaps the single most conspicuously harmful manifestation of livestock agriculture in the West. Ranchers are being subsidized to overgraze their cattle on public lands. Political influences often negate even the most basic restraints on overgrazing. And it doesn't even produce that much meat. Efforts to point out the obvious are often met by indifference, denial, or active coverup.

The first question I had when looking at Mike Hudak's book *Western Turf Wars* is, why do we need another book on public lands ranching? I was first alerted to this issue by Denzel and Nancy Ferguson's well-written book *Sacred Cows at the Public Trough* (1983). After that, came Lynn Jacobs' book *Waste of the West* (1991) with its innovative use of extensive photographs, and then the spectacular coffee-table book *Welfare Ranching* by George Wuerthner and Mollie Matteson (2002) which added even more detail, scientific information, and color photographs. Why do we need yet another book telling us in graphic detail that public lands grazing is really, really stupid?

Well, surprise, surprise -- Mike Hudak proves that there is something new to say about public lands ranching. Hudak's book is substantially different from any previous effort. He goes beyond the facts of the physical damage of overgrazing, and shown why things are happening this way.

Hudak, besides being an activist, is a photographer in his own right; several of his photos were published in *Welfare Ranching*, and he has his own web site with extensive photographic documentation, <http://www.mikehudak.com/>. But this is not another book of photographs; it is an innovative work of contemporary history, a history that most environmental activists do not even realize exists.

Hudak's book is in the tradition of "oral history," the stories of those who have participated in public lands politics as told by -- themselves. He went around the country interviewing people on both sides of the governmental fence, including government employees in such agencies as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Forest Service as well as activists in such groups as the Sierra Club and the Wild Horse Spirit Sanctuary. The resultant interviews are what makes up the book.

What emerges is a graphic, informative, and illuminating story about public lands grazing told by the people who are directly acquainted with the realities of Western politics. Above all, it is a story of political corruption. Countless times, the same scenario comes out: some enterprising government employee actually tries to do their job, only to feel the political pressure from Congress or from the local ranching community to do something else.

As Hudak shows, some of the most important environmental allies are themselves in the agencies that environmentalists love to hate. One BLM director is actually delighted when environmental groups decide to sue her agency, "forcing" her to do the job she desperately wants to do. Other stories are also striking: the rancher who shoots his own cows from a helicopter to avoid being fined for overgrazing; the teacher who helps his class raise money to send an alligator back from Arizona (!) to Florida; the classics scholar who graduated from

Harvard and Oxford only to become an anti-grazing activist in Utah. Nor is this a story of one bitter defeat after another; though there is plenty here to bring us to outrage, there are also some surprising victories.

There's no other book like *Western Turf Wars*. What Hudak has done is to document, not just that public lands ranching is bad (we probably knew that already), but why it happens this way, what the forces of resistance are, and what happens when people with a conscience take action against the political corruption rampant throughout the West. Hudak's book has an extensive bibliography, guide to acronyms, glossary, and a really comprehensive index. This is an important and unique contribution to contemporary western history, and it is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand what is happening to public lands in the western United States.

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A Remembrance Victoria "Viki" Araujo

Victoria "Viki", 89, was born in Starkville, CO, on September 3, 1918. The family moved to California in 1925. She attended schools in Tustin, CA before moving to the Bakersfield area. She met and married William "Bill" Araujo, a Superintendent with the Kern County Land Company. Bill died at an early age due to heart disease and at age 31 Vicki, now widowed, went on to raise and educate her four children.

She began a 26 year career with the County of Kern, first with the Assessors Office, then with the Office on Aging. Later, she worked for the American Cancer Society, New York Life Insurance and Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance.

Viki was a community activist, having been a member of the Cal State 60+ Club, Democratic Women's Club, Sierra Club, FACT, CALM (founding member), Bakersfield Californian Editorial Board, Regional Minority Representative for AARP, The Fox Theater Foundation, Kern County Grand Jury, Historical Society, Kern County Historic Preservation Commission, Center for Living and Learning, Commissioner for the California State Parks. In 2007 she was honored with an Honorary State Park Ranger award whose former honorees include Ansel Adams and Walt Disney.

Education was important to her and after 10 years of night classes, raising four young children and working, she graduated from Bakersfield College. Viki was a world traveler who had been to the Orient, Scandinavia, Central Europe, Egypt and Asia. She was bold enough to have ridden a camel in Morocco and an elephant in Thailand.

Survivors include her sons and daughters-in-law, Bill and Karen Araujo from Montana, Bob and Sharon Araujo; and daughter, Tina Ericsson from Bakersfield. Her son Richard preceded her in death. Also surviving are her two grandchildren, Linda Choate and Mary Arujo; and great grandchildren, Brittani and Shae Choate and Justin and Carissa Araujo.

Viki leaves behind her close friends, the GOG's (Good old Girls) which included Cathy Butler, Jackie Parrish, Stephanie Lynch, Alberta Purcell, Suan Ferguson. Victoria Houchin, Bonnier Crawford, Bea Davis, Jeanette (Richardson) Parks, Alyce Chapman, Carol Knapp, Joyce Tanner and Andre Devereaux. Other special friends included Imelda Butkiewicz, Bernice Bonillas and Rod Headley.

Viki enjoyed good friends, puffy clouds, yellow roses, politics (when people thought her way), and occasional martini, a quick wit, her pet Max, and the pristine out of doors.

The family would like to thank the hospital staff at San Joaquin Hospital, Drs. Parvev Memon, Todd Farrar, and Optimal Hospice.

In lieu of flowers, the family request donations be made to the Sierra Club, CALM or to the Arts Council of Kern to the Victoria Araujo Memorial Fund for an anticipated mural of Kern County History.