

The SequoiaSM

SIERRA CLUB TUOLUMNE GROUP

P.O. BOX 4440

SONORA, CA 95370

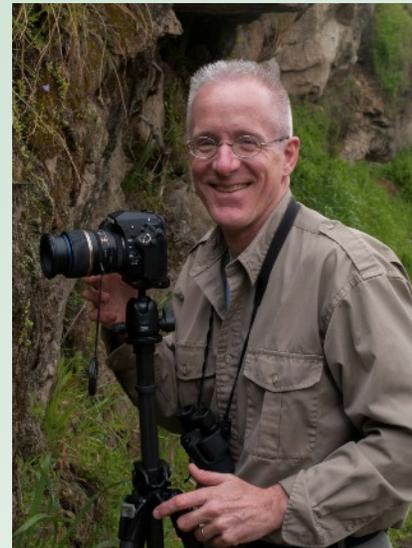


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The Murderous Plants of California A primer on botanical carnivores native to California

Almost everyone loves the “whodunit?” intrigue of a murder mystery. Nature is full of such mysteries, and Dr. Barry Rice is the right investigator to arrive on the scene. **On Thursday, June 22nd, at 7 p.m. at the TUD conference room at 18885 Nugget Blvd, Sonora, our Tuolumne Group program will feature a presentation by Dr. Rice about the predatory plants that lurk in the state of California.**

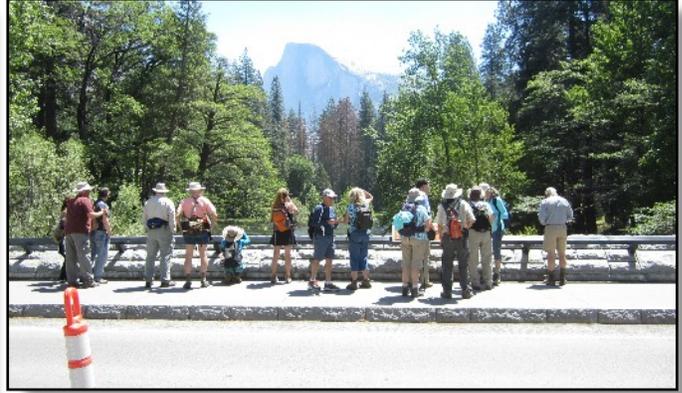


Dr. Rice has his feet in two worlds of science. He received his PhD in Astronomy, and is currently a Professor of Astronomy at Sierra College. He is also a botanist, having worked for The Nature Conservancy for 11 years as an Invasive Species Specialist, and as managing editor for the International Carnivorous Plant Society’s journal. He is internationally known as an expert on carnivorous plants, having published two books on the topic and countless papers.

Dr. Rice’s research in the field generally revolves around relocating populations of carnivorous plants in California and Oregon. He loves botanical photography, and has plenty of beautiful images to share. During his presentation, he will tell you about all the carnivorous plant species that live in our state, and give you pointers on great places to see them yourself. **Expect to be dazzled by images of beautiful plants, and be fascinated by bizarre tales of vegetable predation—where the roles of prey and predator are reversed.** Conditions permitting, he’ll also bring some carnivorous plants from the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, so you can see the heinous killers face to face—or, face to leaf. **Don’t miss this program!**

A Walk in the Park and YARTS

By Keith Martin



Bob Asquith, in his pursuit of “the bloom” scheduled the May 25th outing to Yosemite Valley. As a bonus, he also encouraged the participants to use the YARTS bus from Mary Laveroni Park in Groveland or other YARTS stops. Beth and I bought our tickets on line, several weeks before the outing. We did not want to risk finding the bus sold out the morning of the outing. The price was reasonable, \$8 each way for Beth, \$5.76 each way for myself. The bus arrived promptly on time. The driver was friendly and helpful. The bus was clean and comfortable, including a bathroom at the rear! We enjoyed riding into the park without having to worry about traffic or driving off the road while watching the scenery. The bus made about a half dozen stops on the way, picking up a few additional passengers.

As we entered the Valley, we were immediately impressed by the high flow of the Merced River. The water was completely up to the bottom of the Swinging Bridge. In many locations, the meadows were flooded. Due to ongoing construction, we took a circuitous route to our destination - the YARTS stop in front of the Valley Visitors Center. Relaxed from our drive, we then walked to Sentinel Bridge and from there to Half Dome Village (formerly Camp Curry). The dogwoods were in bloom everywhere. The roar of the river even topped the sound of traffic. The photo opportunities of Half Dome and Yosemite Falls were jaw dropping. We visited briefly at the Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center (formerly LeConte Lodge). At Half Dome Village we took the shuttle to the stop for Mirror Lake. When we reached the Lake, we were treated not to a meadow or to a lake but to a widening of the river as it flowed rapidly through where the lake usually occurs.

From Mirror Lake, most of us then walked the paved path to the Majestic Hotel (formerly the Ahwahnee) where we enjoyed a reasonably priced lunch. From there it was a leisurely walk back to the Visitors Center, where our bus picked us up on time for the return trip.



YARTS is a resource we should all take advantage of and encourage others to do likewise. The traffic situation in the valley is becoming unbearable. I have talked to many disappointed visitors whose trip to Yosemite consisted of spending hours in a traffic jam and then having to leave due to a lack of parking. This weekend Beth and I led a weekend Cabin trip to Wawona. We encouraged those participants who wanted to see the Valley to use YARTS, which had a stop at the Big Trees Hotel (formerly the Wawona Hotel) and the Wawona Store. They had a wonderful experience. We even had one participant fly into Fresno from New Jersey and take YARTS to Wawona to join us.

Yosemite Park invites input from the public for a new management plan for the Bridalveil Fall area

Yosemite National Park planners have opened a public comment period to ask for input about what actions may be needed for the Bridalveil Fall area in Yosemite Valley. Back during the development of the Merced River Wild and Scenic River Management Plan, the Park Service determined that numerous problems exist at the Bridalveil Fall site.

For many Park visitors, Bridalveil Fall is the first spectacular wonder they see as they enter Yosemite Valley. Vehicles coming from the north and west cross the Merced River and approach Bridalveil Fall while attempting to merge safely with vehicles coming from the Wawona area. Signs do not currently make it obvious how eastbound traffic must turn south in order to actually enter the Bridalveil parking lot. The lot itself is frequently jammed. The vault toilets adjacent to the parking lot can literally stink, and long lines form due to insufficient capacity.

Over along the Bridalveil Straight, buses and cars park erratically along both sides of the road, as visitors dash across traffic to access the trail that leads to the Fall. Other visitors may stand in traffic lanes to photograph the scene. The viewing platform at the Fall is often choked with more people than can comfortably crowd onto the platform, plus other problems exist.



Park planners invite ideas for how to improve management of the area. Comments can be mailed to the address below or submitted online at: **PEPC Planning, Bridalveil Fall Project**

Superintendent -- Yosemite National Park
Attn: Bridalveil Fall Rehabilitation Project
P.O. Box 577 Yosemite, CA 95389

Club awards 2017 Mack Waggoner Memorial Scholarship

This year, the Tuolumne Group has awarded its annual memorial scholarship to local student Austen Thibault, who was selected for his academic excellence and his strong focus on conservation. The \$1,000 scholarship is given in memory of Mack Waggoner, who spent many years serving on the Club's local executive committee to support local efforts prior to his unexpected passing. The scholarship is intended to support students pursuing four-year degrees in the fields of natural resources, environmental sciences, or similar pursuits.

ATTENTION! *Our Sierra Club group invites you to sign up to receive this newsletter digitally rather than through the mail. **By asking for a digital newsletter, you can help us save paper and postage.** To make the switch, contact Kevin Rice: kjrice@ucdavis.edu*

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Tuolumne Group Meetings

Executive committee meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Tuolumne Utility District boardroom from 6:30 - 8:00 PM.

Online event calendar:

<http://sierratuolumne.org/event-calendar/>

Adopt A Highway

Adopt-a-Highway trash pickup happens on the 2nd Tuesday of the even months (February, April, June, August, October, December). If you would like to volunteer, please call Jon Stutevant at 209-352-2431 for information. Rain cancels this event.

Executive Committee

- Co-Chair: Trudy Craig, broadinski48@yahoo.com
- Co-Chair: Steve Zlotolow, steve.zlotolow@gmail.com
- Membership: Elaine Hagen, elainehagen@att.net
- Secretary: John Buckley, johnb@cserc.org
- Treasurer: Kevin Rice, kjrice@ucdavis.edu
- Outings: Keith & Beth Martin, keithwmartin@sbcglobal.net
- Programs: Open Position
- Chapter Conservation delegate: Kevin Rice, kjrice@ucdavis.edu
- Chapter Excom delegate: Kevin Rice, kjrice@ucdavis.edu
- Publicity, Ross Johnson, srjohnson100@gmail.com
- Webmaster, John Kinnear, johnkinnear@yahoo.com
- Newsletter, Jill Micheau, jillmicheau@gmail.com