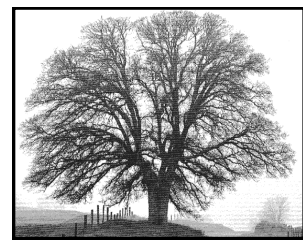


Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Classes, Hikes and Special Events

October 2011—June 2012



Saving Natural Lands,
Now and Forever

Annual Member Barbeque at McKenzie Preserve—Sunday October 2, 2011

Cost—\$10—Gates will open at 9:00—Lunch will be served at about 2:00.

Register at www.sierrafoothill.org or call 855-3473 for reservations. You may stroll around the preserve on your own starting at 9:00. Enjoy the self-guided Discovery Trail or hike to the top of the tables. Then join us for a delicious barbeque at our picnic area by the creek. This year we will be featuring Sierra Lands Beef burgers. (These cattle graze on SFC's preserves as part of our management program, are grass fed and finished and have never been fed added hormones, antibiotics or other drugs. Visit our website for more information.) Chicken or a vegetarian meal will also be available. After lunch SFC staff and board members will tell you about our latest achievements and new programs.



Astronomy on Black Mountain - Friday October 21, 2011—6:15 pm—9 pm—\$10/15

Bring your supper, a folding chair, binoculars, flashlight and a sweater or blanket for an evening of star gazing on Black Mountain. Fresno City College Astronomy Instructor **Garrett Wimer** will take you on a magical tour of the night sky. Telescopes will be set up for viewing some of the interesting stars and planets. Bring the kids!

Harvest Arts Festival—Saturday & Sunday October 8 & 9, 2011

SFC will again have a booth at this convivial community event featuring local crafts, good food and live music at the Intermountain Nursery on Auberry Road east of Prather. Call 855-3113 for more information.

Beginning Orienteering on the McKenzie Preserve—Sat. October 22, 2011—9am to 12pm—\$10/15

Amie Voorhees will help you learn how to navigate without relying on your GPS. This class will teach basic map reading, coordinating systems, compass basics, pacing and back country route planning. Instruction will take place outside, so bring water, snacks, and wear appropriate clothing.

History of the SJ&E Railroad on McKenzie Preserve—Sunday Dec. 4, 2011—9 to 12—\$10/15

Join local historians **Bud Olsen** and **Bill Dennison** on a hike through time to explore the old railroad system and learn about the stories that shaped local history. Bring your lunch.

Mushrooms of the Sierra Foothills—Saturday March 3, 2012—9am to 2pm

Local field biologist **Russell Kokx** will join participants on the McKenzie Preserve for a day of exploration. Participants will be collecting and identifying the fungi of the Oak Woodlands, with discussions on the ecology, edibility, and toxicology of the specimens collected.



Beginning GPS Navigation—Sunday March 4, 2012—8am to 12pm

Learn how to navigate with your GPS! **Amy Voorhees** will help you learn how to enter and follow waypoints as well as mark locations for later use. There will be a small geocaching course set up for practice. The course will include off trail hiking so hiking shoes, appropriate clothing, water, sunscreen and snacks are recommended. All participants must supply their own GPS. Due to variation in brands and models, the owners manual may be helpful also.



Hikes and Classes are open to the public. Reservations are required.

Classes are \$10 for members, \$20 for their family or \$5 for student members & \$15 for non-members or \$30 for their family.

For hikes, SFC suggests a \$5 donation from non-members. **(Dogs are not allowed.)**

Visit our website at www.sierrafoothill.org to register, or call us at 855-3473.

McKenzie Preserve Open House—Saturday March 10, 2012—9am to 4pm

March is a beautiful time of the year on the McKenzie Preserve. Bring your family and friends to the Open House to explore on your own, enjoy the wildflowers and have a picnic. You may walk the lower Discovery Trail or hike to the table top to see the beautiful views. No reservations are needed.

McKenzie Preserve Member Day—Sunday March 11, 2012—9am to 4pm

A special day on the Preserve just for members, their families and friends. No reservations are needed.

Birds of Prey—Sunday March 18, 2012—10am to 12:30pm—\$10/15

Join master falconer **Cat Krosschell** for a morning of fun. Come learn about, and meet, some wildlife ambassadors of the foothills. Great for the whole family! Bring a lawn chair, water and snacks.

Natural History of the McKenzie Preserve—Saturday March 24, 2012—9am to 3pm—\$10/15

Join biologist **Rodney Olsen**, geologist **Craig Poole** and anthropologist **Allen Beck** as we explore the natural history of the McKenzie Preserve. We will look at plants, animals, rocks and archeological sites on the preserve. This includes a 6 mile round-trip hike to the top of Table Mountain. Bring lunch and water.

The Ewell Fine Gold Creek Open House—Sunday March 25, 2012—10am to 4pm

The Ewell Preserve is spectacular in the spring with abundant wildflowers, blossoming red bud, and willow and alder trees lining the creek. Park at the top and enjoy a scenic 1.5 mile hike down to the water. Feel free to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy with family and friends. Some limited parking will be available near the creek. This event will be hosted by the Ben Ewell family.



Wildflowers on the McKenzie Preserve

Sun. March 25, 2012
9am to 3pm—\$10/15

This class will be taught by botanist and local wildflower authority **John Stebbins**. You will see beautiful spring flowers, including vernal pool species, and spectacular scenery. Be prepared for a fairly strenuous 6 mile round trip hike to the top of McKenzie Table, which includes a 1000 foot elevation gain.

Photography on the McKenzie Preserve

Saturday April 14, 2012—9 am to 1pm—\$10/15

Come join local nature photographer **David Hunter** for a day of learning practical nature photography tips and tricks. The class is for all skill levels. Bring your camera and a snack as we practice taking pictures of wildflowers and natural scenes. Meet at the McKenzie Preserve parking lot. Look at samples of David's work at www.davidhunterphoto.com.

McKenzie Preserve Earth Day/Member Day

Sunday April 22, 2011—9am to 4pm

Another day reserved just for members, their families and friends. No reservations are needed.

Birds of Black Mountain—Sat. April 28, 2012

8am to 12pm—\$10/15

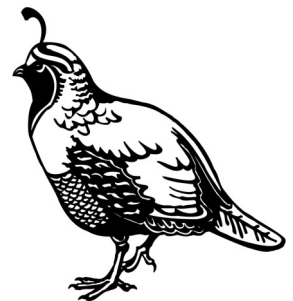
Join biologists **Rodney Olsen** and wildlife photographer/birder **Gary Woods** for a bird walk and talk on Black Mountain. We plan to take a leisurely walk to the top of Black Mountain during the height of the migratory season. On our walk we will discuss bird migration, natural history and bird identification. Black Mountain is known for its migratory bird activity, so be prepared to be impressed. Birders of all skill levels and children are welcome. We will meet at the Black Mountain office. Bring binoculars, lunch, water and sun protection.

Wildflowers on Black Mountain—Sat. May 5, 2012—9am to 3pm—\$10/15

Botanist **Jamie Tuitele-Lewis** will lead a moderate hike to the top of the mountain looking at the many wildflowers and shrubs that will be in bloom. Included will be carpenteria in all its glory and the orange (yellow) lupine, as well as many other species.

Black Mountain Mother's Day Open House—Sun. May 13, 2012—9 to 4

Come celebrate this special day with a pleasant 3 mile round trip hike up to the top of Black Mountain, with an additional mile if you'd like to hike along the ridge and back. The abundant display of wildflowers along the trail will be identified with signs and the rare shrub *Carpenteria californica* will be showing off its snow-white blossoms. Please try to arrive in the morning and leave in the afternoon to avoid 2-way traffic on the narrow road leading to the parking area.



Annual Fundraising Dinner—Saturday May 19, 2012

Join us again for our popular annual dinner, which will include live music, delectable dinner dishes and outstanding wine selected by our volunteer wine connoisseur—and yes, beer will be available as well! You will also have the opportunity to participate in silent and live auctions of our increasingly impressive collection of donated items. More information will be provided in an upcoming newsletter and on our website as the date approaches.

Preserve Guidelines:

All visitors should remain with their group during docent led hikes and classes.

Visitors should always enter/exit through appropriate gates. Jumping fences is not allowed.

No dogs, except for working cattle dogs are allowed on any preserves. No hunting is allowed on any of the SFC preserves.

Hikes are led by experienced volunteers and are free to members.

Hikers will explore SFC's McKenzie Table Mt. Preserve, Mary Elizabeth Miller Preserve at Black Mt., Tivy Mt. Preserve or the Austin & Mary Ewell Preserve on Fine Gold Creek. All hikes begin at 9:00 except for Tivy Summit which starts at 8:00. Bring a lunch & water. No dogs please.

Reservations are required and we suggest a \$5 donation from non-members.

Each hike is limited to 25 people, so be sure to reserve a place by signing up at www.sierrafoothill.org or call us at 855-3473.



McKenzie Preserve Discovery Trail—This is an easy, mostly level hike of about 3.7 miles with an interpretive guide to the flora and history along the trail. It takes about 3 hours with stops for interpretation. Meet at the corrals.

McKenzie Preserve Table Top—There is a trail for most of the hike, which is about a 6 mile round trip with some level walking then a climb on a good trail to the top; elevation gain is 1000 feet. It takes about 5 hours allowing for lunch at the top.

Black Mt. Summit—It's about a 4 mile round trip along a dirt road with an elevation gain of 800 ft. and takes about 3 hours. This is a fairly easy hike with good footing. If the group wishes, the hike may go another mile out onto the ridge.

Tivy Mt. Wildflower Hike—This is an easy walk, not more than 1-2 miles round trip, to observe wildflowers on the lower flank of the mountain (including Keck's Checkerbloom when it's in bloom). This hike can take 2-4 hours and **begins at 9:00 am**.

Fine Gold—This will be an easy hike, with emphasis on learning about the streamside habitat of Fine Gold Creek. It may continue up onto nearby uplands on a gentle easy-to-follow trail. Hike distances will be 1-2 miles. The hike is appropriate for children; however, especially in early spring, parents need to exercise caution with children alongside the creek.

FOR ADVANCED HIKERS ONLY: (These hikes typically take 6 to 8 hours.)

McKenzie Preserve Smith Basin—This is a strenuous hike, about 8 miles round trip with a 1000 ft. elevation gain to the table top & 800 ft. down into the basin (on a lightly used cow trail). With lunch in Smith Basin this hike takes a good 7 hours.

McKenzie Preserve Loop—This is a very strenuous hike, about 10 miles round trip with quite a bit of cross-country (no trail). With a 1000 ft. cross-country climb, a 700 ft. drop to the SJR River, then an 800 ft. climb up to the table top and back, it takes about 8 hours.

Tivy Mountain Summit—This is a very strenuous hike, about 6 miles round trip with a 2000 ft. elevation gain to the summit. With a start time of **8:00am** participants will hike cross-country (no trail) on rugged terrain and rocky areas; this hike will take approximately 7 hours.

Hikes for 2011:

Sat. November 26—Table Mt. Discovery Trail or Table Top
Sun. December 18—Table Mt. Table Top

Hikes for 2012:

Sat. January 7—Table Mt. Smith Basin
Sat. January 14—Table Mt. Discovery Trail
Sat. January 21—Fine Gold

Sat. January 28—Table Mt. Table Top
Sat. February 4—Table Mt. Smith Basin
Sun. February 5—Black Mountain
Sat. February 11—Table Mt. Loop
Sat. February 18—Table Mt. Table Top
Sun. February 19—Fine Gold
Sat. February 25—Table Mt. Table Top
Sun. February 26—Table Mt. Table Top
Sat. March 3—Black Mountain
Sun. March 4—Table Mt. Table Top

Sat. March 17—Fine Gold
Sun. March 18—Table Mt. Table Top
Sat. March 24—Tivy Mt. Summit—8am
Sat. March 24—Tivy Wildflower—9am
Sat. March 31—Black Mountain
Sun. April 1—Table Mt. Table Top
Sat. April 14—Tivy Mtn. Summit—8am
Sat. April 14—Tivy Wildflower—9am
Sat. April 21—Black Mountain
Sat. April 18—Table Mt. Table Top

Maps and directions to the preserves can be found
on our website at www.sierrafoothill.org

Mariposa Hikes Oct 2011 – June 2012

Family Hike on Trabucco Ranch – Saturday October 22nd – 10 AM to 2 PM

Free for members/Suggested \$5 donation for non-members—Hike Leader: **Kim Marcis**

Bring the kids for a day of adventure and exploration. Trek through open grazing land, blue oak woodland and montane hardwood. Meet at the Park-and-Ride behind Rite Aid on Joe Howard St off of Hwy 49. Bring water, lunch and your camera.

Hike on Von der Ahe – Saturday November 5th – 9 AM to 1 PM

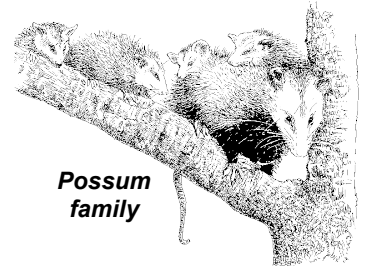
Free for members/Suggested \$5 donation for non-members—Hike Leader: **Bill Downey**

Join us for a day of exploring SFC's Von der Ahe Conservation Easement. Known for its diversity of native plants, the easement contains approximately 1,300 acres of protected forest and range land. Meet at The Bootjack Market on Darrah Rd off of Hwy. 49. Bring water, lunch and your camera.

Family Hike on Von der Ahe – Saturday March 3rd – 10 AM to 2 PM

Free for members/Suggested \$5 donation for non-members—Hike Leader: **Wendy Fisher**

Bring the kids for a day of adventure and exploration. Enjoy the wildlife, native plants and wildflowers at SFC's Von der Ahe Conservation Easement. Meet at The Bootjack Market on Darrah Rd off of Hwy. 49. Bring water, lunch and your camera.



Possum family

Nature Walk on the Long Ranch – Saturday March 24th – 9 AM to 2 PM

\$10/20 members/family, \$15/30 non-members/family—Class Leader: **Michael Ross**

Take a nature walk with renowned naturalist, author and educator Michael Ross on the Mariposa Long Ranch Conservation Easement. Embark on a spring discovery of the native wildflowers and natural history of this beautiful rolling oak woodland. Bring your lunch, water, and guide books. Meet at the Mariposa County Fairgrounds parking lot off of Hwy 49.

Earth Day Hike – Sunday April 22nd – 9 AM to 2 PM

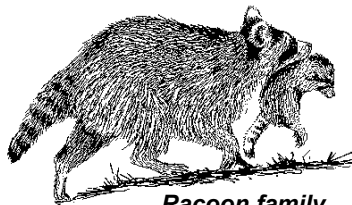
Free for members/Suggested \$5 donation for non-members—Hike Leader: **Bill Downey**

Come celebrate Earth Day by exploring a local scenic landmark. Striped Rock, a large granitic dome, is a unique geologic feature of the Mariposa landscape. The property consists of blue oak woodland, granite outcrops and Striped Rock Creek. Meet at the Mariposa County Fairgrounds parking lot off of Hwy 49.

Birding on Trabucco Ranch – Saturday April 28th – 8 AM to 1 PM

\$10/20 for members/family, \$15/30 for non-members/family—Class Leader: **Andy Steele**

Join birding expert Andy Steele for a morning of bird watching and exploration throughout blue oak woodlands, montane hardwoods and open grazing lands. Trabucco Ranch offers a wonderful opportunity for sighting raptors, songbirds, and many other bird species. Meet at the Park-and-Ride behind Rite Aid on Joe Howard St off of Hwy 49. Bring water, lunch and your camera.



Raccoon family

Family Hike in Clarks Valley – Saturday May 12th – 10 AM to 2 PM

Free for members/Suggested \$5 donation for non-members—Hike Leaders: **Jenny McCollom and Kim Marcis**

Bring the kids for a day of adventure and exploration. Ponderosa Pines, Cedars, Black Oaks, mountain meadows and Snow Creek will captivate all. Meet at the Mariposa Kiwanis Preschool parking lot on the corner of Darrah and Triangle Roads, approximately 5 miles off Hwy 49 in Mariposa County. Bring water, lunch and your camera.

Birding Clarks Valley – Sunday May 20th – 8 AM to 1 PM

\$10/20 for members/family, \$15/30 non-members/family—Class Leader: **Len McKenzie**

Discover a diverse array of spring birds in the foothills habitat. Join naturalist Len McKenzie for a walk on SFC's Clarks Valley Conservation Easement. Meet at the historic Darrah School at the intersection of Darrah, Triangle and Jerseydale Rds., 5 miles off Hwy 49 in Mariposa County. Boots are recommended. Bring binoculars, field guides, lunch and water.

Astronomy Night on Bohna Ranch – June (Date & Time TBA)

\$10/20 for members/family, \$15/30 non-members/family—Class Leader: **Garrett Wimer**

Bring a folding chair, binoculars, and a flashlight for an evening of star gazing on Bohna Ranch. Fresno City College Astronomy Instructor Garrett Wimer will take you on a magical tour of the night sky. Telescopes will be set up for viewing some of the interesting stars and planets. Extra binoculars will also be available. Bring the kids! Meet at the Oasis Gas Station in Catheys Valley off of Hwy 140.

