



November 2002

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**GLOBAL WARMING  
SCIENCE vs. WISHFUL THINKING**

Find out what the latest science tells us about global warming! Have we committed our children and grandchildren to a world in which sea level will rise, glaciers will melt and rainfall patterns will be disrupted? Are the computer models that tell this story reliable? How strong is the evidence for believing the scenarios they produce? How should governments and the private sector react to climate model forecasts? What does current research promise for the future?

A leading expert, Professor Richard Somerville, will speak about what will be the climate of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The program takes place on Friday, November 22, 7:30 p.m. at Resort at Squaw Creek.



This talk will present a comprehensive overview of the climate change issue, ranging from the newest research results to the ongoing diplomatic and political debates sparked by climate science. If the latest computer simulations of climate are right, then humankind has already entered a new era, one in which our species is no longer a passive spectator at the natural pageant of climate change. Instead, we have moved onto the stage ourselves to become actors,

and by burning coal, oil and gas, we have enhanced the natural greenhouse effect and already altered the climate.

Since 1979, Richard Somerville has been Professor of Meteorology at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego. He is a fellow of both the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Meteorological Society (AMS). Additionally, he has received awards from the AMS for both his research and his popular book, *The Forgiving Air: Understanding Environmental Change*.

This event, titled *GLOBAL WARMING: SCIENCE VS. WISHFUL THINKING*, is jointly sponsored by Resort at Squaw Creek and Squaw Valley Institute.

7:30 pm, Friday, November 22, 2002, at Resort at Squaw Creek, Squaw Valley, CA (no host bar opens at 7:00 pm. Tickets at the door \$10.00, or \$5.00 student with I.D. (No advance ticket sales.)

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## WHAT IS SQUAW VALLEY INSTITUTE?

Founded in 2002, Squaw Valley Institute is an organization of residents and businesses dedicated to presenting events having artistic, cultural and educational values. Through performances, lectures, classes, exhibitions and forums held in our extraordinary environment of Squaw Valley, we bring residents, friends and visitors together in the truest sense of community.

The Institute is a non-profit corporation under Section 501(c)(3), and all contributions are tax deductible for the donors.

Initial funding for the establishment of the Institute has been provided by a generous grant from the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association.

Additional funding has been received from individuals and businesses that have become Founding Members at \$150 each or Regular Members at \$25 each. Many thanks to current members for their support, and we welcome new members. Founding memberships will no longer be available after 2002!

Board meetings are open to the public and regular monthly meetings are usually held on the last Tuesday of each month at the Fire Station Meeting Room from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. We welcome volunteers to participate on various committees and events—call (530) 581-3022 for more information. Think about getting involved!

## PROGRAM IDEAS NEEDED

As a new organization, Squaw Valley Institute is actively seeking community input on what kinds of programs you would like to see. Our mission is to present programs having artistic, cultural and educational values.

Do you like our SPEAKERS FORUM series idea? Do you have suggestions of topics and/or speakers we should consider? Are there some other types of programs you would like to see?

Some tentative programs for 2003 include Tahoe Environmental Politics, Reintroduction of Lahontan Cutthroat Trout and Storytelling!

Let us have your ideas to see what we can do. We are wide open to suggestions for future programs; however, we are not interested in duplicating or competing with already established programs in the region.

## NEW INSTITUTE WEBSITE

A new and comprehensive website was launched in early September at [www.squawvalleyinstitute.org](http://www.squawvalleyinstitute.org). This site will list event information and schedules for all future events as well as other important facts concerning the Institute. It will be possible to contact us and to order event tickets on the new site. The website was designed by Tahoe Premier Design, a very talented design firm owned by Founding Members, Suzanne Baker and Theresa Martin.

## WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON?

Nov. 9: PlumpJack Sport Fashion Show/Wine Maker Dinner 583-1576

Nov. 16: Mountain reopens; ski & board if conditions permit 583-6985

Nov. 21: PlumpJack Wine Class/Dinner 583-1576

Nov. 30: Squaw Valley Winter Film Festival 583-6985

Early December: Squaw Valley Old Movies at Bar One, Olympic House. Check Institute website or call 581-3022 for date. Back by popular demand and more old movies discovered!

Dec. 13: In The Mood Benefit 583-6985

Dec. 14: Snow God's Ball 581-7260

Dec. 23-25: Santa visits the valley 583-6985

Dec. 24: Torchlight Parade on the mountain at dusk.....

## DR. GOLDMAN ON TAHOE CLARITY AND FUTURE: Give up your SUV?

If residents and visitors to the Tahoe basin wish to do their part in stopping the deterioration of the lake's clarity and health, they should, among other things, drive electric or hybrid cars, or use public transportation! Emissions of nitrous oxides from auto exhaust is one of the leading causes of Lake Tahoe's problems, and the majority of the nitrous oxide is generated within the basin rather than blowing in from elsewhere.

These are just a few of the many recommendations made by Professor Charles R. Goldman, Limnologist from University of California, Davis, in a presentation made in Squaw Valley on October 24, 2002. Dr. Goldman has led the research on the health of Lake Tahoe for 43 years.

Although his program conflicted with the fifth game of the World Series (with the San Francisco Giants leading), more than 70 people gave up baseball to hear the famous scientist speak.

Dr. Goldman believes that if we do a lot of things right, change a lot of our present practices and spend a lot of money, the best we can hope for is to keep the lake's health about where it is now or perhaps improve it slightly, but it will never return to where it was 40 years ago. If we don't change our ways and do things well, by the year 2030, Lake Tahoe will be at best an ordinary lake.

The lake's clarity is measured regularly by lowering a white disk into the lake from a boat and measuring the depth at which it can no longer be seen. These measurements are taken frequently at different locations. On the average, over past years, the clarity is decreasing about one foot per year.



Interestingly, the Pope's Vatican navy developed this clarity measurement procedure centuries ago to avoid hazards to their warships. Father Secchi was the person who invented the procedure so, to this day, the apparatus is called the Secchi disk. It sounds like a primitive method in today's high tech world, but it has proven to be a simple and reliable apparatus.

Erosion is another major cause of Tahoe's declining health. Tahoe is a very large lake with a relatively small watershed basin. Many human activities within the basin cause increasing erosion that results in nutrients being washed into the lake. Construction of new homes and developments and paving are obvious examples. Another cause is the planting of lawns and non-native plants that require extensive irrigation and fertilizers. People who come here from other areas to establish homes often go to great lengths to establish landscaping that is not indigenous to this environment and results in harm to Lake Tahoe.

Another source of erosion is the application of deicing salts to roads in the basin. This kills roadside vegetation and causes increased erosion.

Dr. Goldman described other things done by man, too numerous to mention in this brief summary, that

have contributed to the declining health and clarity of Lake Tahoe.

He also entertained the audience with interesting stories from his wide variety of experience and travels. A particularly interesting experience was the 1999 visit by President Clinton and Vice President Gore. Dr. Goldman hosted them on a voyage on Lake Tahoe in his research vessel. It was most unusual that both the President and Vice President would be together in such a public and exposed location and security measures were intense. The security people brought on board a bulletproof armored porta potty. The plan was that in the event of an attack, President Clinton would be quickly seated and locked inside the porta potty!

Near the end of his program, Dr. Goldman recited a beautiful poem he has written about Lake Tahoe, and we hope to have it in a future newsletter.

Dr. Goldman is an extraordinary person, and he provided our community with a wonderful evening. We are already discussing possible future programs with him.



*Dr. Goldman shows the relatively small watershed area of Lake Tahoe relative to the large size of the lake, which is part of the reason erosion is such a problem to the clarity and health of the lake*

## FORESTRY EXPERTS SPEAK

How healthy are our area forests and how can human activity improve forest health and reduce fire danger? How can we maintain the wildness that makes mountain living worthwhile and still protect our communities from wildfire? A panel of experts addressed these questions and other aspects of our forest health and fire management at a Speakers Forum event on September 19, 2002.

After explaining how and why forests burn, the panelists all agreed that there is significant fire danger in much of the forestland in the Tahoe/Truckee and Squaw Valley areas. While fire occurs naturally and repeatedly in forests, human habitation in the wildland/urban 'interface' has dramatically changed and complicated management of forests and fires.

The panelists discussed and illustrated methods of thinning overgrown forests to improve timber and wildlife values as well as reducing fire danger. Bringing the discussion from general to specific terms, the fuel management model and methods for the 8,000 acre Tahoe Donner subdivision was the subject of the third presentation of the evening.

Panelists were Mike Terwilliger, *Fire Chief, Truckee Fire Protection District*, Kathy Murphy, *Fuels Management Specialist, U.S. Forest Service*, and Bill Houdyschell, *Registered Professional Forester, Tahoe Donner*.

After the formal presentation, the panelists fielded a host of questions from an enthusiastic audience of locals and visitors.

Squaw Valley Institute and PlumpJack Squaw Valley Inn, a Founding Member and strong supporter of the Institute, organized the program.

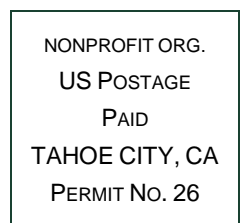
We wish to thank PlumpJack for their co-sponsorship and for generously donating the use of their Conference Center facilities for the event.



*Kathy Murphy, U.S. Forest Service, explains forest fuels management*



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## BOXHOLDER