



February 2003

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TAHOE'S ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS

What is going on in the Tahoe basin with the issues of growth and development vs. the environment and quality of life? Are politics involved? You bet!

Another in the continuing Speakers Forum series, an impressive panel of experts will address these sensitive issues at a presentation on March 13, 2003. Squaw Valley Institute and the Resort at Squaw Creek jointly sponsor this program. It will be held at the Resort with a no-host bar opening at 6:30 pm and the presentation starting at 7:30 pm.

Leo Poppoff, a retired atmospheric scientist who writes the popular Basin Watch column in the local papers, conceived the program idea, organized the panel and will moderate the presentation. He has been a member of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's Advisory Planning Commission since 1983, and is currently the Science and Research representative on the Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee. He is also a former member of the Lahontan Water Quality Control Board.

The panel of speakers will consist of:

Senator Debra Bowen: A lawmaker for more than a decade now, Senator Bowen (D-Redondo Beach) continues to focus her attention on helping Californians improve their quality of life. She has sponsored legislation on several environmental issues, chaired the Assembly Natural Resources Committee during the 1997-98 session, and is chairwoman of the Senate Energy, Utilities & Communications Committee. She also serves on other committees including Agriculture & Water Resources and Natural

Resources & Wildlife. She was first elected to the Assembly in 1992, re-elected in 1994 and 1996, elected to the Senate in 1998, and re-elected to her second and final four year Senate term in 2002.

Rochelle Nason: A lawyer, Rochelle has served for ten years as the Executive Director of the League to Save Lake Tahoe, the leading environmental advocacy organization working to protect and restore the Lake

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WHAT IS SQUAW VALLEY INSTITUTE? HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER!

Founded in 2002, Squaw Valley Institute is an organization of residents and businesses dedicated to presenting events having artistic, cultural and educational values. In our first year, we successfully conducted eight different events. Our plans are becoming focused on events having themes related to quality of life. Through performances, lectures, classes, exhibitions and forums held in our extraordinary environment of Squaw Valley, we strive to serve residents of our surrounding region and visitors.

The Institute is a non-profit corporation under Section 501(c)(3), and all contributions and membership dues 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, organizations and businesses that have become Founding Members or Regular Members. Many thanks to current members for their support, and we already have 96 members.

Becoming a member shows your support for the Institute, its goals and vision, and will signify your belief that Squaw Valley Institute is a worthy, needed

addition to the quality of life in Squaw Valley and deserving of support from the community. Founding memberships are no longer available after the end of 2002, but regular memberships are available for \$25 per person, \$40 per family, \$25 per non-profit organization and \$100 per business. Members receive our newsletters and discounts to some paid events.

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 3:00 to 5:00 pm. We welcome volunteers to participate on various committees and events.

Call (530) 581-4138 or go to www.squawvalleyinstitute.org for more information. **Think about getting involved!**

TAHOE'S ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS, *continued from page 1*

Tahoe Basin. As a co-chair of the Tahoe Transportation and Water Quality Coalition she has successfully fostered partnerships with business and community organizations to support investment in conservation at Lake Tahoe. She has been active in local community service groups, and has served on the boards of several statewide organizations concerned with conservation, land use, and the environment.

Dr. Mark Nechodom: Chief Social Scientist at the Sierra Nevada Research Center, a unit of the Pacific Southwest Research Station of the USDA Forest Service. He served as the lead social scientist for the Lake Tahoe Watershed Assessment, and he continues to work on management and policy issues in the Tahoe basin. He has been a research consultant to the California Department of Forestry, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the US Bureau of Land Management, other public and private environmental management agencies, and developed successful education programs for land use and natural resource management at UC Davis and California State University, Sacramento.

Steve Teshara: Steve recently completed 11 years of service as Executive Director of the Lake Tahoe Gaming Alliance, and is a recognized leader in consensus building, public-private partnerships and transportation and has served on many Tahoe area boards and associations. In December of 2002, he became the new Executive Director of the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association, an umbrella organization providing many services to its members and the community. The Resort Association partners with Placer County in developing infrastructure and transit projects in the North Tahoe region.

7:30 pm, March 13, 2003, Resort at Squaw Creek, Squaw Valley, CA (no host bar opens at 6:30 pm). Admission is FREE! Call (530) 581-4138 for more information.

MEMBERSHIP ORDER FORM

Name(s): _____

Individual \$25

Mailing Address: _____

Family \$40

City/State/Zip: _____ E-Mail _____

Non-profit \$25

Visa Mastercard Amex Check Total Amount: \$ _____

Business \$100

Card No: _____ Exp. Date: ____/____/____

Please mail this form with your check or credit card info for the appropriate amount to:

SQUAW VALLEY INSTITUTE
P.O. Box 3325, Olympic Valley, CA 96146



GLOBAL WARMING EXPLAINED

A highly informative presentation on the future of our planet drew an audience of approximately 100 people to the Resort at Squaw Creek on November 22, 2002. Judging by the lengthy and spirited question and answer period following the address by **Professor Richard Somerville**, there is a high degree of local interest in this subject.

One of the key points in the talk was that the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has been steadily increasing since the 1880's and has been very accurately measured since 1958. It is steadily rising at the rate of approximately 0.5 percent per year, and the amount has increased about 30% since pre-industrial times. Also, it is well established that the burning of fossil fuels (oil, gas and coal) causes most of the increase in carbon dioxide.



Squaw Valley Institute President John Wilcox introduces Professor Somerville.

Carbon dioxide is one of the gases in our atmosphere that causes the greenhouse effect. The effect of these gases is to trap some of the heat radiated from the earth's surface and, like a blanket, make the earth warmer than it would otherwise be.

Today, about 75% of the carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere comes from

rich, First World countries, such as the U.S., Canada, Japan, Australia and Western Europe, yet these countries contain less than 25% of the world's population. More than 75% of the population lives in developing countries where per capita energy consumption is much lower than in the First World. However, in wanting to adopt First World lifestyles, they will also wish to burn more fossil fuels if they can. China has more than a century's supply of coal and has four times our population. India's population is increasing at such a high rate that it will soon surpass China and be the world's most populous country. Therefore, even if the industrialized countries succeed in reducing their use of fossil fuels, the problem wouldn't be solved. Carbon dioxide quickly disperses around the world no matter where it originates and has a lifespan of 100 years.

Professor Somerville explained how computerized climate models are used

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THE SIERRA NEVADA: WILL THEY REMAIN SNOW CAPPED PEAKS?

Will our water supply be impacted by the global warming climate change? According to a soon to be released study, *"expected climate changes could have a devastating impact on western water resources over the next half century. Scientists find we may be headed for a virtual 'train wreck' with regard to availability of water in the western US."*

Last November, we received an excellent presentation on the general subject of global warming. On May 5, 2003, we have arranged to have a presentation by two scientists on what this will mean to our local and regional water supplies.

Our speakers will be **Dr. Dan Cayan**, Director of the Climate Research Division at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, and

Dr. Kelly Redmond, Associate Director of the Western Regional Climate Center at Desert Research Institute in Reno.

With rising temperatures, the snow accumulation and water content of the snow pack will be reduced in the Sierras and other mountainous catchments across western North America. This would have increasingly critical effects on water supplies locally and across the region. These two scientists have been studying this issue and will present their findings to us.

A part of the continuing Speakers Forum series and jointly sponsored by Squaw Valley Institute and the Resort at Squaw Creek, the program will be held on **May 5, 2003** at the Resort. A no host bar will open at 6:30 pm and the presentation will start at 7:30 pm. Tickets at the door will be \$10.00 or \$5.00 for students with I.D. (No advance ticket sales) Call (530) 581-4138 for more information.

WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON?

- Feb. 28 to Mar. 9:** Snow Festival: many events throughout the region starting with Spaghetti Feed, Party & Dance and Fireworks all in Squaw Valley on Feb. 28. Call 583-5605 or info@tahoesnowfestival.com.
- Mar. 2:** Great Ski Race, Tahoe City to Truckee: www.tahoexc.org.
- Mar. 19:** PlumpJack Wine Class/Dinner. 583-1576.
- Mar. 29:** 49er Foundation Celebrity Classic Dinner, Resort at Squaw Creek, 581-7188
- Apr. 16:** PlumpJack Wine Class/Dinner. 583-1576.
- Apr. 18:** Christ Force Healing Service, Squaw Valley Chapel, 6:00 to 9:00 pm, 583-9553
- Apr. 20:** Easter Services at High Camp, 7:30am. Free Cable Car rides starting at 7:00
Easter Services at Squaw Valley Chapel - 10:00am, 583-9553



GLOBAL WARMING EXPLAINED,

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to predict the potential effects of changes in the atmosphere. For example, a doubling of carbon dioxide, which could conceivably happen by the middle of this century, can be predicted by the models to increase the earth's temperature. The models disagree on the amount of temperature increase, but they all agree it will increase. This will cause glaciers to melt, sea level to rise and rainfall patterns to change. This could



Professor Somerville answers questions following his talk.



Richard Somerville, Professor of Meteorology at Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

eventually have disastrous effects in some parts of the world. Increases in hurricanes, droughts, drinking water shortages, flooding of low coastal areas and island nations are just a few of the possible consequences.

Professor Somerville points out that

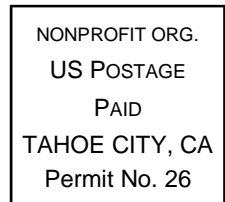
rather than being observers, we humans have become participants in a global experiment of great potential consequence. He closed by saying that, while there are no easy answers, he is optimistic and that our species has shown an incredible capacity for invention and adaptation.

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 program was part of a series called Speakers Forum and was jointly sponsored by Squaw Valley Institute and Resort at Squaw Creek.



P.O. Box 3325
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BOXHOLDER