



To enlighten and entertain

Fall 2004

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**SECOND ANNUAL KT AWARDS CEREMONY AND DINNER**

If you loved the KT's (Katies) last year, wait until you experience them this year! This event was a sell-out on its inaugural night in 2003 and promises to be even better in 2004. There will be a longer social hour at the start and fewer awards, resulting in an exciting, but less lengthy awards ceremony. Don't worry - the flash and excitement that had everyone buzzing last year will be there again this year!

The serious core of the KT Awards is to honor individuals and businesses that create the unique spirit of life that is Squaw Valley. In addition to its goal of building a greater sense of community, the KT Awards are a fundraiser to help sustain operations of Squaw Valley Institute. This year, a bigger and better silent auction will be part of the action. Renowned local artist, Deborah von Zink will create an original painting of the Sierra Nevada that will be auctioned.

This year, you can nominate deserving individuals and businesses for awards! To get a nomination ballot, go to [www.squawvalleyinstitute.org](http://www.squawvalleyinstitute.org), click on the "EVENTS" button, scroll down to the "KT Award" event, click on the link to the nomination ballot, print the ballot, write in your nominations and fax per the instructions. You can do it!

**Saturday, November 13, 2004, 6:00 pm, Resort at Squaw Creek.**

**TICKETS:** \$70 per person or \$130 per couple; tables of eight may be reserved for \$520. **Seating will be limited!**

**You may reserve tickets now** by calling (530) 581-4138 or by e-mail to: [info@squawvalleyinstitute.org](mailto:info@squawvalleyinstitute.org)

**SQUAW VALLEY TREASURE HUNT**

This fine Squaw Valley tradition will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> running this year with some new wrinkles to make it even more exciting. If you thought you had it all figured out by now, wait until you are challenged this year!

Your Institute decided to revive this event in 2003, and for 2004, we will expand the pool of potential treasure hunters. Traditionalists never fear - it will still involve fabulous potluck appetizers followed by teams scampering through the dark (and perhaps the snow...) seeking out clues throughout the west end of the Valley.

This year the Treasure Hunt will be a family event: kids who are old enough to enjoy such an outing are invited to attend. If you'd rather make this an evening without your children, that's fine, too - we won't tell them (although their classmates may).

**Saturday, November 6, 2004, 6:00 pm, Olympic Plaza Bar. \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under. Each family brings a potluck appetizer. No-host bar and free soft drinks.**



The coveted KT Award, created by Hans Standteiner of Mountain Forge

## JEFFERSON AND ADAMS DEBATE

Thomas Jefferson and John Adams came to Squaw Valley on July 17 to have a lively discussion about war and peace and other weighty subjects. Thomas Jefferson was portrayed by Clay Jenkinson, renowned humanities scholar and radio personality; John Adams was played by scholar, author, UCC minister and radio host, Bill Chrystal.

Held at the beautiful outdoor grounds of Squaw Valley Chapel, this unusual event was jointly sponsored by the Chapel and Squaw Valley Institute. A crowd of about 135 people enjoyed picnicking on the grass while hearing the 200 year old viewpoints of our second and third Presidents.

Jefferson and Adams were political allies during the American Revolution and helped persuade colonists to fight for independence from Britain. They agreed on some issues and disagreed on others. The major difference in opinion between the two men was that whereas Adams often saw violence and war as inevitable, Jefferson felt that in most cases, war was unnecessary.

The two men were dressed in period costumes and spoke as if it was during their time in history. After the debate, they fielded questions from the audience, first in character, and later removing their wigs and answering more questions in their own personalities, shifting from first person into third.

Chrystal observed, "Both Jefferson and Adams would say that we have the government we deserve. If you're not pleased with the government, you need to be more involved and give your energy."

Jenkinson also portrays other historical characters, and efforts are being made to have him back next year as Teddy Roosevelt!

*Excerpts courtesy of Tahoe World, July 22, 2004 article.*

## 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. 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 all of our 154 members for their support.

Although the Institute derives some revenue from the many and varied events it sponsors each year, **membership** continues to be our most important and necessary source of income!

Becoming a member shows your support for the Institute, its goals and vision, and will signify your belief that Squaw Valley Institute is a worthwhile and needed component of the quality of life in Squaw Valley and nearby communities.

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 - put your enthusiasm, energy and talent to work to benefit the Institute and the community!

Call (530) 581-4138 or go to [www.squawvalleyinstitute.org](http://www.squawvalleyinstitute.org) for more information.

**Think about getting involved!**

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### 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: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please call 530/581-4138 or mail this form with your check for the appropriate amount or credit card information to:

**SQUAW VALLEY INSTITUTE**  
P.O. Box 3325, Olympic Valley, CA 96146  
[www.squawvalleyinstitute.org](http://www.squawvalleyinstitute.org)

## THE TAHOE-BAIKAL CONNECTION

About 100 people showed up at PlumpJack Conference Center on June 17th to learn what Lake Tahoe has in common with Genghis Kahn, 1/5th of the world's fresh water and river sharks!

Tony Brunello, Executive Director of Tahoe-Baikal Institute, brought with him a group of 17 young scientists and planners from Russia, Mongolia and the United States. The group is presently engaged in a summer exchange program that started in 1990 and has since involved 255 people.

Lake Baikal is a high-mountain lake located in Siberia near the Mongolian border. While it has many things in common with Lake Tahoe, it also has many differences. To start with, the size of Baikal dwarfs Tahoe. Baikal is 375 miles long, a mile deep (triple the depth of Tahoe) and contains 20% of the world's fresh water (23 times Tahoe's capacity)! Another dramatic difference is that while Tahoe's watershed is small compared to the size of the lake, Baikal's watershed is huge and overlaps well into Mongolia. An idea inspired by Tahoe's Rim Trail, the Rim Trail proposed for Lake Baikal will be 1200 miles long!

Lake Baikal is the home of 1500 species of wildlife found exclusively in that region, including 5-foot river sharks that eat animals found on the shores of the lake and the world's only fresh water seals! Genghis Kahn is best known as a warrior, but during his reign in Mongolia, he was a conservationist with respect to the Baikal watershed.

Founded in the 1980's, Tahoe-Baikal Institute's original mission was to apply the lessons learned at Tahoe to Baikal. The vision has now been redefined to lead and support innovative mountain lake watershed management efforts not only in the Lake Tahoe and Lake Baikal watersheds, but also in mountain lake watersheds around the world. Activities include studies relating to eco-tourism, mining, job development, native peoples, cultural exchanges and environmental protection.

## GLOBAL ICEBREAK!

Explorers Robert and Bobbé Christopherson came to Squaw Valley on July 12 and enthralled a large and enthusiastic audience with their photos, films and accounts of Antarctica and Greenland in a presentation titled "To The Ends of the Earth." The PlumpJack Conference Center rocked with the standing ovation they received at the conclusion of their program.

Robert is a distinguished Professor of Geography, author of many textbooks, and a recipient of numerous awards and honors. His wife, Bobbé, is a professional photographer, production assistant on Robert's books and accompanies Robert on his expeditions creating photographs to complement his high-resolution video production.



Robert Christopherson makes a point during his talk on Greenland and Antarctica  
*Photos by Fred Ilfeld*

The visual images were overwhelming. We saw glaciers and spectacular icebergs, one shaped like the Sydney Opera House and another resembling a large sailboat. We saw many species of penguins, doing their thing, and humpback whales up to 60 feet in length slapping their 15-foot flippers having migrated from the tropics to feed on krill.

Robert particularly focused on overwhelming evidence of global warming. Through the

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change process there is a scientific consensus among scientists from all countries that human activity is forcing global warming. He cited different evidences, far too numerous to mention in this limited space. Just for example, he showed satellite images from 1979 to 2003, revealing a 43 percent loss of Arctic Sea ice. In Antarctica, average temperatures increased 4.5 degrees F. between 1950 and 2000. In response to a specific question, Robert said that while it is true that there have been large cycles of temperature changes over thousands and millions of years, there is irrefutable scientific evidence that the current increases are, at least in part, caused by human activity. He says "This is having a profound impact on all natural cycles around the world, affecting ecosystem food chains, causing droughts in one area and floods in another, changing the timing of seasons by several weeks in the spring and fall, altering the ocean circulation and chemistry, and melting lots of glacial and polar ice." (For those wishing to look at more scientific details, Robert has kindly provided extensive references that are posted at [www.squawvalleyinstitute.org](http://www.squawvalleyinstitute.org). Go to the Newsletters page and click on "Climate Change Research July 2004".)

Robert encouraged the audience to be proactive about global warming by staying informed. "To take this Earth and put it in a one-time only experiment with no back-up planet seems foolish," he said.

*Excerpts courtesy of Tahoe World, July 15, 2004 article.*



Bobbé Christopherson



## SIERRA GEOLOGY TALK SERIES

At the suggestion of a member, the Institute will offer a series of four presentations on local geology. The featured speaker is a stalwart Institute member and part-time Master of Ceremonies, Frank DeCourten! Dean of the Sierra College Truckee Center, Frank has a Masters degree in Geology, has taught Geology and Earth Science at several universities, and is a dynamic and knowledgeable speaker.

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2004:

#### **“The Age of Dinosaurs in the Sierra.”**

An illustrated talk about the dinosaurs that romped through the forests on the slope of the Sierra Nevada many millions of years ago while the primeval mountains were shaken by earthquakes and numerous upheavals.

### TUESDAY OCTOBER 19, 2004:

#### **“Rivers of Gold in the Ancient Sierra.”**

This talk will describe how gold was deposited in the Sierra, triggering the

California “gold rush” of the nineteenth century and discuss the bizarre animals and tropical climate of the western slope of the Sierra many millions of years ago.

Both events are FREE and will be held at the PlumpJack Conference Center.

No-host bar social hour starts at 6:30 pm and the presentation at 7:30 pm.

The third and fourth programs in this series will be offered in 2005 - watch for the dates on our website and local papers. Here is a description of the programs:

**“Ancient Volcanoes of the Northern Sierra.”** Volcanic rocks cap Mt. Rose, comprise the ragged ledges and pinnacles of Castle Peak, impound the water of Lake Tahoe and underlie the flanks of Alder Hill near Truckee. Volcanic features of today will be identified and explained and the possibilities for renewed volcanic activity contemplated.

**“The Tahoe Ice Age.”** During the past two million years, the Tahoe region has experienced multiple ice ages alternating with warmer periods with glaciers

expanding and receding. The region was populated by a diverse array of plants and animals, some being very dissimilar from modern flora and fauna. This lecture will explore the glacial history of our region with emphasis on the modern landforms that originated during the recent Ice Age.

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## PROGRAM CALENDAR

### September 16, 2004

#### **The Age of Dinosaurs in the Sierra**

6:30pm at PlumpJack Conference Center

### October 19, 2004

#### **Rivers of Gold in the Ancient Sierra**

6:30pm at PlumpJack Conference Center

### November 6, 2004

#### **Squaw Valley Treasure Hunt**

6:00 pm, Plaza Bar, Olympic House Lodge

### November 13, 2004

#### **2nd Annual KT Awards Ceremony and Dinner**

6:30 pm, Resort at Squaw Creek



P.O. Box 3325

Olympic Valley, CA 96146

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[www.squawvalleyinstitute.org](http://www.squawvalleyinstitute.org)

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