

The Explorers Club

Northern California Chapter

November-December 2006

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Jeff Morgan Global Heritage Fund New Success in the Petén's El Mirador National Park

December 8, 2006

Jeff Morgan is the Executive Director of the Global Heritage Fund, a non-profit, international conservancy to preserve and protect humankind's most important archaeological and cultural heritage sites in developing countries. He will speak about the Preservation by Design methodology the Fund has developed to preserve major sites throughout the world.

This September, a GHF-U.S. Department (DOI) of the Interior partnership agreement was signed where GHF will support DOI experts to help in the protection and development of El Mirador National Park in Northern Guatemala, a huge swath of rain forest in the Petén. Jeff has been working for five years to develop a sustainable plan to protect this area which archaeologists consider the "Cradle of Maya Civilization."



In cooperation with the Guatemalan government, a long-range master conservancy plan is being developed and support funds are being generated to protect Mirador permanently and to open the region to tourism in a responsible way. Mirador contains five distinct forests, over 500 jaguars, abundant wildlife and the oldest and

continued on page 2



A satellite view shows the extensive fires in the Petén; they are concentrated in the El Mirador National Park, which now may be protected.

Jeff Morgan in the field.

Excavation at El Mirador's Structure 34, by Dr. Richard Hansen, gives insight into what remains hidden.

December LOCATION

Date: Friday, 8 December 2006
Place: Marines Memorial Club
609 Sutter, San Francisco
Time: 6:30 pm, beer & wine
7:15 dinner; 8:00 talk
Cost: \$75 (advance only)

Reach Anders at
ajviking@aol.com
925 254-3079

Reservation Form on page 5
Please reserve promptly!

Ed Ross' Bug Pictures

Presidio exhibition will close on November 19

So, we decided to put together an opportunity for our members to gather to see this exceptional effort. The notice is short, but the trip is worth it. Come November 8th any time before 6 p. m.

At 6, Ed will be present to talk about the work and answer your questions. At 7, there is a Presidio Trust sponsored lecture on *Monarch Butterflies* by Mia Monroe, National Park Service Ranger and coordinator of the Xerces Society's Western Monarch Campaign.

The exhibit at the Presidio's Officers Club presents two contrasting ways photographers look at nature. Robert Buelteman's large color photographs—made without a camera or lens—embody his highly personal way of seeing nature. Edward S. Ross' (FE79) scientific, patiently photographed close-ups alter the viewer's sense of scale and reveal intimate details of the insect world around us.

There is plenty of parking, and the evening is free. After you can wander to a neighborhood restaurant for supper.



November LOCATION

- Date** Wednesday, 8 Nov '06
- Place:** Presidio Officers Club
50 Moraga, San Francisco
- Time:** before 6:00: visit exhibit
6:00 pm meet with Ed
7:00 pm Butterfly lecture
- Cost:** FREE
NO RESERVATION
Necessary
BUT, DO COME!

Continued from page 1, Jeff Morgan

most monumental examples of the earliest Maya cities from 300-800BC. The largest known pyramid in Central America, *La Danta*, is within, and five sites have been found that are each larger than nearby Tikal! The participation of the Global Heritage Fund is a hallmark in efforts to save this tract of virgin forest, the largest in the

Americas, and its monumental Preclassic Maya cities.

Come hear about one of the most effective organizations in protecting vestiges of the past for future generations. The dinner meeting will be held at the Marines Memorial Club, a splendid venue for the holiday season.



Dr. Bob Schmieder, the California Connection for America's Underwater Treasures



Pictures of Bob Schmieder, Jean-Michel Cousteau, and J-M's son Fabian Cousteau, taken during the trips to Cordell Bank.

In April, Bob (FN86) accompanied Jean-Michel Cousteau and his team diving at Cordell Bank, the first group since Schmieder's work in the 1980's to dive there. Their television program on the entire national marine sanctuary system, including a segment on Cordell Bank, was aired this Fall on PBS. The program, is a great presentation of the sanctuaries and nicely honors the work done by Cordell Expeditions in describing Cordell Bank and establishing the sanctuary.



When the West was New Science and Discovery

James G. Moore

San Francisco

Jim Moore has been a field geologist all of his life, principally a petrologist, a student of rocks. More than 50 years with the U. S. Geological Survey. An intimacy with the highest High Sierras of California. Later the same attention to detail at the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory led to an in-depth (literally) understanding of these fuming vents in the earth's surface. Extinct and active. He is a field man: go, map, study, write. He has lived the modern version of a mentor, Clarence L. King, who was the first Director of the USGS.

Indeed, both King and Moore studied the high wilds, peaks and canyons between California's Central Valley and the Owens Valley east of the Sierras. In fact, Jim with his wife and our webmaster, Mike Diggles, returned the day before this talk from an attempt to summit Mount Whitney—they were snowed away. But, they had been there before, as had Clarence King 130 years

earlier. He was the third to conquer this highest peak in the contiguous States. King had to find it first!

Serendipity led Moore to write about King's exploration of the West. Jim happened upon the grandson of James Gardner, King's childhood friend and frequent field companion. Gardner, who lived nearby, had a treasure trove of letters his grandfather had written while working with King. The result: "*King, along the 40th Parallel, the Discovery of the West,*" published by Stanford Press. Moore gave us a fascinating overview of the tenacity, agility, enthusiasm and scientific acumen these men brought to their labors of love of the out-of-doors. It is a good read. It was a good listen.



Mt. Whitney, 2006

There were no trails when studying the vast outcrops along the 40th parallel; no highways, tunnels or bridges. These men matched the mountains. (photo, taken in 1869, in the Uinta Mountains; by Timothy O'Sullivan; Yale Collection of Western Americana) Moore's book is filled with old pictures, sketches and maps.

An appreciative audience
Diana Pickworth (FN01), Dr. Maylene Wong, Deanna Diggles

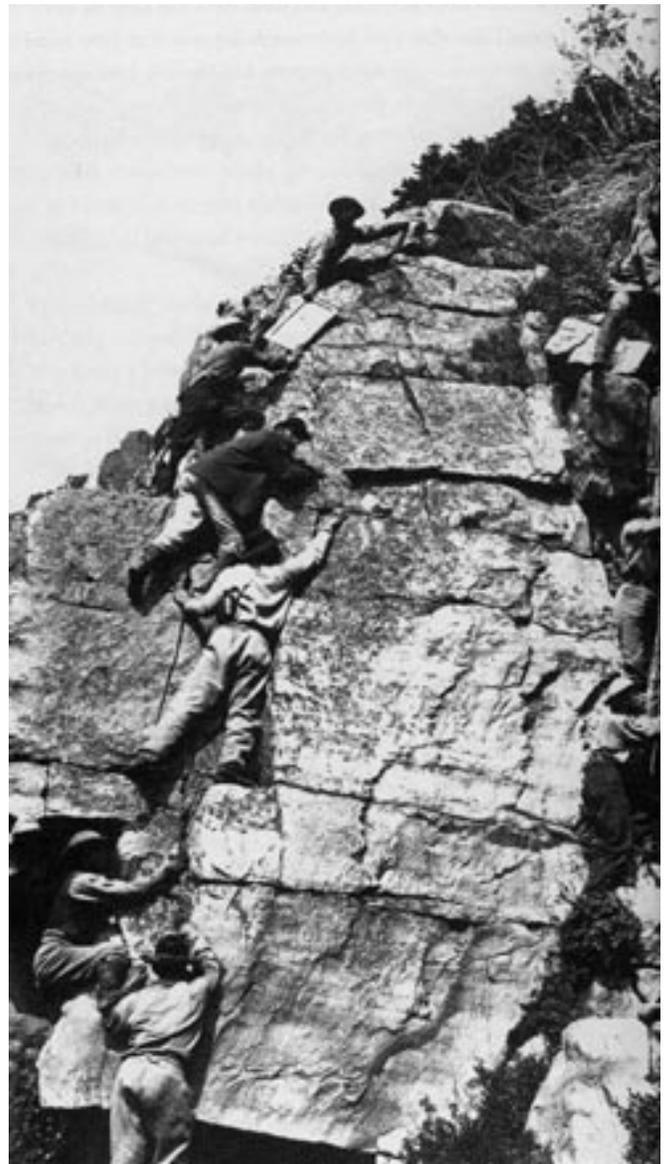


LANGAN

Langan, Moore and Diggles at the GGYC



MOORE



DIGGLES

Back in Time Lee Langan Sebastopol

At our opening event for the 2006-2007 season of meetings we were hosted by Gene & Sibyl Boudreau. It was a lovely day for chatting under their arbor, as well as browsing all of the materials Gene has brought from his travels in the Mexico's Sierra Madre and to the shores of Lake Rudolf in northern Kenya. Their home is a virtual Taramuhara museum and the 'African Room' is expanding. An afternoon is not adequate time to adsorb what you see. Gene's particular gathering skill is to collect the tools of everyday use; he observes that these will disappear as adaptations of modern materials are made. He has an eagle eye for the small items of the Tarahumaras and the Turkmana.

In April 2006, Gene and Lee Langan went on an expedition into the Sierra Madre. This was a wonderful example of the benefit of The Explorers Club: members of like minds joined in exploration because they met in the Club! They both brought back many pots and blankets and



Gene Boudreau & Lee Langan
Sibyl Boudreau & Angelica Rojas
Collection in transit



a slew of small items from that region of the Sierra that is rarely penetrated by anglos. It is starkly beautiful in this, the dry season. The canyons incise deeply from the west into the uplifted mountains; dotted along the slopes are the simple rectangular wooden rooms the Tarahumara call home. These peoples have lived in this manner for thousands of years. Some have lived, and some still do, in the caves eroded out of the cliff faces.

Lee described the travel and projected a series of photographs he made to show the people, their tools

and homes, the land in which they live and a glimpse into their life style. It was remarkable that, in a short trip, that such an overview was possible—of course, it was because Gene had paved the way by spending forty years in these lands!

After the presentation all guests were treated to a delicious Mexico dinner of pork and salsa, homemade tortillas and beans, a fresh salad and, on the side, Sibyl's special catfish and Gene's hush-puppies! Folks lingered 'til sundown talking over their food and dessert.

Open Air Photography

From July 13 to 20, 2006, aerial photographer Herb Lingl (FN02) ferried a 1941 Stearman PT-13B (open-cockpit biplane) from Wharton, Texas, in the vicinity of Houston, to Lampson Field at Clearlake. Air speed: about 95 mph. Solo Flight School, which owns the aircraft, is using the airplane for bi-plane rides over and around the Lake. Herb used it as a exquisite platform for capturing low-level oblique pictures. No need to open the windows on this baby!

Herb spends a lot of time in the air with his camera, and his company, Aerial Archives, has, as a result, a sig-



nificant number of stock photographs available. Stock pictures from the air may be even more useful than those garnered at ground level—the simple reason is that there are fewer. Herb takes off whenever he gets a chance.

Last year, or was it a couple of years ago, Herb completed "Over Mexico City" in cooperation with Robert Cameron, as one of Bob's series of now-famous 'Over' table-sized albums (San Francisco, Paris, etc.) Some of the photos can be seen on Herb's website; books can be ordered through Cameron's on-line store.

This 'Stearman' was actually built by Boeing (after the company was purchased in 1938.) Most of the just-over 8,000 planes sold were. After the war these planes were

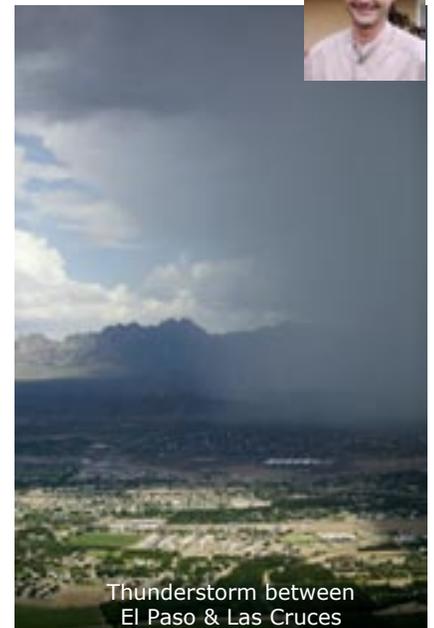
commonly used for crop dusting, for giving rides (as are offered below) and, less commonly, for wing walking!

If you would like any of Herb's pictures, or just want to see some, visit his web site: www.aerialarchives.com. If you would like to fly in the second seat of the Stearman, call Solo Flight School at (707) 822-6359.

Herb Lingl



The Tucson military-aircraft bone yard



Thunderstorm between
El Paso & Las Cruces

The Chapter Chair

Dear Northern California Explorers:

October found our Chapter welcomed back to the Golden Gate Yacht Club with a good attendance for Jim Moore's talk. Some may have caught the fact that he spent twelve years as geologist for the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory. In a side conversation I asked him about the occurrence of large slumps of accumulated lava that build up beneath sea level. Sure enough they occur and break away: huge and small. Two days later the total mass of the Big Island fractured the earth's crust, a Richter of 6.7! A brief education at The Explorers Club made the event clear.

This coincidence caused me to reflect on why we belong. While each member may have their own personal reasons, a common one is the chance to meet and converse with interesting and accomplished people in an informal atmosphere. Our members and speakers never fail to offer this opportunity.

In order to maintain the local momentum we have achieved over the past 35 years, we need to keep refreshing our active membership. Your Board has been discussing how and has come to the realization that it is done one-by-one. To this end, I call upon each of you to consider who you know who might desire to participate, if invited. Then take the step to ask them. You will be pleasantly surprised when you get a positive response to join a group that has flourished over 100 years! One should even consider that encouraging others is a mutually beneficial responsibility of membership, especially for those who have enjoyed the Club for a few years. To help, we will have descriptive materials and applications at each meeting.

As a matter of routine business at our October meeting, your present officers were reelected for the calendar year 2007.

Some of you may have seen Gene Rurka on David Letterman's television show. The Club took a good ribbing

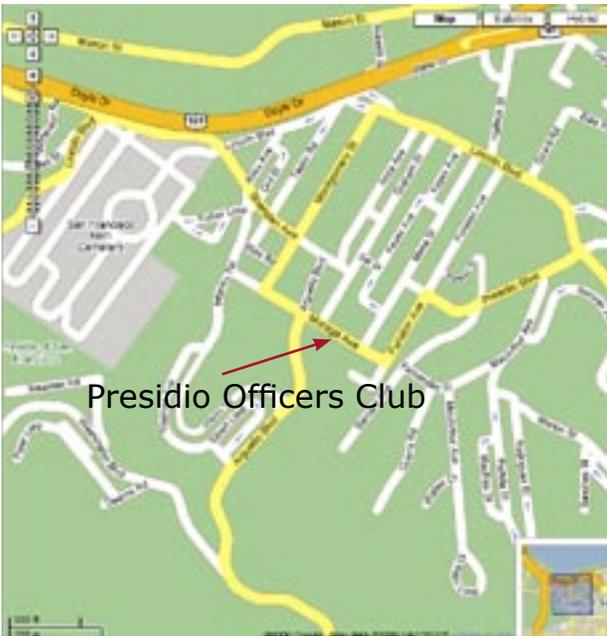
as Gene served up some exotics. Gene did well. (This October 26 appearance replaced Rurka's earlier planned revisit to San Francisco!)

The notice for the November 8 gathering to view Ed Ross's pictures before the exhibit closes may be a bit late for some; nevertheless, it seemed a good opportunity to urge those who have not done so to enjoy what Ed and his co-exhibitor have, and it is a good chance to visit The Presidio's former Officer's Club. The selected date was the last available when the exhibit is open in the evening. Even if you miss the evening with Ed, the exhibit is open until November 19 (normal hours: 11-5, Wednesdays through Sunday.)

Our last meeting of 2006 will be at the Marine's Memorial Club; those of you who attended last December, to listen to Chuck Merdinger's recollections of Pearl Harbor, will recall a delightful evening. You will not be disappointed this year: a stroll though the decorated City and a roaring fire for dinner, in addition to an exceptional speaker.

—Lee Langan (FN99)

November 8



Presidio Officers Club

December 8

good parking



Marines Memorial Club

Both venues are in San Francisco.

Make note that the December meeting date is new. It was previously announced for November.

Reserve ___ spaces for **December 8, 2006**, at Marines Memorial Club, San Francisco.
 Cost \$75 each, in advance only. Prospective members are welcome.
 Wine and beer are hosted for the evening!
 meal choice (please circle): meat – fish – vegetarian

Name: _____
 Address (if changed): _____
 Guest(s): _____

Please mail form to
 Dr. Anders Jepsen
 23 Dos Posos
 Orinda, CA 94563
 or email ajviking@aol.com
 or call 925 254-3079

Northern California 2006-2007 Calendar of Events

(Mark the dates! Venues will be identified at time of event.)

September 17 Boudreau Home, Sebastopol	Gene & Sibyl Boudreau	Tarahumara Expedition (Lee Langan)
October 13 Golden Gate Yacht Club, San Francisco	James G. Moore	King of the 40th Parallel, Discovery of the West
November 8 (Wednesday) Presidio Officers Club, San Francisco	Ed Ross	The Lives of Insects (Exhibition)
December 8 (Friday) Marines' Memorial Club, San Francisco	Jeff Moore	Global Heritage Fund in El Mirador, Petén

Future meetings will be at these estimated dates; some speakers are still being arranged.

January 19, 2007 (Friday)		
February 23, 2007 (Friday)		
March 17, 2007 (Saturday)	ECAD	New York City, Waldorf Astoria
March 23, 2007 (Friday)		
April 20, 2007 (Friday)	Phil Rasori	Ceremonial Dress in New Guinea
May 18, 2007 (Friday)		
June 16, 2007 (Saturday)	Annual Chapter Picnic	Angel Island (contact Dave Moorer)

Please note venues and dates with care.

At 6:30 on December 8th. a Friday meeting at the Marines Memorial, San Francisco.

At 6:00 on November 8th. a Wednesday gathering at The Presidio Officers Club

In full and lively color! To experience this newsletter in color, see the PDF version at our web site.

Send address changes and corrections by email to Steve at nauticos@oceanearth.org

November-December 2006

Lee Langan
The Explorers Club
Northern California Chapter
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