Your guide, Shirley Spencer, will point out the changes in plant materials as the bus climbs in elevation to Sequoia National Park. The bus will traverse the Generals Highway connecting Kings Canyon National Park with Sequoia National Park providing dramatic views of forests, rivers, and glimpses of the backcountry peaks of the Parks—perhaps even a view down into the Great Central Valley.

The first stop will be at the largest living tree on the planet, the General Sherman, and a walk on a small section of the Congress Loop of Giant Sequoias. We will then bus to a location near the Giant Forest Museum where we will have lunch and visit the museum. If time allows, we will proceed on foot for a short stroll through nearby Round Meadow, an area ringed by Giant Sequoias with a short interpretive trail. Please note: There are restroom facilities here but no place to purchase lunch or drinks. You will need to bring your own lunch and water with you on the bus. Activity Level 3: moderate physical activity; walking slightly longer distances, up stairs, or on uneven walking surfaces should be expected; some (but not all) areas are wheelchair accessible.

Squaw Valley Herb Gardens bus trip
Wednesday, June 10, 2009 • 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Fee: $75 per person • Minimum 30/maximum 40 participants

Join us for a visit to the aromatic herb gardens and enjoy a Garden Theater Tour. Our group will then travel to St. Nicholas Ranch for a
Greek lunch (included), followed by a visit to the Life-Giving Springs Monastery, a Byzantine-inspired architectural jewel. Please note that there is a strict dress code at the Monastery; no shorts allowed and arms must be covered to the elbows. Women should also bring a headcovering (scarf or straw hat) and a skirt that can be slipped on over their slacks. Coffee and Greek cake will be served before leaving the Monastery for our return to Fresno. Activity Level 2: average physical activity; you should be in good health, able to climb stairs and walk reasonable distances, possibly over uneven ground. This tour is NOT wheelchair accessible due to gravel pathways.

Charles Darwin and the Tree of Life with Dr. Rick Zechman
Thursday, July 9, 2009 • 3:30 - 5:00 pm • Alice Peters Auditorium
Fee: $15 per person • Minimum 30/maximum 125 participants

A thorough understanding of the relationships among living things will provide insights into the origin of HIV, how eyes evolved, or the source of the next best cure for cancer. But placing the root, the order of branches and arrangement of “leaves” on the great Tree of Life is one of Biology’s grand challenges. This presentation will discuss the search for the great Tree of Life from Darwin’s initial conceptualization to modern phylogenetic inference, what it can reveal about Biology, and the computational challenges of this endeavor. This presentation precedes the field trip on July 15, 2009 (see below) but is NOT a prerequisite.

Tour of the California Academy of Sciences accompanied by Dr. Rick Zechman
Wednesday, July 15, 2009 • 7:00 am – 9:00 pm
Fee: $65 per person • Minimum 35/maximum 50 participants

The California Academy of Sciences is a world-class scientific and cultural institution based in San Francisco. The Academy recently opened a new facility in Golden Gate Park, a 400,000 square foot structure that houses an aquarium, a planetarium, a natural history museum, and a 4-story rainforest all under one roof.

Dr. Frederick W. Zechman’s research is focused on the molecular systematics and ecology of marine and freshwater green algae, organisms that are common to the California coast, vernal pools of the San Joaquin Valley and the rivers and streams of the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Activity Level 1: a leisurely pace, minimum physical activity such as climbing some stairs and boarding the motorcoach.

Note: Bus trip details will be mailed to participants shortly before each trip date.

Registration – Summer 2009

Member(s) Name(s): ____________________________________________
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Phone: __________________________________________________________
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SUMMER FEES – MEMBERSHIP IS INCLUDED:
Where Giants Dwell • May 15 • 7:30 am – 5:30 pm • $65 ____________________________
Squaw Valley Herb Gardens • June 10 • 9:00 am – 4:00 pm • $75 _______________________
Charles Darwin & the Tree of Life • July 9 • 3:30 – 5:00 pm • $15 ______________________
California Academy of Sciences • July 15 • 7:00 am – 9:00 pm • $65 ______________________
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED:......................................................................................... $ ______

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