

## Photo exhibit spotlights beautiful sequoias

by Kevin Bowman

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One of the greatest strengths of the arts is the ability of an artist to help encourage discussion on issues important to society and relevant to the times. Such is the case with our new exhibition at Arts Visalia. Titled *Future of Sequoias*, this is an exceptional display of landscape photography by Santa Barbara-based artist Jeff Jones. From remote backcountry areas to views from familiar landmarks such as Moro Rock, the images presented to viewers convey Jones' appreciation for nature and his keen eye for capturing that rare sense of place, time, and deep space. Supplemented by written statements by long-time naturalist and writer Bill Tweed, these panoramic images provide the viewer with both an artistic and an education experience.

In his photographs, Jones displays a remarkable ability to capturing broad, sweeping panoramic views with a sense of intimacy and level of detail one can only experience by viewing the images in person. In order to create his images, Jones has designed his own photographic equipment to help enable his process of combining sequential frames into a singular, large-scale scene. If you have ever taken your camera up to the parks and tried to capture the full depth of space or the minute detail of the ground at your feet, you will be truly impressed with Jones' photographs.

Whether your interests lie in the arts, in photography, in outdoor recreation, or if you are part of that growing number of people who are concerned with our environment, you will find this to be a rewarding and thought-provoking exhibition.

Given Visalia's prominent role in the establishment of the Sequoia National Park and our position as a major gateway to the park, we are especially proud to host this, the premier exhibition of *Future of Sequoias*. When one views these photographs, or when one visits the beautiful monuments they depict, one also needs to reflect on how we can contribute to the preservation of not just these national landmarks, but also the places we live and work in.

Tonight is the opening reception for *Future of the Sequoias*, so, please, come in and meet Mr. Jones and Mr. Tweed, between 6 and 8pm. Tomorrow, both gentlemen will speak to the public about the exhibition in an artists' talk at noon. Both of these events will be held at our gallery at Arts Visalia and are free and open to the public.

Next month, we will be featuring two new exhibitions. In our main gallery, we will be displaying *My Hometown, Miki*, an exhibition of paintings by middle school students from Visalia's sister city in Japan. Visitors to Arts Visalia will be stunned by the quality of work by these young artists.

In our community gallery we will feature the works of Three Rivers artist and longtime Arts Visalia member Marn Reich. In a solo exhibition titled *Creating Joy*, Marn will present her memorable ceramic sculptures and mixed media artworks.

Registration is now open for our *Young at Art* summer children's art classes. With classes in drawing and paint, sculpture, kite making, collage, mask making, batik and block printing, we have something for the many, varied interests of kids. For more information or to register your child, please contact us at 739-0905. Classes begin June 11<sup>th</sup> and are first come, first serve, so don't delay.

**For the editor:**

Future of Sequoias Exhibition:

May 1 to June 1

Reception: Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm

Artist Talk: Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, noon

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