

CALIFORNIA SECTION WILDLIFE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Editor:

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Annual Meeting

The fourth annual meeting of the California Section of the Wildlife Society will be held at the Cal Poly Campus in San Luis Obispo on December 17 and 18. The meeting is being held earlier than in previous years to fit in with the vacation schedule at Cal Poly. Dave Thomson, in charge of local arrangements, says that Dormitory rooms (three men per room) are available on campus at \$1.00 per night per person. Linen and maid service are included. Three meals per day can be had at the cafeteria at the rate of \$3.00 a day.

Dave sends the following description of the area and possible extra curricular activities: "San Luis Obispo County is well situated for a variety of field trips, both in fisheries and game. The Dune Lakes Waterfowl Reserve is just south of Arroyo Grande; deep sea boats will be going out of Avila and Morro Bay; abalone and Pismo clams will be in season (just checked the tides:-1.4 to-1.5, on the afternoons of the 16th, 17th, and 18th.) Quail and Deer management projects are about one hour's drive from San Luis Obispo and two freshwater fisheries projects are developing very near the city. The clam and abalone opportunity should not go unpublicized and we can provide facilities for cleaning and freezing the meat here at the college for those who wish to use them."

Plans are to schedule field trips on Sunday afternoon prior to the meeting and for Tuesday afternoon following the business meeting.

Call for Papers

Program Chairman, Ray Dasmann, has issued a call for papers for the annual meeting. All persons with material suitable for papers are urged to submit the title and a brief abstract to Dr. Raymond F. Dasmann, Division of Natural Resources, Humboldt State College, Arcata, California. Papers dealing with game management, fisheries management, conservation education, general conservation problems, game law enforcement, or related fields will be acceptable. Titles and abstracts should be sent as soon as possible, but must be received no later than November 10.

Remember, the success of the meeting depends on your willingness to participate through submitting a paper.

North American Wildlife Conference

Harold Bissell, of the Fish and Game Laboratory, was honored with the Chairmanship of the Technical Session on Nutrition, Disease and Environmental Controls for the 21st North American Wildlife Conference at New Orleans in March. Even though the Department of Finance would not allow expenses for him to attend the Conference, Harold

felt that the acceptance of the Chairmanship was of such importance that he decided to attend at his own expense. After considering the situation, the members of the Council concluded that the Section could perform a worthwhile service by paying the round-trip train fare of \$107.00 for Harold's trip to New Orleans. Since it appeared that such expenses were well within the treasury's means, it was decided that in the future the Section could underwrite transportation costs periodically as conditions warrant for a deserving member to attend the North American Conference. Each year a number of our members attend this Conference with expenses paid by the organization that they represent. The member receiving the Section's assistance would be someone having professional business at the Conference, but who for some reason is unable to receive the financial backing of his employer. This item will come up for discussion at the Section's meeting in December.

WILDLIFE TRAINING AT HUMBOLDT STATE

R. F. Dasmann

Training in wildlife management at Humboldt State College is offered in the newly formed Division of Natural Resources. The college offers students the opportunity to obtain a bachelor of science or a master of science degree in game management or fisheries. The Division of Natural Resources also offers programs of training in Conservation Education, Forestry, Vocational Agriculture, and will, in the future, add a program in range management.

The college, located at Arcata, is situated near a variety of wildlife habitats. Waterfowl migration and wintering grounds are present in nearby Humboldt Bay, which also shelters a large variety of shore birds. Blue grouse, ruffed grouse, California and mountain quail, doves and pigeons occur in fair numbers within easy reach of the campus. A number of fur-bearers are to be found in the immediate area. Deer are common, and the Roosevelt Elk occur to the north at Prairie Creek and Maple Creek. The fishing opportunities are well known, and the nearby Mad and Eel rivers attract students who would otherwise be getting passing grades in their course work. With such a well-stocked natural laboratory available, field work is emphasized in most of the game management and fisheries courses.

The facilities for training wildlifers at Humboldt State are excellent. The new wildlife building provides laboratory, classroom and storage space well equipped for game and fisheries instruction. Outdoor facilities, currently nearing completion, include a fish hatchery, game bird pens, fur-bearer sheds, and deer pens. These will provide the students with an opportunity to work with captive, live animals.

The staff at the college is attempting to provide a program of instruction which represents a compromise between the purely academic-theoretical approach to wildlife management, and the vocational-practical approach. The first two years of training provide a broad, general education. The last two years provide technical courses in the sciences, game management, and fisheries. The game management major receives training in big game management, fur-bearer management, waterfowl management, upland game management, wildlife techniques, wildlife administration, game fish management, game law enforcement, and the supporting sciences. The fisheries man is trained in game fish management, limnology, oceanography, commercial fisheries, fish culture, ichthyology, and other courses. It is the objective to familiarize the four-year graduate with the principles and theory on which wildlife management is based, and at the same time teach him enough about current techniques and practices so that he will

feel competent when he takes his first job. Thus the college does not follow the line that technical wildlife courses should not be offered to undergraduates, nor does it go along with the idea that college courses are the place to learn horse shoeing or fence building.

Extra-curricular training is considered important. Through the student's club, Conservation Unlimited, the wildlifer picks up much background that cannot be acquired in the classroom. Working with people, meeting personnel from the conservation agencies, working on wildlife field projects, cooperating with sportsmen's organizations, and lots of plain, ordinary fun are included in the club's activities.

Students are urged to take summer jobs in the wildlife field, and most avail themselves of this opportunity. Many students have three summers of field experience under their belts when they graduate.

The staff at the college believes that close cooperation between the training school and the employing agencies is essential for the continuing success of both. Members of the wildlife society are urged to drop by when passing Arcata.

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Mews of Members

Jack Bechtel reports that he received his December newsletter in April. It seems that it was lost in the Yuba City Flood, but finally made its way to his new residence in a muddy envelope.

John Cowan went to the Rotary Convention in Philadelphia and while in the east visited waterfowl refuges and wildlife installations in that area.

Chuck Yocum sends the following news from Humboldt State, Fisheries, Game Management, Forestry, Agriculture, and Conservation Education have been united to form a separate Division of Natural Resources. I have been appointed Chairman of this new division. The teaching staff will include the following: Dr. Raymond Dasmann and Dr. Richard Genelly from the University of California in Game Management; Dr. Ernest O. Salo and Dr. George Allen from the University of Washington Fisheries School and Mr. John DeWitt who is on leave at the present time securing his PhD. at Oregon State College in Fisheries; Mr. Ed Pierson and Gerald Partain from Oregon State College in Forestry; and Dr. Mark B. Rhea in Soils and Agriculture. The new Wildlife Building has been completed, and the outside facilities should be completed this fall.

Dick Taber has accepted a teaching position in Wildlife Management at the University of Montana at Missoula, Montana.

Dick Geneley has left Davis to teach Game Management at Humboldt State, Bob Rudd has joined the faculty of the Zoology Department at the University of California, Davis Campus.

Walter Howard received a Fulbright award for a ten month trip to New Zealand. He will be leaving San Francisco with his family on January 1.