



The Wildlife Society Western Section

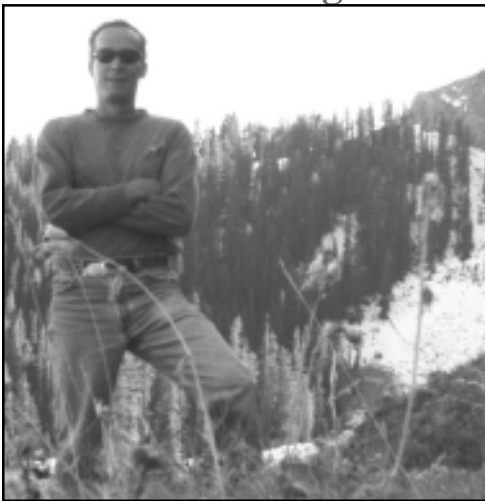
Vol.52, No. 2

Summer Newsletter 2006

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President's Message



Kevin Hunting

I hope our members are enjoying the summer season and it was preceded by frequent spring and early summer field visits. Trips to the coast and Sierra in June confirmed another season of unusually high spring precipitation created impressive spring wildflower displays.

As I reported in my last message, the Section's financial picture has improved dramatically and we are once again solvent. For the first time in the last few years, the Sections board is in the position of examining new opportunities to expand our educational, professional development, and student outreach programs. Our current budget provides for addi-

tional funding for student grants for research support and scholarships to cover expenses for travel to annual meetings and selected professional development activities. We encourage students to consider taking advantage of this funding by applying for travel or research grants. Applicants must be current Section members and in the case of awarded grants, must present preliminary or final findings at the Section annual meeting. Detailed information is available on the Sections web site at <http://www.tws-west.org/grants.html>.

The recently formed student affairs committee has been active in developing strategies for more effectively reaching out to college and university students to make them aware of the benefits of participation in The Wildlife Society. Working through our Humboldt and Davis student Chapters, as well as identifying additional outreach venues, the student affairs committee will be seeking to increase student participation in Section offerings. Continued emphasis on student programs is a priority for the Section this year and Cynthia Perrine

and Katie Moriarty, committee co-chairs, have been working to meet this goal. See this volume for an update on recent student affair activities.

On the conservation affairs front, I'm happy to report that Cynthia Wilkerson has agreed to chair the Sections Conservation Affairs Committee. Cynthia brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the position. I will be working closely with her to build committee membership representing our Chapters and others interested in forwarding the conservation goals of the Section. Our objective is to be more active in issues that affect our membership by monitoring and commenting on legislation, identifying projects or actions of state-wide scope that could impact our

Continued on Page 11.

Calendar of Events -
a new feature!

Look at Page 6 for an organized timeline for Section, Chapter, and other events of interest.

If you know of an upcoming TWS event or another professional meeting, please submit by the Fall Newsletter's October 9th deadline.

Upcoming Events

Rhys Evans and Denise Walker-Brown

Since the last newsletter, we've completed two very successful workshops, and more are in the pipeline.

◆ In April we presented **ENDANGERED SPECIES PERMITTING: Strategies and Successful Negotiations** at Chapman University in Orange County. See the article on page 4. We're looking seriously at repeating this workshop in Northern California sometime in 2007.

◆ And we just completed **INTRODUCTION TO REMOTE CAMERA TECHNIQUES IN WILDLIFE STUDIES** a few weeks ago in Susanville. Participants were provided a comprehensive introduction to camera trapping equipment and methodology that they can apply in their own surveys. Thanks to John Perrine, Eveline Larrucea, Jerry Roe and Cynthia Perrine for a ton of hard work, and thanks to Nomad Ecological Consulting for sponsoring the event. Watch for a repeat of this one in Southern California next year! *See page 3 for details.*

Upcoming Scheduled Workshops

The TWS-WS website, <http://www.tws-west.org> will list workshops as dates and locations are confirmed (and indicated in bold, below). Several unique and exciting opportunities are on the horizon:

◆ **BAYESIAN STATISTICS: August 8-9, 2006, Arcata CA (Humboldt County).** An Introduction to Bayesian Statistical Inference for Natural Resource Scientists and Managers (including Bayesian Mixed-Effects Modeling and Capture Recapture Analysis).

◆ **BAT ECOLOGY AND FIELD TECHNIQUES WORKSHOP; September 7 - 10, 2006; Hastings Natural History Reservation (Monterey County).** An introduction to the ecology of California's bats through lectures and demonstrations on physiology, species accounts, anatomy, foraging behavior and diet. Field techniques of mist-netting, assessing food habits and acoustic monitoring will be demonstrated. Registration for this workshop is currently full with a waiting list.

◆ **BIRD SPECIMEN PREPARATION WORKSHOP; October 14-15, 2006; Arcata (Humboldt County).** A one and a half day workshop teaching prepa-

ration of avian museum study skins will be held at Humboldt State University. Topics will include the importance of specimens to avian conservation and research, specimen documentation, permit issues, and preparation materials and methods. The workshop will focus on hands-on specimen preparation; each participant will prepare at least one specimen, more if time permits. **Maximum Registration: 18, Registration is now open.**

From this list, you can see that we're quite busy, but there's always the future! If there is a subject you'd like to see offered (or a workshop that you would like to organize) please let us know!

We can also announce that we're in final stages of an agreement with the California Invasive Plant Council (CAL IPC) to co-sponsor a 1.5 day workshop (**WILDLIFE AND INVASIVE PLANTS**) immediately prior to the 2007 annual meeting in Monterey (Jan 31-Feb 2). The theme for the annual meeting is "Thinking Like a Mountain - Wildlife Management and Conservation at a Landscape Level." Keep watching for more details on the web and in future newsletters.

If you'd like to get regular updates of TWS Western Section events, sign up for the TWS-WS Members Listserv e-mail. This is NOT a discussion forum, so you won't get smothered with e-mails. We keep it to a maximum of 3-4 messages per month, so it won't fill your in-box. It's the best way to learn about workshops, training, elections and other Western Section events!

For more details on PDC activities and Workshops, regularly visit our website, and contact us directly (*see back page for contact information*).

Mark Your Calendars!

2007 Annual Conference

January 31 - February 2

Monterey, CA

Portola Plaza Hotel

Remote Camera Techniques Workshop

Cynthia Perrine

An Introduction to Remote Camera Techniques in Wildlife Studies workshop was held from June 8 – 11, 2006 at Eagle Lake Field Station in Lassen County, California. Laboratory, lecture, and field exercises gave all 12 participants (8 professionals and 4 students) a thorough introduction to using remote cameras for wildlife research and monitoring. The instructor team of Eveline Larrucea (University of Nevada, Reno), John Perrine (University of California, Berkeley) and Jerry Roe (Nomad Ecological Consulting) combined their expertise in various aspects of this evolving technology to provide a well-rounded workshop for all. Participants were exposed to everything from choosing the right equipment for the study to how to view, organize and manage the photographic data.

Field experience began after dinner on the first evening as 3 teams, each led by an instructor, set up both active and passive camera units. With a mix of digital and film units available, the groups experienced both instant-gratification (a gray fox was digitally captured visiting the compost pile) and delayed-rewards (the film was collected to be developed post-workshop, then scanned and posted to an internet photo-viewing site). The camera stations detected bobcat, gray fox, striped skunk, American robin and turkey vulture, along with a boat trailer, a jog stroller, and many good shots of participants test-tripping the



The participants were able to learn about several types of camera units and arrangements with mixed success.

camera units as part of the standard set-up protocol.

Eagle Lake Field Station is owned and managed by California State University, Chico and is part of the University of California's Natural Reserve System. The conference room overlooking the lake provided a fabulous setting for lectures, dis-

cussion, and networking, and the surrounding yellow pine/juniper forest provided ample space for setting up multiple camera stations. Evaluations were overwhelmingly positive, so this workshop will likely be offered again next year, probably in Southern California.



Camera workshop '06, Eagle Lake Field Station Back row (L-R) Tracey Crowe, John Crowe, Jerry Roe, Clu Cotter, Maria Cisneros, Kevin O' Connor, Patrick Kobernus. Front row (L-R) John Perrine, Shannon Perrine, Megan Wyman, Jena Casey, Lisa Fields, Margaret Swisher, Eveline Larrucea, Shari Heitkotter.

President Elect

Julie Vance

I hope that everyone is having a nice (and cool) summer. I have been quite busy getting things lined up for the Western Section annual conference in January 2007. *If you haven't marked your calendars already, the conference is Jan 31-Feb 2, with a Jan 30-31 pre-conference symposia on "Wildlife and Invasive Plants."* While organizing the conference is a lot of work, it is a very rewarding experience and I encourage Western Section members to consider running

for office. Of course, organizing the conference, like all other Western Section activities, is not possible without a lot of support, cooperation, and assistance from many other Western Section Board members and other volunteers.

I think that we will have an exciting annual conference this year, in a great location (how can you go wrong in Monterey, right on Fisherman's W++harf?). I am fi-

nalizing the Plenary Session speakers and lining up many of the session chairs. Thank you to all of the Section members who have already agreed to step up and play a vital part in the conference...many of you will be hearing from me soon. You should all see a call for papers go out in early August 2006, so keep your eyes and ears peeled. I hope to see all of you in January, which is coming upon us quickly.

Endangered Species Permitting - Strategies and Successful Negotiations

Rhys Evans

In April, more than 70 participants learned a cooperative approach to endangered species permitting. TWS West and PDC would like to thank Mari Schroeder, Sharon Lockhart, Linda and Dan Mitrovich and Dawn Sandie for presenting this awesome event, and we'd also like to thank ECorp Consulting and the Southern California Chapter of TWS for their financial support. The event was co-sponsored by the Hobbs Institute for Real Estate, Law and Environmental Studies, at a very nice facility located on the campus of Chapman University in Orange County.

The goal of the Endangered Species Permitting Workshop was to provide developers, planners, consultants, agency personnel, environmentalists, and the public with a cooperative approach to endangered species permitting. The workshop featured:



- ♦ An introduction to the substance and process of the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts (FESA and CESA, respectively) and the fact that compliance is mandatory.
- ♦ Specifics about Section 7 versus Section 10 of FESA and how to handle listed plants and wildlife were covered.
- ♦ Discussions of planner roles and how to tie in FESA and CESA compliance with other planning and permitting processes, such as CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act).

- ♦ The importance of strategy and cooperation in project planning, and the ins and outs of agency negotiations.

Participants faced challenges in permit negotiations, personnel changes and even environmental activists as they collaborated a solution to an imaginary, but realistic land development proposal in Southern California. Look for TWS West to present this workshop to folks in Northern California, hopefully next year.

Thus far, the most successful method of student involvement has involved personal, one-on-one interaction. It has been wonderful to meet people but there is great need to have increasing involvement from professionals and students alike. Using our "Wildlife Society 101" presentation SAC has visited three schools and there are plans to visit an additional five before the Annual Conference. This is merely an introduction to TWS and the wildlife field; however, it provides contact information and some direction. Afterwards it has been helpful speaking with the audience and listening to interests, attempting to specifically steer students towards local biologists or upcoming events.

With this next round there will be emphasis to connect with other schools and investigate potentials for summer jobs and academic programs. If **you** know of any

websites, job/intern opportunities, or emails that could be included do not hesitate to email me.

As well as visiting schools, SAC has been working with the pre-existing aspects of the Section. Most important to students has been Awards and Grants. The Section has provided several grants for student travel and projects in the past year, from travel to the Annual Conference to financial assistance on a Snowy Plover documentary (*see page 10 for grant information*).

In addition to Awards and Grants, it is apparent that increased communication is necessary. Starting this issue there will be a subset of the newsletter printed and mailed to colleges and universities with wildlife programs. Although there are three newsletters created every year, only one is printed and distributed to the Section. Having an additional reminder to students

Student Affairs Update

Katie Moriarty

may increase membership and will help inform new people about TWS.

Lastly, SAC will be coordinating with student groups to increase communication. Humboldt State's student chapter is holding a wine and cheese fundraiser (*see page 7*) and it is a new endeavor to get students from other schools to intermingle at social functions of this nature. Twice a year the California North Coast Chapter holds a student/professional mixer and this seems to help orient students to upcoming events, local people, and provides an excellent venue for ideas. Other chapters may wish to consider having student mixers, but these take work and support from local professionals.

The next Section opportunity for

Continued on page 9.

36th Annual North American Symposium on Bat Research



The 36th Annual North American Symposium on Bat Research will be held at the Hilton Riverside in Wilmington, North Carolina (www.wilmingtonhilton.com) from 18-21 October 2006. The local contact and program director for the 36th NASBR is Mary K. Clark, mary.k.clark@earthlink.net. Registration details can be found on the Society's website: www.nasbr.org. Pre-registration and call for papers begins 12 June 2006 and ends 18 August 2006.

News from the Transactions Editor

Barry Garrison

These are my activities since the last Executive Board meeting in February 2006:

1. The 2004 and 2005 volumes were mailed out to Section members and Transactions subscribers in March 2006 with the help of the Production Assistant.
2. Authors for 2004 and 2005 papers received pdf versions of their papers as reprints.
3. The 2004 and 2005 papers were posted on the Section's web site in late May 2006 after the index was updated and converted to an html file to correct problems with accessing the papers from the Section's web site.
4. Editing has started for the 2006 Transactions. I received 4 papers, and I completed review of one paper and returned the paper to the author for revision. Reviewers are looking at two papers, and one paper (from the monitoring plenary session) will be edited shortly. Two more papers from the monitoring plenary session are expected by August or September 2006.

Fall 2006

Date(s); Event Title; Location, Contact Person (if email is not shown go to last page)

Aug 8-9; **Introduction to Bayesian Statistics Workshop**; Humboldt State, Arcata, CA; Contact Denise Walker-Brown

Aug 12; **Sacramento-Shasta Chapter Meeting**; meeting place to be decided; Contact Linda Leeman at leemanl@edaw.com

Sept 7-10; **Bat Ecology and Field Techniques Workshop**; Hastings Natural History Reservation, Carmel Valley, CA; Cynthia Perrine

Sept 15; **Early registration deadline** for Bird Specimen Preparation Workshop in October

Oct 3-7; **North American Ornithological Society Annual Conference**, Veracruz, Mexico; www.naoc2006.org

Oct 9; **Submissions due for Fall Newsletter**; Katie Moriarty

Oct 14-15; **Bird Specimen Preparation Workshop**; Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA; Denise Walker-Brown

Oct 18-21; **North American Symposium on Bat Research**; Wilmington, NC; Mary Clark, mary.k.clark@earthlink.net

Oct 26-27; **Sea Bird Management Issues in Hawaii and the tropical Pacific**; Kaneohe, HI; Bill Standley

Oct 31; **Registration deadline** for Natural Resource Communication Workshop in January (*See page 11*)

Winter 2006/07

Date(s); Event Title; Location, Contact Person (if email is not shown go to last page)

Nov 11; Humboldt State's **Wine and Cheese Gala**; Wharfinger Building, Arcata, CA; Will Goldenberg, CU_Gala@hotmail.com

Nov 17; **Travel Grant Proposals Due** for review for the Annual Conference (Travel grants are due at least 60 days prior to the event); Rich Burg

Dec 15; Deadline for Students to Request Volunteer Involvement at Annual Conference; Katie Moriarty

Jan 8-12; **Natural Resources Communication Workshop**; Chico State University, Chico, CA; Jon Hooper, jhooper@csuchico.edu (*See page 11*)

Jan 30-31; **Wildlife and Invasive Plants Workshop**; Portola Plaza Hotel, Monterey, CA; Julie Vance

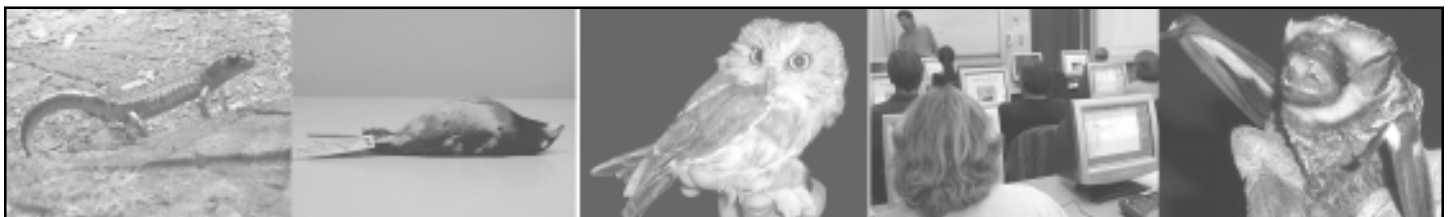
Jan 31-Feb 2; **Western Section Annual Conference**: Thinking Like a Mountain - Wildlife Management and Conservation at a Landscape Level; Portola Plaza Hotel, Monterey, CA; Julie Vance

Tentative Spring/Summer 2007

Date(s); Event Title; Location, Contact Person (if email is not shown go to last page)

Remote Camera and Techniques; Rhys Evans

Raptor Ecology and Management Symposium; Denise Walker-Brown



*** Non-TWS events are NOT endorsed by the Section. Events from other organizations are included to increase professional development opportunities to our members. Please write by Sept 30 with other activities you would like to list in the Fall Newsletter.*

BIRD SPECIMEN PREPARATION WORKSHOP

Humboldt State University, Arcata, California
October 14 -15, 2006

A one and a half day workshop teaching preparation of avian museum study skins will be held at Humboldt State University. The workshop will focus on hands-on specimen preparation. Each participant will prepare at *least one* specimen, more if time permits. Additional topics will include:

- × the importance of specimens to avian conservation and research
- × specimen documentation
- × permit issues
- × preparation materials and methods

Student scholarships are available. For more information about the workshop or possible scholarships, please write to Denise Walker-Brown at deniselwalker@hotmail.com.

Register Online! www.tws-west.org

Online symposium registration is available at the Western Section website (<http://www.tws-west.org/> click on "Meetings and Workshops", "Bird Prep Workshop" and "Registration"). Limited to 16 registrants - PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED!

Registration Fees:*

Student member	\$85	Professional member	\$125
Student non-member	\$100	Professional non-member	\$150

*Member indicates status through the Western Section-TWS; fee increase of \$15 after September 15.

Humboldt State's Student Update

Will Goldenberg

Fall time again and CU members are finishing up the summer's fieldwork in various locations around the globe, and gearing up for another great semester at HSU. Top priorities include intensive fundraising to send as many students as possible to the TWS National Conference in Anchorage Alaska. There is a great deal of work to be done because the conclave team has been increasing in size and sent over 25 students to the Western Section Student's Conclave in Las Cruces New Mexico last spring. Humboldt State was awarded Overall Conclave Champions, and returned home with so many awards and plaques that their only problem was finding wall space in their awards room.

Our main fundraising event will be the 1st Annual Conservation Unlimited Wine and Cheese Gala held at the Wharfinger Building on Humboldt Bay. This brand new upscale event is being spearheaded by two motivated CU members and supported wholeheartedly by the rest of the club. The event is planned for November 11th 2006 at 6pm. Guest will enjoy wine and cheese tasting, auctions for great outdoor activity packages donated by local companies and organizations, keynote speaker Jeff Dunk, live music, dancing and much more. Come one, come all! Spread the word, and for tickets email CU_Gala@hotmail.com.

Membership

Don Yasuda

The current Western Section membership stands at 597 members, which is down from the 751 Section members for calendar year 2005. There are still 302 members from 2005 that have not renewed, but some of those have likely left the Section area. Membership renewal notices were sent electronically in November, January, and again in March/April. Paper renewal notices were sent to those without valid email addresses as well.

We will likely gain a few additional memberships in relation to workshops held throughout the year but what happened to the rest of you? If you are reading this newsletter to stay current on wildlife issues, and you haven't renewed your Section membership for 2006, then please consider sending in your payment to ensure that we can

Sacramento-Shasta Chapter

Melinda Dorin

The Chapter had their spring social at Hoppy Brewing and it was well attended. We had the chance to get to know some members that can't normally attend business meetings during the week. We are planning our next social on August 12 in the northern portion of the chapter. Contact Linda Leeman at leemanl@edaw.com for additional information, or check the website under current events. We have one event planned for the fall; a one day workshop on research within the chapter boundaries. We will have a call for papers out shortly. Our membership is steady and our

continue to provide services to our Section. I know many of you join or renew when you attend our Annual Conference or one of our many Professional Development workshops, but many of you don't renew when you don't attend the Conference or a workshop. Having a stable membership is important to the Section as it better allows us to plan our activities. It is hard to plan our Professional Development schedule and plan our Awards and Grants programs if our income from membership dues fluctuates widely from year to year. Both on-line membership forms and forms that can be mailed in are available on our website (<http://www.tws-west.org>).

We've reinstated sending thank you email notices or paper letters out to acknowledge your joining or renewing a membership. There's still a bit of a lag time sometimes in getting these sent out, but we're

bank balance is about \$18,000. We gave \$2,400 in scholarships and travel grants this spring. We have a scholarship application on our website. We are in the process of updating our bylaws, and as always are looking for input from members for events and workshops.

New Scholarship and Grant Policy

The Section is drafting a form and more specific criteria for student awards. Check the next newsletter and the website for current updates.

working on streamlining the information transfer process between processing your payment and updating the membership database. As you've noticed, we've come to rely heavily on email as a means to communicate with you in order to save postage costs, paper, and fuel to deliver the quarterly newsletter and paper letters to you. To that end, we continue to rely on our Yahoo Group mailing list, which has 1108 members but there are also 65 bouncing email addresses. New members are automatically added to this mailing list, but if you've unsubscribed and would like to be added again, please contact me. Also, it is important that you keep us updated if your email changes so you don't miss out on any breaking news about workshops and other items that are important to you, our members.

Wildlife and Invasive Plants Workshop

Jan. 30-31, 2007

The Section is working with California Invasive Plant Council to bring you a 1.5 day workshop preceding our Annual Conference.

Keep checking our website for details. www.tws-west.org

An Editorial, *Student/Professional Interactions*

Katie Moriarty

There seems to be an ever-apparent dichotomy between professionals and students. Most professionals support increasing communication and learning opportunities for undergraduates, but outreach takes a great deal of effort. Many interactions seem to come from directed students coming to conferences; seeking opinions for their projects, reporting their progress, or looking for job opportunities. As such, most mentoring occurs as “on the job training”. This is problematic as the number of students who come to conferences is merely a sliver of their demographic. These are the people who have field experience, know about professional organizations, and actually read the flyers or attend meetings within their department. Entry level students are often unaware of opportunities to gain experience unless they are alerted by an advisor or mentoring student.

One way to look at this situation is with optimism. At conferences there are predominately directed and knowledgeable students who can participate because they are seasoned in the wildlife field. Of course, on the down side – these are also the students that are busy and already have ideas for summer employment. The people that are missing are those that have time and are willing to help with anything remotely “cool”. With financial cutbacks within government departments and the Section running on a string of heavily obligated volunteers, where are the students that could possibly step up to learn and assist? They’re at school. At least a good portion of them, being diligent and taking as many classes as they can – sometimes throughout the sum-

mer – so that they can get a degree and then a job doing something they are passionate about.

Yes, it is uncouth to stereotype an entire group of people. However, it seemed as if many of my peers went back home to work at Jamba Juice. Even those students who were getting remarkable grades and listing off the classes and orders of all living creatures were working retail. No one ever told them to look at USAJobs to Texas A&M’s website. It didn’t occur that they could get involved with a chapter and meet local professionals nor would they have approached a government office to ask for the biologist to see if they needed any assistance. Even though these students’ experience wouldn’t extend into the breadth of wildlife courses, they are fully capable of working many projects in the field.

Let’s get realistic. These students cannot be reached without effort from professors and professionals alike, informing them about opportunity and then following through with some event to maintain motivation. You can talk to people (students and public alike), but unless there is some experience that sparks interest how different is this interaction from the Discovery Channel? How do you bridge that gap from an abstract idea to reality? It can’t be accomplished by a single person, that much is apparent. Please see the adjoining article about Student Affairs progress and how you can help.

See Student Affairs article on Page 5.

Student Affairs Update continued

Continued from page 5.

such an event will be at the Annual Conference. Planning is in the works for several student events. The Section has historically provided a student lunch, career fair, and job board for students. In addition, this year we hope to have a meeting concurrent with chapter meetings and a student/professional field trip. For information on the Annual Conference please see the Section’s website and look for details in the fall newsletter. Please let me know if you would be interested in any of these events. We need your help!

The Wildlife Society

New Webpage Near Complete!!

Keep an eye out the next few months for a new design and updated features!

- NEW WEBSITE
- MEMBERSHIP
- EVENTS
- TRAINING

Hawaii Chapter Report

Bill Standley

The Annual Meeting was held February 17, 2006 at the Brew Moon Pub in Honolulu. Elections were the business of the evening, and several meeting attendees volunteered as write-in candidates to serve on the TWS-HI Board of Directors for 2006. As such the Board of Directors for 2006 includes Brenda Becker, Nancy Hoffman, Ed Johnson, Michael Silbernagle, David Smith, Bill Standley, Keith Swindle, and Ron Walker. 20% of the membership voted; the vote was unanimous. There are currently 37 members of the Hawaii Chapter.

David Woodside, longtime wildlife biologist in Hawaii and Hawaii Chapter member, won the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Hawaii Conservation Conference held July 2005 in Honolulu.

The Hawaii Chapter Board donated \$500 towards The Wildlife Society/Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation Brad Rowse Memorial Wildlife Policy Fellowship. This six-month fellowship, based in Washington D.C., will give natural resource students the opportunity to learn the importance of the public policy process on hunting, fishing and conservation issues.

Dr. Jon Hooper agreed to come to the islands to present a "mini" 2-day version of his world-renowned Natural Resources Communication Workshop for the Hawaii Chapter in June.

The Hawaii Chapter annual wildlife management workshop will focus on seabird management issues in Hawaii and the tropical Pacific. The workshop will be held on October 26 & 27, 2006 at the Koolau Golf Club in Kaneohe. Workshop partners so far include the US Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program and the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources.

In 2005, the Hawaii Chapter provided \$1,000 in funding (matched 2:1 for a total of \$3,000) that allowed 30 University of Hawaii Hawaiian Internship Program (HIP) interns and 12 leaders to attend the Hawaii Conservation Conference free of charge. The HIP internship program allows students of Hawaiian decent

Western Section Grants

The Western Section of The Wildlife Society (TWS-WS) has historically supported conferences and symposia and studies through grants. Board members review all funding requests and make selections based on the following criteria:

- ★ *Consistency with TWS purposes and objectives as cited in the Western Section By-Laws*
- ★ *Timelines and relevance: Local, regional, or national level*
- ★ *Proposals must demonstrate a clear need for funding and should define a time-line for project implementation/Endorsement and/or financial support of local TWS Chapter*
- ★ *Demonstration of shared costs; a detailed budget showing amount and use of TWS-WS grant is required*
- ★ *Quality and brevity of submitted request*
- ★ *Availability of funds and amount of funding requested*
- ★ *Applicant must be a member of TWS-WS*
- ★ *Conference or symposium organizers receiving grant funding must submit a schedule of proposed sessions*
- ★ *Ability of the applicant to successfully implement the proposed project*

Submitted requests should attempt to address the above-listed criteria. Grant recipients must submit a report to the Executive Board at the conclusion of the event or study. In addition, if the recipient conducted a study, they must present either preliminary or final findings from that study at the annual conference. This reporting requirement will be included in a letter from the Section which accompanies the actual disbursement of the grant.

If you are interested in submitting a grant request, download the application form (on-line <http://www.tws-west.org/grants.html#grants>) and mail the request to:

*The Wildlife Society Western Section
Attn: Awards and Grants Chair ; PO Box 3275
Oakland, CA 94609-0275*

For more information email Rich Burg, the Section's Committee Chair (*see back page*).

and other Hawaii-born students to gain valuable summer work experience with conservation agencies and organizations. In 2006, the Chapter will be arranging a similar sponsorship agreement with the Hawaii Conservation Conference, as well as sponsor awards for best student presentation and best student poster.

Natural Resources Communication Workshop: January 8-12, 2007

The Natural Resources Communication Workshop, sponsored by the Western Section, is designed to help natural resource workers more effectively communicate with general as well as technical audiences through personal presentations using good visual aids. The workshop focuses on the use of computer-generated images (i.e., PowerPoint images). The workshop is practical-oriented and enhances participants' communication skills in planning, preparing, presenting, and evaluating presentations. Since many of the problems in natural resources management are people-oriented, more effective communication can significantly improve many management programs.

Workshop Content:

1. Discussion topics include:
 - Planning:* communication principles, audience analysis, graphic design
 - Preparing:* creating computer-generated graphics, photographic composition, rehearsal tips
 - Presenting:* equipment setup, speaking tips, dealing with difficult audiences
 - Evaluating:* evaluation of performance
2. Each participant will bring a selection of computer-generated images (ex., graphics created with PowerPoint or other presentation software programs) for organization into an illustrated talk.
3. Each participant will prepare graphics (titles, graphs, charts, maps, cartoons, etc.) to be used in their presentations.
4. Each participant will give a 5- and 15-minute presentation (which will include graphics prepared during the workshop). These presentations will be evaluated by the class and the instructors.

Instructors: **Dr. Jon K. Hooper**, Professor, Calif. State Univ., Chico (Certified Wildlife Biologist, Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology, 30 years teaching communication workshops around the country)
Mr. Ethan Rotman, Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game (Coordinator, Fishing in the City in the San Francisco Bay Area, 20+ years professional experience as an environmental interpreter and communicator)

Location: California State University, Chico (90 miles north of Sacramento)

University Credit: Participants receive 1-unit CSUC Continuing Education credit; the workshop is worth 32 hours of continuing wildlife education credit through The Wildlife Society's Professional Development Program (Category II).

Application Procedure: The initial deadline for applications is Friday, **October 31, 2006**. Late applications are accepted (such applicants will become participants if the workshop is not yet full; otherwise, they will be placed on a waiting list in case of cancellations). The registration fee is \$645. The workshop will be limited to 16 participants. To apply, send a letter, fax, or email describing: (1) your current position within your agency or organization, (2) how you will use the training, (3) any special reasons why you feel you should be chosen as a participant, and (4) **if you already have official agency/organization approval to attend**. In your application, include your address, phone number, fax number, and email. To apply or for more information, write or call:

Dr. Jon K. Hooper
 Dept. Recreation and Parks Management
 California State University, Chico
 Chico, CA 95929-0560
 (530) 898-5811 or 898-6408
 fax: (530) 898-6557
 e-mail: jhooper@csuchico.edu

Participants in the 2007 workshop will not only learn professional tips for using PowerPoint, but also will gain exposure to Photoshop Elements (photo editing software) and Photoshop Album (digital cataloging software).

members, and working closely with our Chapters to prepare and submit comment letters. Our goal is to position the Section to become a resource to the California legislature and conservation organizations for advice and guidance on issues that affect the wildlife profession.

Our President-elect Julie Vance has been busy preparing for the 2007 annual conference which will

President's Message *(continued from page 1)*

be held in Monterey. The meeting promises to offer a diversity of technical sessions and will be preceded by a symposium addressing introduced/exotic plant species and their relationship to wildlife. I encourage each of you to attend the meeting and symposium and support your Section and its education and professional development offerings.



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Rolling into the Fall

With everyone in the midst of field seasons, this summer has been hectic. Look inside for upcoming events and workshops, student activities, a membership update and more!

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