



The Wildlife Society Western Section

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Fall/Winter Newsletter, December 2010

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President's Message

Armand Gonzales

As we head into another holiday season it is a customary through time honored tradition to reflect on the past years events. The successes realized following the annual conference in Visalia were encouraging and left everyone with a renewed sense of accomplishment and motivation for the coming year. Spring led to new challenges of doing more with less as we assembled crews and students for field work ahead. By summer we felt more urgency to gather vital information about resources suffering under the threats of development, commercial utilization, and pollution. Now in addition to these, we must also consider the compounding threats of invasive species, drought, sea level rise, and a changing climate. This year more has been asked of us, our staffs, and our organizations while at the same time budgets were being cut, positions were being lost, and political pressures were mounting. Those pressures included governments looking for ways to streamline regulatory processes and environmental protections that might unnecessarily hinder or obstruct economic recovery.

The task was great; the stakes were high; and the consequences enormous. For many of us, our families, and the resources we love, a personal toll was taken. Those of us on the Western Section Executive Board did not escape unscathed. Like you,

we have real jobs and families, spouses, children, our health, and our other obligations to manage. I am sure many if not most of you have had your own challenges to deal with. Being pulled in so many directions it's sometimes difficult to maintain balance yet we struggle on. We persevere. Despite the hardships, the challenges, and the lack of progress, we found ways to feel good, to enjoy what we have and to reach out to those needing a helping hand. Many of us volunteer our time as a way of giving back

"Who will be the next generation of wildlife professionals that will take over the reins of caring for the resources we care so much about?"

to society, our community, our profession. We find a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment by helping to further the goals and opportunities that groups like TWS have to offer. It is a sacrifice of sorts; most of the work is done on our own time. This is especially true in years of economic distress when employers have little to give. So how can taking time away from our families, our work, our studies ever be a good idea?

In this year of personal and professional give and take, the Western Section has still managed to keep its head above water. We were successful in putting on our annual conference this year as in the past. We continue to provide many professional

development opportunities in the way of workshops and training, and we have continued assisting students with grant funding to help them meet their increasing education costs. We have also extended registration and web assistance to Chapters holding workshops to help them defray costs and help keep them afloat financially. We may not have put out as many newsletters as we would have liked this year, or held as many workshops as we have in the past, but these things take time and planning and there are only so many hours in the day.

Fortunately, with hundreds of members in the Western Section, we should be able to spread the workload around better, perhaps much better than what we've done in the past. There isn't a good reason to allow the few to carry the load for so many when we all derive benefits from the opportunities

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2011 Election Info Inside & On-line!

Please Vote!



President-Elect

John McNerney

Hello and a warm fall greeting to you all. I'd like to begin by thanking the Western Section membership for electing me President-Elect last winter. I'm both honored and humbled by your support. It's hard to believe that my first term is nearly at an end. So far it has been educational, productive and satisfying.

Preparations for the 2011 Annual Meeting in Riverside, CA are moving right along. Two exciting symposia (Raptors and Fungus: What Every Wildlife Biologist Should Know About the Emerging Threats of Chytrid Disease and White-Nose Syndrome) are scheduled to occur prior to the conference. I'm excited to plan this meeting in Southern California as there are many interesting species, studies, and management/ policy challenges... especially as alternative energy projects advance into the deserts. In addition, the Southern California Chapter provides a wealth of talented and energetic professionals whom are equally interested in making the Riverside meeting a great one. We've received many interesting abstracts and are anticipating a dynamic and engaging program. The Plenary Session theme is "Recruiting the Next Generation of Wildlife Professionals". We are lining up a great panel of speakers who will identify the challenges, efforts, successes, and opportunities associated with early age environmental education and the fight against "Nature Deficit Disorder".

We are currently looking for volunteer help at the conference. If you are one of those people, like I am, who attends each annual conference and asks themselves, "What have I done for my professional society lately?", then here is the answer... volunteer! There are several duties that are, quite honestly, key to the effective execution of the conference. These include, but are not limited to, Session AV Operators, Registration Assistants and Speaker Liaisons. Students and young professionals



2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
WESTERN SECTION

FEBRUARY 8-11, 2011

RIVERSIDE CONVENTION CENTER
RIVERSIDE, CA

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY AND WILDLIFE: CURRENT EFFORTS TO BALANCE CONFLICTING SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

Registration is now open!

<http://joomla.wildlife.org/western>

Tentative Conference Schedule

Tuesday, February 8
 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Raptor Symposium
 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Raptor Symposium Poster Session and Mixer

Wednesday, February 9
 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - Raptor Symposium Conclusion
 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - Symposium: Emerging Fungal Diseases
 Noon - Official Conference Opening
 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Concurrent Sessions
 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. - Welcome Mixer, Social, and Poster Session
 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. - Chapter Meetings

Thursday, February 10
 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - Plenary Session
 1:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Concurrent Sessions
 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. - Annual Business Meeting and Member's Forum
 7:00 p.m. - Annual Awards Banquet and Raffle

Friday, February 11
 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. - Concurrent Sessions
 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. - Student Leadership Lunch and Career Fair
 4:30 p.m. - Western Section Executive Board meeting

that volunteer eight hours or more are eligible to receive a registration reimbursement. So, if you want to be more involved in the annual conference and are interested in contributing an hour or more of your time, please contact Janae Scruggs (jscruggs@tidepool.com).

Got raffle items? We are currently accepting donated items for the raffle and silent auction. In the past, generous tax-deductible contributions (Federal Non profit ID # 95-4470836) to the Western Section raffles have allowed us to continue

our efforts to provide financial support to our student and young professional members. Trips, field tools, books, art, monetary donations are all welcome. Contributions can be sent (UPS, FedEx, US postal) to TWS-Western Section, c/o Sandra Hunt-von Arb, P.O. Box 2416, McKinleyville, CA 95519. Questions about the raffle - contact Lisa Ollivier lollivier@fs.fed.us or Sandra Hunt-von Arb pnwb@suddenlink.net.

I bid you all a happy holiday season and I hope to see you in Riverside!

Plenary Session Theme

Recruiting the Next Generation of Wildlife Professionals

At the core of our wildlife profession is an appreciation for all things natural. This appreciation has been honed in each of us over the years beginning during our youths, through our academic careers, and now into our professional lives. With this appreciation of living things and the environment comes an understanding of the complex mechanisms and processes that would otherwise be absent without a practical environmental education. Today's youth receive far less exposure to the natural environment than previous generations. Increased urbanization and technological distractions, such as video games and computers, have contributed to this so called "Nature Deficit Disorder". One has to wonder how such trends will affect the future of wildlife management. The Plenary presentations and panel discussion will provide an overview of what's currently being done to foster an appreciation for the natural environment within today's youth, and identify ways that members of the Western Section can get involved. The Plenary Session will be held Thursday morning.

PLENARY SPEAKERS:

- Sherryl Clendenen, Wildland Conservancy - The importance of outdoor education for youth.
- Bernadette Fees, California Department of Fish and Game - ProjectWild
- Anne Fege, US Forest Service (Retired) - Youth organizations and environmental education
- Chris Meador, Wildlife Research Institute - A path to wildlife biology: a case study
- Ron Swaisgood, San Diego Zoo -Unnatural America? The future of conservation biology depends on reconnecting people to nature.

Concurrent Sessions

Session titles may be added or changed at a later date. Please click [HERE](#) for frequent updates.

General Sessions

- Ecology and Management of Carnivores:
- Ecology and Management of Shorebirds and Waterfowl:
- Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles:
- Ecology and Management of Passerines:
- Ecology and Conservation of Small Mammals:

Chair

- John Perrine
- Dave Shuford
- Natasha Dvorak
- Armand Gonzales
- Scott Osborn

Special Sessions

- Alternative Energy vs. Arid Lands Resources:
- Southern California Wildlife Management Issues:
- Conservation Planning Update Session:
- Wildlife Management on Military Lands in the West:
- Southern California Island Ecology and Management:
- Ecotoxicology and Metals in the West:
- Disease and Parasitism:
- Ecology and Management of Invasive Species:

Chair

- Kathy Simon
- Melissa Bubby
- Brock Ortega
- Rhys Evans
- Dave Garcelon
- Harry Ohlendorf
- Deana Clifford/Rick Brown
- Cameron Barrows

Posters

- All topics:

Chair

- Canh Nguyen



<http://joomla.wildlife.org/Western/>

Hotel Information and Accommodations

The 2011 Annual Meeting will be held at the Riverside Convention Center. Hotel accommodations for participants have been arranged at the Riverside Marriott which is located immediately adjacent to the Convention Center. The Riverside Marriott/Convention Center Complex is located a few blocks from the heart of downtown Riverside.

Please help keep conference registration rates low by staying at the Marriott hotel.

Riverside Marriott
3400 Market Street
Riverside, CA 92501
Phone: (951) 784-8000



Special Offerings for TWS-WS Conference attendees:

- Book by January 8, 2011 and reference 'Western Section of the Wildlife Society' to get this special offering. Phone (951)784-8000 to make your reservation.
- Room rate: \$110/night (plus 11.65% city tax) for single, double or triple occupancy rooms.
- The Riverside Marriott offers a complimentary shuttle to/from the Ontario Airport with 72-hour advance notice.

Update from the Professional Development Committee

Your Professional Development Committee has scheduled two upcoming events both taking place immediately before the 2011 Annual Meeting in Riverside.

Raptor Symposium

The Western Section of The Wildlife Society and The Wildlife Research Institute are pleased to announce a Raptor Symposium which will take place February 8-9, 2011.

The Raptor Symposium is scheduled just before the regular conference scientific sessions. Presentations will include (but are not limited to):

Raptor Biology - Raptor Management & Monitoring - Recent Legal Developments
Pressing Environmental Issues/Hot Topics - Training Tomorrow's Raptor Biologists

Emergent Fungal Diseases – What Every Biologist Needs to Know

Wednesday, February 9th, 2011; 8:00 a.m. to 12:10 p.m.

The fungi associated with Chytridiomycosis in amphibians and White Nose Syndrome (WNS) in bats have caused catastrophic population declines in these taxa. *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd), the causal agent of Chytridiomycosis, now occurs throughout the temperate and tropical regions of the world but has had its greatest impact on frog populations in the Americas, Australia, and Europe. It may have caused the extinction of several tropical frog species and may lead to the extinction of many others. *Geomyces destructans* (Gd), associated with mass mortality events at hibernacula of North American bats, has killed an estimated one million bats since its appearance in 2006. Bats affected by WNS include two endangered species, the Indiana bat and gray bat. Recent models suggest WNS could cause the extinction of the little brown bat in the eastern United States within 20 years.

This symposium will provide an overview of the biology and etiology of Bd and Gd, will describe the expected population impacts to amphibians and bats as the diseases spread, and will describe procedures field biologists should employ to detect signs of Chytridiomycosis and WNS, as well as how to employ decontamination procedures to reduce the risk of transmitting the diseases.

Click [HERE](#) for more information on both these events! It's true that they're scheduled to overlap, so unfortunately you can't attend both, unless you have a clone.... We hope to see you there.

Special Events

Student–Professional Lunch and Career Fair	Annual Raffle & Auction	Résumé Workshop	Effective Oral Presentation Workshop
<p>The Section will host a student–professional lunch and career fair, free to students, at noon on Friday, February 11, 2011. Students will have the opportunity to discuss career choices, the job market, and job qualifications with practicing professionals from the Western Section. To participate in the career fair, please contact the Career Fair coordinator Karen Swaim (kswaim@swaimbio.com).</p>	<p>A raffle and silent auction will be held during the banquet on Thursday, February 11. Tickets for the raffle will be available for purchase throughout the conference. Typical donations for the raffle include wine, wildlife artwork, books, travel and field gear. In addition, the Section is seeking, and will offer through the raffle and auction as available, hunting and fishing trips, adventure travel trips, white-water rafting trips, etc.</p>	<p>The Western Section is pleased to announce the return of our fantastic résumé workshop! Barbara Peters from the Career Center at Humboldt State University (retired) will be present (tentatively scheduled for Thursday afternoon and Friday morning) to offer outstanding guidance on job searching to students and young professionals.</p>	<p>Whether you're just starting out or looking to improve, this informative (and likely humorous) mini-workshop will provide you with information and tips for presenting your research work to your peers. Instructor Jon Hooper will provide demonstrations on how to give an effective presentation...and how NOT to.</p>

2011 Annual Meeting Sponsors

The TWS-WS Annual Meeting in Riverside still has several sponsorship opportunities available.

Sponsorship levels:

Annual Meeting Refreshment Break	\$500 (up to 3 available)
Student / Professional Lunch	\$750
Student Resume Workshop	\$750 (TAKEN)
Fungus Symposium	\$1000
Raptor Symposium Evening Mixer	\$1250
Raptor Symposium	\$1500
Raptor Symposium & Evening Social	\$2500
Poster Session & Welcome Mixer	\$2500
Annual Meeting Technical Sessions*	\$500

* Habitat Restoration, Amphibians & Reptiles, Energy Development in Arid ecosystems; contact us for a list of others

If you would like to become a sponsor, please contact John McNerney, jmcnerney@cityofdavis.org

THANK YOU TO OUR **SPONSORS**
RIVERSIDE 2011 ANNUAL MEETING



SF BAY AREA
CHAPTER
TWS-WS



Upcoming Events

- **JANUARY 10-14, 2011**
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP. CHICO, CA
- **FEBRUARY 8-9, 2011**
RAPTOR SYMPOSIUM. RIVERSIDE, CA
- **FEBRUARY 9, 2011**
EMERGENT FUNGAL DISEASES SYMPOSIUM.
RIVERSIDE, CA
- **FEBRUARY 9-12, 2011**
TWS-WS ANNUAL MEETING.
RIVERSIDE, CA
- **NOVEMBER 5-10, 2011**
TWS NATIONAL CONFERENCE.
WAIKOLOA VILLAGE, HAWAII
- **FEBRUARY 1-3, 2012**
TWS-WS ANNUAL MEETING.
SACRAMENTO, CA
- **JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 1, 2013**
TWS-WS ANNUAL MEETING.
SACRAMENTO, CA



The Conservationist Of the Year Award

This year we are very pleased to honor the Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) for their dedication to the conservation of avian fauna and other wildlife and their habitats throughout California since its establishment in 1965. Though its many accomplishments are too numerous to list, PRBO has established what have now become among the longest-running monitoring stations for songbirds, seabirds, and marine mammals, pioneered data-collection efforts, has provided scientific information on the effects of gill-netting on seabirds, initiated the Pacific Flyway Project to document reliance of shorebirds on large wetland sites in western North America, collaborated in the establishment of Partners in Flight, the development of standardized protocols for monitoring songbirds, coordinated the completion of the Riparian Habitat Bird Conservation Plan, and continues to guide development of catch limit recommendations aimed at maintaining marine ecosystems and the food base for seabirds.



The Barrett A. Garrison Outstanding Mentor Award

This award was bestowed upon Dr. Lowell Diller. As a professional Wildlife Biologist working in northern California over the past 20 years, Dr. Diller has supervised numerous graduate students working on wildlife questions related to forest management practices. Lowell has taught several courses with no compensation for the HSU Wildlife Department, most recently during the spring semester with a course on the ecology, management, and conservation of herpetofauna. Lowell is a natural mentor – he quickly develops excellent rapport with students, sharing his experiences, listening to their stories and aspirations, providing advice and encouragement. The students love him; he’s fun to be around, treats them with respect, and openly shares his wealth of knowledge and experience.



The Raymond F. Dasmann Award for the Professional Of the Year went to Esther Burkett, a biologist with the Department of Fish and Game. Since her start at Honey Lake WA Esther has worked endless hours on state listing petitions while managing policy/regulations on a wide range of non-game mammals and birds in California. Her long-standing commitment and passion for wildlife conservation, her consummate ability to achieve success in difficult situations, and her consistent professionalism throughout her career makes Esther the ideal recipient of this Award.



The Chapter Of the Year Award went to the Sacramento- Shasta Chapter

They had a busy 2009 including hosting numerous brown bag lunch seminars, a great gray owl/willow flycatcher workshop, and a Natural Resource Symposium attended by more than 70 students and wildlife professionals. In addition, the Chapter continued its commitment to assisting students by awarding a \$1,000 scholarship and awarded over \$600 in travel grants to attend the national Conference in Monterey.

Congratulations to these students who received an award at the annual banquet.

Posters:

- 1st - Zannie Dallara, \$100
- 2nd - Amon Armstrong, \$50

Presentations:

- 1st - Cheryl Bondi, \$125
- 2nd - Theresa Brickley, \$75
- 3rd - Erin Tennant, \$50

Two Successful Bat Workshops Held in 2010

The Western Section held two 4-day bat workshops at Wind Wolves Preserve, in southwest Kern County. The Wildlands Conservancy, a non-profit organization, owns and operates this and several California preserves and their ecologist, Dave Clendenen, was our host.

Acoustic Monitoring of Bats was held in May, taught by Humboldt State Professor and Western Section member, Dr. Joe Szewczak. The group of twenty participants and one volunteer included 4 students, several environmental consultants, state biologists, and university professors -- one from a linguistics department at Baylor University in Waco, Texas who is an expert in acoustic evaluation of human speech. Each participant had an applied need for the skills gained during the workshop and plans to follow-up on bat surveys, research or monitoring projects. Workshop participants learned how to deploy acoustic detectors, upload files to be analyzed, and read the call sonogram to determine species. Participants split into teams and competed to detect the most species, the most unusual species, and the most effort given in pursuit of Western red bat. Our workshop detected 10 of the ~25 species of bats found in California, and 2 new species records for the property. The weather turned unseasonably cold for the workshop; we woke up to snow on the top ridges at the far end of the preserve!

Our 7th annual Bat Ecology and Field Techniques workshop was held in June, taught by Dr. Szewczak and H.T. Harvey and Associates' Dr. Dave Johnston. This workshop provides an in-depth introduction to the ecology and conservation of California bat species, overviewing several field techniques to promote monitoring and research. Our participants came from as far away as Ohio. We had one student, several consultants, two state biologists and one wildlife veterinarian. We had good weather and cooperative bats for two nights of netting, catching 11 individuals of 4 different species, and detecting 6 additional species acoustically for a final list that matches those detected during our May workshop.



Many thanks to Dr. Szewczak and Dr. Johnston for donating their expert instructional time, and to Wind Wolves for hosting the Western Section for both workshops. The campground and grounds are beautifully maintained; the 92,000 acre preserve offers a lot to explore during future workshops! Learn more about The Wildlands Conservancy at www.wildlandsconservancy.org.

Bats detected acoustically, during the May 2010 workshop at Wind Wolves Preserve

<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i> (big brown bat)	<i>Myotis yumanensis</i> (Yuma myotis)
<i>Myotis californicus</i> (California Myotis)	<i>Tadarida brasiliensis Mexicana</i> (Mexican free-tailed bat)
<i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i> (small-footed myotis)	<i>Parastrellus Hesperus</i> (canyon Bat)
<i>Myotis evotis</i> (long-eared myotis)	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i> (hoary bat)
<i>Myotis thysanoides</i> (fringed myotis)	
<i>Myotis volans</i> (long-legged myotis)	

Western Section Grant Policy

The Western Section of The Wildlife Society (TWS-WS) has historically supported conferences, 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
- Timeliness 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

Conditions

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 Meeting. This reporting requirement will be included in a letter from the Section which accompanies the actual disbursement of the grant.

If interested in submitting a grant request, download the application form [HERE](#) and submit to: rburg@parks.ca.gov or Western Section of The Wildlife Society, PO Box 6756, Albany, CA 94706.



Western Section Travel Grants

In pursuit of the objective to encourage high standards of professional achievement, the Western Section has established an honoraria fund to assist participation in professional meetings.

Eligibility

Applicants must be current dues paid members of the Western Section. Funds will not be provided when employer or agency funds are available to the applicant. Applicants must not have received a Travel Grant (from TWS-WS) in the current year.

Non-TWS and International Conferences/Symposia

Travel grants to International and non-TWS conferences/symposia will only be reviewed if the applicant is presenting a paper or poster. Travel Grants may be approved contingent upon paper/poster acceptance by the program committee.

Review and Approval of Grant Requests

Travel Grants must be submitted to the Awards and Grants Committee Chair. Proposals are reviewed on a continual basis and award depends on fund availability. The Awards and Grants Chair distributes Travel Grant request copies to all Western Section board members for review and consideration. Approval requires a majority vote.

Priority is given to attendees of TWS meetings (Parent, Western Section, Chapters) and to attendees presenting a poster or paper at a given conference, symposium, etc.... Combined requests for shared expenses for the same meeting by two or more students will be considered and are preferred. A maximum of two grants may be awarded for a particular meeting (depending on funding).

Amount and Conditions

In most cases, the Travel Grant may only cover a portion of the total cost of attending an event. Applicants should consider the award only as a supplement to other funding sources. Travel Grants are to be used only for registration fees, meals, lodging, and/or transportation expenses. Individual Travel Grants will not exceed \$300.00/applicant/event/year. Reimbursement rates shall be as follows:

- Mileage reimbursement is 48.5 cents/mile for a personal vehicle (if a Government Owned Vehicle is not available)
- Meal reimbursement is for actual cost, not to exceed \$6.00, \$10.00 and \$15.00 for breakfast, lunch and dinner, respectively.
- Lodging reimbursement is for actual cost, not to exceed \$75.00 per night.

Each applicant must submit a written request/application to the Awards and Grants Chair at least 60 days in advance of attending an event. The application must clearly state the amount of support requested and identify how costs will be incurred. A statement that alternative funding is not available from any other source must be included in the application.

Applicants must submit receipts for reimbursement. A statement of the professional benefits derived from attending the event and a summary evaluation of information gathered must accompany the receipts. To apply for a Travel Grant, submit:

1. Application form (PDF, 25kB);
2. abstract of paper/poster (if presenting);
3. evidence of acceptance of the abstract (if required), and
4. draft text of paper/poster to be presented (2-4 pages).

Application and all requested materials should be submitted to: rburg@parks.ca.gov

Award Nominations Sought

The Awards and Grants Committee is currently accepting nominations for the various awards to be presented at the annual conference from the Section Membership at large. Below are the awards and required information:

The **Raymond F. Dasmann Award for the Professional of the Year** (the "Dasmann Award")

is presented to Professionals who have made an outstanding contribution to wildlife resources management and understanding in California, Nevada, Hawaii or Guam. Qualifications: The nominee can be any member(s) of the Wildlife Society-Western Section, who develops, applies, administers or completes an especially significant program of management, education, research or communications that results in an outstanding contribution to wildlife resources in the Western Section geographic area.

The **Conservationist of the Year Award**

is presented to a person or group, engaged in wildlife conservation either as a profession or as an avocation, who has made an outstanding contribution to wildlife conservation in California, Nevada, Hawaii or Guam. Qualifications: The nominee can be any individual or group who has demonstrated an active concern for wildlife conservation by accomplishing projects or programs that have significantly enhanced wildlife resource conservation within the Western Section geographical area.

The **Barrett A. Garrison Outstanding Mentor Award**

is bestowed to a professional within California, Nevada, Hawaii, and Guam who has contributed to our profession by assisting the continued development of students and/or young professionals. Qualifications: The nominee can be any member(s) of the Wildlife Society-Western Section, who is responsible for mentoring young professionals over their career in the Western Section geographic area.

Nomination materials should be submitted to: rburg@parks.ca.gov by **December 15, 2010**

2010 Annual Meeting in Visalia A Carbon NEUTRAL Event

As an avenue for the participants of the Western Section Annual Meeting in Visalia to offset their carbon footprint associated with travel to and from the event, the Section collaborated with River Partners to plant trees. Through cash donations and the purchases of donated items, the Section raised over \$570 dollars to purchase trees that River Partners used in a planting program for the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge. As these trees grow, their carbon uptake and release of oxygen will help provide for a healthier planet. Thank you to all that donated!

Grants Committee Report

Katie Moriarty was awarded a research grant in 2010. Her research focuses on the movement ecology of the Pacific marten (*Martes caurina*), previously known as the American marten (*M. americana*). Pacific martens in the Cascade and Sierra Nevada Mountain ranges are an indicator species associated with structurally complex, high elevation late-seral coniferous forests. Her study will assess the type, size and configuration of openings and fuel thinning treatments that are permeable to marten movement. In addition, she is evaluating the relative importance of micro-site features and potential interspecific interactions in relation to marten habitat selection. This study will be the first to attempt to use this technology on a mammal of this size in North America. Research findings will be directly applied to forest management and marten conservation.



CONGRATULATIONS TO HUMBOLDT STATE

WINNERS OF THE 2010 WILDLIFE SOCIETY QUIZ BOWL IN UTAH!

WE'RE PROUD OF YOU (AGAIN...)

Humboldt State University's highly successful Wildlife Quiz Bowl Team won the 2010 National Wildlife Quiz Bowl Oct. 5 in Snowbird, Utah, marking HSU's seventh victory in ten years of the national contests.

HSU's victorious National Wildlife Quiz Bowl team (l to r): Professor Jeff Black, Amy Leigh Trost, Dave Spangenburg, Sam Aguilar, Phil Chaon, Brian Fagundes and Professor Matt Johnson. The tournament was part of the national conference of The Wildlife Society in Snowbird, and the HSU team comprised five undergraduates: Sam Aguilar (Wildlife major), Phil Chaon (double major, Wildlife and Zoology), Brian Fagundes (double major, Wildlife and Geography), Dave Spangenburg (Geography major, Wildlife minor) and Amy Leigh Trost (Wildlife major).

In the latest 17-team national competition, Humboldt State blanked Michigan Tech 135-0, beat Texas A&M 120-55, trounced the University of Wyoming 110-15 and downed Penn State 95-20.

A total of 22 Humboldt State undergraduates and six graduate students participated in the conference, presenting photographs and posters in other competitions. All of the undergrads helped to prepare the five team members for the quiz bowl, said Professor Matthew Johnson, Wildlife Department chair. The team was coached by Johnson and Professor Jeff Black, who was inducted last fall into the California Academy of Sciences.

The number of HSU wildlife majors has soared more than 20 percent in five years, posting record enrollments. California's Department of Economic Development projects wildlife careers to be among the fastest growing employment sectors in the next decade.

HSU's Wildlife Department has gained more than \$1 million in grant awards so far this year and it picked up over \$600,000 in grants and contracts for faculty-led research projects in academic year 2008-2009. The funds provide undergraduate and graduate students with first-hand wildlife field work experience and analysis.

Don Yasuda and Janine Payne Schneir Attend TWS Meeting in Snowbird, Colorado

Greetings, fellow wildlifers. (Yes, Microsoft spell-check. That is a “real” word in our world.) As Secretary, I (Janine Payne) usually don’t contribute to the newsletter, but on this occasion I am writing to share my experience attending TWS’ 17th annual conference held in Snowbird, UT this October. Don Yasuda and I were the only Executive Board members present, as the rest of us were probably home recovering from last years’ conference in Monterey!

Snowbird lies nestled in Little Cottonwood Canyon at an elevation of 8,100 feet in Utah’s Wasatch Mountains, just 20 miles southeast of Salt Lake City. It is a ski resort in the winter, and a spectacular place to be in the fall. The Aspens were at peak foliage and there were Oktoberfest activities abound, including German food, music, and of course the requisite beer tent.

The theme of the Plenary was “There’s More to Diversity Than Just the Wildlife”, which had some truly inspiring speakers. I attended a fascinating pre-conference workshop on managing human/carnivore conflicts organized by Terry Messer of UT State and Mark Bruscano of WY Game & Fish, which was followed by a two day symposium on the subject. Of course, all of the concurrent sessions were amazing and too numerous to list here. Besides, I know what you all really want to hear about....

In a twist that would titillate the most avid sports fan, Humboldt State University’s Quiz Bowl team reclaimed the winning title from their nemesis, Texas A&M University, in what had to be sweet vindication for their loss to them last year. With 17 teams competing, they also triumphed over Michigan Tech, the University of Wyoming, and Penn State to name a few. The undergraduates on the winning team were: Sam Aguilar, Phil Chaon, Brian Fagundes, Dave Spangenburg, and Amy Leigh Trost. According to HSU’s website, this marks HSU’s seventh victory in 10 years in the national contests.

My last conference hurrah was to attend the wrap-up meeting with the Snowbird arrangements committee, Michael Hutchins, Darryl Walter, Kerrell Farmelant, and Don Yasuda. And now we plan for another Western Section hosted conference in 2011... Hawaii, here we come. Hope to see you there!



18TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

WAIKOLOA, HAWAII (THE BIG ISLAND)

November 5 -10, 2011

Call for Proposals: DEADLINE - - JANUARY 14, 2011

**Workshops, Symposia, Panel Discussions, Breakfast Roundtables,
and Special Poster Sessions**

Proposals for workshops, symposia, panel discussions, breakfast roundtables, and special poster sessions are invited for the 18th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society. Proposals should focus on topics of wildlife science, management, conservation, education, or policy within the broad theme of Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship through Science and Education.

2011 Election Info: Proposed Bylaws Changes

Along with voting for a President-Elect candidate, we request your review and consideration of four groups of bylaws changes. The changes are split into groups to allow each to be voted on separately. The Western Section Executive Board recommends approval of all groups of proposed bylaws changes. A brief explanation of the changes is provided below. A full copy of the bylaws with marked edits and annotation is available [HERE](#).

The **first** group of changes is primarily administrative in nature.

1. Article VI, Section 5: Corrects direction for filling vacancies to clarify that a Section Representative vacancy is filled by the Society and not by the Section.

2. Article VIII, Section 2: Corrects reference to Finance Committee as Article IX, Section 2E.

3. Article VIII, Section 5: Corrects reference to Conservation Affairs Committee as Article IX, Section 2D.

4. Article VIII, Section 5: Removes redundant reference to specific Appendix numbers of guidance documents and policy provided in the Operations Manual.

5. Article IX, Section 2D: Corrects reference to Resolutions and Public Statements as Article VIII, Section 5.

6. Article XI, Section 1: Updates the description of Section Awards by adding the following awards: 1) James D. Yoakum Award for Outstanding Service and Commitment; 2) Chapter of the Year; and 3) Barrett A. Garrison Outstanding Mentor.

The **second** proposal (Article V, Section 5) is to change the membership renewal date from January 1 to an anniversary date set by the date of initial membership, called the membership anniversary date. This change is needed to allow us to align the membership renewal dates for TWS members (Regular members – those who pay dues at the national level and the Section level) with their member anniversary dates for TWS. This will allow the Western Section to pursue a pilot project

to integrate our membership database with the TWS membership database. During a transition period when we align member renewal dates, we may need to extend some memberships to ensure that members receive at least 12 months of membership for dues paid. This change will require some additional administrative work as some portion of member renewal notices will be needed throughout the year and will have a slight impact on budget management as some portion of dues income will spread throughout the year over time. Most current members will have a January 1 membership anniversary date. If we do not make this change, members who belong to TWS and the Western Section may have two different renewal dates.

The **third** proposal (Article VI, Section 3) is to adjust the composition of the Executive Board (Board). The proposal removes the Transactions Editor as a voting member of the Board. This reduces the responsibility of this position, which will make it easier to recruit volunteers to serve in this technical role, without having to commit to the time required to serve as a Board member. The proposal adds the Chair of the Conservation Affairs Committee as a voting member of the Board. This Committee prepares resolutions and provides comments on issues and projects for Board approval. The Chair of the Conservation Affairs Committee will be more effective as a Board member fully aware of the budget and strategic focus of the Western Section.

The **fourth** proposal (Article VII, Section 1D) is to change the meeting rules to follow *The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedures* in place of *Robert's Rules of Order*. The current edition of the *Standard Code* is the Fourth edition published in 2000 by Alice Sturgis. The *Standard Code* largely parallels Robert's Rules of Order, but provides more flexibility for formal and informal discussion of issues. This

more closely matches the contemporary business behavior of the Executive Board, such as recognizing the conduct of business via e-mail, internet polling sites and teleconferencing. This change will also align the Western Section to the same meeting rules of TWS.

2011 Election Info

Please Vote!



**Voting will close on
January 31, 2011.**

The Western Section is offering and encouraging electronic voting!

Members can read the current bylaws, with proposed changes, and then cast an on-line vote!

Click [HERE](#) for full election details.

Linda Leeman

My name is Linda Leeman and I am running for President-Elect of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society.

Personal Information: I live in Sacramento with my husband and two sons. I am proud to be a fourth-generation Californian.

Education: B.S. in Wildlife Biology from UC Davis and M.S. in Natural Resources-Wildlife from Humboldt State University.

Current Position and Job History: I am a Senior Biologist for Ascent Environmental, Inc., a consulting firm in Sacramento. I have been in consulting for about 10 years and love the variety of projects I get to work on and the challenges of understanding complex projects and regulatory issues. I started my career working seasonal jobs for California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service throughout the western U.S. I also worked for a small non-profit overseeing the operation of a long-term landbird banding station and bald eagle re-introduction effort in Big Sur, California.

TWS Involvement: I have been a TWS member since 2000 and am a Certified Wildlife Biologist. I have been actively involved with the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter since 2004. I was elected president in 2006 and served as past president in 2007, treasurer in 2008-2009, and chapter representative to Western Section in 2010. One of the most rewarding accomplishments as part of the Chapter executive board was conceiving of and working together with other board members to initiate the Chapter's annual Natural Resources Symposium in 2006. This symposium provides members a local forum for networking and sharing information about current issues involving wildlife and natural communities and is still going strong under Chapter leadership.

Candidate Statement: I am very honored to be nominated as a candidate for President-Elect of the Western Section. I believe that the Western Section is a valuable professional and educational asset to wildlife biologists.



As president, I would work with the other dedicated executive board members to further the goals of the Western Section and to provide members opportunities for professional growth and development.

Serving as the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter representative on the Western Section board has provided me insight into the Western Section operations. I am impressed by the leadership and dedication of the other officers and volunteers who donate hours of their time and expertise to contribute to this organization. The Section offers many services, including low-cost professional workshops and symposia, annual conferences allowing opportunities to interact professionally and socially with other wildlife professionals from all over the region, scholarships and awards, and many other benefits. I have participated in many of these events over the years and would be honored to do my part to help serve the membership.

There are many important issues facing wildlife populations in the west. Climate change and subsequent effects on natural communities have the potential to dramatically alter species composition, ranges, and habitats. The push for rapid development of renewable energy is threatening to permanently alter ecosystems, especially in places like the

deserts of southern California and Nevada. The changing climate also has profound effects on water supply. Our historical system of water diversion to provide water for agriculture, industry, commercial and residential development in arid regions, has resulted in substantial losses to wildlife and plant habitats and those impacts are expected to increase with future water supply uncertainty. The pressures on natural ecosystems are going to intensify as people continue to expand development into wild places and view natural resources as a commodity to be extracted without thought of sustainability. If we, as wildlife professionals, are going to address these problems, then we need to work together to deeply understand the issues, develop integrated solutions that allow for multiple objectives, advocate for the protection of wildlife and natural communities, and communicate clearly the value of wildlife conservation to the general public and to the policy-makers.

As someone who works with resource agencies, scientists, and other stakeholders on important complex projects and current issues, and who understands the importance of applying the best wildlife science to resource management decisions, I value the contribution of informed and thoughtful participants. The Western Section is composed of members with many different perspectives; respectful dialogue and collaborative exchange of ideas strengthen our understanding of species and ecosystems and how to best make management or regulatory decisions. Relationship and communication skills are at the heart of this. If elected, I would focus my goals on providing (1) high quality professional development opportunities for wildlife professionals, (2) a forum for networking and exchange of thoughtful scientific and management ideas, and (3) outreach/mentorship to students and young professionals to ensure that the chapters, Western Section, and The Wildlife Society are relevant to the next generation of biologists.

I would work diligently to fulfill the responsibilities of the position. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to your support.

Kathy Buescher Simon

My name is Kathy Buescher Simon and I am running for President-Elect of The Western Section of The Wildlife Society.

I've been a member of the TWS-Western Section since 1992 with breaks during my time abroad serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer. More recently I have volunteered at Western Section conferences, evaluated student presentations and attended student mentoring luncheons, chaired sessions at the annual meeting, and even spoke about my work a time or two.

I grew up as a city kid on the south side of Chicago and came to California to attend the University of Redlands, where I graduated in 1989 with a degree in General Biology. After receiving my degree I worked as a fire fighter for the Forest Service until I got my foot in the door of the wildlife group in the Klamath doing seasonal spotted owl surveys. I eventually came back to southern California and landed my first full-time wildlife job with a large environmental consulting firm where I first learned to love the Mojave Desert, where I still work today. In 2002 I started working on my own for several reasons - to gain flexibility with my schedule, to have the ability to choose jobs that were more meaningful to me, and to allow me to make more meaningful decisions about where to allocate my limited time resources.

When asked about possibly running for TWS-West President Elect, I thought long and hard about whether I really had the time and energy to make this commitment (with those limited time resources we all have!). I have been working almost non-stop for the last four years on the alternative energy projects so many of us are involved in now and that are creating controversy across my precious desert, as you may hear discussed at the upcoming annual meeting. I made a choice to try for the position because I think I have a unique perspective having worked so long in the field and having trained many through the years to love the desert as I do.

I also carry a strong tradition of volunteerism forward, from my time as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Philippines and Senegal to helping TWS-Western Section and speaking at schools, from Kindergarten to college, about natural resource careers. In the Philippines I worked on a community reforestation project helping my community move towards long-term sustainability in farming, forestry and land ownership. In Senegal I worked to foster better relationships between the largest National Park in that country and the villages that had been forcibly removed from the park, a position that taught me more about human nature and hard work than any other experience in my life.

I applaud our current President-Elect John McNerney, for his focus on reaching out to K-12 students to help foster interest in wildlife and natural resources and as a kid from the inner-city myself, would like to see more focus on connecting inner-city kids with the life around them within the city, and extend that outside the city limits. Within our membership I would like to see a serious discussion about ethics and cooperation between our members that have chosen different paths in academia, resource management, agencies, and consulting – all fields that carry their own unique ethical challenges and unique rewards.

I welcome your input and discussion and look forward to meeting many more of you in Riverside in February 2011.



Please Vote!

Voting will close on January 31, 2011

[VOTE HERE](#)

President's Message

(Gonzales, continued page 1)

to network with fellow scientists and biologists; stay current on the latest research; and gain continuing education benefits through organized symposia and workshops. So, the time has come to ask you, if you indeed derive benefit from The Wildlife Society, to step-up and volunteer for a vacancy on the Western Section Executive Board, or your local Chapter's Board, or work on one of the many committees that make your professional organization what it is. You can be part of the future, to provide opportunities for your fellow scientists and biologists, and to the next generation of young wildlifers currently in Student Chapters or recently graduating. If you're almost ready to take the leap, realize the more of us there are working together, the less each of us will need to do, and the more rewarding the outcome will be. If you are ready to commit now, to make a difference, to give a little time to your professional society, contact me or one of your local Chapter Board members to express your interest in getting involved.

Coincidentally, the theme of the 2011 Annual Meeting Plenary Session in Riverside is "Preparing the Next Generation of Wildlife Professionals." Perhaps one of the most important questions we can ask ourselves, who will be the next generation of wildlife professionals that will take over the reins of caring for the resources we care so much about? How will they be attracted and mentored? Will we be leaving them a legacy we can be proud of? Now is the time for all of us to do our part, to give back to the profession, and to organizations such as The Wildlife Society to establish a legacy of cooperation, working together to educate ourselves, to coordinate our efforts, and to bring along the next generation of wildlife professionals. The Annual Meeting in Riverside is looking to be one of the best ever. You can read more about it in President-Elect John McNerney's report.

I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage you to vote! Unlike the state election we just endured, in this election we actually have two outstanding candidates: Linda Leeman and Kathy Buescher Simon. Please take a few moments to review their candidate statements and follow the easy directions located on page 11 to cast your vote.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Riverside and, I sincerely wish you a happy and safe holiday season.

Past President

Scott Osborn

"Plop plop, fizz fizz. Oh, what a relief it is!" I didn't expect the words of a 1970s-era advertising jingle to come to mind as I sat down to write this column as Past President of the Western Section. But the advertised benefits of Alka Seltzer in alleviating the effects of excessive behavior do seem fitting in this context. 2009 was a big year for the Western Section, with many initiatives, activities, and changes for us. So it comes as a big relief to me personally to set aside the responsibility of helping to govern the Section and to focus more narrowly on just a few activities.

I want to thank the entire Western Section Executive Board, our contract staff, and all the Western Section members who worked to make my term as President in 2009 a successful year. In particular, I want to thank Rhys Evans for his wise counsel and limitless energy while serving as Past President. Similarly, Armand Gonzales did a great job as President-Elect in organizing and pulling off a very successful conference in Visalia despite many challenges. Don Yasuda has done his usual efficient job on several fronts: Section Rep to Council, Membership, and updating our Bylaws. Cynthia Perrine also deserves special thanks for her continued leadership and for stepping up to serve as the Western Section's Program Director in 2009 – a position with much work, but little pay. Rhys Evans and Cynthia Perrine also de-

serve huge thanks from all TWS members for their able and committed work as my Co-chairs for Arrangements for the TWS conference in Monterey in 2009. Many other Western Section members played large roles in the Monterey conference – thanks to all of you! I also want to thank Gary Falxa for continuing to serve as Treasurer in 2009 and 2010. Gary has sometimes found himself in the minority during discussions of how to handle the Section's finances, but he has not let that stop him from continuing to offer his good judgment for the rest of us to consider.

I now look forward to the passing of the torch to the next leaders of the Western Section. President-Elect John McNerney is organizing an amazingly rich program for the annual meeting in Riverside. And I'm very pleased to have recruited two outstanding candidates for our next President-Elect: Linda Leeman and Kathy Buescher Simon. Please find Linda's and Kathy's candidate statements on the preceding pages. Don't forget to vote for President-Elect and the Bylaws revision!

It has been a humbling yet very rewarding experience for me to serve as President over the past three years. I'm very thankful the Western Section's membership is such an engaged and interesting bunch of people. And I look forward to working with many of you in the years ahead on wildlife-related issues. I hope to see you in Riverside in February!

ATTENTION

The Western Section of
The Wildlife Society
is recruiting for:

**Editor, *Transactions of the
Western Section of The Wildlife
Society***

For information contact:
Armand Gonzales:
agonzales7200@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Gary Falxa

Fellow wildlifers—if this report reads more like a dry report to the executive board, you can guess why (looming newsletter deadline?). At this point in the year, we have a good idea how the year will go for the Western Section, though one big unknown will be Nov-Dec registrations for the Section's upcoming annual meeting in Riverside on February 8-11.

Highlights from 2010 to date:

Section assets as of November 19 are: \$119,920, which includes the balance of our checking, savings, and certificate accounts. This represents a decline of about \$32,800 since January 1. Several unique factors contributed to this decline, including a one-time change in accounting methods; payments to chapters for a backlog of chapter dues collected by the Western Section prior to 2010; and a \$5,100 contribution to the memorial fund for the three fallen CDFG biologists. Also, we incurred unusually high up-front facility deposits for the 2011 and 2012 annual meetings. Once registrations begin for the 2011 meeting in Riverside, income should more than offset these expenses for the calendar year, and bring the annual budget closer to balance.

The 2010 annual meeting and associated workshops in Visalia provided a net of \$16,776. This is lower than usual, but was expected, based on the poor economy.

Income from other workshops was about \$6,000. Two bat workshops brought in about \$3,400 (thanks, Joe Szewczak, Rhys and Cynthia!), and the Natural Resources Communications workshop should bring in about \$2,500 more, thanks to Jon Hooper, who has been teaching this great workshop for the Western Section for years.

Summary: Considering the atypical expenses incurred this year, the Western Section is doing about as expected—we expected a losing year, and that is what we see shaping up. In reviewing our 2010 operations

budget, expenses are generally at or below budget, but income is also down. Registration income for the 2011 annual meeting in Riverside should help the Section's bottom line toward the end of the calendar year. The Western Section remains in sound financial condition, though as reported earlier this year, 2010 will not likely be a profitable year due to above-usual expenses (big donation to memorial fund, new program director position) and below-normal income (bad economy, no big symposia planned because the Monterey TWS national meeting absorbed everyone's energy last year).

Other Items:

I worked with Armand, Mike Chapel, and Candace Renger to lower fees for our online credit card processing. Fees for web-based charges (mainly registration for workshops and annual conference) rose unexpectedly earlier this year, and we were able to renegotiate our contract to get fees that work better for the Western Section's situation, and will save money.

I continue work on an investment strategy which will be presented to the board in time for the next meeting.

I plan to step down as Treasurer after the 2011 annual meeting – or at least take a sabbatical ;)

Before handing over the reins I plan to have in-place an investment strategy for the Western Section's assets, which are currently in safe, but low-interest accounts. This has taken longer than I expected, but is close to completion.

Section Representative and Membership Committee

Don Yasuda

Thank you for re-electing me to a second term as your Section Representative. I look forward to continuing to serve you and represent you on TWS Council. Council met at the Annual Conference in Snowbird, Utah at the end of September. The

Conference was a success with around 1400 participants enjoying the high altitude venue. It was another extremely busy week with Council meetings, Leadership Institute events, helping with PowerPoint coordination, and of course, social events. Council adopted guidelines for working groups and working group publications, approved plans for the 75th Anniversary that will coincide with the 2012 Portland Conference, and approved a trial Heritage Committee program to assist the Government Affairs program. One exciting venture that will be rolled out soon is that the Conference concurrent sessions were recorded and all paid registrants will have access to view PowerPoints and listen to the audio.

I spent quite a bit of time with the Leadership Institute participants. This is a tremendous program that TWS offers to new professionals beginning their careers. We didn't have anyone from the Western Section in this year's program, but please consider this program if you are a new professional and please share information about this program with others who would benefit from it. If you are interested in this program, contact me so I can let you know when the applications are due.

As with most everyone, TWS is continually evaluating the budget in these tough economic times to ensure that we are operating with fiscal responsibility. We are in transition to the new publisher, Wiley-Blackwell, and things are going smoothly. The Wildlife Professional continues to grow and expand. Please consider contacting the editor to author an article since this is a member magazine and our goal is to increase the number of member authored articles. TWS has also recently launched a planned giving program; membership continues to grow and we are hoping to break the 10,000 member mark soon.

Section Representative and Membership

Committee

(Yasuda, continued from page 15)

The Wildlife Society Bulletin, please be sure to add a subscription to your TWS membership to ensure you get in on the first new issue.

Speaking of membership, it's that time of year to renew your Section membership.

You will be receiving your membership renewal notice shortly. This year we are trying something different. In previous newsletters, I've mentioned that the Western Section is piloting a program to integrate our membership database with TWS. Things are going slower than anticipated with a change in TWS staff and technical problems with the TWS server, but we are still hoping to coordinate renewal notices this year. Our goal is to increase the number of Section members by better marketing the Section to TWS members and at the same time ensuring that Section members are aware of the benefits of joining at the TWS level. Look for more information by email or in the mail if you do not have email.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any issues, concerns or ideas about the Section or TWS.

Hawaii Chapter

Bill Standley

The Hawaii Chapter is thrilled to announce that after several years of planning, construction of the first predator-proof fence in the State (and Country, for that matter) has begun at the Kaena Point Natural Area Reserve on the island of Oahu. Once completed, the project will create a 59-acre area of coastal habitat free from alien mammals, including feral dogs, cats, mongooses, and rodents. The Chapter has been participating in the project as a partner with the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources and the US Fish and Wildlife Service since 2004.

In other news, Chapter members once again participated in the annual Hawaii Conservation Conference in August, both through financing the awards for best student presentation and poster, and by hosting a breakfast social for the University of Hawaii Hawaiian Internship Program. Thanks to the efforts of Chapter member Cheryl Lohr, the Chapter held its second student social at the University of Hawaii in September. Chapter members are gearing up to help host the national TWS Annual Conference on the island of Hawaii in 2011. We are already lining up some great field trips so everyone should start planning to come over to work on your winter tan, go whale-watching, and add some new species to your life list! (Contact Chapter president, Bill Standley, if you want to get involved with the planning efforts.)



Kaena Point Natural Area Reserve. Photo courtesy of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources



Kaena Point fence construction finally gets underway, Nov. 12, 2010. Photo by Holly Freifeld

Sac-Shasta Chapter

Linda Leeman

The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter has had a busy year. We are excited that more members are getting involved in local social events, workshops, and leadership as part of the executive board. If you are interested in joining us, check us out on our Facebook page to keep up with all the latest news.

Highlights from 2010 include another successful year of the Natural Resources Symposium, a bi-monthly brown-bag series on research topics in our area, and a members-only tour of Consumnes River Preserve restoration and management activities. We also hosted several mixers with Association of Environmental

Planners (AEP) and Professional Environmental Marketers Association (PEMA) to network with other environmental professionals. Thanks to the dedication of organizers from the Western Section, we held a certification workshop that sold out.

Also, this year we sponsored Creek Week and provided volunteers to clean up a local creek, provided \$1,200 in travel and academic scholarships to students going to school or conducting research in our area, and co-sponsored the student resume workshop at the National Meeting with the SF Bay Area Chapter.

Planning is underway for a giant garter snake workshop in early 2011. If you are interested, watch for an announcement through our email blast to members, our Facebook page, or website.



Southern California Chapter

Jeff Lincer

The Southern California chapter is rebuilding after being dormant for a period. We held several events and fostered partnerships to help publicize and recruit new members. We've held a BBQ and program at the Wildlife Research Institute, a happy hour mixer at Dudek (environmental consulting firm), and sponsored one of the monthly events hosted by the San Diego Partners for Biodiversity. Many of these events are hosted for TWS members, which serves to encourage new or lapsed members to join or renew TWS, as they then don't have to pay a fee for the event. We are actively looking for more partnership opportunities and are scheduling both fun and educational programs to meet the needs of the professional wildlife community in Southern California. Since our current leadership team is in San Diego, many of our events are naturally centered in this southern part of the Chapter area. However, we are brainstorming how to better serve everyone in all counties covered by the Chapter and hope that as membership increases and the Chapter becomes more active, we can expand our programs, events, and membership base. Look for us in February at the TWS conference in Riverside, where we hope to have a booth. Please stop by and let us know if you are interested in being involved.

San Joaquin Valley Chapter

Craig Bailey

In September, the San Joaquin Valley Chapter held a Sensitive Small Mammal Species Of the San Joaquin Valley workshop. The event consisted of a day in the classroom, starting with talks about the ecology and conservation of listed and other special status small mammal species. The speakers for these presentations included researchers and consultants, all with a history of working in the San Joaquin Valley and with a great understanding of local species populations, threats, and conservation strategies. In between these talks, questions led to impromptu discussions among presenters and workshop participants about research ideas, habitat fragmentation, and additional potential threats to species related to climate change. We rounded out our day in the classroom with presentations from US Fish and Wildlife Service and CA Department of Fish and Game staff about permits needed to conduct research, the State and Federal environmental review process for projects and the process of attaining incidental take coverage, and other agency wildlife programs.

In the evening we moved to our field location to bait and open traps that were set up in a large grid on a property owned by the Bureau of Land Management. Field instructors gave a presentation about the various research goals of small mammal trapping and the trapping techniques involved. After midnight, participants were led by field instructors to check traps and process the captured animals. Everyone had the opportunity to handle giant kangaroo rats, and some groups also captured short-nosed kangaroo rats.

We are very pleased with how this workshop turned out! The participants had a lot of good questions, and we received a lot of positive feedback throughout. We were very surprised when the workshop sold out as quickly as it did, so the Chapter is considering repeating this opportunity soon.

The Chapter is also developing a California tiger salamander workshop. Stay tuned to our webpage for more information about this workshop and other upcoming Chapter events.



<http://www.facebook.com/tws.western>

Today we are 173 fans strong!

Join today and let everyone know what your fun field survey plans are next season.



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THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY.
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