



# The Magpie

The Wildlife Society / Sacramento-Shasta Chapter



Volume 25, Issue 1

Summer 2017

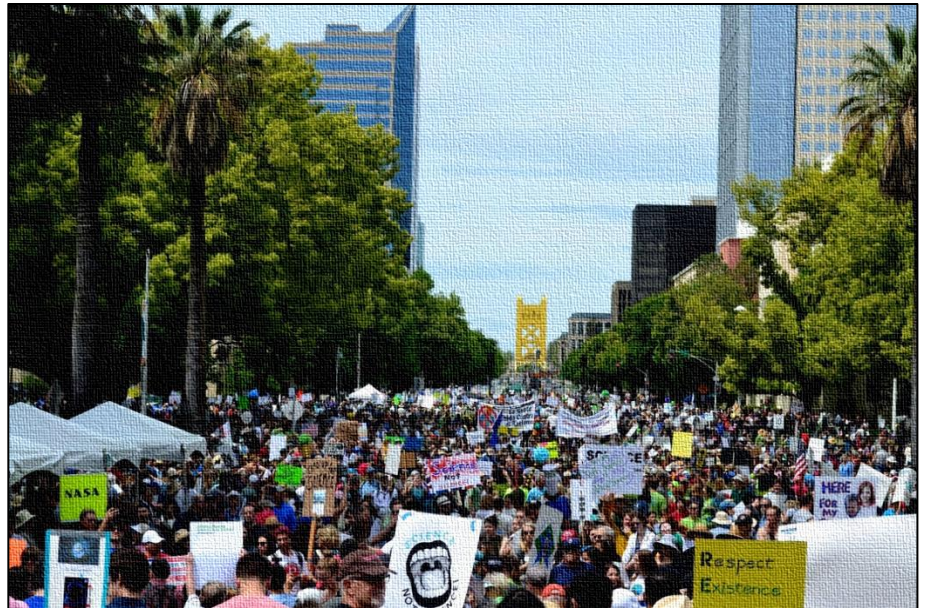
## President's Message

*Ona Alminas*

This summer and fall is one of our busiest yet! Our Chapter voted to financially support, as well as attend April's March for Science at the State Capitol. It was one of our first public outreach efforts in recent history, and the amount of traffic and interest we received was surprising – with over 20 new memberships gained through tabling! After mouse chaser and Western Section Representative's Katie Smith's tremendous efforts to put on a well-attended and highly successful Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse Symposium in May, our Professional Development Committee has been busy planning two workshops for the fall. On Saturday, Oct. 7th, 2017, we are co-hosting with the Western Section a Certified Wildlife Biologist Workshop in Rancho Cordova, CA (registration now open – read below for details!). Following that, we are hosting a Vernal Pool Symposium on Wednesday, November 8th, 2017 (registration forthcoming). We also started a new evening social series, "Field and Science" - bringing updates in wildlife from the field to you! We've partnered with Capitol Science Communicators and the Green Drinks for casual evening get-togethers to encourage mingling and networking of professionals from a broad spectrum of science, media, journalism, and other fields. We held a northern region social up in Redding for the first time in several years – reconnecting with the environmental issues and topics of interest in the northern part of our Chapter area. Other Chapter committees have been busy - expanding Diversity Committee involvement, Student Outreach, and Conservation Affairs. Other Chapter operations-based updates are planned, including updating our Chapter bylaws, moving towards a new .org web domain, and other updates should help make our Chapter perform better for its members. As always – feedback always welcome! Contact us at [sac.shasta@gmail.com](mailto:sac.shasta@gmail.com).

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For Chapter updates and notifications, please visit our [website](#), [Facebook](#), and follow us on [Instagram](#) @SacShastaTWS!



**Vice President's Message**

*David Moldoff*

**The 2017 Chapter officers and committee chairs are:**

**President:** Ona Alminas

**Vice President:** David Moldoff

**Treasurer:** Bonnie Peterson

**Secretary:** Melissa Riley

**Chapter Representative to Western Section:** Katie Smith (Carlos Alvarado took over in August 2017)

**Past-President:** Rhiannon Klingonsmith

**Professional Development Chair:** Ted Hermansen

**Membership Coordinator:**  
Claudia Funari

**Technology & Conservation Affairs (ad hoc) Committee Chair:** Melinda Dorin-Bradbury

**Scholarship Committee Chair:** Devin Barry

**Diversity Committee Chair (ad hoc):**  
Caitlin Roddy

**Student Outreach Liaison (ad hoc):**  
Michael Finnell

**Northern (Shasta) Representative:** Kori Hutchison

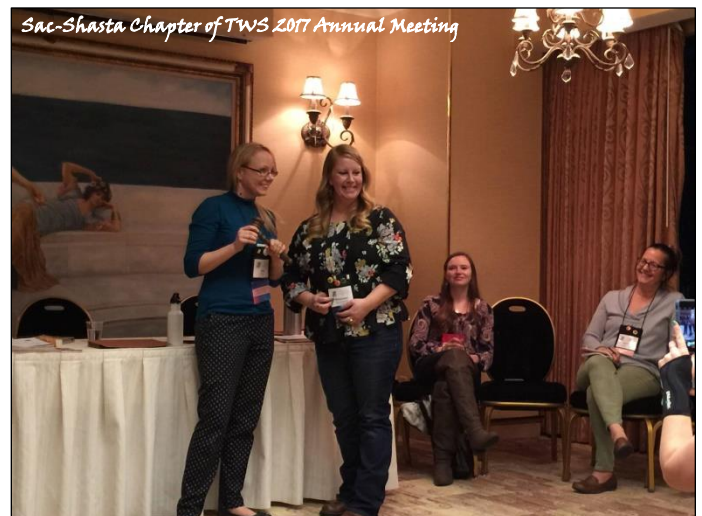
**Newsletter Editor:** Justin Garcia

Hi everyone and welcome to another issue of the Magpie. I'd like to start by saying thank you to everyone who voted in the latest elections. If you'd like to see who is new or still on the Board please checkout our website under the "About Us" tab, <http://twc-west.org/sac-shasta/>.

As the new year kicks off, so, to, does our Chapter's events. We're hoping to have some really fun activities that help get people outdoors and engaged in their local wildlife. We are hoping to have several talks this year from a wide range of speakers that we feel are relevant to the environmental changes that have occurred thus far. The main topics we are working on currently include a talk about the history and management of the Yolo Basin and a talk or potential workshop about regulations as seen through the eyes of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. If you have an idea, or are willing to give a talk on anything that would be relevant to wildlife professionals, please feel free to email us at [sac.shasta@gmail.com](mailto:sac.shasta@gmail.com) and we'll be sure to make it happen.

With all the upcoming events please keep in mind that we are always in need of volunteers to help make all of our Chapter activities happen. It is a great opportunity to make new connections, be a part of fun and informative events, work alongside a fun group of biologists, and spruce up your

professional list of achievements. I encourage anyone who has an idea or wants to be involved to do the same. Please contact me at [sac.shasta@gmail.com](mailto:sac.shasta@gmail.com) if you would like to find out more about how to get involved or share ideas.



Past-President Rhiannon Klingonsmith passing the gavel to President Ona Alminas



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## Executive Board Happenings

Melissa Riley

On February 9th, 2017 and March 14th, 2017 the Executive Board (Board) met to discuss and plan Chapter events and operations.

At the February 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Chapter Members meeting, during the Western Section Annual Meeting, several new Board members were introduced including the new northern representative, Kori Hutchison and the Diversity Committee Chair, Caitlin Roddy. There was a large turnout at this meeting and many new ideas were discussed for the upcoming year. Highlighted at the meeting were 2016 accomplishments such as the Tricolored Blackbird Workshop, Giant Garter Snake Workshop, biannual Natural Resources Symposium, and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. The success of these events allowed the board to donate to the Audubon Society, and will help provide more scholarship opportunities in the future.



Also highlighted was the first ever Board member orientation, which took place on January 22nd, 2017. This was a great opportunity for new Board members to learn about the Chapter, and begin planning for the upcoming year. At the orientation Board member responsibilities, Chapter objectives as well as potential bylaw updates were discussed. In addition, each committee worked on developing goals that they hope to accomplish this year.

At the members meeting and Board orientation, the new Diversity Committee presented their goals and objectives. The Committee would like to hold at least one diversity related event this year. This committee is looking for input and feedback to help develop this new program, and determine the types of diversity related events members would like to see in the future. The first official Board meeting with the 2017 board members occurred at Kupro's Craft House in March. At this meeting, the professional development committee updated the Board about the Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse Symposium. The Professional Development Committee (PDC) hopes to bring other workshop opportunities to the members this year, such as a wildlife biologist certification workshop. The PDC may partner with the new Western Section workshop coordinator, Ivan Parr, to provide other opportunities, as well. In addition to these workshops, the PDC would like to host several brown bag talks and/or evening social events. Topics are still being determined and the PDC is open to input from Chapter members.





The treasurer updated the Board with information about the current budget. The winter mixer cost was paid, and the treasurer is awaiting information to finalize the Chapter's donation of \$1,000 to the student conclave that was held in Yosemite March 29 - April 2. This donation was used to help offset the cost of the event, allowing more students to attend with a reduced enrollment cost. In addition, alternative banking options to store the Chapter's funds were discussed. A pros and cons list of several alternatives will be created for further consideration by the Board.

At the Board meeting, students from the U.C. Davis Chapter gave an update about events that their chapter has hosted, and upcoming events, including their student professional mixer that has held on May 11th. This event is always a great opportunity for students to network and learn about the wildlife field. In addition, our student outreach liaison coordinated a student professional hike held on April 2nd at Stebbins Cold Canyon.

Finally, our Western Section Representative, Katie Smith, discussed the March for Science. The Western Section was preparing for a conference call to discuss formal endorsement and financial sponsorship of the national March in Washington DC. However, before participating and formally endorsing the March the

Western Section board first wanted to poll the whole membership to gauge interest. Our newsletter editor, Justin Garcia, helped to organize the March for Science in Sacramento, and asked for our Chapter to help support the March. The goal is to promote science, inform the general public, support the scientific community, and connect scientists to the local community. The Board voted on two separate motions related to the local March. One was to publicize the [Sacramento March for Science](#) by advertising the event on our webpage and social media platforms.



The other motion was to donate \$1,000 to the March. Both motions were passed. The Board also voted to support and donate to 350 Sacramento's [Leading the Way to Carbo Zero Community Forum](#) held on May 13, 2017, because climate change effects wildlife, too!





### Chapter Representative to the Western Section Report

Katie Smith

As most of you are hopefully aware, one of the most significant developments with the Western Section recently was the vote to sponsor the March for Science on April 22nd, 2017. A strong majority (~95%) of Western Section members voted to participate, and the Western Section board ended up deciding to provide financial support. For those of you who are less familiar with the March for Science the rationale behind the movement is –

"...Science, scientists, and evidence-based policymaking are under attack. Budget cuts, censorship of researchers, disappearing datasets, and threats to dismantle government agencies harm us all, putting our health, food, air, water, climate, and jobs at risk. It is time for people who support science to [take a public stand and be counted](#)..."

The Western Section supported the March at the national level, and the Sac-Shasta Chapter also supported the local march in Sacramento, and the Western Section encouraged all members to show up and be heard at their local marches.



The Western Section hosted a student Conclave on March 29-April 2 at Yosemite National Park. University of Nevada, Reno Student Chapter coordinated the event, with assistance from Western Section President-Elect Jeff Davis. Humboldt State conducted the quiz bowl. A total of 42 Students from Student Chapters at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Humboldt State, Oklahoma State, U.C. Davis, and University of Nevada, Reno attended.



UC Davis students in Yosemite for the 2017 TWS student conclave

Participants assisted the National Park Service with a restoration project in Yosemite Valley and hiked to El Capitan to view the nesting site for Peregrine Falcons and to Chilnualna Falls. They participated in a 24-hour scavenger hunt; learned about local researchers' wildlife projects for supporting recovery of Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis sierrae*), Sierra Nevada red fox (*Vulpes vulpes necator*), Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), Mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana sierrae*), fisher (*Pekania pennanti*), and



American black bears (*Ursus americanus*). They also received training in research techniques including telemetry and did a four-day bio blitz.



Finally, the students participated in a quiz bowl in which teams were sorted not by school, but by experience level so that all students could compete. This also provided networking time to exchange ideas about graduate school, career objectives, and internship and job prospects. Western Section Conclave is appreciative of financial sponsorship from

Sacramento-Shasta Chapter and other chapters which kept registration fees low for the students. Be sure to check out the write-up from the U.C. Davis students that attended in this issue of the Magpie (see below). The 2018 Western Section Conclave will be held March 28 – 31 next year, possibly in the Mojave Desert.

The next in-person meeting of the Western Section Board will take place from August 25-27 in the Pepperwood Preserve in Santa Rosa, CA.



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## Membership

*Claudia Funari*

As of May 2017 there were 283 members in the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of TWS. Of these members, 192 gave their job status. We thought you might be interested to know that the majority of members in our local Chapter are employed by the consulting industry (80), followed by the state (46), federal agencies (17), utilities (15), academics (12), non-profits (10), local government, industry, students and others (12). We continue to serve our members with trainings planned for 2017, the newsletter, member discounts on events and socials. Membership continues to be \$10/year for the Chapter, and FREE for students for the second consecutive year. You can [renew your membership online](#), if you haven't already done so – through our website using Paypal.

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## Scholarships

*Devin Barry*

Calling all students! The **Academic / Research Scholarship** and **Travel Scholarship** applications will be accepted year-round, and the Travel Scholarship application is due at least two months before an event. We also have a scholarship available for TWS certification, and the Board is considering adding a non-student research scholarship option in the future. Be sure to utilize the opportunity to receive funding for your projects or present at the next Wildlife Society conference. Submit an [application](#) if you are interested!





UC Davis students in Yosemite for the 2017 TWS student conclave

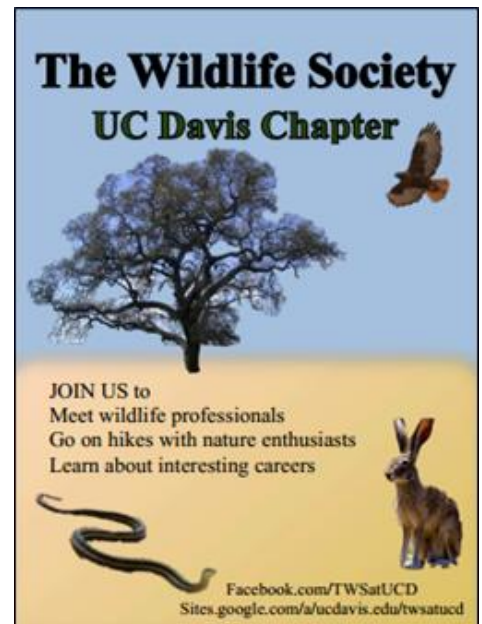
## UC Davis Student Chapter Update

Bailey Higa

This year, the UC Davis Chapter of The Wildlife Society has been extremely active, both on and off campus! Some of our goals for this year are to continue engaging our members in a variety of fun activities, as well as provide more opportunities for community service and career equipment. With over 70 people signing up to be part of the club at our first general meeting in October, we were off to a great start!

Last Fall, we had several events throughout the quarter including a scavenger hunt with another UC Davis club, SEEDS, a Q&A session with current veterinary students of the UC Davis WAAM Club, and a tour of the UC Davis Raptor Center. Our amazing Philanthropy Coordinator, Maddie, also organized a community service event at the Winters Salmon Festival. In addition, we had representatives from TWS at the New Student Social and the Student Involvement Fair put on by the UC Davis College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences!

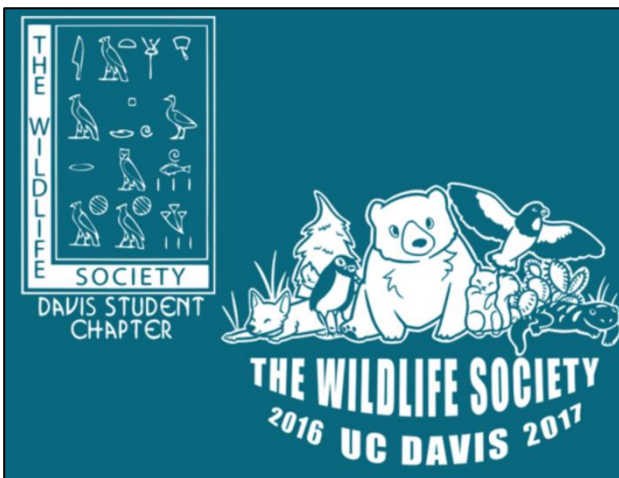
Last Winter, we continued providing awesome bonding events for our members through fundraisers at Blaze Pizza and The Habit, a hike to Lake Clementine, and a community service opportunity at the UC Davis Arboretum Plant Sales. We also hosted a USA Jobs workshop, invited



a UC Davis alumnus to speak on his research with fish, and held an interview basics seminar. Our most popular event, the annual Año Nuevo Elephant Seal Walk at the Año Nuevo State Park was also a huge success!

Recent events included a camping trip for all our members, a booth at UC Davis' Annual Picnic Day, and an officer philanthropy day with the ASPCA. We can't wait to continue the fun this quarter!

For more information about the UC Davis TWS Chapter, check out our [webpage!](#)





**UPCOMING EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Field and Science – Call for Speakers!**

*Ona Alminas*



The Sac-Shasta Chapter of TWS presents Field and Science: an evening social series featuring studies in wildlife and the environment – bringing updates from the field to you! We are calling for speakers to showcase their research, side projects or work to other wildlife professionals and other interested folks in a public atmosphere. The preferred format is a conversational presentation, for 30-60 minutes (using powerpoint if desired), and presenters should be comfortable presenting with audio support in a public atmosphere that may share the main space of a bar and/or restaurant. We are looking for speakers who would meet the general interests of our Chapter membership in wildlife biology and environmental fields (but could also draw people from the general public). Please send abstracts or talk ideas to [sac.shasta@gmail.com](mailto:sac.shasta@gmail.com). Check the Chapter’s [upcoming events webpage](#) or [Facebook page](#), or your email, for the next social!

**Certified Wildlife Biologist Workshop**

The Chapter is co-hosting with the Western Section a workshop focusing on Professional Certification. Certification is looked upon favorably by employers, regulatory agencies, and outsiders to our profession. There are two levels of certification



Workshop Opportunity:  
**Certification Workshop**  
 Co-Sponsored by The Western Section and the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
 October 7, 2017  
 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.  
 Rancho Cordova, CA



offered by The Wildlife Society: Certified Wildlife Biologist (generally at least a BS degree and five years of actual experience as a professional biologist) and Associate Wildlife Biologist (degree, but less experience). This one day workshop will provide you with the tools and knowledge needed to start the certification process and will include detailed information about recertification and Professional Development Certificates. The instructor is Rhys Evans, and will be held at GEI Consultants, 2868 Prospect Park Dr, Suite 400, Rancho Cordova, California 95670. For more information, see the [flier and registration form!](#)

**Vernal Pool Symposium**

The symposium will take place on Wed., **November 8th, 2017** at **Sacramento State University**. It will consist of a full day of oral presentations by vernal pool experts, including speakers from USFWS, CDFW, EPA, USACE, Westervelt Ecological Services, CA Native Plant Society, UC Davis, Teichert, and others. Session topics include vernal pool introduction and status, regulatory overview, botany & wildlife, mitigation, and case studies in







preserves and restoration. A poster session and opportunities to network will occur during an extended lunch break. A spring field trip to local vernal pool landscapes is also being planned, with separate registration. Agenda and registration to open by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of September – and poster presenters sought!

### TWS Western Section Announcements

#### *Life Membership and Member Dues Increased July 1<sup>st</sup>*

The membership of the Western Section (Section) of TWS voted to increase Regular annual dues to \$30, and Student, Early Career Professional, and Retired annual dues to \$15 and Life Member dues to \$675 (three installments of \$150). This dues increase became effective **July 1st, 2017**.



Increased membership dues help maintain Section's support of wildlife professionals and wildlife students through our travel grant and research scholarship programs, offering affordable, quality workshops for members and associates, and by maintaining moderate registration rates for professionals, students and early career professionals to attend annual meetings.



By a minimal increase in dues, the increasing costs of non-profit business operations — like bookkeeping and accounting services, liability insurance, and administrative contracts to oversee our expanding programs will not erode our ability to support wildlife professionals and students, it will in fact strengthen our efforts and abilities. If you haven't already, please support the Section by [renewing your membership](#) today!

#### **2018 Western Section Annual Meeting – Santa Rosa, CA**

The 2018 Western Section TWS Annual Meeting will be held at the **Vineyard Creek Hyatt in Santa Rosa from February 5-9, 2018**. The conference theme is "**Communicating Science**." Through the plenary session, contributed papers, and other parts of this conference, attendees will examine the importance of narrative structure in communicating science between and among members and non-members.

Next year's meeting will also feature two symposiums "Extinction or management of owls: the dilemma of the barred owl invasion in California" and "Effects of Marijuana on Wildlife and Habitat Symposium," a Story Circles Narrative Training DEMO DAY with Randy Olson, Wilderness First Aid Training, and the Wildlife





Biologist Construction Awareness Training (WildC.A.T.). As usual there will be a watershed restoration event, breakfast roundtable discussions, workshops on preparing resumes and presentations, photo show, awards and more!

The Western Section is pleased to help facilitate the meeting of working groups during the Annual Meeting, as has been done in the past. In order to ensure space is available and to help minimize scheduling conflicts, if you are interested in holding a working group meeting, please contact [Candace Renger](#) by December 4, 2017.



The Western Section is now accepting abstracts for Oral Presentations and Posters for the upcoming 2018 Annual Meeting! The planning committee encourages [abstract submissions](#) for several concurrent session topics in the tentative schedule [Call for Papers and Meeting Schedule 2018](#). Abstracts are due by **October 27th, 2017**. We hope to see you in Santa Rosa next February! Be sure to check the Western Section TWS [website](#) often for more updates and announcements!

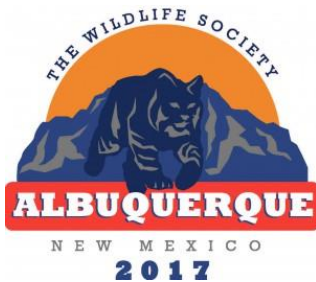
**Apps for the Wildlife Biologist Workshop, October 21st, 2017** – Big Break Regional Shoreline. Oakley, CA. [Link to Flyer](#) - and- [Link to Registration Page](#)



**How to Work with Local Governments: a Workshop for Biologists, November 3-4, 2017**. Location: Lawrence Hall of Science, Berkeley, CA. [Link to Flyer](#)– and – [Link to online registration form](#)

### TWS International Announcements

The Wildlife Society will hold its [24th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society](#) in **Albuquerque, New Mexico** from **September 23-27, 2017**. There will be four Plenary/Keynote sessions, 950+ educational opportunities, 40+ networking opportunities, 3 field trips and much more!! You'll have opportunities to learn, connect and engage in ways that will help propel your career forward and inspire you to strive for even better results in the areas of wildlife science and management that are important to you.



Early indications are that this year's conference could break the all-time attendance record of over 2,000 wildlife professionals and students. Check out the [full detailed schedule](#) and download the PDF of this year's [educational and training program](#). More info at: <http://wildlife.org/tws-24th-annual-conference/>.



**PAST EVENTS**

**TWS Western Section Annual Meeting Recap**

*Rhiannon Klingonsmith*



The Western Section TWS Annual meeting was held on February 6-10, 2017 at the Peppermill Resort in Reno, Nevada. It was another great success with lots of members attending and learning. This year’s theme was “Invasive Species; Globalization & Bad Decisions”. There were numerous great talks and discussion panels that conveyed a good message and had lots of participation. Board members attended meetings with other chapters and the Western Section team to find ways we can share our successes and lessons learned.

The Chapter’s Member’s meeting was well attended (about 50 in total!). In addition to the many wildlife professionals who joined the meeting, we had a large turnout of students attend, including the group we provided a travel grant to from Feather River College to help attend the conference. We discussed upcoming workshops and events the Chapter would be focusing on in 2017, and got feedback of how to best support our members and students. Most importantly we turned over the gavel to our new Chapter President, Ona Alminas, and welcomed our newest board members to the team!

**TWS Yosemite Conclave Summary: Perspective from the U.C. Davis Student Chapter**

The UC Davis Wildlife Society Student Chapter began our time in Yosemite early Thursday morning of the three day event (March 29 - April 2, 2017). We met up with other student chapters from Cal Poly SLO, Humboldt, Oklahoma and Reno to volunteer in the valley. The rain didn’t stop us from spending our morning and early afternoon sawing and hacking through trees in order to clear secondary growth from the forest. Additionally, we established burn sites for another crew to come in and finish at a later date. The next day we went on a hike nearby our field station. We hiked along a powerful river, full from the recent rainfall, and saw countless waterfalls. Two of our officers event took a dip in one, despite the cold! That afternoon we were honored to have talks by various professionals working in Yosemite National Park. We learned about Marten research in the park, the local recovery of the big horned sheep population, as well as bear-human conflicts. The topics were incredibly interesting and it was great to hear from admirable professionals in our field.





We closed out Friday night with a heated Quiz Bowl competition. Teams of four took turns competing in a jeopardy-style trivia game all about wildlife. One of our officers even ended up on the winning team and took home a prize! Saturday morning was spent in the valley completing a scavenger hunt--but with a wildlife twist: we used telemetry to find the missing players! We all got a chance to practice our telemetry skills which will sure to come in handy down the road.



Sunday morning we said our goodbyes to our new friends and the beauty of Yosemite National Park. I believe all of us would agree that our time in Yosemite was extraordinary and we were all sad to leave. That being said, we are more than excited for next year's conclave and have already begun counting down the months!

### Student-Professional Hike, Stebbins Cold Canyon Preserve

*Ona Alminas*

On Saturday, April 1, 2017, approximately 12 professionals and a couple of young professionals took part in the Stebbins Cold Canyon ridge trail – a rigorous 5.5+ mile loop of scenic views overlooking Lake Berryessa. The 2015 Wragg Fire affecting the Preserve provided a rare opportunity for researchers to study the fire ecology of this favorite public hiking area in the Napa/Solano area. It was interesting to see the succession of plant growth two years after the fire. Dan Kopp of California Department of Parks and Recreation joined us and shared his expertise in bird identification. It definitely warmed up at the crest of the trail, but the views were stunning!

### March for Science in Sacramento

*Randi Logsdon*

On Earth Day, April 22nd, 2017, Chapter members joined thousands of scientists and science supporters to march in solidarity with scientists around the nation on a day colloquially known as the “March for Science” and with the theme slogan of “Science Matters”. The event was endorsed and promoted by a number of organizations, including the California Association of Professional Scientists (CAPS) and the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of the Wildlife Society. It was an important and meaningful day, given the opposition to scientific data and understanding in our current political climate and impending budget cuts for scientific research and natural resource agencies.





It was also a very successful day for the Chapter in recruiting new members, as we set up a table to expose many people passing by to who we are and what we do. With bones and skins of wildlife for children to enjoy and learn from, photographs and informational flyers, we garnished a considerable amount of interest from passing scientists, families, students and people who are interested in wildlife.

Then as a group, Chapter members marched amongst many others from Southside Park on 8th and T Street to the State Capitol on Capitol Mall. Streets were closed as the thousand or so people marched waving signs with slogans such as “Wildlife Matters”, “Wildlife Biologists Providing a Voice to Those Species Some Want to Silence”, “Mad Scientist”, “To Promote the Progress of Science, Art. 1, Sec. 8, U.S. Constitution”, “I Should be Collecting Data Right Now”, “The Only Science Agenda Is Truth”, and other very clever and poignant slogans that promoted the value of science to our lives, our health and our well-being. The gamut of messages ranged across many different scientific disciplines from medical research to chemistry to the environment, but we all moved with a single voice, whether the messages addressed climate change or disease prevention or other benefits of scientific research to society.

At the end of the march, many gathered in a large group at the Capitol for live music and a rally, while others scattered throughout the neighborhoods still carrying their signs as they left the scene to continue their day. It was a peaceful event and well-received by local media. I for one am proud to be a part of this important and passionate community and felt especially proud to represent the Chapter to people with like minds and similar pursuits.

As long as we keep up our good work, our voices and our data will be heard and acknowledged. Science will continue to matter, making this world a better place for ourselves, our children and future generations.



TWS Chapter Board members Katie Smith, Caitlin Roddy, and Carlos Alvarado marching with their science signs.



## Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse Symposium

Katie Smith

On May 23-25, 2017 the Sacramento-Shasta and UC Davis Chapters of The Wildlife Society hosted the Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse Symposium at UC Davis. About 120 registrants attended the classroom session on the 23rd. Attendees came from a variety of sectors including federal, state and local governments; private environmental consultants; habitat mitigation services; academic research institutions; and nonprofit organizations. Presentations covered salt marsh harvest mouse (*Reithrodontomys raviventris*) ecology from the days before it was listed as endangered, to the most recent cutting edge genetics being performed on the species. The day started with 3 talks about recovery of the species over time, with Dr. Howard Shellhammer and Ron Duke providing insight into the research that led to the listing of the mouse as Endangered. Colin Grant of the USFWS then spoke about the salt marsh harvest mouse in the context of the recently updated Recovery Plan for the Tidal Marsh Ecosystems of Northern and Central California. Katie Smith then presented her dissertation research on the ecology of the salt marsh harvest mouse in tidal and managed wetlands. During the second session Dr. Mark Statham and Susan Fresquez of UC Davis, and Anastasia Ennis of San Francisco State University presented their work on the genetics of the mouse. Next Rachel Tertes and Meg Marriot of the USFWS and Laureen Barthman-Thompson of CDFW presented the status of the salt marsh harvest mouse in the major areas of the San Francisco Bay Estuary. Next John Mattox, Legal Counsel to CDFW, Dr. Scott Osborn of CDFW and Angela Galaretta of the USFWS presented on various legal and permitting restrictions regarding working with the species. During the last session Kate Allan and Claire Woolf of WRA consulting spoke about the challenges of environmental consulting in salt marsh harvest mouse habitat, Isa Woo of the USGS presented new methods for organizing and analyzing survey data, Dr. Diego Sustaita presented work on using statistical analyses for differentiating salt marsh and western harvest mice, and Sarah Estrella of CDFW presented draft survey protocols developed by the Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse Working Group. Additionally, there was a poster session during lunch and an expert panel/group discussion at the end of the day. Finally, the UC Davis Museum of Wildlife and Fish Biology provided a beautiful display that illustrated the morphological similarities among rodents in the San Francisco Bay Estuary and had tools for examining important differences in the skulls of various rodent species. At the end of the day, participants met up for an informal happy hour at the Davis Graduate to keep the mousy conversations going.



Dr. Howard Shellhammer, the pioneer of SMHM research and champion of efforts to get the species listed, speaks about the early days of research and conservation efforts for SMHM. Behind him sits Ron Duke, another pioneer of early research on the species.



Field orientation participants stand on a levee observing the differences between tidal and managed habitat for SMHM.



CDFW Environmental Scientists Laurie Barthman-Thompson briefs field orientation participants on best practices for working in the marshes of the San Francisco Estuary.

On the 24th and 25th, about 20 participants per day met out at the Suisun Bay Overlook at sunrise to learn about techniques for working in marshes without causing damage and safely surveying for small mammals. Laureen Barthman-Thompson and Katie Smith of CDFW talked about performing surveys of salt marsh harvest mice in the Suisun Marsh and pointed out different vegetation types and microhabitat types used by the mouse. Following the Field Methods Orientations, participants had the opportunity to volunteer with CDFW and observe salt marsh harvest mouse trapping

methods. Overall, the event was a great success. Never before had most of the salt marsh harvest mouse researchers throughout the San Francisco Bay Estuary come together to present their research and management experiences. Attendees and presenters alike learned many new things about the species, and the Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse Working Group even learned of some new research needs that hadn't been considered important before. Participants had a great time and expressed hope that the event would be repeated in the future.



We owe a huge thanks to our sponsors Westervelt Ecological Services, ICF, Olofson Environmental, East Bay Regional Parks District, and WRA, Inc. The Suisun Marsh Unit at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife also put in a huge amount of effort to make this event happen, prepping all of the programs, Field Orientation booklets, printing posters, and more.

## Green Drinks – June 2017

David Moldoff

On June 15th, 2017, the Chapter collaborated with the local non-profit [Green Drinks](#) to co-host a social mixer. Green Drinks, for those who don't know, organizes social mixers once a month for people who care or work with the environment. One of the great aspects of Green Drinks is that they work with the chosen venue to donate one dollar of each drink purchased their events to a local non-profit organization.



Chapter Treasurer Bonnie Peterson (left) and Vice President David Moldoff (far right) share a chuckle at the Green Drinks mixer.

The event was held from 5:30-7:30 pm at Kupros Craft House, a local downtown Sacramento establishment. The mixer had an amazing turnout of approximately 50 people, most of whom worked professionally with environmental concerns, including recycling, air quality, and, of course, wildlife. The gathering was a fun relaxing event that enabled people to casually talk with like-minded people about common concerns, upcoming events and inspiring new ideas.



## Bites and Stings

Randi Logsdon

On the evening of June 28th, 2017, the Chapter hosted Field and Science, an event that combines a scientific presentation with a social setting for networking. The presentation on this day was called “Bites and Stings” and was presented by Mike Cardwell from the San Diego State University, Department of Biology, who is an expert on rattlesnake research as well as other venomous creatures. Participants enjoyed libations and delicious-looking food at the Streets Pub & Grub in midtown Sacramento while learning what we need to know about California’s venomous animals, how to identify them and what to do when we encounter them. Besides enjoying the company of my colleagues and Chapter members, I was amazed at what I learned.



Many people have an irrational, innate fear of spiders, snakes, bees, wasps and ants. While I tend to rescue spiders from bathtub drains, leave black widows to hide in their corners, grow garden flowers specifically to attract bees, and talk to snakes like they are adorable pets, others are quick to kill these innocent animals for fear of the killer bite or sting they think will mortally wound them. Mr. Cardwell opened our eyes on a number of facts. We have only one venomous spider and one venomous snake in California, the black widow and the rattlesnake. Most bites are harmless to the average healthy adult if treated quickly and only result in adverse effects to those who are seriously allergic and experience anaphylaxis shock. Mortality mostly results from the effects of an allergic reaction to bee, ant, or wasp stings; never from the venom itself. Snakes are shy creatures, and rattlesnakes will just as soon run away from anyone who approaches; bites only occur when a snake is accidentally stepped on or adolescent male humans with alcohol try to pick them up. Black widows are equally as shy and only bite on the rare occasion a hand or foot makes contact with the spider—such as when one might crawl into a shoe. California scorpions or tarantulas may sting, but their venom is harmless to humans. What also surprised me was to learn that in some cases, the anti-venom administered by hospitals could be more dangerous to one’s body than the bite or sting. A black widow bite may only cause some muscular aches and pains, which diminish within a couple of days. Rattlesnake bites could damage tissue, so a quick run to the nearest hospital was highly recommended.

Mr. Cardwell gave valuable information on what to do on that rare occasion of being bit or stung or in the company of a field companion who is bit or stung. He also educated us on the myth of the “brown recluse” in California, since the only venomous species is well to the east and south of us, from Texas to approximately Tennessee. He provided



Mike Cardwell presents at Streets Pub and Grub for the “Bites and Stings” Field and Science social, held June 28, 2017.





valuable information about the biology of some of these species and how to react or not to react in order to avoid a potentially negative encounter. For the most part, many of these species provide an ecological service such as consumption of flying insects, pollination of our fruits or flowers, and other benefits we may not be aware of. Like sharks, wolves, bats and other unfortunately feared species, snakes, spiders and other crawly creatures have a really bad rap in our human culture. I appreciated the benefit of Mr. Cardwell's expertise on these animals and excellent advice to field biologists who may encounter them.

The Field and Science series will continue with many other interesting and informative talks, so keep an eye out for them in your email, on the Chapter's website or social media, or in future Magpie issues.

Past Field and Science events and speakers in 2017:

- "Ecotourism or Real Science? Studying CA Red-legged Frogs in Mexico" with Jeff Alvarez, The Wildlife Project held at Streets Pub and Grub in Sacramento (May 31)
- "Venomous Bites and Stings in Northern California" with Mike Cardwell, San Diego State, held at Streets Pub and Grub in Sacramento (June 28)
- "The History and Current Status of Wolverines in California" with Chris Stermer, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, held at Blue Prynt in Sacramento (July 26)
- "CEQA Impacts Analysis for Bats" with Kim Fettke at Blue Prynt in Sacramento (August 24).

### ***Northern Area Summer Social***

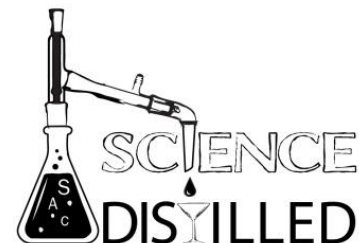
*Ona Alminas*

On Thursday, August 3, 2017, the Chapter hosted a social at Woody's Brewing Company in Redding, CA with the help of our Northern Region Liaison, Kori Hutchison. Sacramento locals Ona Alminas and Carlos Alvarado attended, and joined 15 or so other professionals and young professionals from the Redding and Shasta areas from Sierra Pacific Industries, WM Beatty, North State Resources, Turtle Bay, CalTrans, CDFW and the USFS. The intimate setting allowed for extensive and productive conversations of the wildlife issues faced in this part of the state, and the species and environmental issues that might be able to be addressed from our Chapter's end to provide future training, networking and other opportunities with our members. Another evening social event is being planned in the Redding area in October or November – stay tuned at our Facebook page and website!

### ***Science Distilled – History, Acquisition, and of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area – August 2017***

*David Moldoff*

Well over 50 people attended the [Science Distilled](#) on Wednesday, August 16th, 2017 at Streets Pub and Grub in Sacramento. This event was partnered with our Chapter to share to showcase the Chair of the Yolo Basin Foundation (Pete Bontadelli) and the Wildlife Area Manager (Jeff Stoddard), who provided riveting presentations about the past, present, and future of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.





### **Field and Science – CEQA Impacts Analysis for Bats – August 2017**

Most of California does not have any state- or federally-listed bat species, thus the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is the primary regulatory mechanism for protecting bat populations. Biologists often use a somewhat standardized approach under CEQA to analyze potential impacts to wildlife species. Since the life history of many bat species is different from most wildlife species, impact assessments should be conducted differently. Approximately 20 chapter members, and members of the public attended our Field and Science to learn from Kim Fettke about a new CEQA Impact Analysis method for bats on Thursday, August 24th, 2017 at Blue Prynt Board Room in Sacramento. Engaging discussion and questions were floated, and all enjoyed the networking and free appetizers!

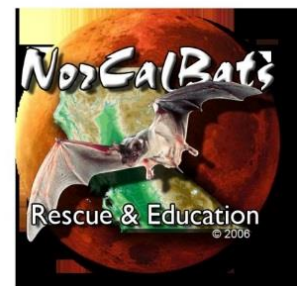


### **Bullfrog Control in California Field Workshop – August 2017**

A [Bullfrog Workshop](#) was hosted by [The Wildlife Project](#) on August 24-25, 2017 at Blue Oak Ranch Reserve and highlighted the specific technique of the use of an air rifle for lethal take of bullfrogs (*Lithobates catesbeianus*). This workshop offered training experience for attendees, and served to control of bullfrogs in an area that supports federally-listed threatened California red-legged frogs (*Rana draytonii*).

### **Members Event – Yolo Bat Talk and Walk – August 2017**

Twenty-five existing and new Chapter members joined Yolo Basin Foundation Staff member Corky Quirk for her brilliant 45 minute presentation with NorCal Bats on bat natural history, followed by a viewing of Mexican free-tailed bats emerging at sunset at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area 6pm on Thursday, August 31st, 2017.



## **JOB and VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Open Exam bulletin for **Environmental Scientist** (multiple State agencies) at the following website: <https://jobs.ca.gov/Public/Bulletin.aspx?examCD=9PB01>. If you are on the Environmental Scientist list, you can check for [vacancies](#). For the latest information on seasonal openings with CDFW, visit <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Employment/Seasonal>.

Check out The Wildlife Society's Wildlife Careers Online at <http://careers.wildlife.org> and the TWS-West job site at <http://www.tws-west.org/jobs.php>. For local job announcements and volunteer opportunities, check: <http://tws-west.org/sac-shasta/home/jobs-volunteering>. If anyone has job or volunteer opportunities to post in our next newsletter, please contact the [editor](#).



\*\*\*NOTICE\*\*\*

**Wildlife Tours, Other Upcoming Events and Items of Interest**

Join **Cosumnes River Preserve** staff and visitors for several events during the summer, including habitat restoration workdays, guided walks and bird surveys. Check out the Preserve's [webpage](#) for upcoming events!



From mid-June to mid-September the Yolo Basin Foundation hosts the **Bat Talk and Walk at Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area** for people to learn about bats and watch the Mexican free-tailed bats colony fly. Reservations are required. To register, please visit [www.yolobasin.org](http://www.yolobasin.org). For more information, email [cquirk@yolobasin.org](mailto:cquirk@yolobasin.org).

Check out the **Guided Wetland Tours at Gray Lodge Wildlife Area!** A wildlife naturalist will lead a group, school or organization on a half-mile route through diverse wetlands. General information includes wildlife identification, behavior patterns and conservation efforts. Tours can be customized to include requested information. The minimum group size is 18 people and reservations are required. For more information, please call (530) 846-7505 or email [lori.dieter@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:lori.dieter@wildlife.ca.gov).



The **Effie Yeaw Nature Center** is dedicated to bringing awareness of the beauty and diversity of the natural world to children, families, and the community through education initiatives that foster appreciation, enjoyment, and stewardship of the unique natural and cultural resources of the Sacramento region. Check out some of their [upcoming events!](#)

Or you can go birding with [Sacramento Audubon Society](#) or botanizing with the [Sacramento Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society \(CNPS\)](#)!

**2017 California Legislative Update**

*Justin Garcia*

There are many bills that have recently passed or remain pending in both the California state legislature that may be of interest to wildlife professionals and Chapter members, including but not limited, to: 1.) the [Preserve California \(SB- 49, 50, 51\)](#) package which would prevent rollbacks in federal environmental regulations and endangered species conservation, shield public lands from exploitation, and protect government employee whistleblowers and public scientific data; 2.) the California Clean Water, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (**AB-18** and **SB-5**) would bring a proposition to the 2018 ballot for \$3 billion in bonds to finance a program in the bill's name; 3.) **SB-473** would make various





changes to the California Endangered Species Act; 4.) there were various proposals to extend and revise the cap-and-trade program to help reduce carbon emissions (e.g., **SB-775**); and 5.) **SB-100** would make it the policy of the State that 100% of total retail sales of electricity in California should be from zero-carbon resources by 2046. For information on pending and chaptered California legislation concerning wildlife and natural resources, check out the [2017 CDFW legislative report](#).

**California Fish and Game Commission**

Justin Garcia

The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) voted on June 21th, 2017 to designate [foothill yellow-legged frog \(\*Rana boylii\*\)](#) as a candidate under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), and CDFW will commence a full status review. The Commission also voted to ratify findings on the decision to list the [northern spotted owl \(\*Strix occidentalis caurina\*\)](#) as a threatened species under CESA, but official designation will require completion of procedural steps. Until all procedural steps are completed, northern spotted owls in California remain designated as a Candidate species under CESA. And the Commission formally received a petition to list the [Cascades frog \(\*Rana cascadae\*\)](#) as threatened or endangered under CESA, and will vote on whether or not the petitioned action may be warranted later this year.



**Remember**

By National membership vote and a change in bylaws, Associate Wildlife Biologists and Certified Wildlife Biologists must minimally be members in good standing of The Wildlife Society to retain their Certifications. An updated certification directory is available by contacting [certification@wildlife.org](mailto:certification@wildlife.org).

The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter welcomes comments and input from our members. If you have suggestions for articles, questions you want answered, things you'd like to see us do, or events to announce, please let us know! Contact any one of the Board members.

Do you like the Magpie newsletter? [Please take this survey](#). Any feedback for improvements would be greatly appreciated!





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