



The Magpie

The Wildlife Society / Sacramento-Shasta Chapter



Volume 12, Issue 4

January, 2005

From the Editor

Sara Lee

Hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and had some time with family and friends. Welcome to 2005! The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of The Wildlife Society is excited to offer workshops that were postponed from last fall, and some new ones as well. We hope to continue providing opportunities to develop new skills and grow in your field. If you have any suggestions on what you'd like to see from us in the future, please let us know.

Be sure to read about the upcoming Chapter social event and our next Chapter meeting to be held at The Wildlife Society Western Section Annual Conference. Also, it's election time! Read on for more information.

As always, The Magpie is available on the Chapter website: www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta/index.htm. If you know someone who did not receive an email announcing this issue, please refer that person to the website or have him/her contact me: slee@esassoc.com.

CHAPTER NEWS

Treasurer's Report

Kirsten Christopherson

As of December 7, 2004, the current Chapter balance was \$17,657.52. Income for the calendar year was \$1,397.00 and was mostly acquired from membership dues. Expenses totaled \$1,534.00. Major expense items were the Tracking Workshop deposit, Chapter Social activities, and a contribution to the TWS National Conference.

Chapter Meetings

Executive members of the Board met at Granzella's Restaurant in Williams on December 8, 2004 to discuss Chapter business and events. Meetings are generally held once a month and are open to all Chapter members.

Notice for the Next Sacramento-Shasta Chapter Board Meeting

The next Chapter Board meeting will be held at The Wildlife Society Western Section Annual Meeting and Conference on January 19-21, 2005 at the Doubletree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way, in Sacramento. There will be a meeting room set aside for us and we will gather between **6:30-9:00 p.m.** on **Thursday, January 20th**. See the Western Section's website for more information about their conference (<http://www.tws-west.org/>). The next meeting The Chapter Meeting will be on **January**. Look forward to seeing you all – Stay dry and safe!

Website Updates

Melinda Dorin

Our new webmaster has been hired and is starting work on updating and completing the redesign of the Chapter website. Once the redesign is complete the next thing to update is content. The Chapter Board Members will be working with the webmaster to get this finished. If a Chapter Member has an idea for something they would like to see on the new website please contact Melinda Dorin at mdorin@energy.state.ca.us or 916-654-4024. This should be up and running by the end of January. Hard copies of what the new website will look like will be available at the Chapter Meeting being held at the Western Section Annual Meeting in Sacramento.

Elections

Thanks to Mike for leading us through a great year! We now welcome Brett to the office of President and look forward to another exciting year. Currently, we have the office of "President-Elect" open and are looking for candidates to fill this position.

The "President-Elect" should expect to come to Chapter business meetings, help plan events for the Chapter, and offer general support for Chapter events. The

following year (2006), the "President Elect" will automatically become "President." Participating on the Chapter Executive Board is a chance to offer services and opportunities to the Chapter community, and make new friends and contacts in the wildlife biology field. We are a small but friendly and dedicated bunch! If you are interested, please contact Natalie Cull-Rodrigues at natalie@avminstrument.com or Melinda Dorin at mdorin@energy.state.ca.gov.

The current Board members for 2005 are as follows:

President – Brett Furnas (bfurnas@dfg.ca.gov)

President-Elect – VACANT

Secretary – Natalie Cull-Rodrigues
(Natalie@avminstrument.com)

Treasurer – Kirsten Christopherson
(kirsten.christopherson@beale.af.mil)

Chapter Representative (interim) – Craig Bailey
(cbailey@wildlandsinc.com)

Past President – Mike Grifantini (Grifantini@digital-star.com)

UPCOMING EVENTS, INFORMATION SOURCES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tracking Workshop RESCHEDULED

The tracking workshop, previously scheduled for last October, is now scheduled for **April 26-27, 2005**. This new date should give everyone interested time to plan for and attend this workshop. The workshop will be held at The Nature Conservancy's **Cosumnes River Preserve**. We had a lot of interest in this workshop last fall and we anticipate good attendance this year, so sign up early – attendance is limited to 30 people.

Click [here](#) for workshop details and the registration form. Please contact me if you have questions.

Melinda Dorin

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Aspen and Meadow Restoration Workshop to be rescheduled in 2005

The Aspen and Meadow Restoration Workshop, previously scheduled for last October, will be held later this year. This workshop was postponed due to unseasonably inclement weather. However, the Chapter plans on rescheduling it to take place some time in late

spring or early summer, when getting snowed out should not be an issue! As soon as a workshop date is fixed, we will be contacting the list of original registrants as well announcing the event through various media. Please look out for more details in the next issue of the Magpie. We hope that everyone interested will register (or re-register).

Workshop details:

The Aspen and Meadow Restoration workshop will be held entirely in the field in scenic Lassen County and participants will explore the logistical issues associated with implementing projects for restoring these valuable montane habitats. The field trip will visit projects recently completed on National Forest and private timberlands. Biologists, foresters, agency staff and all other interested parties are encouraged to attend. More information and registration material are available at the Chapter website (www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta) under "Upcoming Events," or by contacting **Brett Furnas** at bfurnas@dfg.ca.gov.

Ecology and Management of Forest Headwaters, Springs, and Seeps Workshop

The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter is assisting with coordination of an upcoming workshop regarding the ecology and management of forested, mesic habitats. Speakers will include experts on invertebrate and vertebrate species associated with springs and seeps, hydrology/geology, water quality, and related private forest land regulations. The workshop will feature prepared presentations in the morning and a field trip in the afternoon to view representative habitats on private timberland and discuss their management.

For those potentially interested in this workshop, it is expected to be held in **Redding** in either **May or June, 2005**. In addition, another workshop covering the same material will likely be held during the winter of 2005-2006. Refer to the Chapter's website and future newsletters for more information.

Chapter Social Event

Our last social was so successful that we've decided to have another one! Mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 12, 2005**. We will likely have tables reserved at Pyramid Brewery on K Street, Downtown Sacramento for Chapter members and friends. Come on down, bring a buddy, and mingle! Appetizers and beer (up to a certain amount) will be covered by the Chapter. Stay tuned for details....

Employment Opportunities...

Keep checking the website for jobs and volunteer positions!

<http://www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta/getajob.htm>

FEATURE ARTICLE

My Perspective on the Year 2004

Mike Grifantini, Past President, Sacramento-Shasta Chapter TWS

I have completed 2004 as the President of our Chapter and, as is customary, I am writing a short piece on my tenure and the Chapter's accomplishments. In a nutshell, our Chapter continued to make progress with those items that we believed to be expected and desired by our membership. Effort continues on the website, so that it is attractive, informative, and up-to-date. We planned two workshops this year, one regarding aspen management and the other on practical animal tracking. Unfortunately, for legitimate reasons, both were cancelled; however, both are considered to be very worthwhile and will be rescheduled for 2005. We continue to actively solicit input on other important topics for which to provide workshops or conferences in the coming years. In addition, we are making progress on initiating our college scholarship and conference grant program. With these efforts we are making strides to improve communications with our membership, provide meaningful training opportunities, and to give encouragement to young students and professionals just breaking into the profession.

From a personal perspective, I think back on the year and have to admit that I thoroughly enjoyed working with all the Board members. They are a thoughtful, energetic, fun-loving, and creative group. Of those of you that have considered attending a Board meeting, but thought it might be too dull, please reconsider. I always had a lot of fun and learned a lot (not all related to the TWS). Thanks for all of your effort Brett, Melinda, Kirsten, Sara, Linda, and Natalie! Each of you bring the great spirit and tradition of volunteerism that is so

important to our society. I hope to continue working with you in the coming years.

Lastly, since I have a blank check to write anything I want, I decided to throw out some thoughts that have been on my mind lately. The tragedies of the past summer's hurricanes and recent catastrophic tsunami in the Indian Ocean, make we wonder about the risks (ecological, economic, and safety) we incur from our decision of where we chose to live.

As I see it, there seems to be two different factors at play causing poor choices in where people live. For affluent societies such as ours, affluence, itself, is the culprit. The societies have adequate funds to allow technological solutions that allow people to live in sensitive areas. Technology and programs such as air conditioners, massive water redistribution programs, and effective wildland fire fighting allow large numbers of people to live in areas that held few historically. John McPhee wrote a book called "Control of Nature" that I recommend to everyone. He describes some of the massive engineering projects that have allowed people to live in dangerous areas, then suggests that there are actually two potential ways societies can address the question of living in problem areas—first, by designing engineering fixes that allow traditional use of the land or, second, to make conscious decisions not to use the land in traditional manners and, instead to use it in manners compatible with its inherent risks.

Engineering fixes (such as dams or river levees) seem popular because they provide jobs and they allow people to do whatever they want, wherever they want. Such fixes mean that neither societies nor individuals ever need to say "no" to their land use desires. Seemingly, the engineering fix addresses the problem but never changes the causative risk factors. Frequently, the conditions continue to deteriorate until the problem can not be solved without larger and larger engineering fixes. It is like taking drugs! In contrast, there are relatively few adherents to behavioral solutions, such as deciding not to live in or develop risky areas or habitats. Perhaps the problem is that in societies where people move a lot, have few ties to the older generations that have an historical perspective, and have access to insurance the risks

they take might not be obvious or appear insignificant. Or maybe people are just not good at using restraint in their lives.

The problem in the less affluent societies seems to be more one of over-population. There are so many people and each has to live somewhere. Areas deemed too risky in past generations are considered by the newer generation as empty places where they might be able to survive. Even if there is interaction with an older generation with an historical perspective on risks, taking these risks is probably a lot lower on their list of things to worry about than day-to-day survival.

In my view, the problems associated with people living in risky locations can best be solved with individual family decisions. Less affluent societies will need to seriously address their overpopulation

problems and individual families will need to understand the implications of unrestrained population growth on their economies, health, and environment. On the other hand, those of us in affluent societies must kick the engineering fix mentality. We also need to individually counter the political pressures exerted on our legislators to make poor land use decisions. Finally, we should eliminate programs by which our society subsidizes the risks that a portion of the population takes. Ultimately, our individual choices make very strong statements.

The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter encourages others to comment on this topic or other thoughts that might be on member's minds.

**The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of The Wildlife Society,
1008 10th Street, PMB 245, Sacramento, CA 95814**

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