



# The Magpie

The Wildlife Society / Sacramento-Shasta Chapter



Volume 13, Issue 1

April, 2005

## President's Message

*Brett Furnas*

I would like to wish everybody a happy Spring, but the weather keeps jumping around on us. One week it feels like summer, the next one you're doing your field work in a snow storm. Before we know, it will be back to those 100+ degree days again and hikes in the high country.

One thing that I can say is that I am honored to serve as this year's Chapter president. My intention is continue the focus on our Chapter's core functions. Last year under past president Mike Grifantini, we spent time reworking the budget as a tool for how we would keep old project areas and start some new ones. This year we will further implement that plan. First and foremost, the Chapter will continue to organize high quality education workshops on a range of relevant topics. This year we will offer workshops on 1) wildlife tracking, 2) protection of spring and seep habitats, 3) restoration of aspen and meadow habitats, and 4) the process of environmental permitting. We will also be reaching out to our members through a newly revamped website, the Magpie newsletter that you are reading now, and social events like our get-together this past March at the Pyramid Ale House in Sacramento. I believe that these services will provide important opportunities for continuing education as well as informal forums where we can come to together to share perspectives.

I am pleased to announce that the Chapter is starting a new effort this year. The Chapter has created a scholarship program to provide promising and motivated students of wildlife biology with grants of up to \$1,000 towards academics or for allowing students to attend a scientific conference. We hope to receive applications and make the first awards in 2005.

If you have any questions about the Sacramento Shasta Chapter or any of our projects, please feel free to contact me or any of the other Board Members. The Board meets four times a year, usually at Granzella's restaurant in Williams. You are always welcome to attend or otherwise participate in the business of the Chapter.

Cheers,

Brett Furnas

## CHAPTER NEWS

### Treasurer's Report

*Kirsten Christopherson*

The Chapter Balance as of 28<sup>th</sup> of March was \$19,408.33. Income so far for the 2005 calendar year is \$1,366.00 and was generated due to workshop revenue and membership dues. Current expenses for calendar year 2005 total less than \$20.

### Chapter Meetings

Executive members of the Board met before the Chapter Social, at Pyramid Alehouse, Brewery & Restaurant in Sacramento on March 12, 2005. Under direction of our new President, we reviewed Chapter business items and planned new events and workshops for our members. Meetings are always open to our members. If you would like to be notified of future meeting dates and locations, please contact **Sara Lee** at [slee@esassoc.com](mailto:slee@esassoc.com) or check our website:

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

## Chapter Social

Thank you to those of you who attended the Chapter Social at Pyramid Alehouse, Brewery & Restaurant in Sacramento on March 12, 2005! We hope you enjoyed meeting and chatting with other members, as well as the first few beers and appetizers, courtesy of the Chapter. We realize that many of you members could not attend and we missed you! But worry not, we will have another social in the summer, so stay tuned for the details...

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## Website Update

*Melinda Dorin*

The new and improved Sacramento Shasta Chapter website is 90% complete. After a few finishing touches the new pages will be uploaded to their old home. We will send out an announcement when the website is completed so members can see the new design. Remember, the website is here to communicate with our members and post information. If you have something that you would like to see posted let a board member know.

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## Call for Workshop and Event Ideas!

We always want our workshops and events to serve our membership. Some new ideas include having a Tracking Workshop for kids and a Permitting Workshop series aimed at college students and young professionals. We've come up with event ideas that are more social and have typically been well attended in the past. Outreach efforts will focus on getting the word out to students about the scholarships we are offering, and informing the general public about a group of professional biologists within the region that may serve as a valuable resource to those with questions about biological issues and policies. We are also interested in partnering with other groups on topics that have a broader range. If you have ideas or would like to see something specific, please contact a board member! We'll discuss any ideas that we receive.

## UPCOMING EVENTS, INFORMATION SOURCES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### EARTH WEEK ACTIVITIES: APRIL 16-21, 2005

Beale Air Force Base is sponsoring a celebration of Earth Week by offering several activities for persons of all ages. The activities include a nature and birding walk, environmental displays, tree plantings, and vernal pool tours. Bring the family for some good, clean, earth-y fun! For more information, contact Sam Werikhe at [Samson.werikhe@beale.af.mil](mailto:Samson.werikhe@beale.af.mil) or (530) 634-9568, or view the links below:

[Earth Week Schedule of Events](#)

[Earth Week Poster](#)

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### Bufferlands Big Day Bird Tour

**Saturday, April 23rd**  
7:00 am - 3:00 pm

Would you enjoy a fast-paced day in the field, searching diverse habitat types for a wide variety of bird species? If so, join members of the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District's (SRCSD) Bufferlands staff for a day in search of 100 species, or more (in the past three years, we've seen between 108 and 112 species). Expect to see a heron, egret and cormorant rookery, many species of waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, migrating songbirds, and lingering winter residents. The SRCSD's Bufferlands contain 2,650 acres of seasonal and permanent wetlands, riparian forest, grasslands, vernal pools, and restored habitats. Group size is limited, so be sure to reserve a place in advance.

For more information, call 875-9309 ext. 1, or e-mail **Chris Conard**: [conardc@saccounty.net](mailto:conardc@saccounty.net)

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### Walk on the Wildside

**Saturday, May 14th**  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

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Join the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) Bufferlands and the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge for a Walk on the Wildside, a celebration of International Migratory Bird Day. Walk on the Wildside highlights local efforts to protect and restore Central Valley habitats. This free, family-oriented event includes tours, presentations, live animals, music, hands-on activities, informational exhibits, and more. Guided and self-guided tours are offered throughout the day. Explore a pristine valley oak riparian forest in search of migratory songbirds. Visit numerous wetland and riparian restoration projects. Enjoy a unique opportunity to see one of approximately four heron rookeries in Sacramento County on a Bufferlands guided tour. This rookery contains over 100 active nests of great blue herons, great egrets, and double-crested cormorants. Spotting scopes will be available for optimum viewing of these fascinating birds.

The event is held at Beach Lake Park, near the town of Freeport. For a map or for more information visit [www.bufferlands.com](http://www.bufferlands.com).

For additional info contact **Kevin Cassady** at 875-9196 or [cassadyk@saccounty.net](mailto:cassadyk@saccounty.net).

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### **Sacramento-Shasta Chapter TWS Initiates Student Scholarship / Conference Grant Program**

The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter is excited to announce that our scholarship and grant program is up and running! The funds are derived from profits gained at conferences that the Chapter helped coordinate. This program is for deserving wildlife students attending any college (either an undergraduate or graduate student at a community college or university) in the area served by the Chapter. Scholarships are to help defray college expenses while the grants are intended to assist the student in paying the costs of attending conferences. Please see the Chapter's website under *Student Info* for more information, application directions, and applications. Grants can be awarded any time of the year, with two months notice prior to conferences, but the scholarship deadline is **December 1st** of each year. Address

any questions not contained within the directions or applications to **Mike Grifantini** at [Grifantini@digital-star.com](mailto:Grifantini@digital-star.com).

If you know of deserving students—please tell them about this opportunity!

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### **Western Section Activities Report**

*Melinda Dorin* – Chapter Rep. to the Western Section

The Western Section has developed a policy and price list for liability insurance for the Chapters to use when they host workshops. The Sac-Shasta Chapter is appreciative of the Section making the policy available. The Section has also agreed to host the National Conference in 2009 within the Section Boundaries. A location has not yet been specified. In other Section business, there is an effort to increase outreach to the membership by issuing a paper newsletter in the coming weeks and to also start the process of redesigning the website. Several workshops are being planned over the next year, the best place to find an updated calendar is on the Western Section website at <http://www.tws-west.org/>.

The next Western Section Business meeting is scheduled for May. If Chapter members have ideas, issues or viewpoints they would like to bring up at the business meeting contact me at [mdorin@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:mdorin@energy.state.ca.us) or 916-654-4024.

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### **2006 TWS Western Section Annual Meeting**

*TWS President-Elect: Kevin Hunting*

Mark your Calendars early this Year!

- What: The 2006 Annual Conference of the Western Section of the Wildlife Society
- When: **8 – 10 February, 2006** (Field trips tentatively planned for Saturday February 11).
- Where: Doubletree Hotel, **Sacramento, CA**

The 2006 conference will include concurrent technical sessions focusing presentations on research and issues facing wildlife professionals in the Western Section. We anticipate a general call for papers in late summer 2005 and encourage presentation of both completed original research projects and preliminary or interim study results. The deadline for submission of abstracts is Friday, October 14, 2005. Please mark you calendars and watch the electronic and print newsletters for more information and the call for papers later this Summer.

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### Western Section Needs Your Papers!

The Western Section's annually published peer-reviewed journal, "Transactions of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society," is seeking papers for consideration to publish in the 2005 volume. The "Transactions" publishes papers addressing wildlife management, research, conservation, and planning topics focusing on the Western United States as well as papers that address general wildlife topics of interest to the Western Section's 1200 members. The "Transactions" have a rapid publication turn around time of usually 7-8 months after the paper is submitted, and there are no page costs for Western Section members. Submissions are typically due by May 1 of each year, but submission deadlines are generally extended thru June or July. The 2005 "Transactions" are published early 2006. Submission guidelines can be viewed at <http://www.tws-west.org/> under "Section News."

Submissions from students are particularly encouraged, and submissions do not have to be papers presented at the Section's Annual Conference.

Please contact the "Transactions" Editor if you have any questions,

#### Barry Garrison

Transactions "Editor"  
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### TRACKING WORKSHOP

Hurry and Register! There are still limited spots available at the Tracking Workshop on **April 26-27, 2005** at The Nature Conservancy Cosumnes River Preserve in Sacramento California. Come learn about tracking and increase your awareness of the natural environment with Rick Berry of the Children of the Earth Foundation, associated with Tom Brown's Tracking School. Expect to observe tracks of birds, small mammals, deer and any other animals that use the Cosumnes River Preserve trails. We will be meeting at the Cosumnes Preserve Visitor's Center. This 2-day basic tracking class will be held entirely in the field. Topics that will be covered include: Animal Tracking, ID, Gaits, Trails, Runs and Sign, Track Aging, Introduction to Pressure Release Studies, Awareness Exercises, Introduction to the Language of the Birds and Concentric Ring Studies.

For a registration form or if you have questions contact Melinda at [mdorin@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:mdorin@energy.state.ca.us) or 916-654-4024.

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### ASPEN AND MEADOW RESTORATION WORKSHOP

The Chapter is pleased to announce that the Aspen and Meadow Restoration Workshop has been rescheduled for **Tuesday July 26, 2005**. (Due to inclement weather last fall, this workshop had been postponed.) Fire suppression, overgrazing and hydrological changes are factors that have led to the degradation of these important montane habitats. However, in recent years, public and private forest managers have been undertaking projects for restoring aspen and meadow habitats. The aim of this workshop will be to explore the logistical and policy issues associated with carrying out these sorts of projects on-the-ground. Wildlife biologists, foresters, agency staff and other

interested parties are invited to attend this workshop which will be held entirely in the field in scenic Lassen County. Registration materials will be posted on the Chapter Website. For more details, contact **Brett Furnas** at (530) 225-3221 or [bfurnas@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bfurnas@dfg.ca.gov).

## NEW!

### ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF FOREST HEADWATER STREAMS, SEEPS, SPRINGS, PONDS, and WETLAND HABITATS

In response to ongoing interest in mesic habitats within forested landscapes, and whether the existing Forest Practice Rules adequately protect these areas, The Wildlife Society will help coordinate workshops on these topics in 2005. Workshops will occur at the following dates and locations:

**Fort Bragg – May 5-6**  
**Korbel – May 11-12**  
**Redding – June 2-3**

The inland (Redding) workshop will be sponsored by the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of TWS.

Experts in the fields of botany, invertebrates, herpetology, hydrogeology, forest regulations, and forest management will present useful information in a classroom-setting with opportunities to visit several field locations east of Redding to discuss the myriad of issues related to wet area management. This training will be valuable for both biologists and forest managers.

Please visit: <http://tws-cncc.org/pages/FRAWG%20Registration.htm> for an application and for more information.

## FEATURE ARTICLE

### Return of the Harpy

Sara Lee

At least, that is the joint *goal* of the Belize Zoo and The Peregrine Fund. In a recent trip to Belize, I

had the opportunity to visit the Belize Zoo, and even take a night tour. The Belize Zoo is part of the Tropical Education Center, whose goal is to reintroduce the harpy eagle to Belize. This small Central American country, about the size of New Jersey, was once home to populations of this fantastic raptor. You'd have to see it in person to really appreciate its magnificent stature and truly frightening talons – imagine a hallux or hind claw the size of a grizzly bear's! The harpy eagle (*Harpia harpyja*) has a 7 foot wingspan and weighs between 10 and 18 pounds, preying mainly on sloths but may also take monkeys, iguanas, and other birds. The harpy is rare – there are only a few known populations in



Guyana, Venezuela, and Panama. Decline of the harpy is mainly due to fragmentation and destruction of the lowland tropical forest that is its habitat, and depredation by humans.

The Peregrine Fund has long been working to conserve the harpy by preventing direct persecution through education, identifying and conserving important habitat on a broad scope, and developing species restoration techniques that were used to recover North America's beloved peregrine falcon. The Tropical Education Center conservation staff is thrilled to be working with The Peregrine Fund to conserve and reintroduce the harpy to Belize, especially given the success of the program in Panama, where the harpy is the national bird. In 2003, 4 harpy chicks were released in Belize, near the Guatemalan border, and one resides in the Belize Zoo for education. I met this bird in the zoo, and gazing upon its shadowy grey cloak of feathers I felt privileged to see such a beautiful creature, and I made a sincerely hopeful wish for the recovery its species.

For more information, you may visit the following website:

<http://www.peregrinefund.org/conserv.asp>

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

*President- Brett Furnas*

*President-Elect- VACANT*

*Secretary- Natalie Cull-Rodrigues*

*Treasurer-Kirsten Christopherson*

*Chapter Representative- Craig Bailey (interim)*

*Past-President- Mike Grifantini*

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