



# The Magpie

The Wildlife Society / Sacramento-Shasta Chapter



Volume 13, Issue 2

July, 2005

## From the Editor

Sara Lee

Whoops! Time just is flying by, isn't it? I sincerely apologize for the tardiness of this newsletter. As many of you probably know this is a busy time of year for many biologists – whether you are busy working or busy vacationing.

Whatever you are doing, take a moment to look over some of the workshops and upcoming events and read the feature article in this newsletter.

As always, The Magpie is available on the Chapter website: [www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta/](http://www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta/). 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](mailto:slee@esassoc.com).

## CHAPTER NEWS

### Treasurer's Report

Kirsten Christopherson

The Chapter balance is \$22,388.77. The total income for calendar year 2005 so far is \$5,412.76. Income was generated due to workshop revenue (Tracking Workshop in April and Springs/Seeps in June) and membership dues. The total expenses for calendar year 2005 are \$433.01 for workshop preparation, social activities, mailbox rental, and office supplies.

### 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.

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The Next Chapter Meeting is:

SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005  
4:30 PM

@ Sierra Nevada Brewery in CHICO

A Chapter Social hosted by the Sac-Shasta Chapter will follow the meeting at 6:30 PM. Here's a chance for all you members in Chico and the vicinity to come out, see how business is run, and meet some other Chapter members as well. So please come!

### Website Updates

Our new website has been up for some time now. Hopefully everyone has had a chance to take a look. If not, check it out now: [www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta/](http://www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta/). We'd like some feedback on the site too. Does it provide the information you need/want? Is it easy to navigate? What do you like about it? What do you find annoying?? 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](mailto:mdorin@energy.state.ca.us) or 916-654-4024.

### Interior California Spring and Seep Ecology Workshop Held in Redding

Mike Grifantini

On June 2-3, 2005 the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of TWS helped coordinate the interior California spring and seep ecology workshop in and around Redding. Approximately 36 people attended, primarily foresters and biologists involved in timberland management and regulatory entity representatives. Similar workshops were held earlier in the year in Arcata and Santa Rosa.

The workshop included classroom discussions of topical issues, such as: rare wetland plants; the formation of seeps and springs; interior California amphibian and reptile ecology; and forestland regulations that pertain to wet area protection. In addition, a number of field sites

were visited to discuss their ecological values and needed protection measures.

The workshop was designed to address increasing concern regarding the need for additional regulations to protect forestland wet areas. In the future, a slide show using images taken during the fieldtrip may be produced and shown to loggers to help in the educational process.

The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter is always looking for ways to bring quality educational opportunities to its membership. If you have any suggestions for future events, please contact one of the Board Members.

## UPCOMING EVENTS, INFORMATION SOURCES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Aspen and Meadow Restoration Workshop Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Sponsored by the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of The Wildlife Society and the Northern California Society of American Foresters

Fire suppression, overgrazing and hydrological changes are factors that have led to the degradation of aspen and wet meadow habitats in northern California. However, in recent years, public and private forest managers have been undertaking projects for restoring and regenerating these important montane habitats. The primary aim of the workshop will be to explore the logistical issues associated with carrying out these sorts of projects on-the-ground. Biologists, foresters, agency staff and other interested parties are invited to attend.

The workshop will be held entirely in the field in scenic Lassen County. The first set of stops will be to visit a wet meadow and aspen restoration project recently implemented by Fruit Growers Supply Company under the "Clover" timber harvesting plan. The second set of stops will be to visit the Bogard Aspen Enhancement Project on the Lassen National Forest (see picture below).

Registration materials are available at:  
<http://www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta/>

For more details, contact **Brett Furnas** at (530) 225-3221 or [bfurnas@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bfurnas@dfg.ca.gov).

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**Fisher and Marten:  
Moving Science and Management Forward**

### February 7 & 8, 2006 Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento

Preceding the Western Section Annual Conference, this symposium will present new scientific information on the fisher and marten and will explore management needs of these species in California.

#### Goals:

Provide updates on the science and conservation status of fisher and marten in California.

Provide a forum for land managers and regulators to discuss with researchers the information needs and possible approaches for fisher conservation on private and public lands in California.

Identify and describe specific parts of comprehensive state-wide conservation strategies for fisher and marten in California.

The format will be one full day of invited presentations by researchers on new or updated scientific information and a half-day of discussions of management-oriented issues. Registration materials and additional information will be available at the Western Section website ([www.tws-west.org](http://www.tws-west.org)) by late summer or early fall.

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### Yolo Basin Foundation: Bat Tour

#### Dates and Times:

Presentation begins 1 1/2 hours before sunset. Guided tour takes about 3 hours. Participants must remain with group for the entire tour.  
- August 3, 2005, 6:45  
- August 17, 2005, 6:30  
- September 7, 2005, 5:45

#### Description:

Join Dharma Webber of Indigo Wings for a presentation on the benefits and wonders of bats. She will bring live bats to her presentation and focus on bat biology. The presentation will be followed by a guided tour, just before sunset, into the Wildlife Area to watch the bats fly out.

#### Admission:

A \$5.00 donation is suggested from all trip participants excluding children (under 12) and current members of the Yolo Basin Foundation. Children are welcome on all trips.

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**Meeting Location:**

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Headquarters.  
Follow this link for directions:  
<http://www.yolobasin.org/contact.cfm#directions>

Visit the website for more events and information:  
<http://www.yolobasin.org/index.cfm>

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**California Anostracan and Notostracan Identification Class**

(How to Identify Fairy Shrimps and Tadpole Shrimps)

This course is taught by Mary Belk who has studied these special invertebrates for years. She carries on the work of her late husband, freshwater invertebrate expert, Denton Belk, who literally wrote the book on fairy shrimp.

**Description:**

The 3-day course includes a lecture on fairy shrimp biology and ecology on the first day, and 2 days of lab study with preserved specimens from Mary's own collection. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day students may take a practical examination using a key. A letter of participation in the course citing the results of the practical examination will be sent to each student by Mary Belk after class completion. The letter plus the test sheet will be faxed to the Carlsbad Office of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Many students have gone on to earn a FWS Recovery Permit after taking Mary's class.

**Dates and Locations:**

**August 3-5, 2005**, 8:00 A.M. to 5:15 P.M.  
@ Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve  
(1 hour north of San Diego)

**September 21-23, 2005**; 8:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.  
@ UC Davis, Briggs Hall, Room 122

**December 19-21, 2005**; 8:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.  
@ UC Davis, Briggs Hall, Room 122

**Registration:**

The cost of the course is \$595 per person (payment required in advance). Checks should be made payable to Mary Schug Belk and mailed to the address below. Mary's taxpayer identification number is 457783876.

To register and for a list of materials to bring to class, contact:

Mary Schug Belk  
222 King William Apt. 1  
San Antonio, TX 78204

Phone: 210-224-7743  
Cell phone: 210-842-7734  
Fax: 210-222-0360  
E-mail: [dbelk@texas.net](mailto:dbelk@texas.net)  
<http://dbelk.home.texas.net/>

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**Employment Opportunities...**

Keep checking the website for jobs and volunteer positions!  
<http://www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta/getajob.htm>

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**FEATURE ARTICLE**

**Life as a Biologist in Africa versus the U.S.**

*Samson Werikhe*  
*Conservation Intern, Beale Air Force Base*

I have had an excellent opportunity to work as Biologist in Africa and in the United States. These are two areas at the extreme on the globe in terms of economic strengths and technological advancement. The weather conditions are also different, although certain parts in Africa outside the Tropics do have similar climatic trends. As a Wildlife Biologist in either location, you immediately get concerned with climatic features in an area because most of your time is spent out there in the wild with plants and animals. Cultures are also different and are related to people's traditions and customs, access to basic needs, and capacities of respective countries to provide needed support. When I see these variances, I remember the popular belief that rapid technological advancement did wipe out many of the wildlife species in the developed world. True.

Africa is developing. The population is increasing, and although I don't have figures off the top of my head, I can comfortably say this increment is daily and goes unchecked. As a biologist, I can quickly understand the implications to the future of the very wildlife we are working to save. The future of plant and animal species, their habitats, and obviously the future of the human population that depend on

these for livelihood, is gloomy. Alternatives to turn to during times of crisis are still insufficient in Africa.

The life of a biologist here in the U.S. refers to the general comfort felt by doing the job effectively. The various influences that will interfere with the biologist's work schedule are necessarily responsible for their difficult situations. The biologist must be supported by the economy to conduct biological studies, service the conservation process, and ensure the continued existence of wildlife species. That is a huge challenge. Others include the status of the wildlife you are protecting. Poaching and habitat destruction continue to be number one conservation issues in Africa. People are looking for more land and money and by so doing, the animals plus the biologists are under pressure to relocate. To Where? The biologist in U.S. has pretty much what he needs to capture a flea from an elephant. He has the resources.

Due to resource limitations, a biologist in Africa will be focused on only priorities that can receive funding, and a lot of this funding is from donors. Long-term funding schedules are a good thing because then the biologist knows he will be consistent in the next few years. Some biologists are forced to stop their projects because of lack of funding!

All in all, life of a biologist in Africa is sometimes difficult to predict because he is faced with unique problems...funding and issues of wildlife versus man. It is not that a biologist in U.S. would not experience issues of wildlife versus man. These are there, but whenever they occur, they are addressed instantly and completely.

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

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

*President- Brett Furnas ([bfurnas@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bfurnas@dfg.ca.gov))*

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