



The Magpie

The Wildlife Society / Sacramento-Shasta Chapter



Volume 14, Issue 1

March, 2006

From the Editor

Sara Lee

Dear Members: It's almost spring and we've got a lot going on, so let's get down to business! I'm pleased to welcome our new President, **Linda Leeman**. Our now past-president, **Brett Furnas**, and all of us on the Board continue to work actively to provide you with news, events, and workshops. This issue is chock-full of goodies...

CHAPTER NEWS

President's Message

Linda Leeman

The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter is entering 2006 with great momentum. We have achieved a number of noteworthy accomplishments and are poised to continue on this exciting path in the coming year.

We are thrilled to have awarded the Chapter's first scholarships to students pursuing careers in wildlife biology. We also were able to provide travel scholarships to help defray costs for 9 students to attend the Western Section annual meeting in February. Other major accomplishments have been to update our website to making accessing information about the Chapter easier and organizing several successful workshops and social events. With the enthusiasm and talents of the executive board, I am confident that these efforts will continue to serve our membership.

A long-term goal that I have as President is to increase the involvement of our members in the Chapter and in the communities in which we work and live. Members are always welcome to attend our board meetings, which are held every couple of months or so in Williams at Granzella's Restaurant. We are also currently working on a draft revision to the Chapter's by-laws to make participation on the Executive Board more flexible, with positions decided upon after general board members are elected. If you are interested in helping shape the direction we are going, I urge you to join us. Margaret Mead's famous quote comes to mind, "Never doubt that

a small, group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." While our goal might not be to change the world, the quote reminds me that individual efforts are what really make things happen.

Also, Past-President Brett Furnas is offering a challenge to all of us—to get involved in our communities by giving a presentation to a school group this year. Consider how you learned about the wildlife profession or the role models that have shaped your career. Imagine the positive impact if each one of us took a few hours to share our knowledge and experience with the next generation of potential wildlife biologists.

Our goal for the Chapter this year is to keep the momentum going and build on the great programs we have recently started. We also will offer several technical/species-specific workshops and a Sacramento-Shasta Chapter symposium highlighting the interesting work we all do. Plus you won't want to miss our mixer later this spring. It's a great opportunity to see old friends and make new connections.

TWS Sacramento-Shasta Chapter Scholarships

Mike Grifantini & Kirsten Christopherson – Scholarship Committee

The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter is committed to providing scholarships to support deserving students as they complete their education. Students attending accredited colleges and universities within our boundaries, or students who have a biological research project within our boundaries are eligible for our academic scholarships. Applications can be found on our Chapter web site and are due by **December 1** of each year.

We also provide travel scholarships for students to attend professional wildlife conferences. Applications can be found on our Chapter web site (www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta) and are due at least 2 months before the travel date.

2006 Scholarships Recipients

We recently awarded 3 academic scholarships for 2006 totaling \$2,000. The Scholarship Committee rated all applicants based on application appearance, academic performance, references, financial need, extracurricular involvement in the wildlife biology field, and how good of an investment the student would be for our Chapter. This year our Chapter chose to award scholarships to two undergraduate applicants and one graduate applicant.

Undergraduate students receiving awards were **Shandin Rudesill of Butte College** and **Matt George of CSU Sacramento**. Our graduate student receiving an award was **Michelle Beachley of CSU Sacramento**.

Additionally, the Chapter awarded a \$390 travel scholarship to a group of 9 **Feather River College** students, who attended the TWS Western Section annual conference in Sacramento in February 2006.

Congratulations to all of our winners!! We applaud their efforts! "Testimonials" from some of our winners are included in this newsletter.

New 2006 Initiative - Members Outreach to Schools

Brett Furnas

The Chapter is putting forth a ***challenge*** to all members in 2006. We are requesting that every member make at least **one** visit to a grade school or high school in the coming year to speak to students about wildlife biology in California. The purpose is to inspire students to consider a natural resource profession and to introduce young students to wildlife issues and the role of wildlife biologists in the State. We are providing no recommended lesson plan and suggest that you fit your talk to meet the age group and needs of the particular class you address. Please feel free to go about arranging a school visit through your personal associations including extended family, friends, neighbors, community groups, etc. We suggest you keep your talk fairly general, tailor it to your personal experience as a biologist, and leave plenty of time for questions from the class.

A second aspect of the initiative is that the Chapter has allocated **\$1,000** in 2006 for grants to help fund wildlife or nature-related school field trips such as a visit to a wildlife reserve or a museum. The Chapter will consider requests of up to \$200 each for trips that were preceded by a school visit by a Chapter member.

We ask that you email **Brett Furnas** at bfurnas@dfg.ca.gov if you have any questions about the program and to let us know after you have made your school visit so that we can keep track of how many members take up the challenge in 2006. We will soon be posting more detailed information about the program on the Chapter website.

Chapter Supports Aspen Rule Change

Brett Furnas

In February, the Chapter sent a letter to the Board of Forestry in support of a proposed rule change pertaining to aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) restoration projects. The proposal grew out of discussions at a joint Sacramento-Shasta TWS / Northern California Society of American Foresters sponsored workshop on aspen held last summer. The proposal is to exempt aspen restoration projects from conifer re-stocking requirements so that conifers may be removed to promote aspen regeneration. After canvassing the entire Chapter membership by email for their opinions on the proposal, the Board voted to write a letter of general support in which we noted the wildlife benefits of aspen restoration. The letter also noted that potential environmental impacts of such projects would continue to be reviewed on a case by case basis per numerous other provisions of the Forest Practice Rules. The Board of Forestry is scheduled to discuss the proposal:

**March 7, 2006
8:00 am –noon
Resources Auditorium
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California**

Anyone may attend and provide input.

CHAPTER BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report

Kirsten Christopherson

Summary of 2005 calendar year: Total income was \$6,856.77. Income was generated mainly due to workshop revenue and membership dues. Total expenses were \$4,483.80 for workshop preparation, web site design, social activities, mailbox rental, postage, and office supplies.

As of February 8, 2006, the Chapter balance was \$20,106.08. The total income for calendar year 2006 to date is \$463.65. Income was generated mainly due to membership dues and interest. The total expenses for

the calendar year to date are \$548.21, largely for travel grants for students to attend TWS Western Section Annual Meeting and contributions to TWS Western Section Raffle.

Chapter Meetings

The last Chapter business meeting was held at the Radisson Hotel at the Annual Meeting of TWS Western Section in February. Please check the website for the announcement of the next meeting. As usual, meetings are open and all Chapter members are encouraged to attend.

Website Updates

Thanks to your input, we've added a membership form to the website to make joining the Chapter or renewing one's membership easier: www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta. Keep those suggestions coming!

Western Section Report

Melinda Dorin – Chapter Representative

Most of the Western Section activities in the last few months were geared towards putting on the Section's annual meeting in Sacramento. The meeting was held Feb 9-10, 2005 with workshops and other meetings taking place the days prior. The conference was a success, and as a result the Western Section will be paying back all of the Chapter loans that were given several years ago when the Section was having financial concerns.

The professional development committee of the Western Section has been very active, coordinating the workshops that happened prior to the annual meeting, and continuing with putting together training throughout the year. For 2006 they have several things planned, including Endangered Species Permitting, Introduction to Remote Camera Techniques in Wildlife Studies, Bat Ecology and Field Techniques, and Bird Specimen Preparation. More information can be found at www.tws-west.org.

The Western Section is also in the process of redoing their website. Katie Moriarty is also putting together a slide show that can be used to introduce The Western Section and the Chapters of The Wildlife Society to students and as an outreach tool. We will get a copy tailored for the Chapter's needs. If you have the opportunity to do some outreach, let me know. As

always, if you have comments or questions contact me at mdorin@energy.state.ca.us or 916-654-4024.

Last but not least, Julie Vance was elected president elect of the Western Section for 2006. Julie works for the Department of Fish and Game and is based in Fresno. Welcome aboard Julie!

UPCOMING EVENTS, INFORMATION SOURCES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Northern California Vernal Pool Conference March 23-24, 2006 in Chico

Butte Environmental Council presents "The Vernal Pool Complex of the Northstate: Biology, Conservation, and Management Conference." Butte Environmental Council is hosting a conference and tours on **March 23 and 24, 2006**. The conference will be held at:

**Sierra Nevada Brewery
1075 E. 20th Street
Chico, CA**

There will be presentations by eminent scholars and agency representatives concerning plant and animal species dependent on the vernal pool ecosystem, conservation efforts and needs, and what management techniques have been used to enhance the viability of certain sites.

For more information and registration, please visit: http://www.becnet.org/nodes/events/other/conf_vernalpools_2006.htm or write to the following address:

Butte Environmental Council
116 W. Second Street, Suite 3
Chico, CA 95928
(530) 891-6424

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. The 3-day course includes a lecture on fairy shrimp biology and ecology, lab study with preserved specimens, and 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 after class completion. Many students have gone on to earn a FWS Recovery Permit after taking this class. The class will take place on:

**March 23-25, 2006
8:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.
@ UC Davis, Briggs Hall, Room 122**

The cost of the course is \$595 per person (payment required in advance). To register and for a list of materials to bring to class, contact:

Mary Schug Belk
Phone: 210-224-7743
Cell phone: 210-842-7734
Fax: 210-222-0360
E-mail: dbelk@texas.net
<http://dbelk.home.texas.net/>

California Tiger Salamander: Larval Survey Techniques Workshop

The **Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation** is sponsoring a Larval Survey Techniques Workshop:

**April 1-2, 2006
Sonoma State University
Rohnert Park, CA**

This workshop is designed to provide practical training on survey techniques for aquatic life stages of the California tiger salamander (CTS) and life history throughout the range in California. The workshop will consist of a morning lecture session and a field trip. The lecture session will include a review of the basic biology and ecology of CTS, identification at the egg, larval, and adult life stages, identification of other amphibians and aquatic invertebrates commonly found with CTS larvae, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game regulations and approved survey protocol, and management and conservation plans. Instructors **Dave Cook** and **Julian Meisler** are experts on CTS research, and preserve stewardship and management. The field trip session will provide hands-on field training in survey techniques, including a demonstration on seining and dip net sampling, and hands-on practice. The field trips will visit CTS preserves on the Santa Rosa Plain.

For more information and registration, visit the website: www.lagunafoundation.org

Endangered Species Permitting – Strategies and Successful Negotiations Workshop

The **Western Section** of TWS is sponsoring an "Endangered Species Permitting - Strategies and Successful Negotiations" Workshop:

**April 11-12, 2006
Chapman University
City of Orange, CA**

Details and registration information are available on the Western Section Website: www.tws-west.org under "Meetings/ Workshops" (in the left margin area). More details are included below.

San Joaquin Valley Natural Communities Conference – Announcement and Call for Presentations

The **San Joaquin Valley Chapter** of TWS, the **Bureau of Land Management**, and **CSU Bakersfield** are sponsoring the San Joaquin Valley Natural Communities Conference:

**Thursday, April 20, 2006
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Student Union, Multi-Purpose Room
California State University, Bakersfield**

This conference is an opportunity for biologists conducting research, management, regulation and conservation activities in the San Joaquin Valley to exchange information, ideas, results, and the progress of their work on natural communities, wildlife and plants. This year we will highlight studies conducted at the Carrizo Plain National Monument.

Presentations are limited to 20 minutes, including time for questions and answers. Written papers are not required, but may be available for attendees at the presenter's discretion.

Abstracts are requested to be e-mailed no later than April 12th in order to be compiled and distributed at the conference. Please e-mail abstracts to:

Larry Saslaw, SJVNCC
USDI Bureau of Land Management
Isaslaw@blm.gov

The conference registration fee of \$30.00 includes abstract package, morning and afternoon refreshments, lunch, and campus parking.

Friends of the Herbarium at CSU Chico Workshops

The schedule of spring and summer workshops by Friends of the Herbarium at CSU Chico is now available. Workshop titles are listed below -- details can be found at www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Events.html.

April 1. Introduction to Flowering Plant Identification, Terminology, and Techniques for Beginners

April 15. Botanical Illustration

April 22. Identification of Plants from Vernal Pools and Other Seasonal Wetlands

May 6. Oak Woodland Ecology and Management

May 13. Introduction to the Salicaceae of California (Cottonwoods and Willows)

June 10. Introduction to Identifying Northern California Grasses (Poaceae)

June 17. Pollination Ecology in the Mountains of Butte County: Northern California plants - and the birds and the bees

September 23. Introduction to Keying the Sunflowers (Asteraceae)

October 14. Introduction to Wetland Delineation

SRCSD'S BUFFERLANDS TOURS

The Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District's (SRCSD) Bufferlands is sponsoring the following family-friendly events:

Creek Week - Birds & Blooms **Saturday, April 22nd** **12:00 pm to 2:00 pm**

The Fishhead Lake mitigation wetland is a nice example of wetlands created as mitigation for earlier wetland losses. The wetland has both a permanent and seasonal component as well as a surrounding upland buffer. Thousands of waterfowl winter at the wetland and many remain year-round to nest and raise young. Much of the area is planted to native wildflowers that bloom in early spring. California poppies, lupines, owl's clover, baby blue-eyes, and many others can be seen spreading about the uplands and wetland edges. Visitors will receive a packet of native flower seeds to start their own native garden.

The meeting location is weather-dependant, so please contact **Roger Jones** at (916) 875-9174 or email jonesro@saccounty.net the week preceding the event for exact meeting location and directions.

Creek Week - Local Fishes **Wednesday, April 26th** **1:30 pm - 3:30 pm**

What lurks in the murky depths of Sacramento's urban creeks? Join SRCSD Bufferlands staff for an introduction to the local fish fauna. We will demonstrate fish sampling techniques in a local lake, practice hands-on (for those that aren't too squeamish) fish identification, and discuss the natural history of California's diverse fish communities. In addition, we will be able to view one of the direct consumers of the local fish populations as we spy on a large heron and egret rookery. This tour includes a short, 1/2 mile walk and an opportunity to see some of the Bufferlands riparian and wetland habitat restoration projects.

The meeting location is weather-dependant, so please contact **Steve Scott** at (916) 875-9307 or email scotts@saccounty.net the week preceding the event for exact meeting location and directions.

Spring Migration at the Bufferlands **Saturday, April 29th** **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 SRCSD Bufferlands staff for a day in search of 100 species, or more. 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 **Chris Conard** at (916) 875-9309 ext. 1, or e-mail conardc@saccounty.net

Walk on the Wildside **Saturday, May 20th** **10:00 am - 4:00 pm**

Join the 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 67 active nests of great blue herons, great egrets, and double crested cormorants. Spotting scopes will be available for optimum viewing of these fascinating and beautiful birds.

The event is held at Beach Lake Park, near the town of Freepoint. Visit www.bufferlands.com for a map to the event site.

For more info contact **Kevin Cassady** at (916) 875-9196 or cassadyk@saccounty.net.

FEATURE ARTICLE

A few of our scholarship winners' feedback on TWS, the Sac-Shasta Chapter, and the Western Section Annual Meeting are presented here. Congrats again to our students!

Scholarship winner: Shandin Rudesill

"Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of the Wildlife Society, I have received the scholarship and letter sent from your Chapter. Thank you very much! It means a lot to me. This is the largest scholarship I have ever received, and I'm amazed and honored by the generosity. I appreciate the offer, also, of mentorship by your Chapter. I would like that very much. I feel I could benefit from some guidance by a wildlife professional as I focus my studies towards a career path. ..."

Shandin has also volunteered to participate in Holly Ernest's study to record local occurrences of yellow-billed magpie (featured in the last Magpie), is an officer (Historian) with Phi Theta Kappa, the International Scholastic Order of the Two-Year College, and has formed a new campus club: **Friends of the Wildlife Refuge at Butte College**. This new club will be featured in the next issue of The Magpie.

"Testimonials" from Students from Feather River College

"I am a student at Feather River College and was able to attend the Western Section of The Wildlife Society's Conference. My trip was made possible by financial assistance from the Western Section and Sacramento-Shasta Chapter. I would like to thank them for the opportunity to attend. My original intent in attending was to meet wildlife professionals, get a first hand look at The Wildlife Society, and to learn as much as I could. By the conference's end, I had met with professionals from many fields, I had gotten an insider's view of The Wildlife Society as a whole, and I had learned a lot about different wildlife studies. I think the most important thing I will take from this conference won't be the culmination of all the interesting data that has been collected, but the exciting feeling I get when I realize how much still needs to be collected. I am reminded that we students and professionals are still pioneers in this study of wildlife, and that there is still a lot to explore in this wild frontier of a field. Thank you." ~ **Jason Hellwich**

"I came to the TWS conference to learn more about pathogens transferred in trapping and the subsequent results of infected species. The conference was very informative and a wonderful learning opportunity. Thank you Western Section and Sac-Shasta Chapter for making this experience possible. I look forward to attending many more wildlife conferences in the future."

~ Lauri Smith

"I want to thank you for giving me this chance to come and see these great presentations. I gathered much information on many careers and jobs. I hope to get my foot in the door on any of them for the summer. I was really impressed by the Fish and Game and hope to find something in that field. My peak of interest lies with waterfowl and wetlands projects. I hope to find a job in any of these fields or gain as much information as possible until I do. Thanks again for the chance to attend the conference. I hope to do it again sometime. Thank you." ~**Tyler Jacobsen**

"Upon attending the Western Section Wildlife Society Conference I really did not know what to expect. I have never attended such an event until now. It was a great opportunity for me to volunteer, meet people in the fields that I'm interested in, watch interesting presentations on a broad range of topics, and have fun in the process. I walked away from this conference with a better understanding of what is out there and a clearer focus of what I want to do in the future." ~ **Sean Kawa**

I wish to thank TWS for providing the supportive opportunity to learn invaluable knowledge regarding the agencies and variables inherent in making informed adaptive management decisions." ~ **Linda Dieter**

"I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to attend The Wildlife Society conference. What a valuable educational experience to be exposed to current research and developments in the field! It really helped my understanding to see how concepts we learn about in class are actually applied in the professional scientific community. I feel like my career goals are more defined as a result of attending. Thank you for the opportunity!" ~ **Danielle Wagner**

"... I would like to thank the people that made this possible. My thanks go to the board members of the Western Section and the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter. My hopes and goals for this conference were to see the wildlife field from inside, from the professional's perspective; to meet and greet those professionals; and to pick up some knowledge along the way. By providing this opportunity, TWS has expanded my horizons, both in wildlife concerns and topics, but also in what it will mean to work in my chosen profession. By attending this conference, my desire to learn as much as I can, and my drive to graduate and begin my own career, has only grown. Thank you for this memorable opportunity." ~ **Elise LaVanaway**

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,
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Chapter Representative- Melinda Dorin (mdorin@energy.ca.gov)

Past-President- Brett Furnas (bfurnas@dfg.ca.gov)

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