



The Magpie

The Wildlife Society / Sacramento-Shasta Chapter



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CHAPTER NEWS

President's Message

Linda Leeman

As the holiday season is fast upon us, and the days are growing cooler and shorter, it seems fitting to reflect on the past year and start planning for the next. The year seemed to fly by (doesn't it always?), marked by some small accomplishments and larger milestones.

One of the highlights for me was the Chapter's first Natural Resources Symposium held at Sac State on October 25th. Over 100 participants learned about local research, management, and conservation activities in the Chapter area. We had 16 outstanding speakers on a wide diversity of topics – including birds and conservation, floodplains and vernal pools, disease and genetics, herps and more. Personally, I found it very useful to hear such great speakers presenting information focused on our area, and I learned a tremendous amount. There is an impressive amount of knowledge in our area and it was very gratifying to have a forum to hear and discuss what local issues biologists are working on. We received very positive feedback from all the attendees and are hoping to make this an annual event.

An example of the valuable exchange of information among natural resource professionals at the Symposium was in the presentation and discussion of recent genetic analysis of the Sacramento Valley red fox population by Ben Sacks of UC Davis and others. They presented strong evidence that the Sacramento Valley population may be more closely related to the native Sierra Nevada red fox than to the nonnative red fox population introduced from east of the Rockies for fur farming. Not only was this the first forum to hear about this important work, but other researchers in attendance were able to share occurrence records.

As we look ahead to 2007, we are discussing ideas for workshops and other Sacramento-Shasta Chapter activities. We also want to encourage members to be involved in the Chapter. We currently have a dedicated

board, which has worked hard to keep the Chapter active. It is great to benefit from the long-term involvement of these individuals, but as you know, a population does not persist without new recruits, and dedicated new recruits always seem hard to come by.

The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter area has many great biologists that have much to contribute to the local biological community. I know we are all busy with our careers, school, family, and other activities and getting involved can seem like a daunting task. But the reality is that only a few hours a month are usually required to bring personal rewards and to keep the Chapter moving forward. For me, involvement with the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter is a great way to be involved with biologists outside of my immediate network of contacts, and provides me with the opportunity to realize several professional goals. If you are interested in expanding your circle of professional contacts and contributing to the future success of our Chapter, please attend the next board meeting or contact a board member today. ~

2007 TWS/Sacramento-Shasta Chapter Student Scholarship

Applications due January 1, 2007

The 2007 TWS/Sacramento-Shasta Chapter scholarships are for both undergraduate and graduate students who are majoring in a wildlife-related field and attend a state-accredited college in the 23 interior/northern counties covered by our chapter. The scholarship amounts range from \$500-1,000.

This will be the second year of this program, with three scholarships given out in 2006. The previous scholarship recipients attend Butte College and CSU Sacramento. The Chapter's Board members were impressed by the quality of students that applied in 2005 and believe that the number of applicants should increase as its availability becomes better known. Besides providing the financial assistance that goes with any scholarship, the Chapter's Board wishes to provide

mentoring to the recipients to help them break into the profession.

An additional financial assistance opportunity that the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter provides is for fees or associated costs for students to attend conferences.

******Apply now to attend the 2007 Western Section of The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting, January 31-February 2, to be held in Monterey, CA.******

This is FREE money for students! If you know of any prospective students that might be interested in applying for either opportunity, visit our website (www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta) for an application form.

CHAPTER BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report

Kirsten Christopherson

As of 7 November 2006, the Chapter balance was \$20,398.83. We have earned \$3,883.13 in workshop revenue (Natural Resources Symposium), membership dues, t-shirt sales, and bank account interest. Expenses so far are \$3,516.97. The largest expenditures were the academic scholarships, the travel scholarship, workshop preparation, and Community Outreach (TWS Western Section Conference Raffle and TWS Western Section Conference field trips (copies)).

The Western Section Update

Melinda Dorin

The Western Section is busy putting together the Annual Conference to be held in Monterey January 30-February 2, 2007. Early registration is open see www.tws-west.org/ to register online. The chapters have all been asked to help contribute items to the raffle. If you have items that could be contributed, from sporting gear, books, wine, or bigger items such as trips please contact Melinda at mdorin@energy.state.ca.us or 916.654.4024. There are also several pre-conference symposia – check the website for more information. Both Dave Smith and Rhys Evans have agreed to run for President of the Western Section. If you are member you will be able to vote online once it is posted.

Proposed Bylaw Revisions

The Chapter is proposing bylaw revisions that will be sent out to the membership for a vote. The existing bylaws can be accessed on the Chapter website at www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta/images/bylaws.pdf. Since finding members to run for Board positions is sometimes difficult, we are proposing to increase our flexibility with combining and separating officer positions depending on the number of active board members. The other notable change is instead of a President Elect, President, and Past President position, we are proposing to go back to a President and Vice President position (the President automatically becomes Past President). Due to the way the bylaws are currently written, it is difficult to find people to run for that position. Look for a mailing with the underline/strikeout version of the proposed changes and return your postcard with your vote.

Contribution to National TWS

National TWS Society is asking for contributions to help them stay current in the technology age. They are seeking funds to update their website and buy a new server which will allow chapters to maintain a website through National, redesign the TWS website, and post full text copies of TWS journals from 1937-2000 online and make them available to members for free. The Board is planning on voting on this issue and determining an amount at our next Board Meeting in January. Contact a Board Member if you have comments.

Chapter Meetings

All Chapter business meetings are open to members. We welcome your presence and ideas! Come to one or both of the following upcoming meetings:

January 10, 2007
Granzella's Restaurant
Williams, CA
1:00-3:00 pm

January 31, 2007
Western Section 2007 Annual Meeting
Monterey, CA
Room TBA
7:30-9:30 pm

Website Updates

The Chapter is currently transitioning between webmasters, but the website will continue to be updated as usual. Please let us know if you find anything amiss with the links or any of the information posted: www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta.

UPCOMING EVENTS, INFORMATION SOURCES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nature Bowl XXIII

March 2007 Volunteers Needed!

Nature Bowl XXIII continues in 2007 serving youth in 3rd-6th grades throughout the Sacramento metropolitan area through an environmental education team competition. This program advances conservation literacy (regional emphasis), is aligned with the State's science standards, and promotes ecological and life science concepts. Volunteers are needed to help at several locations during the competition (**March 6, 13, 21, 23, 27, and 29th**). Call **Bruce Foreman** at **916-358-2353** to find out how you can help.

TWS Western Section 2007 Annual Conference

Registration for the 2007 Annual Conference of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society is now OPEN.

The 2007 Annual Conference and **Wildlife and Invasives Plant Symposia** will be held on **January 30-February 2, 2007** at the **Portola Plaza Hotel** in **Monterey, California**. The general schedules for the Symposia and Conference can be viewed at <http://www.tws-west.org>

You can register electronically for both the Symposia and the Annual Conference at https://securedata.net/tws-west/2007ac_reg_form.html

Please see <http://www.tws-west.org> for additional conference and Symposia details. Conference information will be updated periodically, so please check the website regularly for the most up-to-date conference information.

Please contact **Julie Vance** (jvance@dfg.ca.gov), Western Section President-Elect and Annual Conference Chair for any conference-related questions.

FREE Resume Workshops for Students

The Western Section of The Wildlife Society's Student Affairs Committee is offering **FREE** resume workshops at the **2007 The Western Section Annual Meeting** in Monterey, CA. See below for more information:

Resume Workshop

January 31st

7:45 pm – 9:30 pm

Barbara Peters, career counselor for Natural Resources and Sciences at Humboldt State University, will present tips on resume content and formatting, cover letters, and job-searching websites.

Resume Review

February 1st

1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Get constructive feedback on your resume from a variety of professionals during personal 15 minute sessions.

Resume Review and Career Fair

February 2nd

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

There will be a Resume Review Booth at the Career Fair, which is an opportunity to discuss career options job prospects and qualifications, and industry advice from practicing professionals in the wildlife field. Sign up *early* for the FREE Student Lunch when you register for the conference.

New Bat Organization!

Introducing the formation of **NorCal Bats – Rescue and Education**. This new bat organization will serve the Sacramento Valley and surrounding foothills and is currently accepting bats for rescue, rehabilitation and release. The organization will be available for educational presentations by spring, and is very interested in working with the people throughout Northern California to care for bats. We realize that most wildlife groups are unable to care for these small and specialized animals.

If you hear of a bat that needs care or inquiries about bats, please pass on our contact information:

NorCal Bats - Rescue and Education
Service Area: Sacramento Valley and foothills
P.O. Box 933
Davis, CA 95617-0933
530-902-1918
www.NorCalBats.org

Introduction to ArcGIS 9 and Environmental Applications of GIS

December 12 - 14, 2006
8:30 A.M. to 5 P.M. (3 Days)

Instructors: Dr. Cherie Northon and Dr. Thomas Eley

Training presented by Northwest Environmental Training Center.

ExecuTrain San Francisco
210 Spear Street
San Francisco, California

Course web page:
http://www.nwetc.org/gis-403_12-06_san_francisco.htm

Northwest Environmental Training Center
A 501(c)(3) nonprofit program of the Northwest Environmental Education Council

650 S. Orcas Street, Suite 220
Seattle, Washington 98108
(206)762-1976, www.nwetc.org

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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President- Linda Leeman (Linda.Leeman@edaw.com)
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