



The Magpie

The Wildlife Society / Sacramento-Shasta Chapter



Volume 15, Issue 1

April, 2007

CHAPTER NEWS

Welcome to Spring!

Sara Lee

This edition of The Magpie will get you caught up on what's been going on in the Chapter this past quarter, and what's in store in the months ahead. We are off to a great start, and we have a lot to offer, so read on...

Elections 2007

As you may recall, at the end of last year, we asked you to consider revising the Chapter bylaws. The voting members unanimously approved the revisions.

The main purpose of the revision was to provide more flexibility in electing officers and encourage participation on the Executive Board. In summary, candidates can now be elected to the Board in a general election. The Board members will then decide who will fulfill the specific roles, depending on the number of Board members. To encourage participation, up to 7 Board members can be elected. A minimum of 3 Board members, fulfilling the role of President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer, is required. If there are more positions than candidates (or if there are an equal number), elections are considered uncontested and the Board will ask the membership to ratify the election by announcing it in the Magpie (as we are here).

In 2007 we had fewer people agree to run for a Board Member position than open positions. Kirsten Christopherson, Melinda Dorin, and Sara Lee are planning to continue on the Board. Natalie Cull and I regret that we need to take some time off, as we are both expecting our 2nd children and anticipate that we won't have sufficient time (or energy!) to devote to Board activities in the coming months. We are excited to welcome the participation of **Hal Holland** and **Armand Gonzales** as our newest Board members. If you have concerns about any of the proposed Board Members, please let me know.

The Board positions for 2007 are as follows:

Kirsten Christopherson – President
Hal Holland – Vice President/Treasurer
Melinda Dorin – Chapter Representative to Western Section/Secretary
Sara Lee – Newsletter Editor/Membership Coordinator
Mike Grifantini – Scholarship Committee Chair
Armand Gonzales – Member-at-Large

There are additional Board Members seats available that we can fill through appointments for the rest of the term, just contact a Board Member to find out more. As always, we welcome anyone who is interested to attend the Board meetings and to get involved.

~Linda Leeman, Past President

2007 TWS-Sacramento-Shasta Chapter Scholarship Update

The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter was pleased to recently award a \$400. travel grant that allowed students from Feather River College (Quincy, CA) to attend the Western Section Annual meeting. This is the second year that the Chapter has granted a travel grant to students from that school. We understand that the college's attendees enjoyed the opportunity to go to the meeting and were very appreciative of the grant.

Unfortunately, there were no applicants for the academic scholarships offered by the chapter. The Board will review the existing program and may make some changes, possibly including an increase in scholarship amount and having two separate application dead-lines: **July 1st** and **December 1st**. In addition, further discussion of effective means to "get out the word" to prospective students will take place over the next several months.

CHAPTER BUSINESS

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.

Website Updates

We have a new webmaster! **Virginia Dickerson** is our new webmaster, and she will be updating the Chapter's website on a regular basis, so be sure to check the site from time to time to stay current with Chapter activities! Things to look for on the website include biographies on our new Board Members, meeting minutes, workshop information, and updated Scholarship and application information.

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

Creek Week 2007 Activities

The Sacramento Urban Creek Council hosts Creek Week 2007 on **April 20-28th**. The Chapter is helping to facilitate TWS members getting involved with helping out. For information on Creek Week visit <http://www.creekweek.net/>. Our choices for helping out are several and we'd like to hear back from you so we know what level of commitment we can achieve. Please contact **Melinda Dorin** mdorin@energy.state.ca.us or 916-654-4024 if you think you may be interested in doing something and how much time you may have. Here are some of our options for activities on **April 28, 2007**:

- Are you interested in getting a group of people together to work?
- Do you have friends/family/neighbors that would like to work with you?

- Do you want to be a site leader to head a creek clean-up crew?
- Do you want to be on a crew?
- Can you volunteer to help at the celebration?
- If you have an interactive exhibit we can ask the Urban Creek Council to send an invite letter to your organization to set up at the celebration.

If we have a few people interested in helping out, then we will form a TWS Sac-Shasta Crew. We hope you can make it!

AVIAN PROTECTION PLAN (APP) WORKSHOP

The Sacramento Shasta Chapter of The Wildlife Society is co-hosting a workshop with the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC).

**Avian Interactions with Power Lines:
An Overview of Avian Protection Plans (APP) Guidelines, Laws, Mitigation Strategies and Remedial Techniques for the Protection of Avian Species**

**Red Lion Hotel - Sacramento, California
April 17-18, 2007**

In April 2005, the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) released national Avian Protection Plan (APP) Guidelines. These Guidelines are intended to provide utilities with a toolbox to use in the development of their own APPs.

Topics to be covered include: Regulations and Enforcement Overview of electrical equipment and terminology Factors influencing avian electrocution risk Electrocution Minimization The APP Guidelines and 2006 Suggested Practices (A New Edition is Out!) Examples of Avian Protection Plans Presentations on Avian Collision and Electrocution Research Strategies for reducing avian collisions with power lines APLIC open meeting.

A draft [agenda](#) is available through the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter website (www.tws-west.org).

Mail in the [registration form](#) to register with a check. If you are using a credit card you have to register through the EEI website:
http://www.eei.org/meetings/nonav_2007-04-17-ch/index.htm.

Please pass this on to others you think may be interested in attending!

Habitat Restoration for Wildlife Utilization Workshop

Summer 2007

Habitat restoration is an integral component of impact mitigation and broad landscape preservation. This one day workshop (with optional additional half-day field trip) will provide concepts which can be implemented to enhance wildlife utilization of restored landscapes, with targeted discussions focusing on habitat components of threatened/endangered species in the Greater Sacramento Valley. The workshop will be located in Sacramento. Additional workshop details, including cost, location, and date, will be announced later this spring.

Watch for more information on this exciting workshop!

If you have any questions or recommendations as to speakers or topics, please contact **Hal Holland** at hholland@westervelt.com

Willow Flycatcher Workshop: Identifying Habitat and Implementing Surveys



Sponsored by the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Date: To be determined, but sometime at the end of **June 2007.**

This workshop will focus on identifying willow flycatcher habitat in the Shasta-Cascade and northern Sierra Nevada regions of California. This 1 and ½ day workshop will be geared towards natural resource planners, foresters, biologists, and others who are responsible for identifying habitat on the ground and conducting surveys within suitable habitat related to land management activities.

The first day of the workshop will cover basic identification (visual and vocal), status, pertinent regulations, willow flycatcher DFG habitat model development and recent updates, identifying habitat (including marginal habitat) and finally survey design and layout for the field portion of the workshop the following day.

The second day would be a complete field day, starting at dawn with our survey for willow flycatchers. We will work in small groups to complete the surveys and each crew will be responsible for their own survey transect. We will regroup and discuss the outcome of the survey and any questions or concerns with the survey protocol. We will wrap up the workshop by looking at marginal habitat in comparison to potential habitat at a couple of different sites along the McCloud River.

For more information, please contact: **Jennifer Carlson** at jecarlson@dfg.ca.gov

Creek Week 2007

We are planning to support this years Creek Week (See Bufferlands announcement) activities in the Sacramento Area. This is a great time for members to get involved. For information on Creek Week visit <http://www.creekweek.net/>. Our choices for helping out are several and we'd like to hear back from you so we know what level of commitment we can achieve. Please let me know this week if you think you may be interested in doing something and how much time you may have. Here are some of our options for activities on **April 28, 2007:**

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If we have a few people interested in helping out, then we will form a TWS Sac Shasta Crew. We hope that you can make it! Please let me know if you are interested in any of the above at 916-654-4024 or mdorin@energy.state.ca.us.

UP-COMING BUFFERLANDS EVENTS

Please check www.bufferlands.com or view the list below to read more about upcoming tours and events.

Creek Week Birds and Blooms Tour

Saturday, April 21
1:30 pm - 3:30 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.

Creek Week- Local Fish Fauna

Wednesday, April 25
12:00-2:00 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

Spring Migration at the Bufferlands

Saturday, April 28
7am - 11:30 am

This morning tour of the Bufferlands will focus on finding migrant songbirds, resident breeders, and lingering winter residents. The heron, egret and cormorant rookery will be in full swing, and if water levels are right, we could have excellent shorebirding conditions. The Bufferlands contain 2,650 acres of wetlands, riparian forest, grasslands, vernal pools, and restored habitats. Be prepared for potentially muddy trails and up to 3 miles of walking.

Walk on the Wildside - Rookery Tour

Saturday, May 12
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

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 and beautiful birds.

The Bufferlands staff is seeking **volunteers** to help us out. This family-oriented event includes tours, presentations, live animals, music, hands-on activities, informational exhibits, food, and more. If you would like to sign-up as a volunteer please contact **Lora Leerskov** at leerskovl@sacounty.net or call at (916) 875-9309 ext. 2. We need volunteers to help us at our booth, driving tour vans, and assisting staff with tours of the Bufferlands.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA): Natural Resources Intern

Job Description: SAFCA is responsible for several bank protection and mitigation sites along the Lower American River and in North Sacramento. The basic duties of the Natural Resources Intern will include identifying plants by species, measuring plants and recording data, marking counted plants, data entry, analysis and reporting. Assistance with pre-construction surveys for various flora

and fauna will be on an as needed basis. The Intern will also assist the SAFCA Natural Resources Team with clerical and administrative functions that includes attending meetings, preparing meeting notifications, maintaining working group binders, contacting committee members and arranging meeting venues. Assistance will also be needed from time to time with routine office duties such as copying, filing, mailing documents and other tasks as needed (occasional pickup & delivery of documents).

Work hours and Wages: Mar.–Sept. 30, 2007 20-40 hours per week; \$11/hour.

Desired Qualifications: University training in a natural science such as biology/ecology/ botany/forestry (desired); interest in ecological restoration; ability to identify riparian plant species by sight; willingness to work in both an office and a rugged outdoor setting; experience with PC applications including MS Excel, MS Word and GIS applications and ability to work with minimal supervision.

Application/Contact: Please send a letter of interest, resume and list of three references to:

Lizette Crosbie, Natural Resource Specialist
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
1007 7th St. 7th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814
Tel. 916-874-6451,
Email: crosbiel@saccountry.net

Application Deadline: Open until filled

FEATURE ARTICLE

The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter is proud to support students and young professionals pursuing careers associated with wildlife. The following are statements of appreciation to from Feather River College students who were sponsored to attend the Annual Meeting in January 2007. The full press release is available [here](#).

Elise LaVanaway (edlavanaway@frc.edu)

I came to this conference for one major reason, to present my research as a student presenter, but I have gotten more than I expected. By attending this conference I am taking the early steps toward becoming a wildlife professional. I have had the opportunity to meet many interesting professionals, make new contacts and learn about how the profession behaves and trades knowledge and experience. I have been exposed to new topics at the varied sessions that were available. I also had a great time in general at this conference and hope to make it a regular endeavor.

The two most important aspects of this conference to me were the resume workshop and the opportunity to present my research. The resume workshop was immensely helpful, and inspired me to completely rewrite my resume the next day. In addition to the workshop, there were multiple professionals to add input on the resume process. The next two days those same professionals were available to critique resumes. This was such a valuable service provided for the students. Not only does my resume totally rock now, but it sells me better than ever before. I understand how to figure out what employers want, federal or private, and how to sell myself to them. Thank you.

The opportunity to present my research is an incredible opportunity provided by TWS – Western Section. I have another really great experience to put on my resume. Thank you so much for making this possible.

Haley Boehme (haleyroseb@sbcglobal.net)

I would like to thank the Western Section of the Wildlife Society for giving students an extremely important opportunity for going into an environmental field of study. Some of my goals included obtaining a B.A., and eventually an M.S. in wildlife biology / botany, as well as teaching credentials for post-secondary institutions. The 2007 conference has significantly aided in informing me on current issues and projects, all of which help to re-evaluate my future goals. I had to ask myself what I want that coordinates with my future goals. Attending many of the conference presentations, which included sessions about waterbirds, bats, small and large mammals protection, conservation, and research has given me a clearer view of what is to happen for my education and career.

Jesse Braley (jdbraley@frc.edu)

This conference has been very useful and has provided a great opportunity to begin a career in a natural resource field. The social format of the wildlife conference allowed me to meet and speak with several different experts from different fields of work. Also, the presentations gave me the opportunity to see what kind of work is being done in the field today. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to attend the Wildlife Society's conference. It was a great experience in starting employment doing research projects. I thank you for giving me the chance to attend this year's conference.

Tanishia Shaffer-Smith (tishaffer-smith@frc.edu)

This conference has really helped me to better prepare myself for a career in the natural resource field. The resume workshop helped me improve my resume greatly. It provided a lot of information that I could not have gotten elsewhere. Having a chance to improve my

resume and get feedback from the career counselor from Humboldt State University helped me create a much better resume. It was convenient to have my resume reviewed, so that I could use it to find employment.

I also enjoyed attending the presentations. It was nice to see the types of research being done, the different styles of research and the different species that are currently being studied. My favorite was the series of presentations on wildlife in the oak woodlands. I learned many things from this conference. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend the TWS – Western Section 2007 annual conference.

Michael Lippencott (mrlippincott@frc.edu)

I would like to thank everyone that has made it possible for aspiring students such as myself to be able to attend the conference and acquire a better understanding of what is expected and available in the exciting field of wildlife. I was very happy to learn that GIS is being used in many circumstances throughout this field, which was very apparent in many aspects of the conference. I have been interested in GIS for many years. Since leaving Central Oregon Community College for financial reasons, I have since returned to carry out my education at Feather River College, which does not offer extensive coursework in GIS. However, I have exciting plans to attend Humboldt to carry out this plan for my education. I have also learned that I need more education in order to be a presenter at a conference such as this. I plan to make progress in this direction and look forward to becoming a capable professional in this field. Thank you.

Tiffani Wilson (ttwilson@frc.edu)

I am going to have to admit that my goals were met well beyond my expectations. I knew that coming to this conference would be informative and an excellent opportunity; it ended up being so much more than that. What I wanted was to find a more distinct career path: not a huge goal, but that was what I hoped to accomplish by attending the conference. I may not have narrowed my career choices but I did see several options that I will investigate further at home.

What I really liked was the chance I was given to be here; I thought it was great that these opportunities are made to college students and are affordable. I feel very fortunate to be here and I am glad that I took a chance that was offered to me. It ended up helping my path in

life so much. Thank you TWS – Western Section and Sac-Shasta Chapter.

Ariel French (adfrench@frc.edu)

I suppose that what I would like to start off with is one huge THANK YOU. The opportunity to be included in this conference has changed my whole perspective. I have always known the importance of protecting wildlife and caring for the Earth, however I had never given any real thought to how. I have met so many wonderfully enthusiastic people at this conference who seem eager to help “new blood” enter the wilderness protection game. I have also learned a great deal about what it really means to fight for wildlife, and how challenging the road ahead will be.

I would also like to mention that I had high expectations when I came to this conference. I was hoping to meet new people, and get at least one clear goal to focus on, even if I may change my mind someday. I am going to pursue a career as a marine biologist focusing on coral reefs, tide pool ecology, and other forms of wildlife near and at the ocean’s edge. Honestly, I know I have a long time and a lot of work ahead of me before I get there, but I feel like my ties to TWS strengthen both my confidence and my chances to reach my goals. I am just thankful to finally have a goal.

Jeff Rockholm (jrockholm@hotmail.com)

Attendance at the TWS – Western Section conference has enabled me to gain more knowledge of a wide range of subjects pertinent to California wildlife. The presentations were interesting, informative and relevant. Discussions of field research projects and techniques were of special interest. The conference enabled and encouraged interaction with working professionals to help a student understand and appreciate the life of a wildlife biologist. This networking was beneficial and convenient as multiple prospective employers were gathered at a single venue. I appreciate the opportunity to attend and was impressed by the organization and energy of the Western Section of the Wildlife Society.

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,
1017 L street #245
Sacramento, CA 95814**

President- Kirsten Christopherson (twssacshasta@surewest.net)

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

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

Treasurer- Hal Holland (hholland@westervelt ecologicalservices.com)

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