



The Magpie

The Wildlife Society / Sacramento-Shasta Chapter



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CHAPTER NEWS

Sara Lee

Autumn is here! (Where did the summer go?!) There are a lot of announcements and upcoming events, so please peruse this issue. Also, a bit of Trivia: *What swims upside-down and feeds itself with its feet?* First ten members to respond to me by email (slee@esassoc.com) win a prize!!

President's Message

Kirsten Christopherson

Well, we are three-quarters way through the year, and it seems only fitting to recap what our Chapter has accomplished this year and where we are headed next. But first, a quick word about our current Board. Our membership voted unanimously at the end of 2006 to make our elections more flexible. (Why? We provided a bylaws update in the April newsletter). The membership still votes for who will be on the Board, but the new bylaws allow the Board itself to choose which Board member will serve in each position. We currently have five Board Members out of the seven allowed in our new bylaws. Having been our Chapter's Treasurer for four years, I was ready to try something new, so I stepped forward as President.

So what have these five dedicated individuals been cooking up for months? In April, we co-sponsored an Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC) Workshop with great success, and our 2nd Annual Natural Resource Symposium is scheduled for 30 October at CSU Sacramento. We have two workshops in the planning stages, and we hope to bring those to you in 2008: Wildlife Habitat Restoration Workshop and Willow Flycatcher Workshop. We are also hoping to bring you some "brown bag" lunchtime sessions in downtown Sacramento. Please stay tuned to our newsletter and web site for more information on our great training and networking opportunities.

Second, we have hired a new webmaster and hope to keep our web site more up to date. With email and

mailing addresses of our membership constantly changing, we find it difficult to get information out to our members. We have scheduled monthly updates to the web site, so please check it often. And if your email address changes, you can always contact Sara Lee, Newsletter Editor, with the new information.

Third, we will continue to support student academic and travel scholarships as well as various community outreach events (Creek Week, Nature Bowl, etc). Please get the word out to students and worthy causes about these funding opportunities from our Chapter.

Fourth, our Board would like to encourage our members to take whatever opportunities you can to educate the young people in your local community about the importance of protecting wildlife. This can mean hosting a short field trip with local school children or getting involved with biology students at local colleges and universities. I gave a presentation to the UC Davis Chapter of TWS in January regarding environmental laws affecting wildlife. At some point, I would like to turn this idea into a 4-8 hour workshop for students, so that they graduate with some additional knowledge that can help them in the job market. At work (Beale Air Force Base), we now have at least 7 different elementary school classes, nature bowl clubs, and community college classes that come out throughout the year for field visits to study various aspects of our environment. Sometimes in working for such a large bureaucracy, I wonder how much difference one person really can make. But with our educational outreach program, we see the direct benefits on the faces of those we teach. If you take part in these activities, please consider writing a short article about it for the next newsletter.

And last, please get involved with the Chapter! Right now, we have two open Board member positions. Fortunately, we have a "support staff" of other individuals who are involved in the Chapter, but do not wish to be voting Board members at this time. I find involvement in the Chapter to be a very rewarding experience, both professionally and personally. Any type of involvement in the Chapter by our members helps us to continue providing the above services in support of the wildlife profession, education, and our environment, so please

consider helping out in whatever capacity your life allows.

Kirsten Christopherson
President
twssacshasta@surewest.net

Sacramento-Shasta Chapter Supports Our National Wildlife Refuges

The Board voted in favor of signing a letter of support on behalf of the Chapter to encourage Senator Feinstein to support funding for National Wildlife Refuges in the Fiscal Year 2009 budget. Approval of this funding could mean up to \$451 million for the refuges. The letter was drafted by the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE), a coalition dedicated to ensuring that our National Wildlife Refuges are adequately funded.

To view a copy of the letter, please visit our website:
<http://www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta>.

Nature Bowl Lives On...

Nature Bowl XXIII continues spring of 2008 thanks in part to the support of The Wildlife Society-Sacramento-Shasta Chapter. This 3rd-6th grade team competition, open to schools and organized youth clubs, advances literacy on natural science and regional natural history, regional environmental issues and conservation practices. Coordinated by the California Department of Fish and Game, the program receives partnership support of seven organizations in the region that co-conduct a Nature Bowl semi-finals each spring, with advancing teams competing at the finals at CSUS in May. The sites include Gray Lodge Wildlife Area in Gridley, Yolo Wildlife Area in Davis, Community Memorial Museum in Yuba City, Placer Nature Center in Auburn, American River Nature Center in Coloma, the new Utility Exploration Center in Roseville, Discovery Museum (or Nimbus Hatchery) in Sacramento County, and possibly the Cosumnes River Preserve in Galt.

TWS supports this program again through a grant. Members are invited to volunteer on one of the dates serving as a co-judge. The dates, times and more specific responsibilities can be discussed with coordinator Bruce Forman at 916-358-2353 or Bforman@dfg.ca.gov

CHAPTER BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report

Hal Holland

To date, the Chapter balance is \$20,962.06. Income for 2007 totals \$2,365.98 from the APLIC workshop, membership dues, and interest generated on our bank account. Expenses so far are \$1,900.67. The largest expenditures have been for community outreach (NatureBowl, TWS raffle, and Earthday sponsorship) and scholarships for the TWS meeting in January.

The Western Section Update

Melinda Dorin

First, I want to let you know that this will be my last report as Chapter Representative to Western Section. Armand Gonzales joined our Chapter Board last winter and after attending a couple of meetings is jumping in to be the chapter representative. I have secretarial duties, which I can now focus on. The Western Section has been busy organizing professional development opportunities and also organizing the Western Section Annual Conference for 2008. The conference is planned for February 6-8 in Redding California. The Section is also going to be launching a new website. The website is great, one of the new features is a calendar of events which will be an easy way to see what is going on within the Section. The Section also has travel scholarship to the National meeting in Arizona for anyone giving a talk or a poster. Don't forget travel scholarships will also be available for next year's Section meeting. See the Western Section website for an application form or email the awards chair. Enjoy the rest of you summer!

Chapter Elections

We are looking for a few good wildlifera! The Sac-Shasta Chapter elections are coming up, and we need candidates. Our Chapter's bylaws have been modified to allow up to 7 Board members, who each serve a 1-year term. The new Board takes office at the Annual TWS Western Section Meeting (6-8 Feb 2008). Board members will not be voted into specific positions, but will be elected to the Board at large. Specific positions and duties for each Board member will be determined once the new Board is in office. If you are interested in running for a position or nominating someone you know for a position, please do! Contact any one of the Board members.

Sac-Shasta Chapter at Earth Day

Yes, I know that was back in April, but I just wanted to thank all members for coming by our table at Sac State on Earth Day and saying hello. Also, thanks to **Melinda Dorin** (left) and **Kiffanie Stahle** (center) for greeting and reaching out to our members and the general public (despite the threat of rain). It was interesting how many people were generally aware of some of the rare, threatened, and endangered species information we had out on the table. This, I believe, was largely part of newspaper articles on our local species (Swainson's Hawk, fairy shrimp, etc.).

Although some folk recognized the hawk and nodded at the mention of fairy shrimp, I think sometimes we who work with these species' issues on a daily basis (conservation folk, and you regulatory folk too) forget how many people aren't familiar with these sometimes obscure species. I once met a homeowner at a field site who had heard of fairy shrimp, but thought they were underground creatures that burrowed in the soil. You may laugh, but you have to agree on this point: If you are unfamiliar with something, how can you understand it? And if you can't understand it, how can you care?

In any case, it was a good day. So those of you who stopped by, thanks again. ☺

Sara Lee (I'm on the right).
Magpie Editor



Members Go 'Batty' at the Sac-Shasta Social

With rain clouds looming overhead, about 20 Sac-Shasta members ventured out to the Yolo Bypass to say goodbye to summer and attend the Sac-Shasta Social last weekend and were rewarded with dry weather. **Armand Gonzales** barbecued up some burgers, some members explored the birding and nature trails along Green Lake, and others got into the summer spirit and played some volleyball. At dusk, the group watched the Mexican free-tailed bats take flight from their home in the Yolo Causeway overpass. Thanks to all the members who attended – we hope to have another fun outdoor event in the Spring. ☺



Picnic at the Bypass



Members go 'batty'

UPCOMING EVENTS, INFORMATION
SOURCES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sacramento-Shasta Chapter
Natural Resources Symposium**

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

California State University, Sacramento
University Union, Foothill Suite
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This symposium is an opportunity for biologists conducting research, management, regulation, restoration, and conservation activities in the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter Area to exchange information, ideas, results, and progress of their work on natural communities, wildlife, and plant species.

The symposium registration fee includes abstract package and morning and afternoon refreshments.

This year's session topics include birds, vernal pools, and herps. Look for a detailed agenda on our web site after October 1st. <http://www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta/upcoming.html>

Early registration \$35.00 (by October 6th). Late registration \$45.00. Free for presenters!

Visit the website for registration:
<http://www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta>.

**The Yolo Basin Foundation Celebrates 10
Years!**

The Yolo Basin Foundation, which oversees the Yolo Bypass wildlife area, is having its 10th anniversary celebration next month. There will be a fundraiser dinner on **Friday, October 12th** to help raise money for education and future events. Tickets are \$40. Visit www.yolobasin.org for more information.

2007 Workshops Postponed

The **Willow Flycatcher Workshop** and **Habitat Restoration for Wildlife Utilization Workshop** that were scheduled for this summer were postponed, mainly because there was a lack of participants and to allow our Board members and active Chapter members adequate planning time. We are hoping that we can garner more

interest next year, so if you were thinking about it this year and couldn't make it, don't despair! Actually, if you really are interested, let us know so we know if it's worth putting on. We are, after all, here for YOU. ☺

**Riparian Habitat Joint Venture Conference
'Integrating Riparian Habitat Conservation & Flood
Management in California'**

When: **December 4 – 6, 2007**

Where: Radisson Hotel in Sacramento, CA. 500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento, CA 95815.
(916) 922-2020.

Conference Web site:

<http://www.prbo.org/calpif/rhivconference/index.htm>

Website includes:

- General info
- Registration online (Deadline for early registration October 20, 2007.)
- Hotel information and link to online booking (Rooms held at discounted rates until November 9th, 2007.)

Questions? Email rhivconf@prbo.org, or call Candace Renger at (510)524-1088

2008 NAEP and AEP National Conference

In 2008, the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP) and the California Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) will jointly host their **Annual Conference in San Diego on March 25-28th**. With the combined efforts of these associations, this should be a good conference with sessions on both NEPA and CEQA, as well as many others. Even if you are not a regulatory geek, there still may be something for you! Check it out...

For more information, check out AEP's website:

www.califaep.org

*The Western Section of The Wildlife Society
presents the:*

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMUNICATION
WORKSHOP**

When: **January 7-11, 2008**

Where: **Chico State**

The Natural Resources Communication Workshop, sponsored by the Western Section of The Wildlife Society, is designed to help natural resource workers more effectively communicate with general as well as technical audiences through personal presentations using good visual aids. The workshop focuses on the use of computer-generated images created with Microsoft's PowerPoint software. The workshop is practical-oriented and enhances participants' communication skills in planning, preparing, presenting, and evaluating presentations. Since many of the problems in natural resources management are people-oriented, more effective communication can significantly improve many management programs.

Initial deadline is **October 31, 2007**. After this date, spaces will be filled as available.

University Credit is available.

To apply or for more information, write or call:

Dr. Jon K. Hooper

Dept. Recreation and Parks Management
California State University, Chico
Chico, CA 95929-0560
(530) 898-5811 or 898-6408
fax: (530) 898-6557 e-mail: jhooper@csuchico.edu

Participants in the 2008 workshop will not only learn professional tips for using PowerPoint, but also will gain exposure to Photoshop Elements (digital photo editing and cataloging software).

The Western Section 2008 Annual Meeting

When: **February 5-9, 2008**

Where: **Redding, CA**

The TWS Western Section Annual Meeting will be held in Redding, California next year, amid beautiful mountains, with lakes and wildlife everywhere... (hear that Shasta members?). A great deal of information is now available on the website, www.tws-west.org.

Conference registration is NOT yet open. Expect that on or about 1 October 1st.

However, there is currently a CALL FOR PAPERS for presenting at the next meeting. Abstracts for proposed presentations must be submitted electronically, no later than 1 November 2007 to be considered.

Please refer to the website for more conference details, but here's a quick summary: At least 10 technical sessions (familiar topics and some new ones!), our banquet, a poster session, raffle, student events, a

career fair, field trips and more. Two pre-conference symposia include:

- The Northern Spotted Owl in the 21st Century: Confronting the Management Challenges of Cumulative Habitat Effects and the Barred Owl (Tuesday and Wednesday, February 5-6; 1½ days.)
- Managing California's Native Red Fox: Recent Findings and Implications (Wednesday, Feb 6; ½ day)

We're also pleased to announce two "strong tentative" additions to the schedule!

- Humboldt State University's Dr. Howard Stauffer is planning to offer two statistics workshops in Redding, aimed at different audiences. On Thursday (Feb 7th) there will be a one-day in-depth examination of Bayesian Statistical Analysis and Inference - this is aimed at researchers, students, state and federal regulatory biologists, government and private wildlife biologists, foresters, land managers and others with an interest in Bayesian Statistics -- you should plan on bringing your own laptop; software will be provided.
- On Friday morning (Feb 8th), Dr. Stauffer is offering a half-day Review of Traditional Frequentist Statistical Analysis and Inference and an Overview of Contemporary Statistical Methods. No laptops needed for this one.

We don't expect anyone to sign up for both of these workshops, as the materials presented will overlap; the Friday event is intended to be a review session for those of us who haven't been in college for awhile....

Both these workshops will be offered at additional cost, and they will both be scheduled concurrently with other sessions (exactly which ones, to be determined).

So submit your abstract and stay tuned for open registration....

Rhys Evans
TWS West President-Elect and 2008 Program Chair

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Check the website:
<http://www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta/job.html>

FEATURE ARTICLE

Sara Lee

Recently, the Sacramento Area Flood Control (SAFCA) along with local organizations and State agencies sponsored "The Vegetation Challenge" symposium. This symposium was held to open a discussion between the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and other interested stakeholders on the recent requirements for all levee vegetation to be maintained within strict Corps guidelines nationwide. As there is currently no guidance specific to regions, this would mean that several established riparian forest trees currently existing on or adjacent to our levees would be slated for removal.

Now, we wildlifers know that riparian forests on and along our levees provide much of the last remaining habitat left for species who depend on riparian systems. Many species are already threatened, such as the Swainson's hawk, the Valley elderberry longhorn beetle, as well as fish species who utilize the shade cast over riverine habitat by riparian vegetation. Although the impacts to threatened wildlife were not explicitly addressed, the value of riparian vegetation for wildlife in general was recognized by all.

I thought the Corps, agencies, and researchers provided good information and all were open to discussing potential alternative solutions for California levee systems. It was clear that no one wants a repeat of the Katrina disaster, but it was also clear that many people are unwilling to sanction 'wholesale removal' of all levee vegetation without some consideration to the ecological ramifications of implementing such a policy.

In the end I think everyone recognized that we do not know enough about how trees (the roots, specifically) affect the structural integrity of levees (both positively and negatively), and that more research is warranted. It will be interesting to see what ongoing research results tell us, and how the Corps will work with local and State agencies to come up with a workable solution for protecting both the public and the wildlife resources we are entrusted to protect.

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

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

Treasurer- Hal Holland (hholland@westervelteologicalservices.com)

Chapter Representative- Armand Gonzales (agonzales@dfg.ca.gov)

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