



The Magpie

The Wildlife Society / Sacramento-Shasta Chapter



Volume 16, Issue 1

January, 2008

CHAPTER NEWS

Sara Lee

Welcome to a New Year! I suggest that you start the year by enjoying a beer or tasty non-alcoholic beverage with your fellow wildlife colleagues at the Sac-Shasta Mixer – a joint event with AEP, this Thursday (17th) at Brew It Up in midtown, Sacramento (keep reading for details). Also, it's not too early to be thinking ahead to spring events (yes, Spring!). Keep up on what's happening by reading The Magpie!

Key Words in this Issue: * TWS Sac-Shasta & AEP Mixer * Northern Spotted Owl * Annual Conference * Earth Day * Creek Week * Leadership Institute * The Road Effect Zone * Climate Change * CNDDDB Job * Fairy Shrimp Class *

President's Message

Kirsten Christopherson

Our Chapter had an exciting 2007, and our small, but dedicated Board plans to continue the fun into 2008! To start off the New Year, we will be hosting a social event on January 17th at Brew It Up in Sacramento. Please join us for some Chapter-sponsored drinks and snacks!

Training Opportunities

In October 2007, we hosted our 2nd Annual Natural Resource Symposium on at CSU Sacramento. We had 13 presentations and got excellent reviews from our 75 attendees. This year's Symposium is currently scheduled for the first week of November 2008, so mark your calendars.

In May 2008, we will be co-sponsoring a Certification Workshop. At this 1-day workshop, you will learn the nuts and bolts of applying for certification as a Certified or Associate Wildlife Biologist with The Wildlife Society. Also starting in 2008, our Chapter is offering reimbursement of TWS certification application fees on a first come, first served basis to members. More details to follow on our web site.

In early June 2008, we are planning a one-day Habitat Restoration Workshop. Details will be posted on our web site as we move further along in the planning process.

Scholarships

Our Chapter continues to support student academic and travel scholarships. We recently coerced Chapter member, Laura Patterson, to become our Scholarship Committee Chair. She will be working hard over the next 6 months to get the word out to students about these funding opportunities from our Chapter. Information and the application are on our web site.

Member's Meeting

Our annual member's meeting will be at The Wildlife Society, Western Section meeting in Redding, CA on **Wednesday, February 6, 2008 from 8:00-9:30 pm in the Sierra Ballroom.**

Don't forget to check our web site to keep up on the latest events with the Chapter:

<http://www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta/>

Happy New Year!

Kirsten Christopherson

President

twssacshasta@surewest.net

*****Sac-Shasta & AEP Mixer*****

We are set for the mixer on **January 17th** (next Thursday) from **5pm to 7pm** at **Brew It Up!** in Downtown Sac. The Association of Environmental Professionals (known as AEP to acquaintances) has joined us, so I'm hoping for a great turnout. We will be covering* Beer and Appetizers, so please tell everyone you know – friends, family, co-workers, associates, students, that girl/guy next door, pets (er, actually, leave pets at home). We'd love to have a packed house - it would be a good sign for things to come the rest of the year!

*This is a FREE event if you RSVP to any Board Member, or \$5 at the door if you don't.

View [pretty-nifty flyer](#)

Treasurer's Report

Hal Holland

To date, the Chapter balance is \$23,757.10. Gross revenue for 2007 totals \$3,310.21 (not including some residual expenses) from the Natural Resources Symposium, APLIC workshop, membership dues, and interest generated on our bank account. Expenses for 2007 have been for community outreach (NatureBowl, TWS raffle, and Earthday sponsorship) and travel scholarships for the TWS meeting in January. At the close of 2007, the Executive Board voted to adjust our strategy for investing chapter funds. Prior to the close of December 2007, we placed a majority of the funds in an FDIC insured CD and Interest Maximizer account. This will allow us ongoing flexibility for accessing our funds, but provide greater income with which we can invest in the growth of our Chapter.

Keeping In Touch With YOU

Over the next few weeks the Chapter will be inviting members to join a yahoo group for Chapter Members only. We hope that this facilitates more conversation between Board Members and Members. We will use the group to send out announcements, and to keep in touch much like the one that the Western Section has. It will also be a way to keep email addresses up to date. If you don't get an invite shortly let a Board Member know and we hope that you'll join us.

Your Board Members, Here to Serve

The following Board members ran unopposed and will take office in Feb 2008 at the Member's meeting:

New Executive Board (drumroll...):

President - Hal Holland
(hholland@westerveltecologicalservices.com)
Past President - Kirsten Christopherson
(twssacshasta@surewest.net)
Secretary - Melinda Dorin (mdorin@energy.ca.gov)
Treasurer- Linda Leeman (Linda.Leeman@edaw.com)
Chapter Representative - Armand Gonzales
(agonzales@dfg.ca.gov)

UPCOMING EVENTS, INFORMATION SOURCES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CREEK WEEK 2008

The Sacramento Urban Creeks Council has begun planning for Creek Week 2008. Melinda has been the point person for the Chapter on this event. So far the events include Splash Off Friday April 18, 2008 and the Clean-up and Celebration on Saturday April 26, 2008. The theme this year is "What's in Your Creek?" We will be posting information about Creek Week on our website as it becomes available. Also, if you would like to volunteer at the Celebration or at a clean up site please let Melinda know at mdorin@energy.state.ca.us or 916-654-4024. The Urban Creeks Council is always looking for crew leads and volunteers.

EARTH DAY 2008

Last year the Chapter and the Western Section co-sponsored a table at Earth Day Sacramento, an event at Sacramento State University that was hosted by the Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS). It was great to be at the event and we talked to a lot of people who didn't know what we do. Some students and TWS members who saw us there expressed surprise that we were at the event and were happy that we were participating. This year ECOS has not requested sponsors yet but the event is going to be even bigger! Earth Day Celebration is scheduled for **April 20, 2008**.

Leading up to the event there will be other activities including "Greening the Grid," a "Green" themed Second Saturday (evening art walk in Sacramento), and Green Walking tours. We'll keep you posted through our website or contact Melinda at mdorin@energy.state.ca.us or 916-654-4024 if you want to get involved.

The Western Section of The Wildlife Society Annual Conference is February 5th – 9th, 2008, in Redding, CA.

Will you be there???

(If so, come to the Chapter Meeting! Wednesday, February 6, 2008 from 8:00-9:30 pm in the Sierra Ballroom)

For more information, visit www.tws-west.org.

The Wildlife Society 15th Annual Conference is in Miami, Florida this year!

The 15th Annual Conference will be in November 2008, and Registration begins in June 2008. This is a one-time date change to avoid the peak of Florida's hurricane season. We hope to see many members of your Section, Chapter, or Working Group in Miami! Visit www.wildlife.org often for up-to-the-date conference news. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact **Shannon Pederson** anytime at Shannon@wildlife.org or 301-897-9770 ext. 303.

To view poster, click [here](#).

The Wildlife Society Leadership Institute

The Wildlife Society (TWS) is **currently accepting applications for its Leadership Institute**. The goal of the Institute is to facilitate the development of new leaders within The Wildlife Society and the wildlife profession as a whole. The Institute will recruit 10 promising early-career professionals for a series of intensive activities and mentoring relationships. The focus will be on exposing the participants to TWS and increasing the ranks of active leaders in TWS and the wildlife profession coming from state/federal wildlife agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations. During summer 2008, participants will engage in a series of activities to develop their leadership skills. Institute members will also attend the 2008 TWS Annual Conference in Miami, Florida, in November and participate in various activities, including mentoring and leadership workshop sessions. Certificates of participation will be presented at the successful culmination of the program at the 2008 conference.

Application deadline is **March 7, 2008**. For more information, see The Wildlife Society's web site (www.wildlife.org) or contact **Laura Bies** (laura@wildlife.org).

The Road Effect Zone

Who hasn't seen a squished animal on the road and cringed? It's time to think about the "Road Effect Zone." The Road Ecology Center, with support from the UCD Sustainable Transportation Center, has put together a great roster of speakers exploring various aspects of the road effect zone. Please see the [speaker schedule](#) to figure out which talks you want to come to. If you are a student, feel free to sign up for credit. If you are unfamiliar with the UCD campus, check out the online

map (<http://www.cevs.ucdavis.edu/map/>) to locate "Plant & Environmental Sciences", where the seminars will be held.

If you have any questions, please contact Fraser Shilling at fmshilling@ucdavis.edu or call 530-752-3608 or visit: <http://roadecology.ucdavis.edu/>

View REC [flyer](#)

Climate Change 101 Seminar Series

Nope, it's not just an Al-Gore-thing. Climate change is a topic of importance that not only rolls off of politicians' tongues but also is a hot topic amongst scientists and regulators and the everyday person. If you want to educate yourself about climate change, this series is for you:

Climate Change and its Impacts on California

"A seminar series for non-specialists on the science, technology and policy aspects of climate change"

Where: CalEPA Building, 1001 I St., Sacramento
When: Noon

Visit the website for the schedule of topics: http://www.lawr.ucdavis.edu/seminars_cc101.htm

Contacts: Prof. Terry Nathan (trnathan@ucdavis.edu)
Dr. Philip Duffy (pduffy@lrl.gov)

California Anostraca and Notostraca Identification Class

Don't be alarmed – they don't bite. If you are unsure what Anostraca or Notostraca is, but want to know more, then maybe this class is for you. Mary Belk has been teaching consultants, agency-folk, and fairy shrimp enthusiasts about these vernal pool species' ecology and how to identify them. Taking her class might be handy if you are thinking about getting a survey permit for these critters.

The next class is in February 2008 at the Santa Rosa Plateau. View class [flyer](#).

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

BIOGEOGRAPHIC DATA BRANCH

1807-13th Street, Suite 202, Sacramento, CA 95811

Position Title – Biologist (Wildlife)
(565-037-0898-004)

Final Filing Date: Until Filled

Location: Sacramento

Contact: Darlene McGriff (916) 322-2494

Comments: Incumbent will join the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) Zoology staff in mapping animal locations using the CNDDDB Geographic Information System (GIS). Prepare text records with detailed information on location, habitat type, status and condition of the population, and identified threats for individual animal locations, with information gleaned from the wide variety of source documents submitted to the CNDDDB. Assist in evaluating the biological accuracy, precision, and completeness of animal survey information submitted to the department using the best available resources such as current field guides, published scientific literature, unpublished reports, internet resources, and museum specimen records. Incumbent will also help catalog incoming biological survey information, log all incoming data, route and file incoming data, maintain Zoology filing system of processed, unprocessed, and incoming data. Applicants that are currently classified as General or Marine/Fisheries or on either of these lists are encouraged to apply. Applicants currently classified as Environmental Scientist, or on the Environmental Scientist eligibility list are also encouraged to apply.

See www.dfg.ca.gov/bdb for more information about the Biogeographic Data Branch, and check here for the position details: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/jobs/vacancies/> (Click on DFG Vacancies and then scroll down to Biologist (Zoology).

NOTICENEW INFORMATION***

Northern Spotted Owl “Take” Determinations

There will be upcoming changes to the process that the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) uses to determine whether take of the northern spotted owl will occur on timber harvesting

plans. Since the late 1990s CAL FIRE has relied on technical assistance from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). FWS has recently informed CAL FIRE that it cannot provide the same level of project review as it has in the past. In order to compensate for FWS’s diminished role in determining take of the owl, CAL FIRE is developing a process whereby it may make the determinations required in the California Forest Practice Rules (14 CCR § 919.10 [939.10]). CAL FIRE held its first briefing on the matter on December 6, 2007. The meeting reviewed the current process and forest practice rule provisions, the basis for the change in process, anticipated plan processing, and anticipated next steps. Two draft memos (“Information Required for Plans Submitted within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl Relative to Process for Determining Take Avoidance” and “Frequently Asked Questions about the Change to the Northern Spotted Owl Technical Assistance Process”) were circulated and discussed at the briefing.

Both documents are posted on the CAL FIRE website at: http://www.fire.ca.gov/rsrc-mgt_forestpractice_pubsmemos_memos.php.

CAL FIRE expects to have another briefing in early 2008.

Please direct any questions or comments about the draft documents, any other NSO take determination process change topics, and any requests to receive NSO-related information, including announcements about future briefings, to CAL FIRE’s Chris Browder at: chris.browder@fire.ca.gov.

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 - Hal Holland (hholland@westervelt ecologicalservices.com)

Past President - Kirsten Christopherson (twssacshasta@surewest.net)

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

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Sacramento, CA 95814



EASE YOUR WAY INTO 2008
With a Joint AEP / Wildlife Society Mixer

Enjoy Quality Beer, Appetizers, and a Great Social Setting

When: January 17th - 5pm to 7pm

Where: Brew it Up! Brewery & Grill
Located at 14th and H St in Downtown Sacramento

Cost: Free with reservation - \$5 at the door

This is a great opportunity to connect with other environmental and biological professionals in the Sacramento region working on the issues that matter.



*Please RSVP so we can assure accommodations
(and enough Beer!)*

*Email hholland@westervelt.com (TWS)
or CRyan@kleinfelder.com (AEP)*



CALIFORNIA ANOSTRACA AND NOTOSTRACA IDENTIFICATION CLASS

DATE & TIME: February 12,13,14, 2007; 8:00 A.M. to 5 P.M. Bring lunches. (No breaks)

LOCATION: Santa Rosa Plateau Visitor's Center. Clinton Keith Rd., Riverside County California

REQUIRED MATERIALS: Each student MUST bring to class:

- A dissecting microscope with objectives ranging from 0.7X to 4X. (or as close as possible) best with sub stage lighting capability included.
- One or more high quality light source(s). High intensity desk lamp \$10 work well.

Furnished Materials: Reprint of Book (Eriksen & Belk (1999) *Fairy Shrimps of California's Puddles, Pools, and Playas*) handout sheets and reprints of pertinent papers, and one pair of forceps (Featherweight forceps (4748) from BioQuip Products, Inc).

COURSE OUTLINE: DAY 1: **LECTURE:** We begin class by viewing an award winning video on large Branchiopod crustaceans – fairy shrimps, clam shrimps, and tadpole shrimps. Mary Belk will discuss Branchiopod general biology, ecology, zoogeography, and conservation, followed by a discussion of morphology of fairy shrimp and tadpole shrimp. Questions are welcome at any point both during and after these presentations. **LABORATORY:** Mary Belk will discuss techniques useful in studying fairy shrimps under the microscope and using the key in Eriksen and Belk (1999) and update sheets provided in class. This will include PowerPoint presentations of the California species illustrating key characters. The key and update sheets will be used to identify study specimens of the California fairy shrimp and tadpole shrimp species. Mary Belk will work individually with each student during this exercise helping each person learn how to see key characters.

DAY 2: Mary will begin the class by stepping through the key couplet by couplet with the use of a PowerPoint presentation. Students will resume individual study aided by Mary. Approximately 2:30 pm Mary will show the PowerPoint presentation of California fairy shrimp again for review. Students will continue their individual study.

DAY 3: Students may spend some time studying. Students will take a practical examination during which they will identify a set of test specimens using the key and their notes (Open book test).

FOLLOW UP: 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 service.

REGISTRATION

The cost of the course is \$800 per person (payment required in advance). Checks should be made payable to Mary Schug Belk and mailed to the address below.

**Mary Schug Belk 7180 South Foster Rd., San Antonio, TX 78222
Phone: 210-648-1214 Cell phone: 210-842-7734**

E-mail: mary_belk@hughes.net



Road Ecology, Integrating Transportation and the Natural Environment: Defining the Road-Effect Zone

CRN: 44318
Units: TTP 289 Seminar, 2 units
When: Winter 2008, Tuesdays 3 – 5pm
Where: Plant and Environmental Sciences, Room 2005
Instructors: Alison Berry, Fraser Shilling, Katie Benouar
Contact: Fraser Shilling, fmshill@ucdavis.edu

Impacts to wildlife and habitat:

January 8 Opening the Black Box of the “Road Effect Zone” – Fraser Shilling (UCD)
Region-scale fragmentation and connectivity – Jim Thorne & Patrick Huber (UCD)
January 15 Connectivity and fragmentation with rural/forest roads – Sarah Reed (TWS) & Fraser Shilling (UCD)
January 22 Permeability of highways to wildlife movement – Jim Quinn (UCD)
January 29 Road and highway sound effects – Jessica Blickley (UCD) and Ed West (Bio-Acoustics Consultant)

Impacts to waterways:

February 5 Local and down-stream impacts of highways to water quality – Mahoud Kayhanian (UCD)
February 12 Managing storm-water quality from highway systems – Brian Currier (CSUS)

Impacts to plant communities

February 19 Effects of road and highway-associated chemicals on soils and plants – Alison Berry & Wendy Silk (UCD)

Impacts to human communities:

February 26 Urban air quality as a consequence of highways and traffic – Tom Cahill (UCD)
March 4 Urban community fragmentation and connectivity by roads and highways – Susan Handy (UCD)

Integrating Effects

March 11 An integrated approach to defining the “Road Effect Zone” – Fraser Shilling (UCD)



Road Ecology, Integrating Transportation and the Natural Environment: Defining the Road-Effect Zone

CRN: 44318

Units: TTP 289 Seminar, 2 units

When: Winter 2008, Tuesdays 3 – 5pm

Where: Plant and Environmental Sciences, Room 2005

Instructors: Alison Berry, Fraser Shilling, Katie Benouar

Contact: Fraser Shilling, fmsilling@ucdavis.edu

Road ecology is the collaborative multi-disciplinary investigation of the impacts of road networks on natural systems and the development of new integrated approaches to transportation, natural systems and land use planning and project development. This seminar-series will cover the emerging science of road ecology including impacts on wildlife and plant communities, landscape connectivity, and watershed processes. We will focus on conceptualizing and geographically defining the “Road-Effect Zone” – that part of landscapes and waterways affected by roads and road-systems. Speakers from campus and public agencies will add to the multi-disciplinary nature of this seminar.

