



The Magpie

The Wildlife Society / Sacramento-Shasta Chapter



Volume 16, Issue 2

August, 2008

CHAPTER NEWS

Elections

Obama? McCain? ... YOU?

That's right – we're looking for a new president of our chapter, and it could be YOU! Our Chapter President **Hal Holland** has been doing an excellent job, but we're nearing toward the end of the year when it will be time to elect new board members for our chapter, and once again we are looking for interested members to participate! The board decides what workshops and events the Chapter offers or sponsors, awards scholarships to students in our region, and provides networking opportunities for our members. Serving on the board shows is an opportunity to show leadership while providing a great service to those in the Sac-Shasta community.

In addition to position of President, any of the board positions are open to contestants. If you would like to participate but not serve on the board, you are certainly welcome to attend the board meetings and participate at any level. Don't like how the newsletter reads? Become the new editor of the Magpie! Want to lead a specific workshop? Come to a meeting and we'll help you make it happen. Board meetings occur about every couple of months, and lunches are provided.

*** The next board meeting is Thursday, October 2nd, 2008. ***

The Chapter needs your input! Contact any one of the board members if you are interested.

Spring-Summer Summary

Here's a summary of what the Chapter has been up to these past few months:

TWS Certification Workshop

In May, the Chapter co-sponsored a Certification Workshop lead by Rhys Evans. At this 1-day workshop members learned the process for applying for certification as a Certified or Associate Wildlife Biologist with The Wildlife Society. Rhys provided all the application materials and instructions and gave an excellent presentation which included tips and examples for the application process. Thanks Rhys!

Did you know?

Our Chapter offers reimbursement of TWS certification application fees on a first come, first served basis to members. Contact any board member for more information.

Sac-Shasta – SERCAL Habitat Restoration Workshop

On June 19th, the Chapter co-hosted a workshop with SERCAL (California Society for Ecological Restoration) called "Restoring Habitat for California's Sensitive Wildlife Species: lessons on integrating wildlife and restoration ecology."

It was a success! Thanks to all the members and participants who attended! There were approximately 115 of you listening to presentations and participating in the discussion with leading restoration and wildlife ecologists on how to design and restore wetland and riparian habitats for a diversity of California's sensitive wildlife species.

\$\$\$ Scholarships Awarded \$\$\$

2008 TWS Sacramento-Shasta Chapter Scholarship Update

We are proud to report that the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter has awarded over \$2,000 in scholarships in 2008. A \$304 travel grant was awarded to eight Feather River College students so that they could attend the Western Section Annual meeting in Redding in February. This was the third year the Chapter has awarded a travel grant to students from that school.

Last year the Chapter didn't receive any applications for academic scholarships, so this year we ramped up our efforts to spread the word about their availability, and we're pleased to announce it paid off. We received five applications and awarded three scholarships totaling \$1,950 this year. We awarded \$200 to **Linda Dieter**, a Feather River College student finishing her A.S. in Administrative Office Management and an A.A. in Liberal Arts with the goal to become a virtual assistant with GIS skills with the objective of assisting Wildlife. We awarded \$750 to **Katie Moriarty**, a graduate student in Oregon State University's Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, studying the effects of forest landscape changes on American martens. And, finally, we awarded \$1,000 to **David Ngoseck Mollel**, a sophomore at American River College majoring in Natural Resources, who intends to pursue a career in ecosystem management.

If you're interested in applying for a scholarship, there are now two deadlines for the year: **December 1st** and **June 1st**. The application can be downloaded from Student Info page on the Chapter's website.

What's Next?

3rd Annual Natural Resources Symposium

Get ready for the symposium that's got everybody talkin'....to each other! The Natural Resources Symposium gathers researchers and professionals from the Sac-Shasta region to talk about current issues and topics. This very affordable 1-day event is a great way to tune into what's going on in your region.

Mark Your Calendars

The symposium is scheduled for **November 5, 2008** at our usual venue, the CSU Sacramento campus.

*****CALL FOR SPEAKERS!*****

Do you have a current topic to present? Want to be the first to bring an issue to light? Have breakthrough research? Sign up to be a speaker at the symposium! We are currently inviting all potential speakers to sign up. Contact any board member if you are interested.

*****Sac-Shasta Pizza and Beer Night*****

After our successful mixer with AEP in January (over 60 attendees), the Chapter is excited to host a casual end-of-summer mixer for Sac-Shasta members. Meet the

board members, mingle with fellow wildlifers, or bring a friend (sign them up with the Chapter!) and enjoy some free pizza and beer – or beer and pizza, depending on your priorities.

Thursday, September 11, 2008

5-7 pm

Chicago Fire Pizza

Midtown Sacramento

24th and J Street

The Business End

Treasurer's Report

Linda Leeman

To date, the Chapter balance is \$18,286.00. Gross revenue totals \$968.20, not including the restoration workshop or the last mixer. Expenses to date are \$4,140.63. Major expenses include scholarships, community outreach, and preparation for workshops. Major revenue to date was generated from membership dues and account dividends.

Chapter Dues: A Balancing Act

Expenses continue to increase, and yet the Chapter's dues have remained at \$7 for about 10 years now. Over the past few years, the Chapter has increased its service to its membership which now warrants an updating of our dues. Beginning January 2009, the Chapter dues will increase to an even \$10. This slight increase is comparable with other chapters statewide. The revenue generated will help pay for the following services:

- **Keeping workshops affordable.** Often registration for classes and workshops can cost \$500-\$1,000 each. The Chapter offers workshops that provide great value for price. The Natural Resources Symposium, for example, is less than \$100!
- **Offering more scholarships.** Part of the Chapter's goal is to encourage students to study within those fields related to wildlife, and offering scholarships is one way to tangibly support those students. The Chapter offers scholarships for education, research, travel, and the TWS Certification fees.
- **Maintaining the website.** The website is an essential link to our membership. Our Chapter has a beautiful, elegant website that was designed and is maintained by a professional webmaster. In addition, new webhosting

services may be needed as the Western Section changes its hosting services.

- **Supporting local events.** Earth Day, Creek Week, Nature Bowl... these are annual events you know and love, and the Chapter helps sponsor them!
- **Offering mixers!** We love bringing fellow wildlifers together, and we love bringing wildlifers and environmental professionals together. In fact, the more mingling the better, because sometimes a fresh way of thinking about things is the key to survival. Whether it's bringing your family to see bats in the Basin, or having beer and pizza with colleagues, the Chapter socials offer something for everyone.

We hope the new dues won't inconvenience you too much, but be comforted in the fact that your extra dollars will help the Chapter provide better service for everyone, including YOU.

Your Board Members, Here to Serve

In case you forgot who's behind the scenes...

The following are your board members and members extraordinaire who make your Chapter work for you.

Officers:

President - Hal Holland

(hholland@westervelt ecological services.com)

Past President - Kirsten Christopherson

(twssacshasta@surewest.net)

Secretary - Melinda Dorin

(Melindabradbury@sbcglobal.net)

Treasurer - Linda Leeman

(Linda.Leeman@edaw.com)

Chapter Representative - Armand Gonzales

(agonzales@dfg.ca.gov)

Members Extraordinaire:

Scholarship Committee, Membership Coordinator -

Laura Patterson (sac-shasta@comcast.net)

Newsletter Editor -

Sara Lee (slee@esassoc.com)

Want some of the Action? Come to a Board meeting!

UPCOMING EVENTS, INFORMATION SOURCES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The CNPS 2009 CONSERVATION CONFERENCE:

STRATEGIES AND SOLUTIONS

January 17-19, 2009

**Sacramento Convention Center and
Sheraton Grand Hotel
Sacramento, California**

Early Registration: July 1-October 31, 2008

Keynote Speakers:

Jerome Ringo

- Past Chairman of the National Wildlife Federation

Stephen Hopper

- Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

John Muir Laws

- Sierra Nevada Naturalist, Artist, Author, and Educator

The "CNPS 2009 Conservation Conference: Strategies and Solutions" aims to bring together over 1,000 scientists, conservationists, university students, public policymakers, professional and amateur botanists, and local and regional land-use planners from all regions of the state and beyond to share and learn about the latest developments in conservation science and public policy. This conference will be the largest of its kind devoted to California botany and landscape conservation. Its purpose is to identify and promote strategies and solutions to California's conservation challenges and to celebrate its diversity.

To register and to find out more about conference topics, keynote speakers, and sponsorship and volunteering opportunities, see <http://cnps.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.

Creatures of the Twilight!

Wednesday, August 20, 2008

6:15 pm to 8:30 pm

Join a **Bufferlands** biologist to see how many animals you encounter as the sun goes down. Bring your note pad and record all the wildlife you see or hear. The possible stars of the show may include beavers, owls, and more! While on this leisurely paced tour around Fishhead Lake and nearby seasonal wetlands and grasslands, you will also have the opportunity to learn about how we care for the land to make it better for the wildlife that lives there. Please wear appropriate clothing for walking on trails and bring water and binoculars if you have a pair.

Call **Lora Leerskov** at (916) 875-9309 or e-mail her at leerskovl@saccounty.net to confirm your reservation and meeting location.

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 September at UC Davis. Email Mary if you are interested: mary_belk@hughes.net

FEATURE ARTICLE

Splitting hairs in the snow

Katie Moriarty

Studying elusive creatures like the American marten (*Martes americana*) require creative techniques. For my graduate project in the Tahoe National Forest, surveys were conducted using a combination of track-plates (summer), digital remote sensor cameras, snowtracking,

and genetics. And like most graduate projects, financial assistance ran low. A portion of the project genetics component can be attributed to the Sac-Shasta Chapter and a generous grant.

Martens are associated with late-seral stages of coniferous forests that have structural complexity near the ground. Because of specialized habitat requirements, martens have been shown to be sensitive to forms of land management that reduce cover and forest continuity. Comparing historical and current distributions indicates a decline within their historic range in the northern Sierra and southern Cascades ranges, with most remnant populations clustered in unmanaged forests having late successional attributes.

My graduate research focuses on the distribution of martens within the Sagehen Creek Experimental Forest and to the northwest in the Webber Lake Basin (Tahoe National Forest). Here martens have been documented periodically, from 1979 – 1993. Because of the unique opportunity to work in a well studied area, our project hopes to provide current and thorough information on marten distribution for future projects. These results, combined with the prior studies, are an unprecedented time series of information that can be related to the history of landscape change in the study area.

I hope to analyze the data and present by the next Western Section Annual Conference. Much thanks to the Sacramento Shasta Chapter and the Western Section – TWS for their assistance.

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**

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