



The Magpie

The Wildlife Society / Sacramento-Shasta Chapter



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CHAPTER NEWS

Laura Patterson

It's somewhat hard to believe that it's almost 2011, but it's safe to say the Chapter had another really great year that our members can all be proud of! We continued to support community outreach events like Creek Week and Nature Bowl, and we awarded academic and travel scholarships to a number of deserving students. We also continued our professional development efforts by holding lunchtime Brown Bag Seminars and our annual Natural Resources Symposium, as well as hosting a Wildlife Biologist Certification Workshop. And, of course, I saved arguably the best for last: we held or co-sponsored three social mixers and a member's only BBQ that were a lot of fun and provided great networking opportunities.

In 2011, we plan to continue these types of efforts and activities including offering a technical workshop on giant garter snakes. We also continue to strive to keep you updated with important news and announcements from the Wildlife Society National and the Western Section. For the most current updates on Chapter professional development, social events, and other local wildlife-related info: Join us on Facebook! Search for "Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of The Wildlife Society" and choose "Like". From there you can add photos, announcements, and other items that we may have missed or that you feel are important. Also visit us on our web site:

<http://joomla.wildlife.org/sacramentoshasta/>.

In other Chapter news, Linda Leeman, our Chapter Representative to the Western Section of TWS, has been nominated for President-Elect of the Western Section! We here on the Board are so proud to have Linda's hard work and dedication to TWS, and the wildlife field as a whole, recognized and appreciated with this honor, and we think she'd make an excellent President. To learn more about Linda's qualifications, check out her candidate's statement at:

<http://www.wildlifeprofessional.org/western/statements2011.html#leeman>

As always, we thank you for your support in 2010, and we hope you'll renew your membership get involved in what will surely be another exciting year in 2011.

Key Words in this Issue: elections, technology, membership, scholarships, giant garter snake workshop, brown bag seminars, TWS Western Section, Nature Bowl, volunteer opportunities

President's Message

Lucy Triffleman

With the holiday season upon us, it's a great time to catch up with family and celebrate with friends. It also provides a good opportunity to sit back and reflect on the accomplishments of the year as well as on what changes to make in the upcoming months. For me, I have seen many of my goals as president achieved. To name a few: with the help of countless volunteer hours our members have committed, Sacramento-Shasta Chapter hosted or partnered in hosting three of our most well-attended mixers ever, allowing for valuable networking opportunities during an economic time that has highlighted the importance of professional connections; the Chapter had great success reaching out to our colleagues within the various Federal agencies, increasing the diversity of perspectives expressed and intertwined throughout the Chapter's events; TWS started the long process of catching up with the digital age by launching and improving a well-supported Facebook page, Twitter account, and web site, facilitating communication to our members about events, employment, and scholarship opportunities as well as fun photos from the field to remind us why we do what we do.

There are also goals left to complete in the new year such as expanding environmental outreach to underserved communities and increasing professional development by hosting our giant garter snake workshop (details below). As you're soon-to-be Immediate Past-President, I look forward to continuing to pursue these items within the framework developed by our incoming Board.

In closing, I would like to thank all our members for giving me the opportunity to serve as your 2010 President. It has been a lot of hard work but also a lot of fun. I look forward to seeing everyone in 2011!

Executive Board Elections Meeting

Lucy Triffleman

On November 22, the Executive Board hosted an informational meeting on duties and responsibilities of Board members within the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter. Current and previous Board and Committee members spoke about each position's responsibilities, time commitments, and benefits to members attending the meeting. We also went over the official bylaws of the Chapter and answered questions of the membership on policies and meetings, and snacks and beverages were provided. These discussions sparked interest of several members to become more active in the Chapter as well as successfully recruiting new membership and a new Board member. Thank you to everyone who attended this event!

Technology Update

Kirsten Christopherson

Over the last year, our Chapter has focused on improving communication with our members through technological means: more frequent web site updates, Facebook posts, and emails to our distribution list. We hope we have reached you through one or more of these sources! If there are jobs or other announcements in the wildlife field that you would like posted, please email them to twssacshasta@surewest.net for consideration.

Within our Executive Board and Committee Chairs, we are setting up a file sharing site to avoid the large email files and to archive our important files. Our previous file archives were a plastic file storage box in someone's garage, so we are making some definite improvements!

If you are looking for us:

* Facebook: search for "Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of The Wildlife Society" and click "Like"

* Web site:

<http://joomla.wildlife.org/sacramentoshasta/>

* Email distribution list: send an email to cvnguyen@dfg.ca.gov

Treasurer's Report

Hal Holland

At the end of mid-December 2010, the current Sacramento-Shasta Chapter balance is \$19,507.16, and we plan on closing out the year at around \$18,400. This reflects a net expenditure of -\$1,470.01 since the beginning of the year, approximately \$300 lower than proposed in our initial budget. However, we succeeded in meeting our funding goals for academic scholarships and made strong showings in community outreach and member events.

Our investment strategy for Chapter funds continues to focus on highly liquid investments. Therefore, over half of the Chapter balance is invested in a 6 month CD. The remaining funds are in an interest-bearing savings account and a business checking account to allow for expenditures as approved in the 2010 annual budget.

Activities as we wrap up 2010 include preparing: the annual tax return, a new budget for 2011, standard accounting practices for the Chapter, and transition documents for the new Treasurer. With a major giant garter snake training workshop planned for next year, we are looking forward to a balanced budget in 2011 and an even greater presence in the community.

Executive Board Meeting Notes

Laura Patterson

Our last Executive Board meeting was held on Thursday, December 16th at Fox & Goose in Sacramento. Agenda topics included updates on the holiday mixer, 2011 Board elections/positions, the budget, recently received scholarship applications, news from Western Section, website updates and potential additional technological tools that could be utilized in the future, planning the giant garter snake workshop, and future community outreach efforts.

The Board voted to donate \$250 worth of REI gear to the raffle at the Western Section's Annual Conference and \$500 to Nature Bowl. We also decided to try to make more of an effort to incorporate members from the northern part of our Chapter's boundaries by holding at least one of our quarterly Board meetings up north (possibly in Redding). Northern members who are interested in getting more involved are encouraged to contact the Board (contact info included at the end of the newsletter) to assist in arranging a meeting and providing ideas on how we can better serve all of our members.

Next Executive Board Meeting

Our next Board meeting will be held at the Western Section's Annual Conference in Riverside, CA, on Wednesday night, February 9th from 7:30-9:30. Please join us for some fun, food, and drinks. This is our annual kick-off meeting where the new 2011 Chapter Board will be announced, and we'll start to gather ideas from the membership on the directions we want to go and activities we want to pursue in the coming year. We'd love your input!

Membership Update

It's time to renew your membership if you haven't already done so! Your membership dues help support many valuable Chapter activities. They allow us to offer affordable workshops, travel and academic scholarships to deserving students, financial support for community and outreach events like Creek Week, Earth Day, and Nature Bowl, and, of course, our social mixer and members-only events. Annual membership dues are \$10, and the form can be accessed through the website below:

http://joomla.wildlife.org/SacramentoShasta/images/pdfs/chaptersignup_formfillable.doc

Scholarship Update

The Chapter provides scholarships to support deserving students as they complete their education. Applicants are rated on application appearance, academic performance, references, financial need, extracurricular involvement in the wildlife biology field, and the potential for strengthening the field and TWS. Awardees are also given professional opportunities, such as a presentation at the Chapter's Natural Resources Symposium and a chance to write an article on any wildlife topic for the newsletter (see Michael Starkey's article below).

The Board is currently reviewing the academic scholarship applications that were received during the June 2 – December 1, 2010 period and will announce whether any are awarded by January 31, 2011.

There are still funds available in 2011 for scholarships. The deadlines for academic scholarships are June 1st and December 1st, and for travel scholarships it is two months prior to the event. Details and the application form for both are on our web site (http://joomla.wildlife.org/SacramentoShasta/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=192&Itemid=305).

As the recipient of a scholarship for travel to the TWS National Conference in Snowbird, UT, the Board asked Michael Starkey if he would be willing to write up a brief article for the Magpie.

What Every Biologist Needs to Know

Michael Starkey

Some college students lie awake wondering how they're going to pay their student loans, impress that sorority girl, or pass their Communications final. I lie awake at night worrying if the species I'm passionate about will still exist by the time I'm thirty.

In October of 2010, I attended the national conference of [The Wildlife Society](#) in Snowbird, Utah. I listened to many academics, resource agency biologists, and others discuss the effects of White-nose Syndrome on our bat populations in the eastern portion of the United States. Caused by the fungus *Geomyces destructans*, the infection is named for the white fungus found around the nose and wings of infected animals. This disease causes bats to use all of their fat reserves needed to get through the winter. Infected bats generally wake up early from hibernation and either freeze or starve to death. Discovered in February 2006 in a single cave in New York, White-nose Syndrome has since spread to 14 fourteen states, infected nine species and has killed more than a million bats. It is still spreading. Fourteen species of bats hibernate west of the Great Plains, and most, if not all, are potentially at risk for infection. Experts anticipate White-nose Syndrome will come to California within the next few years. At the conference, I heard biologists describe what it was like to walk into an infected cave. Each step sounds like the crackling of walking on pine needles, but these are the sounds of breaking wing bones of thousands of bats littering the cavern floor, all victims of the White-nose Syndrome. But what disturbed me most about this awful description was that I had heard this story before. This was not the first time I had heard first-hand accounts of an extinction crisis. I have seen the effects of another extinction crisis that has been going on for decades.

In 2008 I had the opportunity to travel to a little mountain town called El Valle in the cloud forests of Panama, where I was invited to the [El Valle Amphibian Conservation Center](#) (EVACC). A modern day ark, EVACC is a state-of-the-art facility that contains the last representatives of critically endangered amphibians, such as the famous Panamanian Golden Frog, *Atelopus zeteki*, which may be—or perhaps already is—extinct in the wild. Why are these species going extinct? There are many contributing factors, but it is the disease Chytridiomycosis, caused by the fungus

Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis, which is causing amphibian declines all over the world. While its origin is unknown, this disease has spread to 36 different countries and is found on at least 385 species of amphibians. The EVACC goes to great efforts to care for these amphibians in the hope of re-populating the species--but scientists still have to stop the disease first.

With the rapid spread of Chytrid Fungus and White-nose Syndrome, we can only expect more species to become at risk. It is incredibly disheartening to me, as an emerging biologist, to see such devastation in populations. As biologists, we need to take action. It is up to us to halt the spread of these diseases, and the first step is to educate ourselves. To this end, we can: Visit websites run by organizations such as [Save The Frogs!](#) or [Bat Conservation International](#); learn quarantine protocols and decontamination procedures; spread the word; and finally, join others in the biological community to combine efforts. On February 9, 2011, you will have the opportunity to learn more at the Western Section of [The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting in Riverside California](#), where there will be a pre-conference symposium discussing these two fungal diseases. It is truly something that every biologist needs to know. I'll see you there.

UC Davis Student Chapter Update

Max Lambert

This new school year has started off with strong enthusiasm from students. At our first meeting of the school year Dr. Brian Todd, a herpetologist and UC Davis' new professor of conservation biology, introduced himself and discussed future "herping" trips later in the school year. Bobby Walsh, an ecology graduate student, gave a talk on bird watching and we also hosted a presentation by the California Raptor Center. In our weekly emails we have been attaching photographs of California wildlife for members to identify. This has been an excellent way to expose many of our members to the diversity of California's wildlife.

In October we helped PhD candidate Chris Searcy finish installing a new continuous drift fence at Jepson Prairie in Solano County to monitor federally threatened California Tiger Salamanders. Since many of our members are Wildlife Conservation students, this was a great opportunity for them to learn about drift fences which are a valuable tool for monitoring reptiles, amphibians, and small mammals. It was also a chance for many of them to learn about this species and interact with Dr. Brad Shaffer who has conducted extensive research on this amphibian.

Just before the migration of waterfowl into California's Central Valley, we went bird watching on the restored Davis Wetlands. Graduate students Bobby Walsh and Kris Robison helped novice birders identify everything from western sandpipers to peregrine falcons. We were met by city of Davis wildlife biologist and president-elect for TWS Western Section, John McNerney, who discussed a little about the wetlands. In November, Mr. McNerney gave a talk at one of our meetings about the process of wetland restoration and the benefits for wildlife. We will hold a follow up bird watching trip to the Davis Wetlands in January to see the seasonal variation in bird diversity.

During the upcoming winter quarter we are planning a trip to Ano Nuevo to see elephant seals, a presentation by Michael Starkey about the Save the Frogs charity, a mammal tracking workshop, and a bat mist netting event. Several of our members are planning to make the drive to Riverside in February for the Western Section's annual conference and are excited to interact with more the community.

For any information about our student chapter please feel free to contact any of our officers.

Bridgette Kirk (co-president): bdkirk@ucdavis.edu

Monica Stupaczuk (co-president):

mjstupaczuk@ucdavis.edu

Max Lambert (PR/Chapter Representative):

mrlambert@ucdavis.edu

Karin Petrites (treasurer): kdpetrites@ucdavis.edu

UPCOMING EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Giant Garter Snake Workshop

February 16, 2011 – Davis, CA



SAVE THE DATE!

I bet you were questioning whether this workshop would actually ever happen given all the postponements, but believe us, there was a very good reason. We were waiting on the

availability of some key speakers so that we could offer you the best workshop with the most topics and perspectives possible, and it was worth the wait! A lot of new research has been conducted on giant garter snakes since our first workshop in 2003, leading to a much better understanding of the snake's ecology as well as some promising tools for better assessing threats and impacts, population and individual health, and managing habitat.

This event, scheduled for Wednesday February 16th, will be held at the UC Davis Alumni Center. It will be a very full day of oral presentations, followed by a panel discussion and poster session and reception. There will be presentations and posters from USGS-Dixon Field Station, Eric Hansen, USFWS, DFG, and academia on topics such as general life history and ID, habitat use, population dynamics, regulatory compliance and an update on the new Draft Recovery Plan, conservation land planning and design, and long-term integrated management with agriculture. So, save the date and keep checking the website for the registration form and other updates. We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information, contact Laura Patterson at lpatters@water.ca.gov.

Brown Bag Seminars

February 8, 2011 – Sacramento, CA

Keep your eye on the website and Facebook for details on the Brown Bag Seminars sponsored by the Sac-Shasta Chapter. Talks by guest speakers range in topics from research to restoration to policy changes and implementation. There is sure to be something for everyone! These seminars are geared to inform interested people during the lunch hour, so plan to bring your lunch with you. The 2011 seminars will be held the 2nd Tuesday, every other month from February through October.

Our first Brown Bag Seminar of the new year will be held on February 8th in Cafeteria Conference Room 1003-C at the federal building at 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento. The speaker is still TBD, so check in for more information as it arrives.

The Western Section of the Wildlife Society's 2011 Annual Conference

February 8-11, 2011 – Riverside, CA

Registration for the conference is now open. Go to https://www.wildlifeprofessional.org/western/ac2011_reg.php

This year's conference theme is "Alternative Energy and Wildlife: Current Efforts to Balance Conflicting Sustainability Goals." Two pre-conference symposia will also be held: "Raptors" all day on Feb 8th and "Fungus: What Every Wildlife Biologist Should Know about the Emerging Threats of Chytrid Disease and White-Nose Syndrome" in the morning on Feb 9th.

There will be plenty of opportunities to meet old friends and colleagues and make new acquaintances at the Opening Night Reception/Dinner and the Student-Professional Mixer.

For travel information, preliminary conference schedule and other details, visit the conference site (http://joomla.wildlife.org/western/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=212&Itemid=324).

Rare Pond Species Survey Techniques Workshop

April 2-3, 2011 – Rohnert Park, CA

This workshop is designed to provide practical training on aquatic survey techniques for the California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, and western pond turtle. The range of these three rare and protected species overlap and they often occur in similar pond habitats.

The lecture session will include a review of the biology and ecology of these species, identification of life stages, state and federal regulations, and approved survey protocols. The field trip sessions will provide field training in aquatic survey techniques, including dip net sampling for CTS larvae, evening spotlighting for frogs, and turtle visual encounter surveys and trapping. Also, seining (netting) and snorkel survey techniques will be demonstrated, if weather conditions permit.

Registration opens Monday, January 10, 2011. A flyer and registration form will be available on January 5, 2011 to download from the Laguna Foundation's website. Preferences for field session dates is on a first come first served basis. Questions? Contact Maggie Hart (707) 527-9277 x107 or maggie@lagunafoundation.org

PAST EVENTS

Holiday Mixer with APA and AEP

Lucy Triffleman



Thank you to everyone who came out to our 2010 Holiday Mixer at the Blue Cue on December 9th. Thanks to our partners at the American Planning Association (APA) and the Association of Environmental

Professionals (AEP), we were able to host the largest mixer in Chapter history with over 100 total attendees

throughout the evening. Within this group, we had broad representation from across the environmental profession with attendees hailing from federal, State, and local agencies, consultants, non-profits, and the mitigation banking community. The Blue Cue provided a great space for the event with free pool, delicious snacks, and cheap beverages throughout the evening. This was the perfect way to celebrate the holiday season and our numerous successes in 2010.

Natural Resources Symposium

Lucy Triffleman

The Chapter hosted our 5th annual Natural Resources Symposium (NRS) on November 3rd at Sacramento State University. We had over 60 attendees throughout the day from a wide array of public, private, and non-profit entities as well as a number of students representing the future of wildlife biology. Overall, eighteen speakers presented on a variety of topics covering restoration, research, and policy with talks ranging from emerging alternative energy policy to rock pool species associations. As always we strive to keep the content of our events high and costs low, so we'd like mention that materials for the NRS were generously provided by HDR Incorporated, and snacks throughout the day were made possible by Westervelt Ecological Services. Thank you so much to our great speakers, sponsors, volunteers, and attendees that continue to make this annual event possible.

Brown Bag Seminar

Dawn LoBaugh

Another in our series of Brown Bag Seminars was held on October 12th. William Haas, Executive Director of the Pacific Coast Conservation Alliance, presented on the results of a long-term ecosystem monitoring project being conducted for Miramar Marine Corps Air Station in San Diego County. The methods, and more importantly the reasons, for conducting long-term species monitoring were discussed including the need to build solid natural history records of species whether listed or not. This data can allow biologists to quickly address declines and hopefully assist in recovery.

The study was initiated in 1999 and collected vegetation, bird, and other wildlife species counts and habitat evaluations. Ten years later, after two major fires, the team returned to replicate the study, providing insight to the effects of major stochastic events to a natural system. Post-fire benefactors included the San Diego pocket mouse, California gnatcatcher, and Bells' sage

sparrow. On the other hand, woodrat populations were devastated by a fire in 2003.

JOB and VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Check out The Wildlife Society's Wildlife Careers Online: <http://careers.wildlife.org>, and the TWS-West job site at: http://joomla.wildlife.org/Western/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=195&Itemid=286.

For local job announcements, check: http://joomla.wildlife.org/SacramentoShasta/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=190&Itemid=303 or http://joomla.wildlife.org/Western/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=196&Itemid=331.

If anyone has job or volunteer opportunities to post in our next newsletter, please contact the newsletter editor.

Western Section Annual Conference

Rhys Evans

The TWS West Professional Development Committee is seeking students to volunteer and assist with operations at the two symposia immediately preceding our 2011 annual meeting in Riverside. You must be available to start work at 7:00 a.m. Responsibilities include "in-symposium" activities (PowerPoint, lights, timing) and some clerical duties (e.g. assisting at the registration desk). Each student will be assured attendance in at least 75% of all presentations, and we will work with you to ensure that you can attend particular sessions and presentations of special interest to you.

What you get from us: free registration to the symposium. All materials provided to paid participants. Meals while you're working. Probably a few free beers or other beverages if you're of legal age. We will consider (no guarantees) lodging. We will NOT be able to reimburse for travel.

How to volunteer: Self-nominate by sending an e-mail to the Professional Development Committee: sirsnave@verizon.net. Add a sentence or two affirming your ability and willingness to operate PowerPoint and complete rather simple clerical tasks. Specify if you would need lodging.

Finally, student and "new professional" volunteers are also needed for the 2011 annual meeting itself. Our procedure for this is for you to identify yourself to the program committee, register AND pay for your registration, and we will reimburse you after the

conclusion of the meeting (assuming you've performed 8 hours of volunteer duties. As mentioned above, many of the volunteer tasks are operating PowerPoint, lights, and times, allowing you to attend technical sessions.

Contact Volunteer Coordinator Janae Scruggs
jscruggs@tidepool.com for additional details.

Nature Bowl

The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter is proud that we are sponsoring the 2011 Nature Bowl! We are especially thankful to the Western Section who was able to match our sponsorship, which doubles our support of this great program for kids.

Nature Bowl is a science-based cooperative team competition for 3-6th graders designed to promote learning about local and regional conservation. The teams work together to find answers to environment-related questions that are aligned with State Science Standards. Sessions are scheduled throughout the Sacramento Valley, Stockton and in the Sierra foothills starting in January and extending through April.

Nature Bowl is always looking for volunteers to help coach teams, assist with the activities, and other general support to make this great program a success. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Bruce Forman at (916) 358-2353 or Bforman@dfg.ca.gov or check out the website at:
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/education/naturebowl/>

Cosumnes River Preserve's Annual Volunteer Naturalist Training

Five evening and one Saturday day training events are scheduled to provide instruction to become a Volunteer Naturalist. Knowledgeable speakers will cover topics like: an overview of the Cosumnes Project, Wildlife Friendly Farming, Birds, Cultural History, Plants, and Interpretation. We will be watching Sandhill Cranes fly in by the hundreds at dusk, walk in a riparian forest hundreds of years old, and learn about the plants and animals that call the Preserve their home.

The first training takes place on Wednesday February 9th from 6 – 8 pm at the Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor Center at 13501 Franklin Blvd in Galt.

If you're interested in becoming a Volunteer Naturalist and would like more information on this unique

opportunity, please call the Cosumnes River Preserve at 916-870-4317 or email veselkaa@saccounty.net

NOTICENEW INFORMATION***

Wildlife Nutrition – Distance Learning Course

Dr. Robert Brown, Dean of the College of Natural Resources at North Carolina State University, will be teaching a 3 credit, distance learning course on Wildlife Nutrition (FW 495/601). The course is being offered in the spring semester of 2011 (Jan 10 - May 12).

Topics Covered include: nutritional theory; nutrients and their digestion, absorption, metabolism and analysis; digestive physiology and neuro-endocrine control of intake; field techniques to determine preference, intake, and digestibility; requirements for growth, reproduction, and survival in monogastrics, ruminants, birds and fish; toxins and plant defenses; nutritional diseases; forging behaviors; assessing nutritional condition; assessing population density and nutritional carrying capacity; feeding animals in zoos; adaptation and evolution.

For information on how to apply and enroll, please visit <http://distance.ncsu.edu/courses/>.

Free Webinars from USGS

For those just starting out as wildlife professionals or those desiring to keep their knowledge of study design and statistics current, the USGS offers a number of valuable web-based courses free of charge through their Status and Trends of Biological Resources Program.

Upcoming Webinars include:

Designing Natural Resource Monitoring Surveys – Late Winter 2011

Adaptive Management of Natural Resources – Spring 2011

Estimating Population Change from Survey Data – Spring 2011

For specific information on upcoming webinars, visit:

<http://www.fort.usgs.gov/brdscience/Courses.htm>

The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter welcomes comments and input from our members. If you have suggestions for articles, questions you want answered, things you'd like to see us do, or events to announce, please let us know! Contact any one of the Executive Board members listed below.

**The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of The Wildlife Society
1017 L Street #245
Sacramento, CA 95814**

President - Lucy Triffleman (ltriffleman@westervelt.com)

Vice President - Shaun Oldenburger (shaun.oldenburger@gmail.com)

Treasurer - Hal Holland (hholland@westervelt.com)

Secretary - Melinda Bradbury (melindabradbury@sbcglobal.net)

Chapter Representative to Western Section - Linda Leeman (lwleeman@gmail.com)

Immediate Past-President - Laura Patterson (lpatters@water.ca.gov)

Professional Development Team Chair - Nicole Smith (nicole.m.smith@us.mwhglobal.com)

Newsletter Editor - Randi Logsdon (rlogsdon@dfg.ca.gov)