



The Magpie

The Wildlife Society / Sacramento-Shasta Chapter



Volume 19, Issue 4

Dec. 2011

CHAPTER NEWS

Randi Logsdon

Happy New Year to our members! Let's review what a great year the Chapter had in 2011, shall we? It started with a productive board meeting in Riverside and another year of winning the Chapter of the Year award from the Western Section. We formed our Professional Development Committee, which met tirelessly and played active roles in planning, developing, and seeing through our members' events, workshops, symposium, and seminars. A big thanks goes out to Dawn LoBaugh for chairing this committee!

Our members' events included a spring social mixer with the UC Davis Chapter in April; a restoration tour, barbeque, and bat walk at the Cosumnes River Preserve in May; a July and December social mixer with AEP and PEMA; and brown bag seminars on fuzzy riparian mammals, bats, great gray owls, and ringtails.

We had a fantastically successful giant garter snake workshop in February and our annual Natural Resources Symposium (NRS) in November. The NRS received great reviews and both events helped to increase our membership. Additionally, we continued our involvement with Creek Week and the Nature Bowl. The Chapter donated outreach funds to the Western Student's Wildlife Conclave, to one academic scholarship, and to one travel scholarship. On top of this, we provided financial assistance to the National meeting in Hawai'i and the Certification workshop held in Sacramento.

In 2011 we expanded our activities to include the northern part of our Chapter's range. We had a summer mixer and board meeting in Chico in June, a barbecue at the Nature Conservancy's Dye Creek Preserve in September, and a Halloween mixer in Redding.

After all these events, we responsibly maintained a balanced budget so there is plenty available for more events in 2012. So enjoy the rest of your holidays, bring in a happy new year, and read ahead to see what you can look forward to in 2012!

Key words in this newsletter: Scholarships, garter snake workshop, natural resources symposium, brown bag seminars, wildlife conservation course, membership, nature bowl, western section annual meeting, Halloween mixer, holiday mixer, conservation and litigation, great gray owl, Sacramento Zoo conservation initiative, pika, black-backed woodpecker, sandhill cranes, swans

President's Message

Canh Nguyen

Hello everyone,

Wanted to wish everyone a happy holiday season! This year has been a great experience for me as president of our Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of TWS. It's been an honor and definitely a privilege to be in this role. So far so good; we still have an intact chapter! Membership hasn't plummeted since I took on this role.

The Chapter remained intact thanks to the help of all individuals involved. This included all Board members, committee chairs, sponsors, and of course you, the members. We have had a great number of events, concluding with the holiday mixer at the Crocker Museum in Sacramento. It was the only event I've been to since joining TWS that reservations were closed due to capacity of the venue. There were also great mixers, brown bag seminars, and one fantastic Natural Resources Symposium. All these events helped get us together for better networking, but more importantly... to see we are a team when it comes to this wildlife "thing". It's reassuring to know that our Chapter's members can come together to represent us in the environmental community.

To continue to represent who we are, I welcome you to join us at our next Board meeting at the Western Section Annual Conference in Sacramento on **February 1st** at 7:30pm. We will be transitioning to the 2012 Board members. Hope to see you there and as always, please continue to visit our website and friend us on Facebook, to keep updated on our activities and events.

Scholarships

Laura Patterson

The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter awarded a \$250 travel grant to Katie Moriarty to help pay for her attendance at the "Modeling Patterns and Dynamics of Species Occurrence Workshop" held in Sacramento. The Chapter didn't receive any academic scholarship applications by the December 1st deadline, so the entire annual scholarship budget will be available during the second round. The next deadline for academic scholarship application submissions is **June 1, 2012**, and travel grant requests need to be made at least two months prior to the event. For more information go to: http://joomla.wildlife.org/SacramentoShasta/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=202&Itemid=314

Executive Board Happenings

Randi Logsdon

The Board met on December 6, 2011 at the Hoppy Brewery to discuss and approve the 2011 budget and for board member reports. When considering revenue from the giant garter snake workshop, our 2011 budget is in good standing. We are at or under projected spending in all categories, except for socials, which can be adjusted with our discretionary spending budget. Also, money not yet spent on an event in 2011 can be carried over to the 2012 budget. Membership has been increasing or maintaining steadily at between 100 and 200 members.

Approximately 80 people attended our Natural Resources Symposium, which received excellent evaluation ratings and comments. We had successful mixers and contributed funds to our joint mixers with AEP and PEMA. We received no scholarship applications and the Board is planning on expanding its outreach. The Board discussed contributions for the annual Western Section meeting scheduled for February.

Brown bag seminars went well, so the Board has committed to continue them in 2012, depending on the availability of volunteers on the Professional Development Committee. The Board plans on contributing to the Nature Bowl again this year, and will be looking into other activities, inspired by ideas from other chapters.

The Board is looking for members! Please attend our next board meeting and let us know what position you are interested in fulfilling.

Our Next Board Meeting

Our next Board meeting will be held **Wednesday, February 1, 2012** at the **Western Section Annual Meeting (Room TBA), 7:00 PM, at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento**. Please feel free to attend or let us know if there is a topic you would like us to discuss.

Chapter Representative to the Western Section Report

Laura Patterson

The Western Section's Executive Board met on Friday December 2nd at the Radisson Hotel, but much of the content of this report comes from email votes that have occurred since my last report in September. Since that time, the Western Section Board voted to award two \$1000 academic scholarships to graduate students Sara Peterson at HSU and Tory Westall at CSU Bakersfield. Sara will use the money to examine American crow and common raven behavior in response to the use of effigies, a non-lethal predator control method, in the breeding habitat of the largest population of plovers within Humboldt County. Tory is proposing to use proximity loggers, motion sensing cameras, and direct observations to quantify the relative contributions of various San Joaquin kit fox family group members to the rearing of the pups. The Board also awarded travel grants totaling \$5,700 to 23 students to go to the National Conference in Hawai'i, and \$382 for Katie Moriarty and four of her co-workers to attend the West Coast Fisher Symposium at the 2012 Western Section Conference. The Board also voted to match the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter's \$500 contribution to the 2012 Nature Bowl.

In other business, the Board approved budgets for the 2012 Western Section Conference and the two pre-conference symposia. A new Operations Manual was drafted and distributed to the Board for review. Proposed changes to the bylaws will be sent out for a vote by the membership, and Don Yasuda is still working with National to sync up Section membership renewals with National's. David Wright is still soliciting articles for the Transactions of the Western Section of TWS, and some of the archives are now searchable on Google Scholar, but there are still back issues that need to be indexed with proper keywords. A reminder that the next deadline for submissions will be **May 1, 2012**, and details can be found at:

http://joomla.wildlife.org/Western/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=181&Itemid=358. Armand Gonzales will take over as the Conservation Affairs Committee Chairperson, and a subcommittee will work on defining the boundaries of the Section's roles and

responsibilities in developing or advocating wildlife policies. Cynthia Perrine is working with the American Association of University Women to create a Wildlife Conservation course at the UC Davis Tech Trek camp. They propose to hire UCD Student Chapter members to help teach the course and to use Sacramento-Shasta Chapter members as mentors to the university students, and to assist in field trips and share personal experiences of being women in the wildlife profession. For more info on Tech Trek visit: <http://www.aauw-techtrek.org/>.

Membership

If you're a member and you haven't done so already, please renew your membership for 2012. If you're not already a member, please join the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter to help support the Chapter. Membership dues will help keep workshops affordable, offer more scholarships, maintain the website, support community outreach projects, and offer great social/mixer events. Membership is \$10 and can be accessed through the website below: http://joomla.wildlife.org/SacramentoShasta/images/pdfs/chaptersignup_formfillable.doc.

UPCOMING EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Registration Opens for "Nature Bowl" Science and Conservation Competition

Registration is now open for the 28th annual Nature Bowl, an elementary school activity-based competition held each spring, which receives contributions from the Chapter. This popular program increases the science and conservation literacy of third- to sixth-grade students in the Sacramento Valley and Foothills. The Nature Bowl is open to students from any school, group or organized youth club in the area. Teams will consist of three to seven children each. The day-long, semi-final events are held during March and April in El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento and Yolo counties. Several groups will advance to the final event that will be held **May 5, 2012**.

Prior to the semi-finals, there will be a series of workshops for coaches. Integrating environmental science concepts and conservation information into the classroom curriculum (following the State Science Standards), these workshops will help prepare students for the competition. Teachers, youth group leaders or parents may sign up to coach a team. The entry fee for each team is \$20, which pays for materials provided.

A coaches' workshop will be held on **Jan. 17, 2012** from 3:45 to 5 p.m. at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery in Rancho Cordova. Make reservations by calling (916) 358-2884. Students in Sacramento County will have a choice of two semi-finals to attend at Nimbus Fish Hatchery in Gold River, on **April 10** or **April 12**.

For more information about the Nature Bowl please call DFG at (916) 358-2353 or go to the DFG website at www.dfg.ca.gov/education/Naturebowl/.

Sacramento Zoo Conservation Initiative

The Sacramento Zoo is starting a new conservation initiative. The Zoo would like to include at least one local conservation project each year, and is looking for projects that require relatively small amounts of funding in future years. The project, if selected, would be guaranteed at least \$5,000 and receive a portion of an additional \$15,000 based upon the percentage of votes it receives from the Zoo visitors. The project will be selected in the fall, voting will last the following year (January – December), and the money would be awarded in January of the following year. The Zoo is tapping into our membership to try to find worthwhile projects that would consider taking Zoo funding. Please contact Ray Wack, 916-808-8808, rfwack@ucdavis.edu, if you have a project you would like to propose.

TWS Western Section Annual Meeting



Registration is now open for the 2012 annual conference of the Western Section of the Wildlife Society! The conference will be at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento, from **February 1-3, 2012**.

The Western Section has had an outstanding number of oral presentations and posters submitted, and will have a full line up for 13 technical sessions and an evening poster session and mixer!

The theme of this year's plenary session is "Conservation in the Age of Litigation," and a panel of speakers from diverse perspectives will explore how the

legal landscape affects our profession.

We also have the opportunity to hear from the new Director of California Department of Fish and Game, Chuck Bonham, during the keynote program on Thursday night.

Preceding the conference are three special events--The West Coast Fisher Symposium, Writing Techniques Workshop, and a wilderness first aid class.

There will be additional workshops, working group meetings, chapter meetings, a career fair, a raffle and silent auction, and lots of opportunity to network with colleagues, potential employers, students, and friends. Early registration for the conference and pre-conference events ends on **January 7, 2012**. Link to Registration Page:

https://www.wildlifeprofessional.org/western/ac2012_reg.php.

Contact any Executive Board member if you are interested in helping out at the conference. In particular, folks are needed to help judge the student papers. There are more student presentations this year than in any recent year, so more judges are needed. Contact Rhys Evans at sirsnav@verizon.net to sign up.

A limited number of discounted rooms are available at the Radisson Hotel. You must make your reservation by **January 13, 2012** to get the special rate for the Western Section (\$84/single occupancy + taxes). If the discounted rooms sell out, you will have to pay the standard hotel rate, so make your reservation today! <http://www.radisson.com/wildlifesocietywesternsection>.

Much more information is available on the conference website: http://joomla.wildlife.org/western/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=216&Itemid=324. It will continue to be updated regularly.

PAST EVENTS

Halloween Mixer in Redding

Michelle Havens

The Halloween Mixer in Redding turned out small, but resulted in excellent networking and membership of the entire group! Attendees were from a broad range of backgrounds including private industry, environmental consulting, federal agencies, and newly retired. Costumes ranged from veterinarians to hula

girls. Hilton Garden Inn did an exquisite catering job, with lots of very scrumptious food and great drinks!



TWS/AEP/PEMA Holiday Mixer Review (Dec 8)

Randi Logsdon

The TWS/AEP/PEMA holiday mixer was held at the Crocker Art Museum in downtown Sacramento on December 8. Food and beverages were provided and non-members had an opportunity to join. Professional public- and private-sector environmental staff sipped wine and enjoyed holiday turkey, cranberry sauce, and delicious desserts. Interesting conversations filled the room as people shared, recruited, or sought out new opportunities with others. The participants were treated to a free pass to roam the museum and discover what amazing art could be found around every corner and in every wing. A nice holiday gift indeed! Many thanks to AEP for organizing this event



Natural Resources Symposium

Laura Patterson

The Chapter held another successful Natural Resources Symposium on November 2nd at Sacramento State. Nearly 80 people attended to hear 15 talks on topics ranging from the effects of climate change and regulated flows below dams on wildlife to vernal pool ecology to recent survey results and their management implications for a variety of bird and mammals.

Free Brown Bag Seminar on Great Gray Owls

Sandra Jacks

Chris Stermer of the California Department of Fish & Game gave a super presentation on the great gray owl (*Strix nebulosa*) in California. He discussed survey techniques, population distribution in California, and

potential GIS modeling that can help identify areas where the owls may be present. There was a good representation of folks from agencies, private industry, and owl connoisseurs. Thank you to HDR Engineering, Inc., for hosting the October Brown Bag Seminar.



JOB and VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Junior Biologist – Beale Air Force Base (Auxilio Management Services), posting on <http://jobview.monster.com/Junior-Biologist-Job-Beale-Air-Force-Base-CA-US-103713576.aspx>,

Fish and Wildlife Technician positions – Department of Fish and Game, postings on www.nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=9893.

University of California, Davis. A **post-doc** is needed to help meet the needs of the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs), Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management for information on adaptive management in response to climate change. The position will focus on modeling ecological responses of populations to ecosystems and providing decision support for management of biological resources. The post-doc will assist in translating the information directly to stakeholders and agency representatives at state and regional levels. The post-doc also will work to convey agency needs for information on climate and climate variability to post-docs and researchers at UCLA, the Scripps Institute, and Desert Research Institute. Please contact Professor Mark Schwartz, mwschwartz@ucdavis.edu.

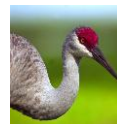
Fish & Wildlife Biologist. Temporary promotion position is for one year, but may be extended up to 4 years. The position is located on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU), within the Ecosystem Conservation Department – Biology Group, and will be supervised by the Biological Program Leader. The position will include project support work on various programs and projects on the LTBMU and would prepare biological assessments, evaluations, and other

required biological documents for threatened, endangered, or other sensitive species, and would provide assistance in preparing and reviewing NEPA documents. Potential assignments might include working on the Forest Plan revision, covering biological resources, species and habitats, and/or preparing biological documents for Erosion Control Grant programs. The position may also plan, organize, lead and conduct aquatic and or wildlife population monitoring projects for the LTBMU. The position may be asked to provide recommendations relating to fish and or wildlife habitat requirements and other management activities including streamside/riparian areas and watershed protection measures. Contact Adrian Escobedo, aescobedo02@fs.fed.us, on or before **January 12, 2012**, to be notified when the vacancy announcement is released.

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/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 editor.

NOTICE



Sandhill Crane Wetland Tours at Woodbridge Ecological Reserve near Lodi, the first three weekends of each month through **February 2012**. Tours begin approximately 90 minutes before sundown and run to about 30 minutes after sunset. Pre-tour registration is required online at www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/cranetour. Reservations can be made up to six weeks in advance. Donations of \$10 per adult are suggested. The public is also welcome to visit the Woodbridge South Unit, open daily for self-guided Delta bird-watching tours. For more information please visit the website or call (209) 948-7708.

Weekend Wildlife Walks at Gray Lodge Wildlife Area sanctuary, 3207 Rutherford Rd., Gridley (95948), at 10 a.m. every Saturday and 1 p.m. every Sunday **through Feb. 5, 2012** (except Christmas and New Year's days). See spectacular views of snow geese and other wintering wildlife, a fun way to learn about wetlands, wildlife, and the Gray Lodge Wildlife Area. Cost is

included in the entrance fee for wildlife viewers. Pre-paid passes are now available online at www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing or from a DFG license sales office or license agent. Tours are cancelled in heavy rain. Please contact the Gray Lodge Wildlife Area Naturalist Office, (530) 846-7505 or see www.dfg.ca.gov/lands/wa/region2/graylodge for more information.

Docent-led Swan Tours in rice fields near Marysville, Saturdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. Driving tours along a short route with very little walking required. See tundra swans, ducks, geese, cranes, shorebirds, white pelicans, herons, egrets and raptors. Pre-registration on the DFG website is required, www.dfg.ca.gov/regions/2/SwanTours. Tours are free, but registrants are encouraged to make a donation online to the California Wildlife Foundation to support this program. For more information please call (916) 358-2852.

Wildlife watchers and other visitors are reminded to buy passes before visiting Wildlife Areas and Reserves at www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing or one of DFG's licensing offices.



Bear Awareness Film Contest

DFG is offering young filmmakers an opportunity to win big cash prizes in its first Bear Aware Youth Film Contest. High school students whose 90-second films are selected for the top three prizes will win \$500 for First Place, \$300 for Second Place, and \$200 for Third Place. The People's Choice Award will receive an REI \$100 gift card. The First-place winner will also have the

opportunity to participate in a rehabilitated bear cub release. Deadline for submissions is **January 31, 2012**. See <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/BearFilmContest/> for registration and details.

CESA Activity



The American pika and black-backed woodpecker have been approved by the Fish and Game Commission as candidates for State listing. One-year status reviews are in process and public comments are being accepted (contact DFG Wildlife Branch to submit comments). To view Fish and Game Commission meetings, visit <http://www.fgc.ca.gov/meetings/2011/>. Fish and Game Commission meetings are open to the public. See <http://www.fgc.ca.gov/meetings/2012/index.aspx> to attend meetings that discuss topics important to you.

Remember

By National membership vote and a change in bylaws, Associate Wildlife Biologists and Certified Wildlife Biologists must minimally be members in good standing of The Wildlife Society to retain their Certifications.

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 Board members.

The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of The Wildlife Society

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