

**Western Pond Turtle Workshop: Ecology and Conservation**  
**The Wildlife Society-San Francisco Bay Area Chapter**  
**April 16-17, 2005**  
**Rohnert Park, California**

The western pond turtle is an aquatic turtle native to the Pacific states. Although the range of the turtle is widespread north to south, the species is in decline in many areas. Turtles in Washington are endangered and in Oregon they are considered Critical Species. In northern California, western pond turtles are widely distributed with declines reported for some populations. Many Central Valley populations have been extirpated but several remaining populations appear stable, and some populations in Southern California are in danger of extinction. This turtle is considered a Species of Special Concern by the California Department of Fish and Game.

This workshop is designed to provide professional biologists with a background on conservation issues of the western pond turtle, recent research findings, and practical understanding of field methods. Participants will learn how to identify turtles, their life history and habitat requirements, taxonomy and evolution, potential causes of declines, survey techniques, regulations and permits, and management plans. The workshop's Saturday session will include presentations and a short field trip to an on-campus pond where turtle identification, visual surveys for basking turtles, and trapping techniques will be discussed. Western pond turtles spook easily and not all participants may see turtles basking.

Following the Saturday presentations, a social campout will be held at Spring Lake located near Santa Rosa. The campout will include a Saturday BBQ dinner and a Sunday breakfast. Sunday morning we will visit Spring Lake to search for turtles with no guarantees of what we will find.

**Tentative Schedule**  
**Western Pond Turtle Workshop, Saturday, April 16**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
8:00	Check-in Registration	
<b>Natural History</b>		
8:30	Biology, Ecology, and Status	Bruce Bury-USGS
9:10	Life History	Dave Germano-CSU Bakers.
9:40	Body Size Variation	Glen Lubcke-CSU Chico
<b>Taxonomy/Evolutionary Relations</b>		
10:20	Evolutionary Relationships of Emydine Turtles	Chris Feldman-Utah SU
10:40	Fossil history of Emys in Western North America	James Parham-UC Berkeley
11:00	Phylogeography of Emys marmorata	Phillip Spinks-UC Davis
<b>Survey Techniques/Regulations</b>		
11:40	Mitigation and Conservation an Agency Perspective	Betsy Bolster-CDFG
12:00	Western Pond Turtle Survey Protocol	Bruce Bury et al.
12:20	Field Trip/Survey Techniques (SSU pond)	
<b>Conservation/Management</b>		
2:00	Long-term management on a drinking water	Jeff Alvarez-Wildlife Project

	watershed	
2:20	Population Studies and Methods at Sunol Wilderness	Pierre Fidenci-Garcia Assoc
2:40	Survival of Pond Turtles in Modified Waterways	Brad Shaffer-UC Davis
3:20	Historical Terrapin Harvest (1863-1931)	Matthew Bettelheim
3:40	Dammed Rivers... Damned Turtles	Don Ashton-USFS
4:00	Turtle Basking Patterns in Dammed/Undammed Rivers	Jamie Bettaso-USFWS

Saturday Presentations: Sonoma State University, Stevenson Hall, Room 1002, 1801 East Cotati Avenue, Rohnert Park, Sonoma County. Lunch on Saturday will be provided. Binoculars are recommended for viewing turtles in the field trip, but are not required.

Campout Saturday Night: **NOTE: The campout is now full.** Spring Lake Regional Park campground is located near Santa Rosa and has fire pits, flush toilets, and showers. Meet on Saturday at 6 pm. We will stay until 11ish on Sunday. Enter south entrance of the park off of Hoen Avenue and Newanga Avenue. Campers are required to bring their own tent and sleeping gear. Other recommended items include flashlight, warm cloths, utensils, and plates. Campers will be asked to help with camping duties, including cooking and cleanup. Dinner and breakfast will be provided.

If you need lodging, we suggest the following hotels/motels:

<b>DoubleTree Hotel</b> Reservations: (707) 584-5466 Standard Rate: \$179	<b>Ramada Limited</b> Reservations: (707) 584-1600 Standard Rate: \$59	<b>Best Western Inn</b> Reservations: (707) 584-7435 Standard Rate: \$70
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