

The Wildlife Society

Vol 49, No 2

Western Section Newsletter

Summer 2003

Is It Time for Some Changes?

Lowell Diller

I begin my message by reporting on the response that I received from my message in the last newsletter. In case you've forgotten or missed it, in the last newsletter, I asked for input on a "nontraditional" annual conference that would be held in a more biologically natural setting with a focus on field-oriented activities. I received only six responses by email and about an equal number through direct communication, but all were highly supportive of the idea. At first, I wondered whether it was indicative of how many people actually read my message. I was quite discouraged by the low number of responses but, when I reported the results at our last executive board meeting, I was told this represented an overwhelming landslide response from our membership. The consensus was that even if most of the membership read the newsletter (probably a highly unrealistic assumption), it would be only those who felt very strongly for or against who would actually take the time to respond. The comments provided suggested that this issue struck a passionate cord for at least a few members. One person wrote that he would certainly like to "have the next annual meeting some place else besides some super consumptive, antipneumatic, artificial hotel and conference complex." The respondent went on to say, "The sad thing in my mind is that this is considered a novel idea..." and asked "Why do science societies hold conferences in consumptive, resource-wasting

locations?" Another individual noted that it was "obvious who the many wildlifers are—Birkenstock-wearing, fleece-clad youngsters rubbing shoulders with business suits and Guccis in the elevator." This person, who was obviously expressing the viewpoint of a "mature" wildlifer, noted that "while many of us are moving into administration and walking around on plush carpets, the youngsters are wearing hiking boots and carrying around pocket GPS units." (Part of the problem here is that many of the older wildlifers haven't yet learned to use pocket GPS units.) This respondent further noted that we need to recruit the young field-oriented biologists and stated, "We need to cater to a diverse group of professionals, members, and nonmembers alike and, in order to do that, we need to take a variety of approaches." Considering the clear, overwhelming mandate from the membership, I will move forward with the "nontraditional" conference idea, but I still need more suggestions for a potential site. I have received some suggestions, but none, in my opinion, have all the right attributes. (We need a place that can hold up to 300–400 people in a location that would still allow us to have the meeting in late winter or early spring.)

I would also like to review the highlights of the plenary session from the last annual conference in Irvine, since, with the state budget crunch, so many of you were not able to attend. In case you have forgotten, the theme was "Walk a Mile in My Boots" and included the perspective of four speakers from different venues in our profession. My limited space will not allow me to go into detail, but I think some very important points were made that would benefit all of us. (For those of you who were able to attend, you might find it interesting to compare what I remember with my obvious personal biases with what you might have heard.) As a former California Department of Fish and Game employee turned private consultant, Kent Smith waxed quite philoso-

phical and made many good points; however, the most important in my mind was

the discussion of bias as illustrated from Aldo Leopold's reflections in A Sand County Almanac on where to apply the axe (chainsaw in the modern world). What I heard was that we need to be aware of our biases, but we should share a common bond as dedicated resource professionals. It is okay to disagree, but those with whom we disagree should be treated with respect and humility. The respect thing really hit home with me because I realized that I don't have the same regard for specific segments of our profession and it stems from my personal biases and what I think is important.

Rebecca Lent, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NOAA Fisheries, provided the high-level administrative/regulatory perspective, which is quite foreign to most of us. She described how they are often forced to make decisions on incomplete, but not necessarily "wrong or bad", science. Dealing with many different stakeholders, it is important to have the "right stuff": honesty, integrity, listening skills, and the ability to resist stereotyping. Within the agency, she stressed the importance of having people with a diversity of backgrounds. Different perspectives are good and she actually welcomes a "revolving door" in her agency to maintain this diversity. It increases perspective, experience, communication skills, and, ultimately, creates better results for the environment. Given the complexity of the issues she faces, in her words, "It takes a village to make good decisions."

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Executive Board Reports

President's Message ...continued

"...I thought the intellectual "boot exchange" was a healthy exercise and something all of us should do on a regular basis..."

Jared Verner spoke from the perspective of a retired U.S. Forest Service scientist and stressed the need to know the facts and stay current in your field. He spoke about telling the truth, as you know it, but warned that one needed to choose his or her words carefully and make points without being patronizing. He didn't specifically talk about the importance of humility and respect for others' opinions, but even more poignant than anything he might have said in his presentation, he provided a "real-life" example for all of us. During his presentation, he made a statement about the inappropriate actions of those involved in the so-called "lynx scandal". Following his presentation, a member of the audience provided a different perspective and indicated that Jared's information concerning the incident may be incorrect. Although many of us with far less "stature" in the profession would have been defensive or condescending, Jared acknowledged that he did not know all the facts about the case and apologized if he misrepresented what really happened. The exchange was a timely and exem-

plary demonstration of how all of us should conduct ourselves when faced with a disagreement from a fellow professional.

The final speaker was John Wiens who, following a long and stellar academic career, has launched a new career in conservation with The Nature Conservancy. In science, he stressed the power of preconceptions and described the "baggage" associated with these preconceptions. As a result, scientists are never truly objective and free of advocacy. When scientists ask questions and create studies, they advocate study designs, approaches, and pathways to the exclusion of others. What distinguishes science from other forms of advocacy, in John's words, was "relentless skepticism". This is not a negative type of skepticism, but rather is the quality of constantly questioning everything one knows and believes, especially when it conforms to one's preconceived beliefs. One of my favorite "paraphrases" (I wish I could find the original quote— maybe you can help me out) is that one should always question those ideas that agree with their own more critically than those that

don't agree. John finished by talking about some of the realities of the world of conservation. The realities he described and that I personally think many of us forget (or never realized in the first place) is that nothing stays the same (conservation is not assured by simply setting aside reserves) and that conservation can be compatible with use. (He didn't specifically mention timber harvesting as a compatible use but I am sure that was an oversight on his part.)

Personally, I thought the intellectual "boot exchange" was a healthy exercise and something all of us should do on a regular basis in our jobs. I welcome your comments that you can send directly to me at: ldiller@simpson.com or through the Western Section listserver (twswestdomo@twswest.org). As always, the executive board desires to serve the membership by being responsive to its needs and wishes.

President-Elect

John Harris

As President-Elect, I serve with President Lowell Diller and Past-President Brad Valentine on the Personnel Committee. This committee has met to consider issues related to the transition to a full-time Executive Director, and will continue to work on issues related to the recent changes in Section bylaws.

My primary responsibilities over the next few months are related to the or-

ganization of the annual conference in February 2004. The conference will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Western Section, and the plenary session will take a retrospective look at the profession and its environment over the last 50 years. As usual, there will be a variety of technical sessions and workshops, and we are also planning to have one or more field trips associated with the conference. While planning is not complete,

there will be technical sessions on bats, passerines, herps, mammals, and raptors; a special symposium on the use of historical data from museum collections and archived field notes for studying changes in wildlife distribution and abundance; and a special symposium on aspen ecology, wildlife zoonoses, and others. If you would like to help, please contact me at: johnh@mills.edu.

Executive Board Reports

Transactions Editor

Brian Cypher

Solicitations for manuscripts were included in the registration packets for attendees at the annual conference, and also were posted on various listservers. Despite the solicitations and deadline extensions, only two new manuscripts have been sub-

mitted. During my tenure as editor, we had 10 submissions in 2000, 18 submissions in 2001, five submissions in 2002, and just two so far in 2003. The trend is discouraging.

As new manuscripts are received, Associate Editor Dave Germano and I will com-

plete the review and revision process. Hopefully, there will be some late submissions (there usually are) so that we can produce a semi-respectable Volume 38-39.

Executive Director

Barbara Rocco

There were only 288 registrants for the 2003 Annual Conference held in Irvine this past February/March. Unfortunately, our expenses were more than our income and we lost about \$5,000.

The Central Valley Project (CVP) Workshop: "Opportunities for Endangered Species Recovery and Habitat Restoration in California's Central Valley" was held in April, 2003, at the Sacramento Radisson Hotel. The Western Section cosponsored the workshop with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and US Bureau of Reclamation, Central Valley Project programs. There were 116 paid attendees.

The Southern California Reptile and Amphibian Workshop, held at the Riverside Marriott this past May, was highly successful. We had 140 registrants and realized a profit.

The Western Section will cosponsor a California Tiger Salamander Workshop to be held at Sonoma State University this fall. The workshop will be limited to about 139 attendees. Please continue to

check our website for details and register early.

The Invasive-Species Symposium is scheduled for October 14-16, 2003, at the Sacramento Radisson Hotel. The call for papers was mailed this past April and included the TWS mailing list, rather than just the Western Section's list, to boost interest both nationwide and internationally. We have received a few registrations and exhibitor reservations.

The Burrowing-Owl Symposium, also being held at the Sacramento Radisson Hotel on November 11-12, 2003, is being offered through a Memorandum of Agreement between the Western Section and Jack Barclay of Albion Environmental. This 2-day symposium will comprise a research and management session on day one, and a status, regulatory review, and policy session on day two.

So far, we've received \$1,332 in T-shirts sales, which means we have recouped about two-thirds of our costs. We sold 16 shirts at the annual conference and two at the herp workshop. We continue to solicit sales for T-

shirts at all our events.

We're promoting our 50th Anniversary celebration as part of the 2004 Annual Conference, which will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Rohnert Park, February 26-28, 2004. I've contracted with a graphic artist to design a special 50th Anniversary logo. We plan to provide several free items displaying the new logo to all attendees (in a "party bag") and will have a few items to sell at the conference (i.e., polo shirts, coffee mugs).

Planning for the 2005 Annual Conference is underway! I've contracted with the Sacramento Radisson Hotel for our 2005 Annual Conference to be held March 3-5, 2005.

The current Western Section membership is at about 1,200. We promote Western Section membership by providing membership forms in all registration packets and information on membership (brochures) at all events. Additionally, we send monthly renewal notices to Western Section members, which has been well-received.

Executive Board Reports

Section Representative

Marti Kie

I attended the Council meeting in March 2003 in conjunction with the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

A series of certification recommendations, developed by the Certification Review Board in consultation with Council, has been posted on TWS's website with highlights in the March–April Issue of "The Wildlifer" for review by the membership. Council will act on these recommendations in September.

The 9th Annual Conference in Bismarck made a profit of \$16,515. This is the first year that TWS didn't subsidize the conference and the realization of the goal of making the conference a revenue source for TWS. The 10th Annual Conference will take place in Burlington, Vermont, September 6–10, 2003; the 11th Annual Conference will

take place in Calgary, Alberta, September 18–22, 2004; the 12th Annual Conference will take place in Madison, Wisconsin, September 25–29, 2005; and the 13th Annual Conference will take place in Anchorage, Alaska, September 23–27, 2006.

Christchurch, New Zealand, is the location of the 3rd International Wildlife Management Congress in December 2003. Detailed information can be found on TWS's website.

The list of priority wildlife policy issues for 2003 is as follows: First Priority—Arctic National Wildlife Refuge/energy development on public lands, budgets for federal land management and research agencies, 2002 Farm Bill implementation, National Forest System planning regulations, National Forest System roads management, and Teaming with Wildlife/state wildlife agency funding; Sec-

ond Priority—Endangered Species Act (listings, recovery plans, and reauthorization), federal employee participation in professional societies, federal land management plans (regional and forest/resource-area level), livestock grazing on public lands, National Wildlife Refuge System policies, privatization of wildlife, and wetlands conservation.

Membership continues to decline with the search for successful recruitment campaigns taking up much discussion time during Council meetings. Any recommendations from the membership would be greatly welcomed!

The Student Affairs Committee is working on a proposal to create a "Student Chapter Advisor of the Year" award, including guidelines, application procedures, and publicity for the award. This was well-received by Council and has 2004 slated for the first presentation.

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Jessica Martini

The chapter held a mid-year election at its meeting in June 2003, at Black Diamond Brewery in Walnut Creek. Doug Padley, biologist with the Santa Clara Valley Water District, is the chapter's new President-elect. Chapter members also discussed upcoming events, including the annual Camp Ohlone family camp out and a conservation genetics workshop.

This fall Amy Fesnock, the chapter's newsletter editor, will be moving from the Bay Area to pursue a greater

calling in the Mojave Desert. Amy has done a fantastic job with reestablishing a regular newsletter - thanks Amy! A call for Amy's replacement was sent out in the chapter's June newsletter.

The chapter is presently coordinating with the East Bay Regional Park District to arrange for one or more student grants for summer and fall 2003. We would like to provide a number of small grants to currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students. The funds would be specifically earmarked to

stimulate students currently working on wildlife conservation issues at EBRPD to present their research findings at the upcoming 2004 Section meeting in Rohnert Park. These grants will encourage students to continue their professional development both within and outside TWS.

Other limited grant opportunities are also available, and anyone willing to sponsor a student should contact Brian Pittman, chapter President, or Christine O'Rourke, Secretary/Treasurer.

"Christchurch, New Zealand, is the location of the 3rd International Wildlife Management Congress in December 2003."

Executive Board Reports

California Central Coast Chapter

Julie Schneider

The chapter currently has approximately 40 members and a treasury balance of approximately \$6,000.

A Chapter and Executive Board meeting was held on February 27, 2003, in conjunction with the annual conference in Irvine. Executive Board members in attendance were President Bill Tietje; Secretary-Treasurer Mike Hanson; Chapter Representative to the Western Section Julie Schneider; and Board Members Tom Olson, Kevin Cooper, and Maeton Freel. During the meeting, an informal roundtable presentation/discussion was held re-

garding chapter members' current research, management, and consulting projects. About 8 to 10 chapter members presented brief oral reports on wildlife- or natural-resource-related research and/or education activities that they were currently conducting. Upcoming wildlife-related meetings of interest being held around the state were noted. Several people gave suggestions for future chapter meetings and workshops.

An Executive Board meeting was held on June 3, 2003, in San Luis Obispo. Some of the items on the meeting's agenda were: dis-

cussion and planning of chapter officer nominations and elections, including method and time; program topics for the fall chapter meeting (possible topics include a presentation on a sensitive species of local interest); discuss/plan a future workshop sponsored by the chapter (possible workshop topics include survey protocols for various sensitive species, radiotelemetry techniques; and wildlife photography); discuss/plan chapter field trips for the next year.

A joint chapter meeting with the Morro Bay Natural History Museum is being planned for this fall.

California North Coast Chapter

Scott Osborn

The chapter's current treasury balance is approximately \$17,000 and membership is 111, with 80 professionals/non-students (72%) and 31 students (28%). There have been 23 new/renewed memberships since April; most of those were submitted in November or December 2002 and all were renewed through Section or national. That means a 4- to 5-month lag between dues payment and getting on our list for mailings/announcements. No wonder people complain that they don't get the newsletter! A method for the Western Section/national to forward dues payments more quickly is being sought.

This past March, the chapter co-hosted the annual meeting of the Society for

Northwestern Vertebrate Biology, held in Arcata. The theme of the meeting was "Biotic and Abiotic Processes in Headwater Streams". There were approximately 250 attendees at the conference and 40 papers presented. There were also all-day workshops on northwest forest mollusk ecology and identification and sampling stream amphibians.

The chapter held its Spring Conference and Banquet this past April. The chapter once again jointly hosted the conference with the Humboldt Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. There were eight papers presented during the conference (mostly by HSU graduate students). At the banquet, the chapter presented the Conservationist of the Year Award to Congressman Mike Thompson and the

Professional of the Year Award to HSU Professor Rick Golightly. Emeritus Professor Stan Harris presented a slide show on his recent trip to Belize.

The chapter's Fire Ecology Workshop steering committee continues to develop a 3-day workshop dealing with the many aspects of fire management in Northern California. The committee has confirmed several speakers for the workshop, which will be held in November 2003.

The Western Section newsletter is going electronic! Turn to page 9 for additional details!

Executive Board Reports

"We are still working to identify officers and hold elections."

Sacramento-Shasta Chapter

Melinda Dorin

The chapter has updated the membership database and now has a complete membership list; however, if your chapter member contact information has changed, please let us know.

The spring newsletter went out in April. The next newsletter will have information and registration materials for the Giant Garter Snake Workshop that the chapter is hosting in September 2003. When the agenda is finalized, it will also be posted to the chapter website.

Hawaii Chapter

David Smith

The chapter bank balance is approximately \$6,394, but a chapter membership tally isn't available! Unfortunately, the chapter doesn't currently have a membership chairperson.

The chapter held board meetings nearly every month so far this year and we continue to make progress on a chapter newsletter.

The Hamakua Marsh Ecosystem Restoration and Community Development Project, a cooperative program with the State of Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife and its 20 cooperators, has completed \$76,928 worth of wildlife habitat improvements in the 22-acre marsh. This year, we have \$135,000, including a recently approved \$50,000 grant to the chapter, for habitat restoration and education work in the marsh. Current activities include a

All of the officer positions are filled, except President-Elect. The next business meeting is planned for July. The chapter is contemplating hosting another summer party, but isn't sure whether there is member interest..(?!).

If anyone has time to spare to help the chapter, get in touch with us at: mdorin@energy.state.ca.us

Pictures of our awesome, original art chapter T-shirts can be found on our website:

www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta/index.htm

boundary survey, well drilling, and solar-pump installation.

Following last fall's successful wetland management workshop, the chapter, in cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, Pacific Coast Joint Venture, and Ducks Unlimited, plans another wetland management workshop focused on applied management techniques in managed sanctuary and refuge areas. The workshop is scheduled for October 2003.

The chapter board of directors has approved a draft set of bylaws revisions. The revised bylaws seek to simplify chapter administration and bring our bylaws into conformance with standard corporate bylaws. The draft bylaws must be approved by national and then the chapter membership.

The chapter is acting as the fiscal sponsor for a

Nevada Chapter

Danny Rakestraw

The chapter doesn't have much to report. We are still working to identify officers and hold elections. With the field season upon us, it is likely we will not make great progress in generating a slate of officers until late summer. I will continue to work with the previous officers to move the chapter forward, and I will provide updates as progress is made.

grant, proposing production of an educational "quarantine video" for visitors and researchers working in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands. The \$25,000 grant includes administrative operations monies for the chapter.

The chapter also recently joined as a partner with the Offshore Islands Restoration Committee, a multicooperator group of agencies and organizations providing fiscal sponsorship and technical expertise for managing the various islets and islands around the main Hawaiian Islands that provide refuge for a broad range of native seabirds, migratory shorebirds, and native plant and invertebrate communities. Negotiations are currently underway for an initial grant expenditure of \$35,000, of which the chapter will get 5% to support administrative operations.

Executive Board Reports

San Joaquin Valley Chapter

Steve Juarez

The chapter has 98 members and a bank balance of \$14,338. Three members, Brian Cypher, David Germano, and Lawrence Saslaw, were awarded a Lifetime Membership to the Western Section and the San Joaquin Valley Chapter for their continuous and continuing service to and support of the chapter.

At the chapter meeting held during the 2003 Annual Conference in Irvine, members thanked outgoing board members and welcomed new President Eric

Kleinfelter, President-Elect Julie Vance, and Chapter Representative Steve Juarez. The chapter also held a meeting this past May featuring a tour of FACT, a wildlife rehabilitation facility on the Cal State University, Bakersfield campus. Christine Van Horn Job and new member Carie Wingert demonstrated radio tracking of urban kit fox. New Chapter Secretary, Rachel Kleinfelter, was appointed and introduced to the board.

The chapter sponsored a well-attended Blunt-Nosed Leopard Lizard Workshop this past April. With

support from the Endangered Species Recovery Program; the Bureau of Land Management; and Cal State University, Bakersfield, the chapter cosponsored the annual San Joaquin Valley Natural Communities Conference this past March. The one-day conference was attended by 71 participants and the chapter intends to cosponsor the event again in 2004.

A third workshop—Wildlife Tracking, open only to chapter members—will be offered in September.

Davis Student Chapter

Mark Kenyon

The student chapter's quarterly pizza party was a success! A student member showed participants how to tie flies and fly fish. A tri-county animal welfare spokesperson gave a presen-

tation about animal rehabilitation. Diana Puerta is the new student chapter president and Tyler Lappen and Julie Remp are the new student chapter co-reps. The last meeting this school year will be about bear biology and

features guest speaker Doug Updike with the California Department of Fish and Game. The chapter currently has a bank balance of \$350. The chapter is considering changing the \$8/year membership fee to \$5/quarter.

Awards and Grants Committee

Richard Burg

I was looking into modifying the criteria for the James D. Yoakum Award for Outstanding Service and Commitment to the Western Section of The Wildlife Soci-

ety. After speaking to the author of the award, I have decided not to make any modifications to the criteria.

I am finishing up work on a correspondence to past grant recipients, reminding

them of their commitments (brief report to the Western Section Executive Board at the conclusion of the study) and suggesting they present their results at the annual conference.

Conservation Affairs Committee

Kevin Hunting

The committee has been relatively inactive since the annual conference in Irvine this past February. We continue to monitor proposed legislation for the 2003 legislative session and will eventually determine which propos-

als the committee will track this year.

Other activities include monitoring Federal Register activity for legislative and policy issues of interest to the committee; communicating with Monica Bond (a committee member) on de-

velopment of the fire position statement, evaluating requests from the California Native Plant Society and others for collaborative efforts, and developing the structure of the joint Public Information and Conservation Affairs Committee.

Don Mitchell, chapter rep for the Southern California Chapter, reports that all of the chapter officers have been buried in field work this spring and as a result, there hasn't been any chapter activity!

Executive Board Reports

Membership Committee

Don Yasuda

Although little work has been done in the last quarter, some exciting actions and opportunities will be explored in the near future related to membership services. In response to a membership survey conducted at the 2002 Annual Conference, the membership committee, along with the new Executive Director, will be considering 1) developing a mentorship

program, and 2) sponsoring local field trips. The concept for a mentorship program is to facilitate matching students and young professionals with "established" members who can coach and provide advice on education and careers. The concept for sponsoring local field trips is to provide education and information themed opportunities for TWS members and the public to explore and bet-

ter understand the natural (or unnatural!) environment through guided trips.

If you are interested in helping the Membership Committee develop these ideas, or if you have other ideas of services that the Western Section could provide to members, please contact me at: dyasuda@jps.net or (530) 647-5436

Student Affairs Committee

Mark Jordan

I've continued to work on upgrading the student section of the TWS website. The committee is compiling a list of student chapter websites and is updating our database of officer contact information. This is something we hope to eventually automate with the website.

The committee has developed an annual award for an outstanding faculty ad-

visor and hopes to present the first award at the 2004 conference.

The committee is also working with the Professional Development Committee to make the certification process easier to complete. The Texas Section and Texas A&M University have a model program that's being considered for the rest of the country.

Finally, we are planning the student events at the

Wildlife Society's Annual Conference in Burlington, Vermont. These will include a student professional mixer at the science building in downtown Burlington and the student leadership breakfast. Based on responses to last year's breakfast, we will again have an informal session where attendees can share their ideas for running a successful student chapter.

Public Information Committee

Rhys Evans

The committee hasn't received any public or media information requests.

The committee assisted with the Southern California Sensitive Reptiles and Amphibians Workshop, primarily on two of the three field trips (Cajon Creek and Coachella Valley). Both of these trips were successful; however, we were quite disappointed that there were about 50% "no-shows" for all trips (people who signed up,

did not cancel, and did not participate). This is unfortunate, as we had expenses (rental vans, etc.) for nonparticipants and we had to turn some meeting participants away when the trips (or the trip of their choice) were full. To my knowledge, field trip participants were satisfied with the trips, although some stated that they would have enjoyed more time at the field sites. Both Coachella Valley groups saw sensitive species; one of the groups "got the hat

trick", (i.e., saw: desert tortoise, Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, and flat-tailed horned lizard). The second group saw only the latter two. After-action thank-you notes were written to three people who assisted significantly with the field trips.

"The committee has developed an annual award for an outstanding faculty advisor..."

Items of Interest

The Western Section is now selling t-shirts! We received permission from the Cache Creek Conservancy to use the great blue heron artwork, designed for them by Jones & Stokes, for our t-shirts. The t-shirts are available in small (equivalent to a child's large), medium, large, extra large, and extra-extra large. A picture of the shirt and an online order form are posted on our website. You can also print a copy of the order form and mail it with your payment. The cost is \$15.00 per shirt plus shipping and handling. We will make every effort to mail your shirt(s) within a few days of receiving your order.



Your Section Needs Your Help...

To my knowledge, we've never solicited contributions from our members; however, we now need your help.

This past year, the Western Section has felt the economic crunch resulting from cutbacks in state and federal training and travel funds, as well as generally slow economic times. Attendance at our 2003 Annual Conference was below normal, although expenses were higher than those of the previous year. Although we are making every effort to reduce Section expenses (e.g., an electronic Newsletter), we need to continue with some upcoming events and activities.

We've been asked to keep our workshop and conference registration fees to a reasonable level while, at the same time, continue to offer high-quality events that you enjoy. We are working on an education program for grade-school students, a promotional video for college students, a mentorship program, and Section-sponsored field trips for grade-school students to introduce them to and educate them in wildlife and conservation biology.

In addition, with most presenters at our workshops and conferences now using PowerPoint presentations, we find it necessary and more cost-effective to purchase some LCD projectors. LCD projectors cost about \$1,500–2,000 each. When we rent them at our conference facilities, the facilities charge \$800–1,000 per day for each! (Multiply that expense by four projectors for 3 days!)

Please consider a tax-deductible contribution to the Western Section as you renew your Section membership or simply fill out the online contribution form through our website at www.tws-west.org and submit it electronically. Any amount will be appreciated!

Thank you for your continued support!

Barbara Rocco
Executive Director

The Newsletter is "Going Electronic"!

Dear Members,

Many of you have indicated that you would prefer to save paper and printing costs by having us provide the Western Section's *Newsletter* electronically; therefore, beginning with the fall edition (December 2003), the *Newsletter* will be available in electronic format (.pdf) from our website. You will be able to read the *Newsletter* directly from the website, download a copy of the .pdf file to keep for your files, or print a copy from the website if you prefer a hardcopy version. We will post the publication schedule for the *Newsletters* on our website so that you will know when each edition is available.

The costs of printing and mailing our quarterly *Newsletters* have increased substantially just in the past year. Providing each edition electronically will dramatically cut our expenses—approximately \$8,000 per year! We can certainly use the extra funds for upcoming workshops and conferences and other activities that the Section will sponsor in the coming year.

We hope you agree that "this is the way to go"; however, if you still prefer to receive a hardcopy in the mail, please let me know and we will have a printed copy mailed to you. You can contact me by e-mail at lobolady23@aol.com or write to me at TWS-WS, P.O. Box 369, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-0369.

Remember, please contact me **ONLY** if you prefer to continue to receive the *Newsletter* by mail.

Barbara Rocco
Executive Director

Member's Forum

The Western Section membership is encouraged to participate in this forum. Letters or brief issue papers on any topic of relevance and interest to the Western Section will be featured here. The deadline for the next Western Section Newsletter Member's Forum is September 5, 2003. Please e-mail your contributions to dhawk@cwo.com.

Conferences, Workshops, Symposia, Lectures, and More



CALIFORNIA BURROWING OWL SYMPOSIUM

A Symposium Dedicated To the Science, Management, and Policy of the Burrowing Owl in California

November 11–12, 2003
Sacramento Radisson Hotel

Symposium Organization:

Five program sessions over 2 days will comprise invited speakers as well as submitted papers. A panel discussion at the end of each session will allow for dialog between the audience and speakers.

Program Sessions:

DAY 1 (November 11)

Research in California
Management of Owls & Habitat
Panel Discussions in AM/PM

DAY 2 (November 12)

Status of the Species in the State
State & Federal Regulation
Current & Future Policy Direction
Panel Discussion in AM/PM

Paper Submission:

Submit abstracts for consideration by September 1, 2003. Papers must address the science, management, and/or policy of the species in California. Abstracts may be no longer than 250 words.

Submit abstracts to: Jack Barclay, Technical Program Chair
Albion Environmental, Inc.
1414 Soquel Ave. No. 205
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Registration Information:

The Western Section of The Wildlife Society will handle all registration procedures. The symposium registration cost starts at \$180 (see website for details). An online registration form is available at www.tws-west.org - follow the links from the "Meetings/Workshops" page to access the registration form or contact Barbara Rocco at lobolady23@aol.com for more information. Information on the Sacramento area and the Radisson Hotel is also available on the website.

The California Burrowing Owl Symposium, a forum on burrowing owls in California is open to citizens, planners, ecologists, consultants, agency personnel, and everyone interested in burrowing owl conservation.

The symposium focuses only on burrowing owl issues in California and will provide current information on the status, ecology, and management of burrowing owls in California; current regulations and policy affecting burrowing owls; and a forum in which to discuss the future of burrowing owl conservation in California.

Sponsored by the Western Section of The Wildlife Society and Albion Environmental, Inc.

Natural Resources Communication Workshop sponsored by the Western Section of The Wildlife Society January 5 – 9, 2004 California State University, Chico

This workshop is designed to help natural resource workers more effectively communicate with general as well as technical audiences through personal presentations using good visual aids—especially computer-generated images (i.e., PowerPoint images) and slides. The workshop is practical-oriented and enhances participants' communication skills in planning, preparing, presenting, and evaluating presentations. Since many of the problems in natural resources management are people-oriented, more effective communication can significantly improve many management programs.

Workshop content includes planning, preparing, presenting, and evaluating multi-media presentations. Instructors: Dr. Jon K. Hooper, Professor, Calif. State Univ., Chico and Mr. Ethan Rotman, Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game are the workshop instructors.

The initial deadline for applications is Friday, October 31, 2003. The registration fee is \$595. The workshop will be limited to 16 participants. To apply, send a letter on your organization's official letterhead describing: (1) your current position within your agency or organization, (2) how you will use the training, and (3) any special reasons why you feel you should be chosen as a participant. To apply or for more information, write or call: Dr. Jon K. Hooper, Dept. Recreation and Parks Management, California State University, Chico, Chico, CA 95929-0560; phone 530/898-5811 or 898-6408; fax 530/ 898-6557; e-mail: jhooper@csuchico.edu

Fifteenth International Conference on Bear Research and Management

February 8 – 13, 2004
San Diego, California, USA

Preparations are now underway for the IBA's Fifteenth International Conference on Bear Research and Management to take place in San Diego, California. Rooms have been reserved at the Bahia Resort Hotel in San Diego. Tentatively scheduled excursions include: San Diego Zoo, Balboa Park, Sea World, Disneyland, fishing trip, pelagic birding trip, and a trip to the Mojave Desert.

Preliminary Topics:

- Bear/Human Conflicts
- Conservation Biology
- Field/Lab/Statistical Techniques
- Genetics/Physiology
- Habitat Assessment/Relationships

Presentation Types:

- Oral Presentation
- Poster paper

Additional conference information, call for papers details and an on-line registration can be found at: www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/bear/iba/papercall.htm

Conferences, Workshops, Symposia, Lectures, and More



Invasive-Species Symposium

Purposeful and Accidental Introductions of Animals: Investigating Species Interactions at Different Trophic Levels
October 14 – 16, 2003
Sacramento, California

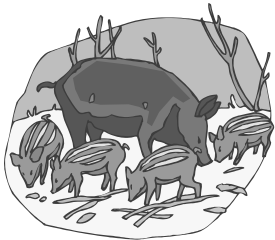
This symposium will examine both intended (purposeful) and unintended (accidental) animal invasions in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Introduced vertebrate species and their interactions with native animal and plant species will be the central theme of the symposium.

Purposeful introductions that are done as part of commonly accepted land- and resource-management programs are ongoing in most parts of the world. This symposium will examine both types of introductions from ecological, conservation, and policy perspectives, with views encouraged from areas throughout the world.

Presentations will address invasive-species characteristics, invaded communities, invader impacts, and positive and negative outcomes of control programs in sequential, rather than breakout, sessions.

Contributed posters will be an essential part of the program. Symposium proceedings will be published and distributed to all registrants.

An online registration form is available at www.tws-west.org - follow the links from the "Meetings/Workshops" page to access the registration form. Please continue to check our website for updates and information on hotel accommodations.



THE 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE WESTERN SECTION OF TWS!

1953–2003

DON'T MISS IT!



2004 Annual Conference
February 26–28, 2004
DoubleTree Hotel
Rohnert Park, California

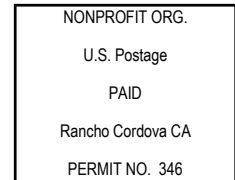
The Western Section of The Wildlife Society will be 50 years old at the end of 2003. To honor our 50th Anniversary and acknowledge the many people who have made the Western Section succeed all these years, we are having many special events at our 2004 Annual Conference in Rohnert Park, California.

Charter members and all past and present officers of the Western Section are invited to participate in group photographs and a special plenary session discussing the history and contributions of the Section. All Section members are invited to this special meeting, which will be a huge celebration. There will be displays of Section memorabilia, and special 50th Anniversary commemorative gifts will be distributed at the conference banquet.

Please be sure to mark your calendars and plan to join us in Rohnert Park in February 2004. You won't want to miss the festivities or the chance to meet and talk with those who have made this possible.



The Wildlife Society
Western Section
PO Box 369
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Thanks to those of you who volunteered to receive this newsletter electronically! Our list has grown so much that we are going totally electronic! Refer to page 9 for details!

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