



The Wildlife Society Western Section

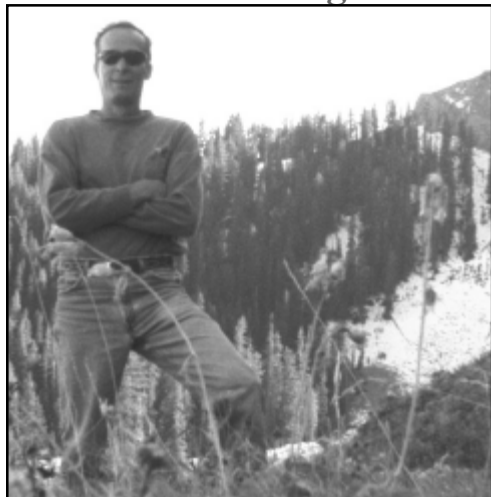
Vol.52, No. 3

Fall Newsletter 2006

Issue highlights:

Upcoming Workshops.	2	The Alaska Experience.	8-9
Museum Prep and Bats.	3-4	Candidate Statements.	11-12
So-Cal Chapter's Back!.	7	Annual Conference	13-15

President's Message



Kevin Hunting

The 2007 Annual Meeting is rapidly approaching and is shaping up to be a full and informative offering. Our President-elect Julie Vance has been hard at work creating a diverse slate of programs and sessions that I am confident will provide something for everyone. I encourage members to register and secure room reservations now, if you haven't done so already, as the central location of the Monterey venue will likely attract strong Section attendance. Registration is available on-line at the Western Section web site at https://securedata.net/tws-west/2007ac_reg_form.html.

In response to our improved budget-

ary picture, the Section awarded several new grants and financial support to organizations proposing activities and programs consistent with the Sections goals and objectives. Section leadership have made student affairs a focus area this year as reflected by the activities and future plans of our Student Affairs Committee. As I've mentioned before, the future of the Section relies, in part, on supporting students and professionals who will one day assume leadership roles in organizations like ours. The Student Affairs Committee, career fair, and annual meeting student lunch, along with this year's resume workshop, are outstanding examples of how the Section is developing programs tailored to meet the professional needs of students and recent graduates.

The winter newsletter also marks the beginning of a change in Section leadership through annual elections for Section President. We have two fine and well qualified candidates this year and I encourage Section membership to take the time and cast

a vote during the election. Voting can be done electronically through the section web site (see information in this newsletter) or via mail by completing and returning the ballot included in this volume.

The Section has nearly completed the process of creating a prudent reserve and establishing the fund for the 2009 conference during which we will host the national organization. I reported on an improved funding picture and that has translated into an action plan for creating investments towards ensuring Section solvency into the future. The first step of that plan is nearly completed resulting in short- and mid-term investments with staggered maturation to accommodate planned events and meetings. Our goal is to develop a complete funding strategy that supports the kinds of professional development and outreach activities necessary to sustain Section membership.

This will be my last report to the Section as president and I wanted to take a moment to thank the

Continued on Page 3.

Upcoming Events

Rhys Evans and Denise Walker-Brown

Since our last newsletter, your Professional Development Committee has completed four small, but very successful events:

- * Introduction to Remote Camera Techniques in Wildlife Studies, our thanks to John Perrine, Eveline Larrucea, Jerry Roe and Cynthia Perrine for presenting the workshop, and to Nomad Ecology for their sponsorship.
- * Introduction to Bayesian Statistical Inference, many thanks to Howard Stauffer and Denise Walker-Brown.
- * Bat Ecology and Field Techniques, thank you to instructors Joe Szewczak, Dave Johnston and Stephanie Remington; logistician Cynthia Perrine and sponsor Helen Johnson.
- * Bird Specimen Preparation Techniques, we greatly appreciate the hard work of instructor Tamar Danufsky and organizer Denise Walker-Brown.

Everyone should know about the Symposium that immediately precedes our Annual Conference in Monterey, Wildlife and Invasive Species, co-sponsored by the California Invasive Plant Council (CAL IPC). Find info on our website and elsewhere in this newsletter.

We're planning to repeat the Remote Camera workshop in Southern California (possibly Riverside County) in 2007. Also be looking for "Endangered Species Act 101," a possible repeat of our very successful Endangered Species Permitting Workshop and there are already ideas for a symposium to precede the 2008 annual meeting in Redding.

Remember that we announce workshops and other significant chapter events via our TWS-West e-mail list (no spam!). As always, suggestions for future workshops and offers of organizational assistance are welcome.

Student Resume Workshop

*This **free** student-focused event will occur during the Section's 2007 Annual Conference in Monterey.*

The Annual Conference is a venue to present research, obtain training, learn about current methods, new technology, and network. It is a wonderful event for students to experience real-world biology and meet possible employers. Take advantage of the Resume Workshop as another benefit of conference attendance!!!

Resume Workshop - January 31 (7:30-9:30 pm)

- ⇒ Learn about format and content in federal and private resumes.
- ⇒ Get hints on cover letters.
- ⇒ Take home example resumes and cover letters
- ⇒ See where to find the best job searching sites and how to most effectively use them.

Barbara Peters, a Career Counselor for the Natural Resources and Sciences at Humboldt State University, will be presenting. Mrs. Peters has been working with wildlife and natural resource students for 30 years.

Resume Review - February 1 (1:30 - 4:30 pm)

Resume review involves the opportunity for students to improve their resume by sitting down with a professional and getting critical feedback.

Resume Review/Career Fair - Feb 2 (10:00-1:30)

The Resume Review booth will be a part of the Section's Career Fair. The Career Fair is a place for students to discuss career choices, the job market, and job qualifications with practicing professionals from the Western Section.

Mark Your Calendars!

2007 Annual Conference

January 31 - February 2

Monterey, CA

Portola Plaza Hotel

Avian Specimen Preparation Techniques Workshop

Denise Walker-Brown

On October 14th and 15th, 2006, the Section presented "Avian Specimen Preparation Workshop." This small workshop was a one and a half day hands on affair (actually almost a two day) hosted by Humboldt State University and presented by the University's Museum Curator Tamar Danufsky.

The morning of the first day started out with casual introductions over coffee and breakfast snacks. It was a pleasant beginning followed by Ms. Danufsky's thorough presentation that included the importance of bird study skins as a historical genetic resource, the laws and regulations related to acquiring permits in California to collect, how to prepare and maintain bird skins, a brief overview of avian zoonoses and an electronic step-by-step example of study skin preparation. Participants then gathered around to watch Ms. Danufsky prepare a double-crested cormorant specimen. It is an amazing sight to see a bird flipped inside out. Unfortunately some people now have an aversion to pink yogurt.

In the afternoon of the first day, each participant was provided



Nellie Thorngate proudly presents her completed "murre-on-a-stick." She and her co-worker, Jessica Griffiths, diligently and painstakingly worked to get their specimens museum worthy.

their own bird specimen for preparation. To make the first time preparation easier larger birds such as common murre, fulmars, and gulls were provided. The preparation of the specimens continued well into the second day. Due to the small size of the workshop everyone had easy access to one on one instruction. Everyone at the workshop can be proud with the knowledge of Humboldt State University Museum collection now has a skin prepped by them.

We even enjoyed a surprise visit from Doc Harris. The general feedback from participants indicated they went away with great

hands on experience but a desire for more time to work on their specimens.

Many thanks go to the instructor Tamar Danufsky, Katie Moriarty, Candace Renger, Cynthia Perrine and Rhys Evans, to all of you who helped in pulling this workshop together, for making this an informative interesting workshop with valuable and useful information. Special thanks go to our host Humboldt State University and the North Coast Chapter of the Wildlife Society for providing a student scholarship.

At the final count, there were 10 registrants.

President Report

Continued from Page 1

hard working board and volunteers with whom I have had the pleasure to work during this past year. It has been very gratifying to work with such a dedicated group and while I was unable to accomplish

some of the things I planned as president, I believe we made significant progress this year. It has been a pleasure to serve you.

Bat Ecology and Techniques Workshop

Cynthia Perrine



The third installment of our now annual Bat Ecology and Field Techniques workshop was a huge success and the Section has a long list of Thank You's to offer. First thanks go to our great mix of participants - biological consultants, students, agency staff, a Monterey county animal control officer, the director of the Ventana Wildlife Society in Big Sur, and our 3 amazing and dedicated instructors made for a lively and energetic group. Thanks to the generosity of sponsor Helen Johnson, two Monterey county participants attended at no charge and will undoubtedly increase bat awareness in their territory. Thanks too for the San Joaquin Chapter's sponsorship of a San Francisco State University student who will start master's work studying urban bats in San Francisco.

In addition to lectures and discussion covering basic life history and ecology of the bats of California, participants enjoyed ample field experience. We set nets and acoustic monitors out at Hastings on Thursday and Friday nights and then traveled to Pinnacles National Monument for our Saturday night field excursion. We heard and caught bats

each night and participants who had furnished proof of rabies vaccinations were able to practice taking data on each capture, measuring mass, length, sex and age, and identifying to species using the dichotomous keys. This time around our processing table was so busy that I even got to handle a bat for a few minutes.

We arrived safely back from Pinnacles thanks to the expert driving of Dave Johnston and Joe Szewczak – these instructors can do it all! Fortunately, all of us survived my cooking, despite a brief moment of extreme tears while the onions nearly gassed us out of the conference room/kitchen – a memorable moment that we will try not to duplicate. I think we all went home well-fed and thoroughly exhausted from the long days and nights but also thoroughly ready to get a little more involved in bat research and conservation in our Western Section. And we couldn't have done it without the all-around help from volunteer Nick Kerhoulas, from Humboldt State – thanks, Nick!

Final thanks go to instructors Dave Johnston from HT Harvey & Associ-

ates, Stephanie Remington from Orange County, and Joe Szewczak from Humboldt State who all donated their time and expertise to make this happen! After three years, we've got this down to a finely tuned workshop and we all look forward to another great workshop in 2007! Mark your calendars for September 6 – 9 – and get your rabies vaccinations early so you can fully participate. Holding a bat in hand is a great way to get to know these amazing critters.



Awards and Grants

Rich Burg

The Western Section has historically supported conferences, symposia, and studies through grants. This year, TWS-WS funded seven grant requests including:

- ✧ Proceedings for the recent Oak Symposium;
- ✧ Vernal pool workshop;
- ✧ Humboldt State University conclave team;
- ✧ Snowy Plover documentary;
- ✧ Operation migration;
- ✧ Non-invasive mesocarnivore hair-snaring device;
- ✧ Series of rabies inoculations.

Additionally, the committee has been working diligently on acquiring nominees for the various awards to be presented at the annual conference and is accepting nominations from the Section Membership at large for candidates for the following Section Awards:

Raymond F. Dasmann Award for the Professional of the Year

The “Dasmann Award” is presented by the Western Section to Professionals making an outstanding contribution to wildlife resources management and understanding in California, Nevada, Hawaii or Guam.

Qualifications of Nominee: The nominee can be any member(s) of the Wildlife Society-Western Section, who develops, applies, administers or completes an especially significant program of management, education, research or communications that results in an outstanding contribution to wildlife resources in the Western Section geographic area.

The Conservationist of the Year Award

The Conservationist of the Year Award is presented by the Western Section to a person or group, engaged in wildlife conservation either as a profession or as an avocation, who has made an outstanding contribution to wildlife conservation in California, Nevada, Hawaii or Guam.

Qualifications of Nominee: The nominee can be any individual or group who has demonstrated an active con

Western Section Grants

The Western Section of The Wildlife Society (TWS-WS) has historically supported conferences and symposia and studies through grants. Board members review all funding requests and make selections based on the following criteria:

- ★ Consistency with TWS purposes and objectives as cited in the Western Section By-Laws
- ★ Timelines and relevance: Local, regional, or national level
- ★ Proposals must demonstrate a clear need for funding and should define a time-line for project implementation/Endorsement and/or financial support of local TWS Chapter
- ★ Demonstration of shared costs; a detailed budget showing amount and use of TWS-WS grant is required
- ★ Quality and brevity of submitted request
- ★ Availability of funds and amount of funding requested
- ★ Applicant must be a member of TWS-WS
- ★ Conference or symposium organizers receiving grant funding must submit a schedule of proposed sessions
- ★ Ability of the applicant to successfully implement the proposed project

Submitted requests should attempt to address the above-listed criteria. Grant recipients must submit a report to the Executive Board at the conclusion of the event or study. In addition, if the recipient conducted a study, they must present either preliminary or final findings from that study at the annual conference. This reporting requirement will be included in a letter from the Section which accompanies the actual disbursement of the grant.

The following information should be contained within the proposal:

- ★ A TITLE PAGE with the following information only: project title, applicant's name, institutional affiliation, address, degree being sought or highest degree obtained, telephone number, fax number, email address, total budget, amount requested from TWS, and desired starting date.
- ★ The title page should also include a brief ABSTRACT of the proposed project, stating the purpose, methods, and significance of the project to conservation.
- ★ An INTRODUCTION explaining the rationale for the project, specific goals and objectives, and hypotheses to be tested. METHODS and PLAN OF ACTION describing data collection methods, sample size, detailed timetable, including the project's completion date. A project BUDGET is required.

Completed applications and questions can be e-mailed to the Awards and Grants Committee Chair at rburg@parks.ca.gov or mailed to the following address:

*The Wildlife Society Western Section
Attn: Awards and Grants Chair ; PO Box 3275
Oakland, CA 94609-0275*

Continued on Page 7

Newsletter Changeover

Katie Moriarty

Alas, after 6 issues of Section newsletter fun I bid thee farewell. School is calling. Of course, it's not really goodbye.... I've slowly whittled from 3 board positions to just 1, Student Affairs co-chair (SAC). I hope to continue building this program with the assistance of many others.

As for the newsletter, Janae Scruggs has volunteered to continue as Editor. I welcome her to the Section board. It will be wonderful to have her continue and improve communication within the membership.

During the last two years I have had a great deal of assistance with editing and general commentary. Rhys Evans, Don Yasuda, and Sarah Lynch have been integral for providing quality control and thorough pre-readings. Thank you!

Our latest activities include an August social at the Sierra Nevada Brewery in Chico, a Natural Resources Symposium in October and a social with the UC Davis Chapter on November 8. We are trying to have events in different parts of the chapter to encourage attendance. If you have an idea for an event, or a great place for a social let us know. The Symposium was a one day workshop at Sacramento State University and focused on research conducted within the chapter boundaries. About 100 people attended and not only were agency and consultant biologists there, but also attending were planners from local governments and members of the local environmental community. We felt like at this particu-

lar workshop many of the users of the information were there. November 8 we had our Board Meeting and Social at Woodstock's pizza in Davis. Three UC Davis students showed up and it was great to meet them. To make it easier for scheduling we are going to meet with the student chapter again, but on their regular night and time, and bring food into the meeting. We have also updated our bylaws and will be sending them out for a vote by the membership. Elections are also upcoming, we welcome people to get involved in the Board and run for a position. Contact me for more information on any of the Chapter's activities. Melinda Dorin mdorin@energy.state.ca.us or 916.654.4024



Jake Harris and Martha Walker enjoy various samples of wine donated to the event.

Humboldt State's Wine and Cheese Gala

Will Goldenberg

November 11 marked the first annual Conservation Unlimited Wine and Cheese Gala which was a great success! This event was held to help raise funds for the HSU concave team to continue competing after funding had been greatly reduced. Local wineries and cheese makers donated top of the line products to serve to the many guests who also enjoyed swing music from The Eureka Brass Band. The Wharfinger building on Humboldt Bay provided a great atmosphere, and keynote speaker HSU alum Jeff Dunk presented a humorous and

highly educational talk regarding the importance of conservation. Local businesses donated some amazing outdoor prize packages for the silent auction, and student artists auctioned off photographs and artwork that was very well received. Funds from this event were greatly appreciated by the team and will help them to continue the legacy that began in the early 1960's. Planning for next years event are already in the works for November 3rd 2007, so if you missed the first one, there will hopefully be many more to come!

Reflections and Moving Forward

Cynthia Perrine

Status Quo: the existing state of affairs. It can be challenging to uphold and equally challenging to improve upon it. For our Section, maintaining the status quo is something to be proud of. Over the past 50 years, we have built a formidable slate of activities and programs to support our membership and wildlife profession. Even though the push of our modern existence is for continued expansion and improvement, to get bigger and better, it can be effective to properly maintain the good programs that have taken so long to establish and hone.

As outgoing past-president, I offer this perspective – let's maintain our valuable activities and continue to build our membership through offering solid and essential programs. Programs that encourage and prepare young professionals for a rewarding career in wildlife biology, hone the skills of associate to senior level professionals, and those that give an ongoing sense of contribution to the veteran biologists among us. Membership may be declining across professional societies of all disciplines but I'm confident that the value of membership in networking and program access alone will be enough to sustain our base.

Maintaining the status quo may not be feasible on

Continued on Page 10.

Awards and Grants *Continued from Page 5*

cern for wildlife conservation by accomplishing projects or programs that have significantly enhanced wildlife resource conservation within the Western Section geographical area.

Nominations should include a summary (or resume/curriculum vita) as to why you are nominating this person. Summaries should include education history, professional experience, personnel service, research, previous awards received, and/

or other accomplishments.

The nominations can be e-mailed to the Awards and Grants Committee Chair at rburg@parks.ca.gov or mailed to the following address.

*The Wildlife Society-Western Section
Attn: Awards and Grants Chair
PO Box 3275
Oakland, CA 94609-0275*

Wildlife and Invasive Plants Workshop

Jan. 30-31, 2007

The Section is working with California Invasive Plant Council to bring you a 1.5 day workshop preceeding our Annual Conference.

Keep checking our website for details.

www.tws-west.org

Southern California Chapter Update

Southern California TWS members, we're actively revitalizing the SoCal TWS chapter. We held elections about six weeks ago; Melissa Busby is our new President. Erik LaCoste is Vice President, Darin Busby is Secretary, and Lyndon Quon is Treasurer. Don Mitchell is continuing as Chapter Rep to the Executive Board.

Please let us know if you have any suggestions about restarting the chapter! We'll start with a social event or two, but we're working with the Student Affairs Committee to organize some outreach to college students (Professors, let us know if you'd like a guest pre-

sentation on "How Cool it is to be a Wildlife Biologist").

The Professional Development Committee is going to work on offering a workshop or two within the next 12-18 months (they did a great Endangered Species Permitting Workshop last April, which may be offered to you northerners soon). We're considering "ESA 101" (a brief, but comprehensive refresher course on both the Federal and California Endangered Species Acts).

So, bring your ideas to our attention, we'll have a chapter meeting in Monterey to get this chapter going again.



TWS' Leadership Institute, a Successful Pilot Program

Katie Moriarty

Few opportunities exist for young professionals to enhance their experiences for career development, and more specifically, for becoming active leaders within their professional realms. The Wildlife Society selected ten early-career individuals to participate in the Leadership Institute (LI). Through a series of distance-learning assignments coupled with several culminating activities at the annual conference in Anchorage, Alaska, the individuals gained valuable insights about active leadership in TWS.

When I heard about the LI last winter, it seemed interesting. There was a rigorous application process targeting youthful potential "leaders" a few years out of school that were involved with TWS. By spring, electronic assignments began and they filtered through the field season. My co-workers and friends had quite the experience; most of the assignments had discussion elements investigating leadership issues or the topic this year – declining Wildlife Society membership. It was not until Anchorage where I had the opportunity to meet the

other 9 participants.

This was the second time I was able to attend a National Conference. And yes, one of the benefits of this program was that the expenses were paid. These conferences bring in an international audience, more than a thousand biologists. A local told me it was an invasion of "binocular-people who appeared in downtown Anchorage." For those who have not attended a national meeting or are a national member, consider putting it on your list of things to do. This is where you can see TWS in action. The opportunity will come locally (Monterey) in the fall of 2009.

Continued on page 10.



The 2006 TWS Leadership Institute Participants in Anchorage. From left to right: Katie Moriarty, California; Silka Kempema, S. Dakota; Bridgette Flanders-Wanner, S. Dakota; Jordona Kirby, Kentucky; Michael Larson, Minnesota; Raquel Wertsbaugh, Colorado; Erin Patrick, Arkansas; Lori Williams, N. Carolina; Emily Munter, Nebraska, and Sheldon Owen, S. Carolina (not shown).



Sessions included electronic assignments and various sessions at the conference. Here John Organ, TWS President-Elect, presents some closing remarks to the candidates.



Wildlife Photos by Jay Harris; Sept 2006

The Humboldt Experience - the National TWS Conference

Will Goldenberg

The Humboldt State University Wildlife Conclave Team traveled to Anchorage, Alaska this past September to participate in The 2006 Wildlife Society National Conference. A total of 20 students made the journey and participated in many of the great events geared toward professional development. The student/professional mixer was an excellent opportunity for the new generation of wildlife biologist to meet with seasoned veterans who shared similar interests and to discuss career paths and opportunities. Many students left the event with either job opportunities or a contact with professionals from all around the country and increased excitement for what their future holds. HSU's student chapter Conservation Unlimited attended a "Student Chapter Breakfast" which offered an amazing opportunity to network with other chapters and learn what they are doing to promote professionalism within their student body. Universities from all around the country attended and traded information on how to make student chapters even more successful than they already are. These students also received information on how the National WS is working to gear their organization towards the future through more involvement with students across the country. The conclave team made a great showing at the quizbowl but

placed third behind Texas A/M and Madison Wisconsin. Students had trained long and hard for this event, and the loss has only heightened their desire to get the win at the regional competition in the spring. While in Alaska the team was lucky to have the opportunity to enjoy the sights of the last frontier by visiting the amazing Portage Glacier, getting a behind the scenes tour of the Alaska Sealife Center, and hiking Flattop mountain. The Alaskan Wildlife was quite impressive and viewing moose, por-

cupines, dall sheep, beluga whales and many others was the highlight of the trip for these eager naturalists. Overall this was an amazing experience for all those involved and the cutting edge research that was presented during the weeklong symposium was not only extremely educational but inspiring. Not often are students privy to hearing presentations from top biologists from around the country and their message of sound science and professionalism was not lost on this group.



Even though it was raining, a group picture was taken. From left to right: Jessica Marquis, Wendy Berg, Viteak Jirinic, Gabe Youngblood, Martha Walker, Laurel Ferreira, Emily Pierson, Will Goldenberg, Meadow Kouffeld, Amber Whitaker, Michelle Schroeder, Sporty Pair, Terra Rentz, Allison Greenleaf, Tim Carpenter, Nick Kotko, Jeanette Griffin, Jake Harris, Becca Payne, Dr. Rick Brown, and Ian Davis.

Instructions for Voting

1. Log onto the Western Section Web site, www.tws-west.org
2. From the home page, click on the link "2007 Voting for President Elect."
3. Record your votes and supply your e-mail address (to verify voting eligibility).
4. Send the vote by clicking the "submit" button.
5. Verify that your vote was received by confirming e-mail message to address supplied.

Election Tallies and Eligibility

Votes will be tallied by Past-President Cynthia Perrine and all votes will remain confidential.

You are eligible to vote in the election if you are a *current* Western Section member.

TWS Leadership Institute

Continued from page 8.

In my opinion, it was in Anchorage where the program actually launched. Although we had never spoken, background similarities brought the participants together quickly. One of the most helpful experiences was discussing our trials, achievements, and participation within TWS. Second to this in importance was the opportunity to attend the Council meetings. It was here where we learned of how involved TWS is at the national level and watch the fluidness of their large-agenda meetings with professional ease. There were many tasks TWS has in progress that were interesting. Logistics about combining the Bulletin and JWM while placing "less scientific" articles in a new high quality magazine started off the day. The next agenda item was lead by the Associate Director of Government Affairs. TWS has been working on Position Statements concerning the ESA Review, Baiting and Feeding, Farm Bill, North American Model of Conservation, and Oil and Gas Energy Development as well as heading technical reviews on Biofuels and the Public Trust Doctrine. Toolkits are being created on how to create position statements and what successful student chapters are doing. The list of activities continues.

As a whole, the LI was an insightful and unique opportunity that I would recommend for all "early" professionals. It will be offered next year and hopefully will continue in the future.

Reflections and Moving Forward

Continued from page 7.

the shoulders of volunteers alone but we should carefully consider the sustainability of a more corporate approach to managing the business end of our organization. Our board has strategically developed resources for a paid assistant to help implement the membership and conference registration tasks so critical to our base operation. Her support will become even more critical as our membership and programs grow, and as our leaders help to shape the Section's activities to meet membership demand.

As for future Section leaders, we are truly lucky to again have 2 qualified, dedicated and competent wildlife biologists running to serve the Section and its membership as president-elect. Please read their respective statements and vote for the candidate you think will best contribute to furthering our goals.

One final thought as we pass the gavel once again; I'm thrilled that the strong financial state of the Section made it possible to ask a Hawaii biologist to run for president-elect. Three short years ago, this would have been impossible; the Section's funds would have been inadequate to support his involvement, if elected. With good leadership, we will remain able to ask any qualified candidate within our Section territory to run for office, no matter what state or island they live on! Keep up the good work everybody and thanks for the experience, I'll look forward to seeing you in Monterey and around the Western Section.

Rhys Evans - President-elect

Personal Information: California native, born 1964, single.

Education: Humboldt State University, B.S. Wildlife Management, 1991.

Current Position: Ecologist / Natural Resources Manager; U.S. Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, CA (10.5 years)

Previous Employment:

U.S. Peace Corps, Zakopane, Poland; National Park Advisor, Tatra National Park (Tatrzański Park Narodowy). I worked on multiple natural resources issues, including endangered species, invasive species, wildfire prevention, visitor education, acid rain monitoring, translation, grant writing, museum design, and more. My work (with assistance from many others) resulted in Tatra NP becoming accredited as an International Biosphere Reserve (designated by UNESCO).

National Park Service (Seasonal), 4 seasons in three units (Isle Royale National Park, Jewel Cave National Monument, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area).

Student Conservation Association Volunteer (Resource Assistant), two seasons in two units (Isle Royale National Park, Jewel Cave National Monument)

Involvement with The Wildlife Society: Member of Western Section since 1997, National since 1998. Certified Wildlife Biologist. Served on Executive Board of The Western Section since 2001, initially as Chair of Public Information Committee, then since 2004 as Co-Chair of Professional Development Committee. I've chaired and co-chaired three Special Sessions in Sacramento and Irvine, organized student judges, assisted with registration and various other tasks.

Involvement with Other Conservation Organizations: Active member of the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association (NMFWA), including several roles on the Board of Directors, culminating in President, 2006-2007. Desert Tortoise Council, member since 1996, Host Committee Chair in 2002. Student Conservation Association alumnus, Humboldt State Conservation Unlimited Alumni Assn.; others.

Candidate Statement: I've thoroughly enjoyed my involvement with The Western Section, including helping with the Quiz Bowl at the 2001 Reno Conference and more than



five years on the Executive Board. Not only is it enlightening to be exposed to ideas and some rather wild thoughts of other wildlife and resources management professionals, the board is made up of people who have fun while tackling serious issues.

As noted above, my initial involvement was as Chair of the Public Information Committee (PIC). I saw a note in the newsletter asking for help. I called the person who was listed, offered my help and was immediately asked "Do you want to be Chair?" Honestly, I said no, but several months later, I relented. PIC, for which I had great ambitions of getting the word out to the public on a myriad of regional wildlife issues, ballot initiatives, controversial actions by governments and others, was never much more than a "committee of one." It was dissolved in the restructuring of 2004. Since then, I've been working on Professional Development, organizing workshops, symposia and related events on a wide variety of topics, but my general premise is this: I'll handle mundane but necessary things like liability insurance, publicity and catering contracts, and leave the contents and presentations to subject matter experts. I've led several one-day workshops on the TWS Certification and Professional Development programs, which have led to several successful applicants becoming Certified Wildlife Biologists. With my involvement in NMFWA (a national organization with approximately 1300 current members, dedicated to enhancing awareness of natural resource conservation requirements and providing for both long-term sustainability of natural resources and the successful accomplishment of the military training mission on public lands administered by the DoD), I was charged with assembling a detailed, 4-day meeting in Crystal City, Virginia in 2005 – a lot of work, but it's fun and rewarding to see the resulting conference.

Continued on Page 15.

David Smith - President-elect

Personal Information: Born 2 June, 1959; Married with three children ages 20, 18 and 15.

Education: B.A., 1982, Biological Sciences, California State University, Chico.

Current Position: Oahu District Wildlife Manager, State of Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife

TWS Involvement: 1996 – Present, President, Hawaii Chapter.

Professional Memberships: 1995 – Present, Associate Member, Society of American Foresters.

Community Service: Coach, Lanikai Canoe Club Women's Program; Lanikai Canoe Club liaison to the Lanikai Community Association; Treasurer, Mokolua Fishing Club.

Candidate Statement: David G. Smith has been a wildlife biologist with the Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife (Department of Land and Natural Resources) since 1988. From 1988 to 1992 he managed the Oahu Natural Area Reserves Program, and since 1992 has worked as the Oahu District Wildlife Manager, directing habitat conservation programs on the island of Oahu and at Kure Atoll, the most remote of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

He graduated from Iolani School in Honolulu in 1977, and received his B.A. in Biological Sciences from California State University, Chico in 1982. He has worked for several conservation organizations including the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, The Nature Conservancy of Ha-



waii and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. His professional interests include wildlife refuge acquisition, habitat restoration and management, public education and landscape planning and design.

David has been the President of the Wildlife Society – Hawaii Chapter since 1996. His role with the Chapter has primarily been focused on habitat restoration projects, professional development and fundraising.

David is a journeyman carpenter and has spent portions of the past 20 years building custom homes. He considers himself a professional “dirt kicker”, and hopes to leave a lasting legacy of natural area protection and management.

He and his wife, Heidi, live in Lanikai with their daughter Hannah. Their sons, Ian and Haakon, attend Oregon State University and University of Oregon, respectively.

2007 Section Membership Renewal

Don Yasuda

It's that time of year when you're lives get busy preparing for the holidays and your mailbox (both postal and electronic) get inundated with catalogs and advertisements. In mid-November a renewal notice for your 2007 Western Section membership was sent out and hopefully it didn't get lost in the shuffle. Most should have received an electronic notice via email and a few should have received a letter in the mail. For those that have renewed already, THANK YOU! For those that will renew after being gently reminded by this article, THANK YOU! For those that are waffling, remember that your membership dues are a critical funding source that allows the Western Section to offer many Workshops

and Conferences at reasonable fees and Grants to students and young professionals and Awards to deserving biologists in our Section. Your membership status is indicated on your mailing label for this newsletter. We offer several ways to renew your membership. If you are a member of TWS, you should renew your Section membership at the same time you pay your National dues. Otherwise, visit the Chapters and Membership section of our website (<http://www.tws-west.org>) where you can find links to join or renew with the Section online or print out a form to mail. You can also renew your 2007 Section membership when you register for the Annual Conference. If you have questions about your membership status, please contact me at dyasudaTWS@comcast.net.

WILDLIFE AND INVASIVE PLANTS

“Finding Common Ground in Protecting Ecological Diversity”

Portola Plaza, Monterey January 30-31, 2007

The annual conference will be preceded by a symposium focusing on the interactions between wildlife and invasive plants. The 1 1/2 day symposium will provide research and management updates on the impacts of invasive plants on wildlife, as well as wildlife considerations when controlling invasive plants. The symposia will consist of a series of invited talks by experts, contributed and invited posters on current research, and a panel discussion. The speakers will synthesize available information to provide comprehensive overviews on their topics. In addition, the symposium will provide a forum for wildlife managers, scientists, and representatives of regulatory agencies and other organizations to exchange ideas and identify critical information needs. Please see our webpage for presentation titles and a detailed schedule.

Schedule

Tuesday, January 30th

9:00 to 19:00 Wildlife and Invasive Plant Symposium

17:00 to 19:00 Welcome mixer, social, and posters

Wednesday, January 31st

8:00 to 12:00 Wildlife and Invasive Plant Symposium

Topics expected to be discussed include:

- Best Management Practices: controlling invasive plants where wildlife could be impacted
- Research gaps related to wildlife and invasive plants
- Impacts of Invasive Plants on several taxa of wildlife
- Dispersal of invasive plants by wildlife
- Interrelationships of rare wildlife and invasive plants
- Invasive plant eradication in endangered species habitat
- Policy issues related to invasive plants and wildlife
- Herbicide exposure risks for wildlife
- Invasive plants and wildlife diversity
- Preventing the spread of invasive plants by biologists
- Invasive plant treatment methods

Confirmed invited speakers include Rob Klinger, University of California, Davis, Steve Schoenig, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Rick Sweitzer, University of North Dakota and Joel Trumbo, California Department of Fish and Game. Additional speakers are still being confirmed, check the Western Section website for the most up-to-date information, <http://www.tws-west.org>.



THINKING LIKE A MOUNTAIN: WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION AT A LANDSCAPE LEVEL

In Aldo Leopold's "Thinking like a Mountain" (*A Sand County Almanac and Sketches Here and There*, 1949) we are reminded of the critical interrelationships between many different species and their habitats. Wildlife Managers have long realized the value of moving away from the single species management approach, instead focusing on landscape level considerations. It is only recently that this approach is more commonly being utilized and attempted, since there are now different management tools available to make this approach feasible. The plenary and concurrent technical sessions will explore these topics and describe current landscape-level management and conservation programs and tools.

Schedule-At-A-Glance

(see page 15 for session details; website for updates)

Tuesday, January 30th

9:00 to 19:00 Wildlife and Invasive Plant Symposium

17:00 to 19:00 Welcome mixer, social, and posters

Wednesday, January 31st

8:00 to 12:00 Wildlife and Invasive Plant Symposium

12:00 Registration for Conference

13:00 to 17:00 Concurrent Sessions

17:00 to 19:30 Welcome mixer, social and posters

19:30 to 21:30 Chapter Meetings

19:30 to 21:30 Resume Workshop

Thursday, February 1st

8:00 Registration

8:00 to 11:30 Plenary Session

13:00 to 16:30 Concurrent Sessions

17:00 to 18:00 Annual Business Meeting and
Member's Forum

19:00 Annual Award's Banquet & Raffle (ticketed)

Friday, February 2nd

8:00 to 16:30 Concurrent Sessions

10:00 to 13:30 Student Leadership Lunch and
Career Fair

12:00 to 13:30 Resume Review

16:30 Western Section Board meeting

Saturday, February 3rd

8:30 to 15:45 Big Sur Bird Banding and Condor Field
Trip

8:30 to 11:45 Pacific Grove Monarch Butterfly and
Shorebird Field Trip

Field Trips

Big Sur Bird Banding and Condor Field Trip

Big Sur is a nature lover's paradise and those with an adventurous spirit. Ventana Wildlife Society's Wildlife Biologists will provide a guided adventure. Join our Wildlife Biologists as they show you mist-netting and bird banding at the Andrew Molera State Park in the morning. Enjoy a hearty and nutritious boxed-lunch before taking off down the coast to look for California Condors with our staff.

Pacific Grove Monarch Butterfly and Shorebirds Field Trip

Pacific Grove is one of only a few Monarch Butterfly overwintering sites throughout Monterey County. Come and see these spectacular butterflies in their native habitat and learn ways you can contribute to ensuring their health and wellbeing. Then walk along the shores of Pacific Grove to catch a glimpse of some of the shorebirds residing there. Join Ventana Wildlife Society's Wildlife Biologists for a morning of beauty and wonder in Pacific Grove.

Additional field trips are being planned in the Monterey area for Saturday, February 3, 2006, immediately following the conference. Monitor the Western Section website or contact field trip coordinator McCrea Cobb (mcobb@nature.berkeley.edu) for updates, trip schedules, and additional trip information.

Plenary Session

The plenary session will be held Thursday morning and will consist of a keynote address followed by a series of speakers discussing regional conservation and management programs. Speakers currently confirmed for the plenary session are:

Keynote Address: Dr. Paul Beier, Professor, Conservation Biology and Wildlife Ecology, School of Forestry, Northern Arizona University

Plenary Speaker: Ryan Broddrick, Director, California Department of Fish and Game

Plenary Speaker: Dr. Alison M. Berry, Director, Road Ecology Center, U.C. Davis

Plenary Speaker: Dr. Adina Merlender, U.C. Berkeley, Integrated Hardwood Range Management Program

Plenary Speaker: Vicki Campbell, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California and Nevada Operations Office

List of Confirmed Technical Concurrent Sessions with Moderator

Ecology and Management Sessions:

- **Wildlife in Managed Forests:** Scott D. Osborn, California Department of Fish and Game
- **Canids:** Brian Cypher, Endangered Species Recovery Program (ESRP)
- **Bats:** Dave Johnston, H.T. Harvey and Associates
- **Carnivores:** Keith Slauson, U.S. Forest Service, Redwood Sciences Lab
- **Seabirds and Shorebirds:** Esther Burkett, California Department of Fish and Game
- **Landbirds (Raptors and Passerines):** Allen M. Fish, Golden Gate Raptor Observatory
- **Amphibians and Reptiles:** Hartwell Welsh, U.S. Forest Service, Redwood Sciences Lab

Conservation Planning Sessions:

- **Energy Development and Wildlife:** Linda Spiegel, California Energy Commission (CEC)
- **Implementation of Regional Conservation Plans:** Gail Presley, California Department of Fish and Game

Ecosystem Research and Management

- **Wildlife in Oak Woodlands:** Barry Garrison, California Department of Fish and Game
- **Ecosystem Function, Connectivity, and Restoration:** Rhys Evans, U.S. Marine Corps

Evans Statement *Continued from page 11.*

Goals I would set, if elected, would include looking into the issue of declining Section membership, increasing activity and effectiveness of the Conservation Affairs Committee (we're looking for a new Chair!), Helping to plan an awesome National TWS meeting for Monterey in September 2009. And prior to that, there's a meeting in Redding in February 2008, which I'll help with whether I'm elected or not. I'd appreciate your support and would be honored to serve as President-Elect of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society.

Conference Registration Information

Register for the Annual Conference online!!!!

Just go to the Section's website (www.tws-west.org) **and click on the link to "Online Registration". You can also connect directly by going to:** https://securedata.net/tws-west/2007ac_reg_form.html.

If you wish to send a check, print the form and send it to the address on the top of the page.

Early registration must be completed by
December 29th!!!



The Wildlife Society
Western Section
P.O. Box 3275
Oakland, CA 94609

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage Paid
Permit #346
Rancho Cordova, CA

Look inside for details about the Annual Conference and WS events....

The 2007 conference will be held in Monterey, right across from the Wharf (pgs 13-15). Also look for articles about the National Conference in Alaska (pgs 8-9), the rejuvenated Southern California Chapter (pg 7), President-Elect Candidates (pgs 11-12), membership renewal (pg 12) and more...

Officers, Committee Chairs, and Chapter Representatives

Kevin Hunting, President

California Department of Fish and Game
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 120; Sacramento, CA 95814
916/653-9767, khunting@dfg.ca.gov

Cynthia Graves-Perrine, Past-President, Student Affairs co-chair

Jepson Herbarium, UC Berkeley
1001 Valley Life Sciences Bldg. #2465; Berkeley, CA 94720
510/643-7008, csgperrine@yahoo.com

Julie Vance, President-elect

California Department of Fish and Game
1234 E. Shaw Ave; Fresno, CA 93710
559/243-4014 x 222, jvance@dfg.ca.gov

Marti Kie, Section Representative

Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street, Rm 1148; Sacramento, CA 95814
916/653-8170, mkie@water.ca.gov

Gary Falxa, Treasurer - interim

1615 Swanson Lane; Eureka, CA 95521
707/825-5107, gfalxa@earthlink.net

Kiffanie Stahle, Secretary

Environmental Science Associates
8950 Cal Center Drive, Suite 300; Sacramento, CA 95826
916/564-4500, kstahle@esassoc.com

Rhys Evans, Professional Development co-chair

U.S. Marine Corps
6056 Bagley Avenue, Apt. A; Twentynine Palms, CA 92277
760/830-7396x234; rhyse@adelphia.net

Denise Walker-Brown, PDC co-chair

Habitat Conservation Plan Monitor
1906 B. Ave; McKinleyville, CA 95519
deniselwalker@hotmail.com

Katie Moriarty, Student Affairs co-chair, Newsletter Editor

20966 Birchwood Dr; Foresthill, CA 95631
ktmoriarty22@yahoo.com

Janae Scruggs, Newsletter Editor

Los Banos Wildlife Refuge Educational Coordinator
20654 Mervel Ave, Los Banos, CA 93635
jscruggs@tidepool.com

Richard Burg, Awards and Grants

CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation
8885 Rio San Diego Drive #270; San Diego, CA 92186
619/204-0182, rburg@parks.ca.gov

Don Yasuda, Membership

Eldorado National Forest
P.O. Box 1016; Diamond Springs, CA 95619
dyasudaTWS@comcast.net

Barry Garrison, Transactions Editor

Resource Assessment; California DFG
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A; Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
916/358-2945, bgarrison@dfg.ca.gov

Sandra Hunt-von Arb, CA North Coast

Pacific Northwest Biologists
P.O. Box 150; Trinidad, CA 95570
707/839-4643, sandraTWS@cox.net

Robin Boothby and Clara Laursen, Davis Student co-reps

rboothby@ucdavis.edu; cllaursen@ucdavis.edu

Bill Standley, Hawaii Rep and Webmaster

c/o Div of Forestry & Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl Street, #325; Honolulu, HI 96813
808/587-0166, bill.standley@wildlifer.com

Will Goldenberg, Humboldt State Rep

willgoldenber@yahoo.com

Danny Rakestraw, Nevada

URS Corporation
7180 Pollock Drive, Ste. 200; Las Vegas, NV 89119
702/837-1500, danny_rakestraw@urscorp.com

Melinda Dorin, Sacramento-Shasta

California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street MS-4; Sacramento CA 95814
916/654.4024, mdorin@energy.state.ca.us

McCrea Cobb, San Francisco Bay Area

65 Dockside Circle; San Rafael, CA 94903
415/686-2848, mcobb@nature.berkeley.edu

Steve Juarez, San Joaquin Valley

CA Department of Fish & Game
1234 East Shaw Ave; Fresno, CA 93710
559/243-4017 ext. 224, sjuarez@dfg.ca.gov

Don Mitchell, Southern California

ECORP Consulting
412 E. State St.; Redlands, CA 92373
dmitchell@ecorpconsulting.com