



The Wildlife Society Western Section

~~Vol. 53, No. 1~~

Vol 54, No. 1

Winter Newsletter 2008

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President's Message

Rhys Evans

Hi everyone. I extend an apology, on behalf of the Western Section, for not getting prior issues of the newsletter out this year. We've attempted to keep members informed of activities and opportunities through "Yahooogroups" messages. A lack of a newsletter, by the way, should in no way indicate to you that we've not been busy! Your Executive Board has approved budgets, awarded research and travel grants, selected our meeting dates for 2011 (and we're getting really close on 2010). Planning is going very well for 2009 in Sacramento, as well as that "other" meeting, by which I mean the HUGE, AWESOME meeting coming up in Monterey in September 2009. We've done four certification workshops and have just completed a CEQA/CESA workshop, held in early November.

We also hired a new webmaster and the revised site is "live" and available for viewing!

We're now welcoming awards nominations, including, perhaps, a nominee for our periodic awards, the "Bartlett A. Garrison Award for Outstand-

ing Mentorship" and the "Jim Yoakum award for outstanding contributions." Both recognize actions "above and beyond" typical activity.

To ensure that we keep getting "western" voices heard, submit information to TWS for the on-line "Wildlifer" and the relatively new magazine "The Wildlife Management Professional." The editor of WMP welcomes quality input on every aspect of wildlife management, and I think I've read every article in every issue so far...

Let's continue to work on welcoming students into our profession, especially via the Student Affairs Committee. An article in "WMP" a few issues ago reported that a frighteningly high percentage of agency biologists will be eligible for retirement in the next five years or so; we should all recognize that in order to keep our resources sustainable, our T&E species surviving, and our fish and game species thriving, a lot of work must be accomplished in recruiting, training and, perhaps even a little good-natured "harassing" of some new wildlife biologists!

Let me formally say that it was an honor to assume the Presidency of the Western Section of TWS in Redding. Julie Vance then joined an esteemed

group of "Past Presidents," and we all owe her a hearty "thank you for a job well-done." Julie's also completed a quest for President-Elect candidates! See pages 14, 15, and 16 in this newsletter for candidate statements, voting information, and deadlines. Vote on-line by January 7th!

A closing anecdote: Several months ago, I attended a meeting in San Diego. A nice person I had met only once before approached me, and requested that I take possession of a bag full of desiccated California least tern guano (feces). I needed to transport it to another biologist, who wasn't present, for laboratory analysis. Of course, it wasn't a problem. That's not something your average accountant would consider doing. So, if a bag of feces is found in YOUR path, be thankful you're a wildlife biologist!

**See Page 12 for
2009 Annual Conference
Workshop Information**

*Congratulations to all of our 2008 Award Winners!***Raymond F. Dasmann
Award for the
Professional of the Year****Presented to
Dr. Bill Zielinski**

The Western Section recognizes Dr. Zielinski's research representing important and significant additions to our scientific knowledge of forest carnivores, small and mid-sized mammals including fisher and marten, detection methodology for mammalian carnivores, and monitoring of numerous population trends. In addition, Bill has authored over 80 publications throughout a career spanning three decades.

**Conservationist
of the Year
Award**

**Presented to
Conservation Biology Institute
accepted by Dr. Wayne Spencer**
The Western Section awards the Institute's dedication to the conservation of natural diversity through using best available science--and where necessary applying new science to solve real-world problems. The Conservation Biology Institute was founded in 1997 and provides scientific expertise to support conservation and recovery of biological diversity in its natural state through applied research, education, planning, and community service.

**James D. Yoakum Award
for Outstanding Service
and Commitment****Presented to
Marti Kie**

Marti has long been an active member of the Western Section, serving as President-Elect, President and Section Representative to TWS Council. Marti excels at working with diverse groups and interests. While on Council, Marti was instrumental in drafting the 2008 TWS Strategic Plan, in reviewing the newly-developed magazine, The Wildlife Professional, and coordinating comments on numerous position statements including the final position statement on The Endangered Species Act, Baiting and Supplemental Feeding of Game Wildlife, Recommendations for the 2007 Farm Bill, Oil and Gas Development and met with the USDA Forest Service about their new policy restricting FS employees from serving on boards of nonprofits. Marti has also actively encouraged members to serve on the board.

TWS - Western Section
2009 Annual Conference

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Sacramento, CA
January 21 - 24, 2009

Register Today!
joomla.wildlife.org/Western

• • • • •
• Do you know a •
• colleague who de- •
• serves one of these •
• awards? Nominate! •
• Contact Rich Burg, •
• rburg@parks.ca.gov •
• • • • •

The Barrett A. Garrison Outstanding Mentor Award



Presented to Barry Garrison Accepted by Christopher Garrison

This new award is bestowed to a professional within California, Nevada, Hawaii, and Guam who has contributed to our profession by assisting the continued development of wildlife professionals.

Barry was responsible for mentoring many young wildlife professionals. Through his example, he will continue to inspire active mentoring by all professionals.

A mentor's impact is extraordinary. A mentor helps to shape and promote a young career, provides help with networking and goal-setting, encouragement as well as a challenge, emotional support as well as intellectual support, and acknowledgment of accomplishments. A mentor shares aspirations and dreams, serves as a confidant, builds self-esteem and is genuinely concerned with the success of the whole person. A mentor has to make sure that the conversation around continuous development is inspiring, not intimidating. A great leader truly believes that personal development is a never-ending journey.

2008 Grants Summary

Student Research:

Two research study grants of \$1,000 each were awarded in 2008. One recipient is Kevin Brindock, a graduate student at Humboldt State University. The goal of his study is to evaluate western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*) habitat selection in northern California during the nonbreeding season. Data collected from October 2007 to February 2008 and October 2008 to February 2009 will be analyzed with logistic regression analysis and models evaluated using Akaike's Information Criterion. This will be one of the first western snowy plover studies to examine habitat selection during the nonbreeding season and one of the few studies to examine this species during the winter season, throughout the species range.

A second grant went to Katie Moriarty, a graduate student from Oregon State University. Her research involves evaluating the effects of forest management on the American marten. Her research is focusing on determining the distribution of martens within the Sagehen Creek watershed. In addition, the study will relate findings to previous marten surveys and research, as well as to the history of timber harvest and vegetation management in the Sagehen watershed. This will provide an assessment of forest landscape effects on the distribution and abundance of American martens and will also help evaluate the Tahoe National Forest's proposal to address fire and fuel concerns using a forest thinning method referred to as Strategically Placed Area Treatments (SPLATs).

One very exciting discovery oc-

**For
Awards Descriptions,
Nomination Guidelines,
and Grant Submission
Details, see the Awards
and Grants section of the
web site**

curred during her field season this past winter when one of her photo stations photographed a wolverine (*Gulo gulo*). The last documented occurrence of a wolverine in the state dates back to the 1920s and U.S. populations are found largely in the Northern Cascades in Washington, and Northern Rockies in Montana and Idaho. The nearest known resident population is about 900 miles north of the Tahoe National Forest in Northern Washington.

Travel Grants:

The Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society at Humboldt State University was awarded \$1,000 to assist in travel to the TWS National Meeting to compete in the Wildlife Student's Quiz Bowl Competition, present poster papers and compete in the art contests. A total of 17 students traveled to the meeting. Humboldt State was the defending National Champion, competing against numerous northeastern and southeastern wildlife schools. See page 8 for more details on the Quiz Bowl Competition results.

Other Contributions:

The Section contributed \$2,500 to assist the TWS Annual Conference in Miami and \$1,000 to support the California Native Plant Society's 2009 Conservation Conference in

TWS Western Section's Representative to Council

Don Yasuda

Wouldn't you know it. In order to avoid the risk of hurricanes, the 15th Annual Conference in Miami, Florida was pushed back from the usual late September timing to November 8-12. Then along comes Hurricane Paloma. Luckily, it stayed south of Miami and had no real impact on the Conference. Despite the current state of the economy, the Conference went well with around 1,300 attendees.

TWS Council:

The council meeting preceded the Conference. Following are a few of the highlights of the meeting:

Strategic Plan: TWS has finally approved its 5-Year Strategic Plan. This plan will provide direction and focus for TWS over the coming years. Council will now be working with the Executive Director and TWS staff on prioritizing the actions in the Plan. TWS has been making great strides on many goals and in fact, over 50% of the actions in the Plan have been initiated or have already been completed! However, many of the remaining items will require an investment of substantial resources (e.g. staff, member's involvement, and funding). The Strategic Plan will be available online soon.

Unified membership: As I mentioned in my email blast to you before the meeting, TWS is considering moving to unified membership, where you must be a member of TWS, the parent organization, in order to be a member of a Section or Chapter. This is being explored as a way to increase TWS membership, which will increase our representative

strength as well generate some of the needed revenue to implement the Strategic Plan. After lots of discussion, no decisions have been made at this time. The topic was referred to the Membership subcommittee for further work. As I assumed the Chair of this subcommittee, you'll be hearing more from me on this in the near future.

Re-engagement with State wildlife agencies: Over time we've seen a decrease in involvement by State wildlife agencies and their employees. TWS has been making efforts to work with FWS, USGS, NPS and Wildlife Services and will be continuing working with the other federal agencies and will spend considerable effort working to re-engage state agencies.

Publications: Change is always difficult, and the discontinuation of the Wildlife Society Bulletin is still a sore topic for some. The Journal of Wildlife Mgmt remains strong and is being refocused on management related science. The Wildlife Professional is continuing to strengthen and adapt entering its third year. The publications staff at TWS still needs member written articles and news to make it a publication that represents all of us. If you have ideas for articles or regional news to share, contact Philippa Benson at TWS (philippa@wildlife.org).

Government Affairs: The Government Affairs staff has been very busy providing testimony and comments on important wildlife issues at the national and regional level. In addition, TWS has many Position Statements

that are being reviewed and updated. If you are not familiar with them, please take a few minutes and look at them on the TWS website (www.wildlife.org) and if you have comments, please send them to me or to Laura Bies (laura@wildlife.org).

Leadership Institute: I spent considerable time with the incredible participants of the Leadership Institute. This program continues to get better each year with active input and leadership from past participants. While we didn't have a formal Western Section sponsored participant this year, Emily Hamblen, who's been an active volunteer at Section events, participated. If you are a young professional looking for increased leadership opportunities or if you know of a young professional, please consider applying for this valuable program.

Additional Activities:

Finally, entering my second year on Council, I am now more active on Council Committees and subcommittees. I am the Chair of the Membership and the Conferences subcommittees. I am also involved with the COWCH Project, Group Achievement Award, Position Statements, Student Chapters, and Miller Gun Raffle. In addition, I'm involved with the Impacts of Biofuels Production on Wildlife and Public Trust Doctrine Technical Reviews. As your Section Representative, I need your input and feedback on issues important to you as TWS members. Please don't hesitate to contact me at dyasudaTWS@comcast.net and provide comments about the aforementioned or any other concerns.

President-Elect

Scott Osborn

Planning for the 2009 Western Section Annual Conference continues. I'm looking forward to a great meeting in Sacramento and hope the current economic crisis doesn't put too much of a damper on attendance. Here are some of the highlights:

The conference dates are January 21-24, 2009, at the Sheraton Grand Hotel – Sacramento. The Sheraton Grand is located a block from the State Capitol Complex in the heart of downtown Sacramento. The main conference space is in the Julia Morgan-designed Public Market Building, which was incorporated into the hotel and converted into a great meeting space! This is definitely one of the nicest conference venues the Section has met at in recent years. Please help keep conference registration rates low by staying at the Sheraton! More information is available at the conference information web page (<http://joomla.wildlife.org/Western/>).

Conference Theme and Plenary Session: “The View from the Future:

Wildlife Management Challenges and Opportunities of the Next 100 Years.” The Conference Plenary session will bring together experts at forecasting environmental change to describe what the natural environment will look like over the next 100 years. Speakers will describe predictions of how habitat conversion, water diversions, and climate change may affect wildlife and their habitat. The presentations and panel discussion will stimulate thinking and attempt to focus our collective efforts to identify and meet the most pressing wildlife management challenges of the near future. The plenary session will be held Thursday afternoon. Currently confirmed speakers include: Dr. Juliet Christian-Smith, of The Pacific Institute, and Dr. Michael Reilly, of Stanford University.

Concurrent Sessions: This year's concurrent sessions are organized primarily around habitat types, with the addition of several sessions related to techniques used in

wildlife research and management. Sessions include: Coastal Resources Management, Wildlife in Chaparral Habitats, Wildlife in Herbaceous-dominated Habitats, Wildlife in Coniferous Forest Ecosystems, Wildlife in Broad-leafed Forests and Woodlands, Wildlife in Riparian and Aquatic Habitats, Wildlife in Alpine and Sub-alpine Habitats, Wildlife in Desert Ecosystems, Wildlife in Human-altered Ecosystems, Statistical Innovations in Wildlife Research, Genetics Techniques in Wildlife Research and Management, Electronic Technology and Field Studies, Wildlife Diseases, Hunting and Trapping and Wildlife Conservation and Management, Posters (covering all topics),

Awards Banquet: The annual Awards Banquet will be held the evening of Thursday, January 22, 2009, from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. in the Grand Nave Ballroom. Highlights of the banquet, include the raffle and silent auction, Section awards, good food, and, this year, great music!

Continued on page 13

Mark your Calendars!

**TWS 2009 Annual Meeting
September 20 - 24
Monterey, California**

**Portola Plaza Hotel and
Monterey Convention Center**
www.wildlife.org



Conference Workshop

Orienteering

Wednesday, January 21

8am - noon

Sacramento, California

This half-day orienteering workshop is designed to make you feel confident with important skills that are helpful both in the office and in the field. These skills include understanding topographic maps (primarily USGS quad maps), datums and projections, map features, measuring distance, aspect, using latitude and longitude, public lands coordinate system, Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinate system, use of a compass and a GPS (Garmin 60Cx or 60CSx).

The workshop combines lecture and hands-on activities, allowing each participant to demonstrate their knowledge and get lots of practice with all the skills and tools needed to describe location. We will have an outdoor portion to include pacing, using a compass and a GPS. Participants will be provided with their own map and a brief workbook. Compasses and GPS units may need to be shared depending on number of attendees; you are welcome to bring your own if you have one.

Instructors are Darla DeRuiter and Katie Moriarty.

All skill and experience levels are welcome. Contact Katie Moriarty with questions (ktmoriarty22@yahoo.com).

Separate registration fee required. Early Registration (before December 19th) is \$15 for students and young professionals, \$35 for Western Section members, and \$45 for Non-members.

Register on-line when you sign up for the Western Section conference.

WELCOME, University of Nevada, Reno!

The student chapter at UNR has fulfilled all requirements of becoming an official student chapter of TWS and the Western Section. Congratulations, and welcome!

Student Activities

The Annual Conference is a venue to present research, obtain professional development, learn about current methods, new technology, and to network with peers and wildlife professionals. It is a wonderful event for students to learn about the wildlife profession, and to meet possible employers. Take advantage of the Resume Workshop as another benefit of conference attendance!!!

The following events are FREE and open to all student and young professionals registered for the 2009 Western Section Annual Conference

Student Resume Workshop

Thursday, January 22

9:00 a.m. to Noon

- ⇒ *Learn about format and content guidelines for federal and private sector 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.*

Instructor is Barbara Peters, former 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.

Career Fair

Friday, January 23

9 to 11:45 a.m. and 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The Career Fair is a place for students to discuss career choices, the job market, current opportunities, and job qualifications with wildlife and natural resource professionals from the Western Section.

Student - Professional Lunch

Friday, January 23

12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

A unique opportunity for students to converse informally with professionals, over a nice lunch. Free, but advance ticket required. Register for the lunch on your conference registration form.

Transactions Editor

John Harris

I want to thank Brian Cypher and Dave Germano for taking over the *Transactions* editing following the loss of Barry Garrison. As I look forward to the coming year, I see many opportunities to increase the value of the *Transactions* to Section Members. Many of these opportunities are related to upcoming changes in the Section's web site.

I hope to make electronic access to the *Transactions*, including the online archive of all *Transactions* volumes, more transparent and easy to use. I believe that the electronic distribution of the *Transactions* offers further opportunities for enhancement, including supplemental materials available on the web, more cost-effective use of graphics, color, etc.

I also would like to encourage the submission of manuscripts. Many *Transactions* papers result from the Annual Conference, but one may also submit any technical article on wildlife ecology and management, habitat management, conservation biology, useful techniques and related natural resource topics of interest to members. Keynote addresses, review papers, policy papers, panel discussions, and other presentations are also welcome. Manuscript guidelines are based on those for the *Journal of Wildlife Management* and are available on the Section's web site.

Vote Now!

Visit

[http://joomla.wildlife.org/
Western/](http://joomla.wildlife.org/Western/)

Visit the Newt! On the Revised Western Section Web site!

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



Treasurer's Report

Gary Falxa and Rhys Evans

Section income to date has exceeded our anticipated budget for base operations for the entire year. Income has also exceeded the budget estimate, partially as a result of the very successful 2008 annual conference in Redding and subsequent Professional Development workshops. To date, Section expenses for base operations are under the amount budgeted for the year and thus, the overall budget goals are being met.

Two annual workshops were profitable; the Section provided another successful Natural Resources Communications Workshop, organized by Dr. Jon Hooper, and our fifth annual Bat Ecology and Field Techniques Workshop, coordinated by Cynthia Perrine.

Though recorded as minor losses on the annual budget, the Section also

offered four Certification Workshops, led by Rhys Evans, at low cost as a service to our membership. And, in a recent development, we can tell you we sustained a significant loss (no precise numbers yet) on our November CESA/CEQA workshop. This was due to lower than expected registration, and perhaps due to the election and the overall poor economy.

Nonetheless, the Western Section remains in solid financial shape, with diverse assets: checking and CDs; we're in far better shape than General Motors or AIG. We also established an endowment fund, which President-elect (and former Treasurer) Scott Osborn spearheaded and implemented. If you'd like more details, either contact your chapter representative, your Section officers, or just come to our annual Member's meeting in Sacramento!

Humboldt State Student Chapter Successfully Defends Quiz Bowl Title at TWS 2008 Miami

Leslie Tucci

In early November, the Humboldt State University Wildlife Conclave Team traveled to Miami to participate in the 2008 Wildlife Society National Conference. Seventeen students traded their Carharts for cargo shorts and made the cross-country trek to further our careers in an environment that couldn't be further from that of the Pacific Northwest.

The morning after we arrived we stepped out of our Miami Beach hotel and spotted a magnificent frigatebird—surely a good omen! Our first day and a half was spent experiencing the Everglades and its unique habitats. Several “lif-ers” were had on the trip, including: American crocodiles, white-

crowned pigeons, soft-shelled turtles and more. For some students it was the first time touching the Atlantic Ocean.

Of course, the best part was the single-elimination National Student Quiz Bowl, in which the Humboldt State University team took first place, beating SUNY Cobleskill with final score of 175 to 35. Despite the celebrations, we awoke early the next morning to vote in the photo contest, which all of us entered, and attend talks on topics ranging from biometry to



left to right: Daryl Coldren, Jay Iwasaki, Lauren Maestas, Leslie Tucci, Chris Smith

ticks to Florida panthers. For many of us it was our first experience in a professional setting and it made a lasting impression. We had an amazing time and would like to thank all of the people who supported us and made this adventure possible.

Candids from 2008 TWS Annual Meeting Miami



Members of our bowling “covey” at the Student-Professional Mixer. The event combined students (ours hail from Texas) and professionals, pictured is Humboldt Quiz Bowl Coach, Dave Kitchen (far right).



A sample of Cuban art; evidence of Cuba's influence on Miami is everywhere, including our hotel.

*Western Section Delegates to TWS 2008 Miami**Rhys Evans and Cynthia Perrine*

Five Western Section board members, who are Monterey 2009 Arrangements Committee members attended as Section delegates. Each took detailed notes and learned secrets and strategies to help TWS plan next year's conference. Some major changes to the conference program were brainstormed with TWS staff and will be tested in Monterey.

One delegate participated in two field trips to learn how a "no-frills" approach could work for the 2009 Conference. Another facilitated the student mentoring session. All of us participated in the student-professional mixer, a unique event in which participants formed bowling teams called "coveys," and then competed for prizes at Strike! Miami, a bowling center.

Nearly 1500 participants attended 10 workshops, 3 panel discussions, 4 poster sessions, 18 symposia and 24 sessions of contributed papers

(163 total oral presentations). Student mentoring sessions, Leadership events, receptions and associated meeting socials, 15 field trips, several dozen exhibitors, alumni receptions, more than a dozen working group meetings...need I go on? Our own Humboldt Chapter taking the Quiz Bowl (see story, opposite page) – we're once again extremely proud of the Western Section's Humboldt State University student chapter in yet another astounding victory!

The meeting was held in November, scheduled after the normal conclusion of the hurricane season. Did that help? Thanks to a Class 1 hurricane, intermittent thunderstorms, clouds and ridiculous winds were in the air all day before they cleared away just in time for our outdoor, beach-side farewell dinner.

Despite the weather excitement, The 2008 Annual Meeting of The Wildlife Society in Miami was a great success, it will be a hard act to follow!



Photos, Clockwise from Top: Miami 2008 Farewell "Floribbean" beach party took us to Bill Baggs State Park.

A golden orb weaver, about 15 cm in diameter, hangs over the trail at Deering Hammock Estate.

The river outside the conference hotel, complete with very active drawbridge, provided ample entertainment for our youngest Western Section delegate.

Travel Grant Application Pointers

Visit the Western Section web site for full Scholarship and Grant details. Here are a few pointers to consider when applying for a grant or scholarship:

⇒ Submitted requests should attempt to address the grant or scholarship criteria as listed in the policy.

⇒ Download the application form (found on-line and submit to: rburg@parks.ca.gov or Western Section of The Wildlife Society, Attn: Cynthia Perrine, PO Box 13543, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406-3543)

⇒ Applicants must be current dues paid members of the Western Section.

⇒ Funds will not be provided when employer or agency funds are available to the applicant.

⇒ Applicants must not have received a Travel Grant (from TWS-WS) in the current year.

⇒ Priority will be given to applicants who request funding to attend TWS conferences and workshops, at any regional level of the Society.

⇒ International and non-TWS conferences/symposia will only be reviewed by the Awards and Grants Committee if the requester is presenting a paper or poster at the subject conference. A travel grant may be granted contingent upon the papers acceptance by the program committee.

⇒ Proposals will be reviewed on a continual basis and support will depend on fund availability.

⇒ A maximum of two grants may be awarded for a particular meeting (depending on funding).

⇒ Combined requests for shared expenses for the same meeting by two or more students will be considered.

⇒ In most cases, the amount of an award may only cover a portion of the total cost of attending an event. Applicants should consider the award only as a supplement to other funding sources. Individual awards/reimbursement will not exceed \$300.00 per applicant per event or per year.

⇒ Travel awards are to be used only for registration fees, meals, lodging, and or transportation expenses.

⇒ Rates of reimbursement shall be as follows:

Mileage (personal vehicle) may be claimed at the current federal rate at the time of travel (if no Government Owned Vehicle available)

Reimbursement may be claimed for the actual cost of a meal, not to exceed \$6.00, \$10.00 and \$15.00 for breakfast, lunch and dinner, respectively.

Reimbursement may be claimed for the actual cost of lodging, not to exceed \$75.00 per night.

⇒ Each applicant must submit a written request at least 60 days in advance of attending an event. The application must clearly state the amount of support requested and identify how costs will be incurred. A statement that alternative funding is not available from any other source must be included in the application.

⇒ Applicants must submit receipts for reimbursement. A statement of the professional benefits derived from attending the event and a summary evaluation of information gathered must accompany the receipts.

To apply for a travel award, please submit the following:

Application form (Word);

abstract of paper/poster (if presenting)

Evidence of acceptance of the abstract (if required), and draft text of paper/poster to be presented (2-4 pages)

Failure to provide the above requested material will disqualify the applicant.

Application and all requested materials should be submitted to: rburg@parks.ca.gov or Western Section of The Wildlife Society, Attn: Cynthia Perrine, PO Box 13543, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406-3543 All requested material shall be submitted at least 60 days in advance of attending an event.

**Now Accepting
Nominations for
TWS Western Section
Awards:
*Conservationist of the
Year***

***Raymond F. Dasmann
Professional of the Year***

***Garrison Award for
Outstanding Mentoring***

***Yoakum Award for
Outstanding Service***

Contact rburg@parks.ca.gov

Professional Development

Denise Walker-Brown

An Introduction to CEQA and CESA Workshop

On November 12, 13 and 14, 2008, the Western Section of the Wildlife Society sponsored a two and half day "Introduction to CEQA and CESA Workshop," at the Lake Natoma Inn, Folsom CA. This workshop introduced the basic laws, regulations and project approval process under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and permitting under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) to 64 government and private wildlife biologists, natural resource specialists, environmental planners and students. The majority of those who attended found the workshop extremely helpful and informative. The Workshop Presenters were readily accessible throughout the workshop and made every attempt to answer participant's questions, both in the group and on a one-to-one basis.

TWS West would like to thank our presenters: John Mattox, Senior Staff Counsel, Scott Flint, Environmental Program Manager from the Department of Fish and Game and Darcey Rosenblatt, a CEQA and NEPA Practitioner for Environmental Science Associates. Through the generosity (both time and expertise) of individuals such as these and their organizations, TWS West was able to provide high quality training to our members. We would also like to thank Candace Renger, Natasha Dvorak, Tina Bartlett, Amy Trost, Rhys Evans and Denise's mom, Lyn Walker, for great team work and support. This workshop would not have been possible without them.

This workshop was a success, and due to all the great constructive evaluations the Section plans on providing more workshops in the future regarding state and federal laws and regulations. After we host the 2009 TWS Nationals keep an eye out for more great workshops.

Membership Committee

Don Yasuda

It's time to renew your TWS, Western Section, and chapter membership(s)!

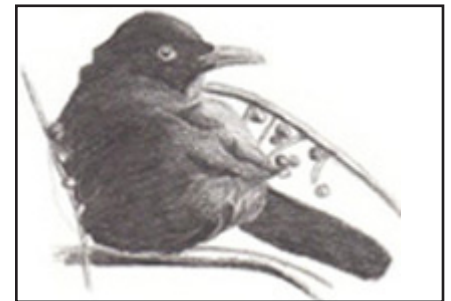
Members have several options for renewing memberships:

⇒ On the 2009 Western Section Annual Conference registration form

⇒ On our Section web site, joomla.wildlife.org/Western

⇒ On The Wildlife Society web site, if you are a TWS (parent society) member, at the TWS store, store.wildlife.org/.

Members can join at any level, all are encouraged to join at the local, regional and national levels to receive the most from their affiliation and contributions.



***The Professional Development Committee
and the Western Section Executive Board
Recognizes and Appreciates our 2008
Instructors, Coordinators, Participants, and Volunteers
Special Thanks to:***

***Jon Hooper, Ethan Rotmen, and Kim Ruben (Communications);
Lowell Diller, Rich Klug, Scott Osborn, and Brian Woodbridge (Spotted Owl);
John Perrine, Ben Sacks (California Red Fox); Howard Stauffer (Biostatistics);
Dave Johnston, Stephanie Remington, Joe Szewczak, John Perrine
Katie Moriarty, and Cynthia Perrine (Bat Ecology/Field Techniques);
Scott Flint, John Mattox, Darcey Rosenblatt, Tina Bartlett,
and Denise Walker-Brown (CEQA/CESA)***

“The View from the Future: Wildlife Management Challenges and Opportunities of the Next 100 Years”

Schedule-At-A-Glance (*see website for updates*)

Wednesday, January 21

8:00 to 12:00 Orienteering Workshop
Noon: Official conference opening
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.: Concurrent Sessions
5:00 to 8:00 p.m.: Welcome mixer, Social, and Poster Session
7:30 to 9:30 p.m.: Chapter Meetings

Thursday, January 22

8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.: Concurrent Sessions
12:00 to 1:00 p.m. 2009 TWS National Conference planning meeting
1:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.: Plenary Session
5:00 to 6:00 p.m.: Annual Business Meeting and Member's Forum
7:00 p.m.: Annual Awards Banquet and Raffle

Friday, January 23

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.: Concurrent Sessions
8:30 to 1:00 p.m.: Career Fair
4:30 p.m.: Western Section Executive Board meeting (all members welcome)

Saturday, January 24

Field Trips: To Be Announced

Session Topics and Chairs

Coastal Resources Management: Rhys Evans
Wildlife in Chaparral Habitats: Tim Belton
Wildlife in Herbaceous-dominated Habitats:
Wildlife in Coniferous Forest Ecosystems: Lowell Diller
Wildlife in Broad-leafed Forests and Woodlands: Lorna Dobrovolsky
Wildlife in Riparian and Aquatic Habitats: Brad Valentine
Wildlife in Alpine and Sub-alpine Habitats: Keith Slauson
Wildlife in Desert Ecosystems: Kathy Buescher Simon
Wildlife in Human-altered Ecosystems: Stephen Juarez
Statistical Innovations in Wildlife Research:
Genetics Techniques in Wildlife Research and Management:
Electronic Technology and Field Studies: Joe Szewczak
Wildlife Diseases: Mourad Gabriel and Richard Brown
Hunting and Trapping and Wildlife Conservation and Management: Craig Stowers
Posters (covering all topics): Amy Fesnock

Hotel Reservations Deadline Friday, December 19!

The 2009 Annual Conference will take place in the Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel, 1230 J Street, Sacramento, California. The Sheraton Grand is located a block from the State Capitol Complex in the heart of downtown Sacramento. Please help keep conference registration rates low by staying in the official conference hotel.

Phone: (916) 447-1700; Fax: (916) 447-1701

Room reservations must be made by Friday, December 19, 2008, to receive the special conference rate. Guests must identify themselves as members of The Wildlife Society Western Section.

To make a reservation:

Call: 1-800-325-3535.

Visit: <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=0809296984&key=88C4F>

*Please consider donating something cool, useful and “wildlifey”
for our Silent Auction or raffle and support our Student Programs!
Funds raised by these entertaining events are used by our Student Affairs Committee.
Contact Sandra Hunt-von Arb*

Armand Gonzales - President-elect Candidate



Personal Information: Married with two daughters. I live in El Dorado County where we operate a side business of breeding Thoroughbred horses. Hobbies include backpacking, hunting, fishing, biking, scuba diving and cross-country skiing.

Education: Bachelors of Science degree in Biological Conservation from California State University, Sacramento, and Masters of Science degree in Natural Resources-Wildlife from Humboldt State University.

Current Position: Wildlife Program Manager for the Department's North Central Region based in Rancho Cordova, California. My primary oversight responsibilities include regional Wildlife Management, Lands, Resource Assessment, and Interpretive Services programs. In my 23 years with the California Department of Fish and Game, I have worked as a wildlife biologist in Santa Cruz; an environmental scientist in Eureka. I have studied spotted owls, pacific fishers, red fox, and white footed voles, and overseen research on numerous bird and mammal species in the central Sierra Nevada. I have been privileged to help lead initiatives on climate change and science policy within the Department as well as teach undergraduate courses in Environmental Science.

TWS Involvement: TWS member since 1992, Certified Wildlife Biologist. 2008 Chapter Representative, Sacramento - Shasta Chapter, President-Elect, Humboldt Chapter (briefly, prior to moving to Sacramento). I have been on several workshop steering committees,

organized the carbon offset program at the 2008 Western Section Conference in Redding, and I am the symposia chair for the 2009 National Conference in Monterey.

Candidate Statement: It is my honor to be a candidate for President-Elect of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society. I have for many years enjoyed the benefits of membership and professional association made possible through the efforts of those who have served this organization before me. It is indeed my pleasure at this time to step up to take my turn to serve the membership, to further the goals of the Chapters, Section and the Society, and to help provide to you, the members, those opportunities for professional growth and development that have served me so well.

As President, I would like to pursue initiatives that I think would position the Section for the challenges of the future. The first initiative is membership. No organization can function for very long without renewing its membership, bringing in new energy and ideas, or planning for succession amongst its leaders. Within my professional capacity, I work with many wildlife biologists that are not members. This is even though as State employees, we are reimbursed for our membership dues. I wonder what might be disenfranchising so many and what the Section could do to appeal to their professional interests. To get the answer, I propose we hold a special membership meeting in conjunction with our next annual meeting, followed by a survey to learn from our base what they would value most from membership. I believe this process would be instructive and help us better meet the needs of our membership.

Second, we face some pretty precarious climatic predictions for the future. If we are fortunate, and realize the best case scenario, it is possible we are going to see some of the most dramatic, possibly catastrophic changes ever witnessed to our natural environment and the species that inhabit it. As a professional wildlife organization, I believe we have to advocate on behalf of wildlife and their habitats. With diminishing resources and changing conditions, the needs of wildlife will not be given high priority when weighed against human needs. We need to educate the public about those co-benefits of protecting species and habitat, and through extension providing the ecosystem services that benefit society as

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Ron Duke - President-elect Candidate

Current Position: President, H. T. Harvey & Associates, Ecological Consultants. 27 years working with wildlife (mostly non-game) and endangered species. Most of my recent work concentrates on habitat restoration, including helping restore tidal marshes in San Francisco Bay.

TWS Involvement: President, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, TWS (second time around), Chairman, Wildlife and Habitat Restoration Working Group, TWS

Education: AB., Biological Sciences (Ecology), U. C. Berkeley. M.A., Environmental, Population and Organismic Biology, Univ. Colo., Boulder

Candidate Statement: These are exciting times within TWS, both for the Western Section and for the national Society. There are challenges as well, as wildlife professionals adapt management approaches to take into account long-term changes in our climate and the rise in sea-level, let alone dealing with protecting and managing wildlife populations in the face of increasing human populations and changing societal values.

A long-time member of the Society, my interest has been reinvigorated by many of the changes that are being instituted at the national level, and by thoughtful, informative approaches to topical issues at both the Western Section meetings and the National Conference and in new journals (Wildlife Professional) put out by TWS.

Sessions on the effects of wind energy, the border fence with Mexico and “conservation subdivisions” all jump to mind, as does the issue of the Wildlife Professional on climate change. Still, at a recent national meeting of the ESA there was a daylong session on ecosystem services, and a call for members of the ESA to move to the forefront of developing techniques for valuing those services as a means to help protect natural areas and the species therein. With carbon trading coming on-line in some form, and the incredible energy that has been generated to change the way that protection of natural areas are accomplished, we as individual members and collectively as the Wildlife Society should work to be intimately involved in these efforts.

That brings me to a concern I have with another recent direction of TWS, and leaves me wondering about the effect that direction may have on those of us who are not hunters. More importantly I question the importance of the issue in light of what I consider to be much more pressing challenges of society and of TWS. The recent “hunting legacy” efforts of the Society and touting the associated “North American Model for Wildlife Conservation” seem to me to be antithetical to the inclusive view we have taken here in the Western Section. Specifically, in a recent letter in the Wildlife Professional from the board, there were statements about the pressing challenge of educating the public about the importance and necessity of hunting, which thoughts were echoed in the plenary session of the national meeting just held in Miami. To me it sounded as if the Society wanted to move more strongly into an advocacy role for hunting rather than remaining in the role I had always understood, namely that we are a group of wildlife professionals who can apply sound ecology and management principals to both game and non-game species. When I directly questioned TWS leadership, they confirmed that such advocacy was precisely what they had in mind.

On our Section’s 50th anniversary, we honored the original founders of the Section, and the original game management emphasis of both the Society and the wildlife management agencies of the states in the section. We recognized their achievements of bringing sound wildlife management principals to game management, and the spillover values for non-game species. And yet, when polled, less than half the membership present was hunters. There were many other changes noted too,

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Instructions for Voting

1. Log onto the Western Section Web site, joomla.wildlife.org/Western
2. From the home page, click on the sidebar heading "Resources" and then, "Announcements"
3. Record your votes and supply your name and 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 Julie Vance and Secretary Janae Scruggs and all votes will remain confidential.

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

President-elect Candidate Statements, Continued

Armand Gonzales, continued from page 14

a whole. In the recent edition of the Wildlife Professional the question was asked if we as wildlife professionals are doing enough to sound the alarm about climate change. However we answer that question, it must be admitted we can and should do more.

Third, a mundane task compared to tackling climate change but nevertheless important, its time to update the Section's organization manual. If anyone has taken a look at it lately, they would see that it is out of date. Perhaps our bylaws should reflect the need for periodic updates every ten years or so. I would propose we establish a committee to work on this update and have it ready for membership review within the year.

Ron Duke, continued from page 15

including the fact that about half the members present were female. This too was honored, and together we recognized our joint love of nature and wild things which was what bound us together. We also recognized that funding for wildlife management, in California at least, had shifted from being primarily funded by hunting and fishing licensing fees to being funded by a wider, more inclusive group of sources including those associated with our state's environmental protection laws.

I don't yet fully understand the underlying reasoning and purposes of this "hunting legacy initiative." One of my goals is to reach that understanding and to voice

Vote by
January 7th!



those concerns, and either as a member or as the Section President, to help open the dialog, help frame the discussion, and potentially redirect the energies of the Society's leadership. If not, I think we risk the broad inclusive membership and move contrary to the underlying mission of the Society.

In the interest of disclosure, I have to say that at this time in my life and career, I have been moved towards a much greater appreciation of the intrinsic value of the wildlife species which have been the focus of my work and passion for all these years. I could not step forward and represent a position on the importance and necessity of hunting, if that is the path of TWS.

The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter is planning a Willow Flycatcher/Great Gray Owl workshop that will focus on the biology and ecology of these species and the mountain meadows they inhabit. The workshop will include information on survey methods and techniques as well as conservation and protection measures. The workshop is being planned for late May or early June and will likely be held in Truckee, California. Details will follow with registration materials being available by early February. For more information please contact Armand Gonzales, 916-358-2876.

The Southern California Chapter of The Wildlife Society is coming back to life! Along with the core group of officers in San Diego, there has been a tremendous amount of interest and excitement in continuing regular meetings, workshops, and events again in the Southern California region. At recent meetings, members generated some great ideas for workshops and other events. Please help the SoCal Chapter keep the momentum going by getting involved and contacting the SoCal Chapter:
socialwildlifesociety@gmail.com

The San Joaquin Valley Chapter is planning its annual San Joaquin Valley Natural Communities Conference and a Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard Identification Workshop for Spring 2009. Exact dates for both events will be announced soon. In addition, the Chapter will be updating its web site in the near future. If you have any questions about these workshops or about the web site, please contact Craig Bailey at CraigTWS@yahoo.com.

California Central Coast Chapter

is planning its 2nd Annual
Research Round-Table:

March 4th, 2009

Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

An informal arena for presenting current research and management projects with break-out sessions for further discussion.

For more information, contact Cynthia Perrine
csgperrine@yahoo.com

Other Events of Note

California Native Plant Society 2009 Conservation Conference

January 17 – 19, 2009

(Immediately preceding TWS Western Section conference)
Sacramento Convention Center and Sheraton Hotel,
Sacramento, California

Conference Highlights: Keynote Addresses by Jerome Ringo, Stephen Hopper, and John Muir Laws. Film preview for Nature's Refuge, Poetry Readings, Poster and Concurrent Sessions on Climate Change, Conservation Planning Tools, Rare Plants, Assessing and Mitigating Impacts, Land Management, Restoring Rare Plant Populations, Plant Science for Conservation, Invasive Plants, Land Acquisition for Conservation, Vegetation Classification and Mapping, plus regional sessions focused on Great Basin and Desert, California Floristic Province in Baja California, Southern California, and Northwestern California. Workshops too!

Registration still open! Details and schedule at <http://www.cnps.org/conservation/conference/2009>

Strategies & Solutions



CONSERVATION
CONFERENCE

Monterey 2009
September 20 – 24

Seeking Subcommittee Members and Volunteers for Conference Arrangements

The Western Section is hosting the 2009 TWS Annual Meeting in Monterey, California; planning is going well. Arrangements Committee co-chairs Rhys Evans, Scott Osborn, and Cynthia Perrine seek volunteers to serve on various subcommittees. Please contact Rhys Evans, sirsnave@verizon.net, to join the planning effort!

Audio Visual and Computers (Don Yasuda) – Assist determination of equipment needed and oversees operation of all audio visual and computer equipment during the conference

Field Trips Subcommittee (Steve Juarez and Ron Duke) – Coordinates optional field trips and reservations

Fundraising (John Harris and Larry Perrin) - Solicit silent auction items and assist with other fundraising

Local Information (Janet Ilse and Leslie Wood) – Obtains information on the local area with where to go, what to do, where to eat, maps

Meals and Entertainment (Julie Vance) - Assist in selecting menu choices and music or other entertainment

Media Relations and Photography (Rick Williams) – Generates local, regional and statewide media coverage of the conference through news releases and selects photographer for the conference events

Merchandise (John McNerney and Denise Walker-Brown) – Helps select official conference items with logo

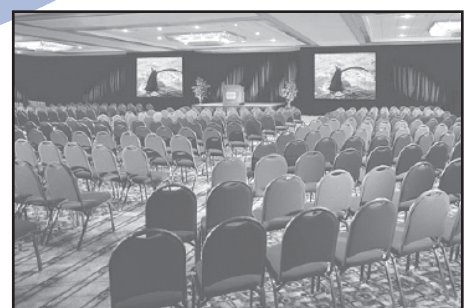
Photography Contest (Tim Belton) – Coordinates photography contest

Student Activities (Katie Moriarty) – Organizes career oriented and social activities for students including student chapter breakfast/workshop, student dinner, student-professional mixer, job board, awards

Student Quiz Bowl (David Juliano) – Organizes and conducts the student quiz bowl

Sustainability (Melissa Busby and Natasha Dvorak) – Provides guidance on making it a “Green” Conference

Volunteers (Janae Scruggs) – Recruits and schedules volunteers for assistance on-site during the conference



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The Wildlife Society

Western Section

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The 2009 Annual Conference and Election Material

Voting is online, candidate statements are inside.

Please renew your membership to ensure you will continue to receive news from the Section in a timely fashion.

Calendar of Events

2008

December 19 ~ Early Bird and Hotel Registration deadline for TWS Western Section Annual Meeting

2009

January 7 ~ Voting Deadline for Western Section President-Elect

January 5 - 9 ~ Natural Resources Communication Workshop, Chico, CA

January 15 ~ Online Registration ends for TWS Western Section Annual Meeting (Sacramento)

January 17-19 ~ CNPS Conservation Conference, Sacramento, CA

January 21-23 ~ TWS - WS Annual Conference, Sacramento, CA

September 20-24 ~ TWS National Conference, Monterey, CA