



# The Wildlife Society Western Section



Cattle Egrets, West Pond, Davis, Ca.  
Photo by John McNerney

## President's Message

*John McNerney*

**S**o much to do...so little time. These words could not be truer for the Western Section Executive Board as we decompress from the annual meeting and look forward toward another year of program development, member outreach, professional development, hosting the TWS Annual Meeting in Hawaii and preparing for the next Section Annual Meeting in Sacramento.

With the significant success of the annual meeting last February, the Section's finances are looking very good. As such, we anticipate some substantial advancement in program development. One concept under consideration is crafting a pilot program that will engage and help guide high school students toward a career in wildlife. Cynthia Perrine will once again take the reigns as Program Director and apply her energy and talent to advancing this pilot.

The Professional Development Committee is already working hard



on crafting this year's workshops and symposia. Starting us off are two great bat-themed workshops and then a Remote Camera Techniques in Wildlife Studies workshop. This workshop will be held at Chimineas Ranch, San Luis Obispo County, CA on June 23 – 26. Visit the [TWS-WS website](#) to register and find more information.

Planning for the TWS Annual Meeting in Hawaii is well underway. This meeting will occur at the Waikoloa Hilton on the Big Island, November 5 – 10, 2011. The Section was a bit apprehensive about hosting another TWS meeting so close to the 2009 meeting in Monterey, CA. However, we see this as both flattery and continued opportunity to showcase all the important research and conservation efforts that our Section is contributing to the profession. [Visit the TWS web-](#)

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[site](#) for more information.

We have many new faces (and “old” ones taking on new responsibilities) on the Executive Board this year, and I’d like to welcome each and thank them for stepping up to help lead the Section through this year and beyond.

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## President-Elect Message

*Linda Leeman*

**T**hank you for electing me as the Western Section's new President-Elect. It is a tremendous professional honor and I am humbled by your support. I am looking forward to working closely with the Executive Board and other volunteers as we embrace the challenges and opportunities inherent to serving this great organization. I am already learning how much effort goes into planning the Annual Conference. It is inspiring to be working with so many dedicated people who are willing to donate their time, expertise, and creativity

to put together great programs for us to learn, share, and reconnect as a profession.

I enjoyed seeing many of you in Riverside last month and starting to discuss ideas for next year's meeting. It will be held **January 31-February 3, 2012** at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento. We hope that the central location will help facilitate attendance by members from all over the Section area. The Executive Committee met last month to tour the facilities and we are starting to work on the details required



to put on a high quality conference. You won't want to miss it, so please save the dates! If you would like to help with the planning or have ideas for what you would like to see incorporated, please get in touch.

I hope spring finds you outdoors and doing what you love!

## President's Message Continued...

Welcome and thanks to our new (and new-ish) Executive Board Members

- Linda Leeman - President-Elect
- Scott Osborn – Treasurer
- Craig Bailey – Assistant Treasurer
- Tina Bartlett – Conservation Affairs Committee Chair
- Kate Howard – Student Affairs Committee Co-Chair
- David Wright – Transactions Editor
- Marjorie Matocq – Nevada Chapter Representative
- Mike Lohr – Hawaii Chapter Representative
- Laura Patterson – Sacramento/ Shasta Chapter Representative
- Linda Connolly – San Joaquin Valley Chapter Representative

The arrival of all this new talent means the departure of seasoned veterans. I'd like to thank Bill Standley (departing representative from Hawaii), John Harris (departing Transactions Editor), Gary Falxa (departing Treasurer) and Rick Truex (departing Conservation Affairs Committee Chair) for their many years of talent and dedication. We wish you gentlemen the best of luck in your future endeavors and look forward to visiting with you all at the annual meetings!

As you know, our Section leadership is primarily voluntary. If you've ever been interested in getting more involved with Section operations, now is a good time to jump in. I encourage anyone with an interest in getting more involved to contact your Chapter Representative, Section Officer, or Section Committee Chair to see how you can help.

That's all for now...I hope you have a happy and productive spring season!

## Past-President

### *Armand Gonzales*

I would like to begin my transition from President to past-President of the Western Section by thanking the Executive Board for all their support over the past year. It was an honor and privilege to serve as President and I'd like to extend my appreciation to the Board and to the Western Section members for making this experience for me as pleasant as it was rewarding. The year ended with a flurry of initiatives and ballot measures that will have lasting benefits to Section members now and in the future. There were also a number of Executive Board votes in advance of the Annual Conference Awards Banquet which I had the pleasure to oversee. I want to again offer congratulations to all the award recipients. We had an exceptional group of deserving awardees that you can read more about in this edition of the newsletter. I would also like to extend my congratulations to Linda Leeman who was elected President-elect. I have known Linda many years, since graduate school at Humboldt, and I am confident she will do an outstanding job over the next three years. We had two new members appointed to the Executive Board and the return of a seasoned veteran. Dr. David Wright was appointed as the new Transactions Editor. David is taking over the duties as Transaction Editor from Dr. John Harris, who admirably served as Editor since 2008. I know all of us who have read or contributed to the Transactions appreciate the hard work John has dedicated to their timely publishing. Thanks so much John. The other new Board member is Tina Bartlett who was appointed as Chair of the Conservation Affairs Committee. Tina will bring fresh ideas and energy to this important committee, and she invites any of you with an interest in becoming involved in the Section to join her on the committee. Dr. Scott Osborn, who just finished his term as Past-President was appointed as Treasurer. Scott agreed to serve as Treasurer for this coming year and is assuming those duties from Dr. Gary Falxa, who has served as Treasurer twice! In fact, this is the second time Gary has turned the reigns over to Scott. Thanks Gary for all your hard work over the years. Good news, Gary will remain involved in Section business as a trustee for the Donaldson Family Trust and Scott has taken the preemptive step of finding his successor by naming Craig Bailey as Assistant Treasurer.



Four by-law changes were approved by the majority of voting members at years end. Briefly, the first set of changes were to clarify or update language related to how the Section Representative position is filled; corrects reference to the finance and conservation affairs committee; removes redundant reference to specific appendix numbers; corrects reference to resolutions and public statements; and updates the description of section awards by adding the Yoakum Award, Chapter of the Year Award, and the Garrison Outstanding Mentor Award. The second initiative approved by members was to change the membership renewal date from January 1 to an anniversary date set by the date of initial membership, called the membership anniversary date. This change was needed to allow the alignment of the membership renewal dates for our Society members (Regular members – those who pay dues at the national level and the Section level) with their member anniversary dates for the Section. The third approved initiative adjusts the composition of the Executive Board. The proposal removes the Transactions Editor as a voting member of the Board and adds the Chair of the Conservation Affairs Committee. Finally, members voted to change the Executive Board meeting rules to follow *The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedures* in place of *Robert's Rules of Order*. I know this is fascinating stuff so if you want to read more, you can go to the Bylaws on the Section web page to see the changes [HERE](#).

Finally, I'd like to thank and congratulate President John McNerney for pulling off perhaps the most successful Annual Conference in Section history. John put in many long days and nights planning for the conference in Riverside and he deserves all our heartfelt thanks and praise. It's a hard act to follow, but I look forward to seeing how things begin shaping up for Sacramento, 2012.





## Section Representative Report

**Don Yasuda**

TWS Council met in Kansas City, Missouri on March 13-14 for our mid-year Council meeting. As always it was a

full agenda with much routine action needed to keep your Society running. TWS staff and our Executive Director have been doing tremendous work on your behalf including many actions that you may not be aware of but that greatly support our profession and our wildlife resources. You can always find up to date information on activities on the TWS website;

[www.wildlife.org](http://www.wildlife.org)

## Administration

TWS is interested in expanding our service to wildlife professionals working in Mexico. We've struggled in the past to reach out to professionals living and/or working in Mexico. If you work in Mexico or have contacts or ideas on how we could improve our TWS reach into Mexico, please contact me or Michael Hutchins. TWS has also been strengthening our relationships with partners, particularly the Wildlife Disease Association, the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians, and our traditional conservation partners. TWS continues to embrace social networking with our active use of Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter in addition to our Blog. You have direct access to interact with our Executive Director and key staff in these venues.

## Government Affairs

Our Government Affairs staff has been busy revising position statements and several are currently open for member comment and others will be open for comment soon, including the position statements on economic growth, scientific peer review, and feral cats. Your member comments are important to the five of us on the Position Statement Subcommittee. Current TWS (national) members should also be receiving the weekly Wildlife Society Newsbrief (Wildlife News Update) by email. This service, started in January, is provided by a news gathering service and the articles are tailored to be of interest to our membership. We hope that this service will keep you informed and that it will foster discussion on controversial topics. This service supplements but does not replace the Wildlife Policy News newsletter.

## Membership and Member Benefits

TWS broke records last year by ending the year with more than 10,000 members. Our online mentoring program currently has about 500 registered members, about equally split between mentors and mentees. Only about 100 people have made a connection though,

so if you've signed up as a mentee, there are now a lot of mentors to choose from so log in and look again. We also approved interim status to three new working groups: Forestry and Wildlife, Early Career Professional, and Military Lands. Contact me if you'd like more information on helping organize and be in on the early stages of the development of these working groups.

## Communications

Our member magazine, The Wildlife Professional continues to improve and expand. The most recent issue features a series on feral cats. These articles have been made available open access on the TWS website so the information can be freely shared to further science based discussions on this controversial, societal issue. As your member magazine, we welcome articles written by TWS members and our TWS staff will work with anyone to develop ideas for articles. Look for the first edition of the returning Wildlife Society Bulletin around the end of March. We're excited to return this publication to our portfolio and hope that it fills a much needed niche for management oriented, peer reviewed, scientific articles that support our more technical and managerial oriented professionals. Delivered online only, please subscribe and please contribute articles and spread the word with your colleagues that we're back in publication.

## Certification

Finally, Council took action to implement the member-voted bylaws change to require Associate Wildlife Biologists (AWB) and Certified Wildlife Biologists (CWB) to maintain current membership at the national level of TWS in order to maintain their certification. Although the bylaws change was adopted in 2009, Council deferred taking action last year to allow one more year for AWBs and CWBs to be notified and to consider renewing their membership. Council voted to honor our member's decision and require current membership and revoked certification for non-members. We recognize that this has been a controversial topic and that some individuals have chosen to cease membership and affiliation with TWS as a result. There is currently a process to request a waiver of dues under special circumstances. Council is committed to making our Certification Program meaningful to our members and to our profession and we welcome comments and suggestions for improvement.

## Hawaii TWS Annual Conference

The next Council meeting will be at the 18th Annual Conference at Waikaloa, Hawaii in November. We have expanded the number of presentations to allow more people the chance to present their research. A conference attendance justification toolkit is available on the TWS website. Please contact me if you have any comments or suggestions about the operations of TWS or the Western Section.

## Treasurer's Report

*Scott Osborn, Craig Bailey and Gary Falxa*

After serving as Treasurer four of the past five years, Gary Falxa has stepped down from this position. Past-President and former Treasurer Scott Osborn will serve one year as Treasurer, with the hope of handing over the Section's financial reins to Assistant Treasurer Craig Bailey. If all goes according to plan, Craig will work with Scott during 2011 to learn about all the various procedures that have been set up by Gary, Scott, and others in the past few years before assuming primary responsibility as Treasurer in January 2012.

Section assets were \$139,228 on Jan. 1, 2011. This represents a decline of about \$13,500 since Jan. 1, 2010. A loss was expected in 2010, given lower-than-usual attendance and income from the 2010 annual conference. Despite the loss, the Section remains in sound financial condition, with total assets well above average for the past 15 years. If we subtract the \$38k endowment fund and \$22k prudent reserve, working funds were about \$79k on January 1, 2011.

The 2010 loss compares to a loss in operating funds of about \$38k in 2009; belt-tightening measures helped keep losses down in this second year under a struggling economy. Actual section expenses were below the amounts in our 2010 budget, which helped conserve assets. For example, Executive Board expenses (travel, mostly) were \$2,534, which is under the \$6k that was spent in



2009 and budgeted for 2010. Expenses for contracted administrative services (bookkeeping, accounting, mail management, website management) totaled about \$16k -- less than in 2009, even with the new expense in 2010 of a part-time Program Director.

Workshop income was up in 2010 (\$10,400 total), with two bat workshops, the Natural Resource Communications Workshop, a necropsy workshop, and map/compass workshop. Thanks to all the Section members who donated their time to make these happen!

Outgoing Treasurer Gary Falxa prepared an investment strategy for the Section's Endowment Fund and other assets. Gary worked with Marshall White, a Section Past-President and investment advisor, on the strategy, which was approved by the Executive Board at its February meeting. Gary, Scott, and Marshall have started implementing the strategy, which will provide investment income to support the Section's education, outreach, and scholarship programs, as well as providing a better return on the Section's liquid assets than in the past, where much of the assets were held in low- or no-interest accounts.

Based on registration and gross receipts for the 2011 annual confer-



ence and associated workshops, income from these events should be up from last year. Of course, it remains prudent to watch expenses and otherwise act to conserve assets.

### Donate to the Western Section Endowment Fund!

The Western Section established an Endowment Fund through a member-approved change to our Bylaws in 2007. The goal of the fund is accumulate a core of principal that will not be depleted. Interest generated from the fund will be used to support the Section's education, outreach, and scholarship programs. The Endowment Fund principal receives input from all bequests, life membership dues, and donations specifically made for the fund. The fund is administered by three Trustees, including the Treasurer and two other Section members appointed by the President. Currently, Treasurer Scott Osborn, former Treasurer Gary Falxa, and Past-President Marshall White are the Trustees.

The Endowment Fund was established with a \$38,000 bequest from the estate of Section member Douglas Donaldson. Please consider adding to the Section's fund by making a donation or becoming a Lifetime Member of the Section. Donations to the fund are tax-deductible. Lifetime memberships cost \$450, which may be paid in up to three installments. Either way, helping to increase the core principal in the Endowment Fund is a great way to support the Section's programs for students and education/outreach!

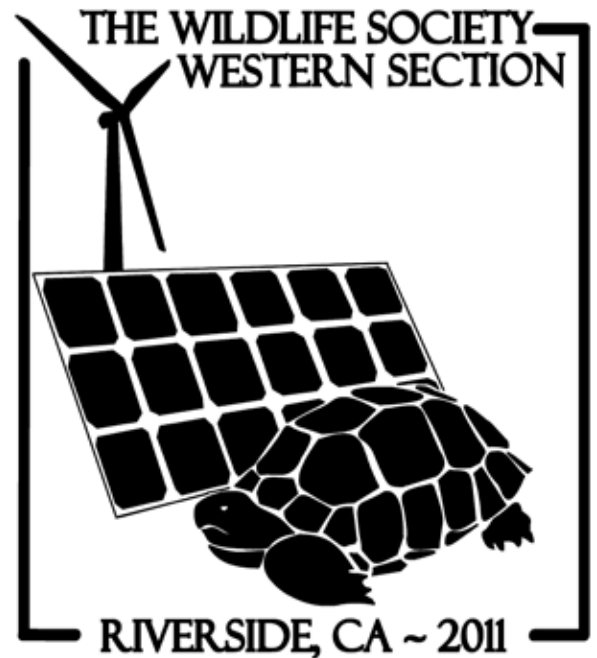
# 2011 Annual Meeting Program Chair Wrap-Up

One word can be used to describe the recent meeting in Riverside...WOW! The meeting was a great success with over 450 students and professionals in attendance. Given the continued economic uncertainty, we were cautiously optimistic about planned attendance. We were delighted and surprised by the actual turnout. Not too surprisingly though, a large portion of those who attended were from Southern California (approximately 185 people). This strong showing from the southern portion of the state is very encouraging. We look forward to improving outreach to this group of professionals in membership, Section leadership participation, and to identify professional development opportunities.

We had two outstanding pre-conference symposia to help kick off the meeting. The Western Raptors Symposium was a joint planning effort between the Western Section and the Wildlife Research Institute. This amazing one and a half day program had many fascinating talks from many of the top raptor biologists in the west (if not the nation). The half day Fungus Symposium was insightful and timely, and conveyed valuable information about White Nose Syndrome and Chytrid Fungus.

The Riverside conference program was strong. Some may suggest it was too strong, but many expressed it was well worth it. The program offered a diverse 12 sessions including over 100 papers, an extended access poster session with 22 posters, and an informative and thought provoking Plenary Session which looked at "Nature Deficit Disorder" in today's youth and some ways our profession might get involved to help guide the next generation of wildlife professionals.

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Looking down on the Riverside Convention Center from the top of Mt. Roubidoux.  
Photo by Natasha Dvorak



The Wednesday Night Poster Session and Fiesta Taco Bar was jam packed.  
Photo by Cynthia Perrine.



Reptiles and Amphibians Session presenters celebrate 2011's "Year of the Turtle", as a gesture towards goals shared with Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC), which established the Year. Pictured from left to right are Dr. Larry LePre, Dr. Sid Silliman, Dr. Philip Rosen, Edward Ervin, Andrew Borchert, Scott Boczkiewicz, and Patricia Valcarcel, and "Tuttle the Turtle" (center). Not shown are Cheryl Brehme and Dr. Cameron Barrows.  
Photo by Natasha Dvorak.



## 2011 Annual Meeting Program Chair Wrap-Up, Continued...

The program also included an encore appearance of Mrs. Barbara Peters who presented two résumé preparation workshops. Barbara's workshop continues to be of such significant interest and value, that The Wildlife Society will once again include it in the program for the national conference in Hawaii. Another workshop presented this year was the Effective Oral Presentation workshop led by Jon Hooper. Jon's expertise of the oral presentation and his whimsical teaching methodology made this workshop shine. Even the most seasoned presenters attending the workshop left with a few improvement tips. We look forward to working with Jon to bring this workshop back at the next meeting in Sacramento.

New this year was the elimination of printed abstracts. Abstracts were made available electronically for access before and during the conference. This contributed to a significant reduction in wasted paper without compromising the ease of abstract access. Feedback received regarding this method was very positive and we look forward to continuing electronic abstracts in future conference programs.

All in all the Program Committee was very pleased with the planning, execution and results of the annual conference in Riverside. Despite the significant costs associated with the hotel and convention center in Riverside, the conference had a net income of approximately \$35,000. The Section's core operations are reliant on revenue from both membership and the annual conference. After several low income years, we are relieved to have a more positive budgetary outlook.

As the Program Chair, I'd like to thank all the hardworking volunteers who stepped up to help make the Riverside Conference run so smoothly. These volunteers are many, and include the committee chairs, session chairs, and on-site prep and coordination folks. It's truly a team effort to pull these conferences together. I'd also like to thank Mr. Rhys Evans (Professional Development Committee Chair and generally great guy) for all his support in planning and executing this conference. Rhys' contributions were many and far reaching. Finally, on behalf of the Program Committee, I'd like to thank the entire TWS-WS membership for their continued support of our professional society. It may take a team effort to pull these conferences together, but it takes the membership to make them great. Hope to see you all in Sacramento next year!

- John McNerney



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[shannon@wildlife.org](mailto:shannon@wildlife.org)

## Donors for the 2011 Raffle and Silent Auction in Riverside, CA

Aldo Leopold Foundation  
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Mari Quillman  
Mark Colwell  
Pacific Northwestern Biological

Paul Retherford Photography  
Rich Burg  
Ryan Bourque  
Rhys Evans  
Sal Chinnici  
Shorelines Gallery  
Stevan Logsdon

### Chapter Contributions

California Central Coast Chapter  
California North Coast Chapter  
Davis Student Chapter  
Hawaii Chapter  
HSU Chapter  
Sacramento Shasta Chapter  
San Francisco Chapter  
San Joaquin Valley Chapter  
Southern California Chapter  
Western Section

**The 2011 Raffle and Silent Auction Raised  
Over \$5,000 for the Student Affairs Fund**

### SPONSORS



# THANK YOU!

The following TWS member received at the annual business meeting a past-presidents pin for his service to the Western Section:

*Scott Osborn, Past-President 2010*

The following TWS members received at the annual business meeting plaques for their service to the Western Section:

*Armand Gonzales, President 2010*

*John McNerney, President-Elect 2010*

*Bill Standley, Hawaii Chapter Representative 2005-2010*

*Rick Truex, Conservation Affairs Chair 2009-2010*

*Denise Walker-Brown, Professional Development Co-Chair 2005-2010*

*Debra Hawk, Newsletter Editor 2009-2010*

*John Harris, Transaction Editor 2007-2010*



## Awards Committee Report

*Richard Burg*

The following awards were presented by Past-President Armand Gonzales at the TWS-WS Banquet on Thursday February 10, 2011



The **Raymond F. Dasmann Award** for the Professional of the Year went to **Dr. Phil Leitner** a Professor of Biology at Saint Mary's College of California. Dr. Leitner's work spans a career of four decades and represents important and significant additions to our body of knowledge dealing with Mohave ground squirrel and other small-mid sized mammals. His long-standing commitment and passion for wildlife conservation and his consistent professionalism throughout his career makes him the ideal recipient of this Award.



The **Conservationist of the Year Award** - This year we are very pleased to honor the **Mojave Desert Land Trust (MDLT)** for their dedication to the conservation of desert habitat throughout southern California. MDLT was formed in 2005 by a small group of Morongo Basin residents who wanted to preserve the fragile ecosystems within the Mojave Desert. Today, MDLT has grown to become a respected voice in the region on a wide range of land use issues, including habitat and wildlife linkage preservation, long-range planning and cooperative public-private initiatives. Accepting for MDLT is Nancy Karl and John Simpson.



The **Barrett A. Garrison Outstanding Mentor Award** was bestowed upon **Jeff Alvarez**. As a professional Wildlife Biologist working in northern California, Jeff has mentored many an up and coming wildlife biologist on an individual basis over his 20 years as a professional. In addition to individual mentoring, he has tutored years of wildlife biology and ichthyology students at Cal State East Bay as course teaching assistant, holding extra sessions for students needing extra help with field ID or in preparation for a test. In the last several years he has expanded his mentoring to include teaching weekend - long field and classroom courses on herp ID of several special status species.



The **Chapter of the Year Award** went to the **Sacramento- Shasta Chapter**. They had a busy 2010 including continued hosting of numerous brown bag lunch seminars, a Certified Wildlife Biologist Training in coordination with Western Section, as well as a “meet the board” event, a great gray owl/willow flycatcher workshop, and fifth annual Natural Resources Symposium at California State University, Sacramento which was attended by numerous students and wildlife professionals. In addition, the Chapter continued its commitment to assisting students by awarding three merit scholarships and one travel scholarship, totaling \$1200, to students from throughout the region. Accepting for the Sac-Shasta Chapter is Lucy Triffleman and Canh Nguyen.

**The following student presenters received an award at the annual banquet:**

**Posters:**

*1st - \$100, Michelle Murphy, Wildlife Corridor Linkages*  
*2nd - \$50, Carie Wingert, Burrowing Owl Food Habits*

**Presentations:**

*1st - \$100, Joseph Stewart, Status of American Pika*  
*2nd - \$50, Patricia Valcareaal, Giant Gartersnakes*

## Upcoming Events

**April 28 - May 1, 2011**

### **Bat Ecology and Field Techniques**

Dye Creek Preserve, Tehama County

Instructors: Dave Johnston and Joe Szewczak

**June 2-5, 2011**

### **Non-invasive Acoustic Monitoring of Bats**

Swanton Pacific Ranch, Santa Cruz County

Instructor: Joe Szewczak

**June 23 - 26, 2011**

### **Remote Camera Techniques in Wildlife Studies**

Carrizo Plain - San Luis Obispo County

**November 5-10, 2011**

### **TWS National Conference**

Waikoloa Village, Hawaii

**January 9-13, 2012**

### **Natural Resources Communication Workshop**

Chico, CA

Instructors: Dr. Jon Hooper and Ethan Rotman

**February 1-3, 2012**

### **TWS-WS Annual Meeting**

Sacramento, CA

**January 30-February 1, 2013**

### **TWS-WS Annual Meeting**

Sacramento, CA

Click [HERE](#) for more information!



**Waikoloa, Hawaii - November 5-10, 2011**

## **THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY'S 18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

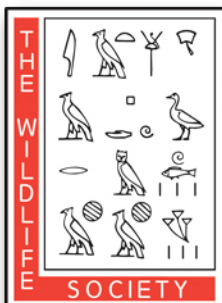
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## **2011 AWARDS DEADLINES ~ APPLY ONLINE**

[www.Wildlife.org/STUDENTS](http://www.Wildlife.org/STUDENTS)

**Student Chapter Advisor of the Year ~ Mar. 15**

**Student Chapter of the Year ~ Jun. 30**

**\$1000 AWARD**

**Student Travel Grant ~ Jun. 18**

**UP TO \$500 AWARD**

**Best Student Presentation/Poster ~ Aug. 15**

**OPEN TO TWS  
STUDENT MEMBERS!**



## Two Western Section Bat Workshops

### Open For Registration!



**Registration, vaccination, location, schedule details:**

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

1

Bat Ecology and Field Techniques w/ Instructors Joe Szewczak & Dave Johnston

**April 28-May 1, 2011** at Dye Creek Preserve, Tehama County, California

Introduces participants to the ecology and conservation of California bats through lectures and demonstrations on species accounts, physiology, anatomy, behavioral ecology, conservation issues, and mitigation strategies. Field techniques (mist-netting, assessing species presence/absence, acoustic monitoring) are demonstrated with participants gaining hands-on experience in mist-net set-up and acoustic equipment deployment. 20 participants max.

NOTE: Handling bats is NOT required to attend the workshop; However, proof of current vaccination status IS required to handle bats. See website for more details.

2

Field Techniques for Acoustic Monitoring of Bats w/ Joe Szewczak

**June 2-5, 2011** at Swanton Pacific Ranch, Santa Cruz County, California

Description: Introduces participants to noninvasive techniques for species identification of bats. Combines classroom and field exercises for hands-on experience in deploying equipment, and acquiring/processing data. Full spectrum acoustic techniques will be emphasized, as recommended by the new USFWS guidelines for Wind and Wildlife when species ID is important.

NOTE: We will not handle bats during this workshop. 20 participants max

## Professional Development Committee

**Rhys Evans**

We're pleased to announce the return of Remote Camera Techniques in Wildlife Studies, June 23 – 26, 2011 near Carrizo Plain in San Luis Obispo County. Registration is NOW OPEN. There's a maximum of 20 registrants (a waiting list will be maintained). At a base registration of \$475, this may seem expensive, but be aware that it includes lodging and nine delicious meals.

We're close to announcing details for repeats of our two outstanding workshops, Bat Ecology and Acoustic Monitoring for Bats. Details will be announced on our website and via our yahoogroup list before the next newsletter is distributed, so please stay alert!

We completed two outstanding pre-conference symposia in Riverside!



## Raptor Symposium

The Raptor Symposium exceeded all our expectations, with more than 170 participants! Far too many speakers to name individually, but a specific thank you to Jeep Pagel for organizing a special session on the new golden eagle rules, and our extreme thanks to Jeff Lincer, Dave

Bittner and Chris Meador of the Wildlife Research Institute who were instrumental in this event's success!

## Emergent Fungal Diseases – What Every Biologist Needs to Know

We presented an in-depth coverage of two superficially disparate, but biologically similar fungi, *Geomyces destructans* and *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (naturally, when I was called upon to say the latter at the microphone, I flubbed it). Many thanks to our presenters: Alan Pessier, Roland Knapp, Dede Olson, Patricia Ormsbee, Winifred Frick and Scott Osborn.

The Professional Development Committee would also like to thank Dr. Jon Hooper and Kim Rubin for presenting the 41st iteration (!) of the Natural Resources Communication Workshop. Fourteen participants engaged in lots of hands-on lab time for creating computer-generated images in addition to the previous communications topics. Mark your calendars for 2012, the next offering of this outstanding workshop will be January 9-13, 2012. You may also know that Dr. Hooper and Ethan Rotman presented a highly entertaining yet extremely valuable workshop on “how to give a scientific presentation – and how NOT to” in Riverside.

What would you like to see next? I think we've clearly demonstrated that the 1.5 day, pre-conference symposium is a highly functional model, but as of right now, we don't have a topic for 2012 in Sacramento! For this or any other idea for a symposium or workshop contact the Professional Development Committee at [sirsnaive@verizon.net](mailto:sirsnaive@verizon.net).

**Attention Certified and Associate Wildlife Biologists:**  
**Flaunt your acronyms!**

You worked hard to earn your AWB® and CWB®, so add them to your business card and emails and stand out from the crowd.

TWS membership is now required for certifications to remain valid, so be sure to join or renew at [wildlife.org](http://wildlife.org)

## Membership Report

*Don Yasuda*

We had a late start on membership renewals this year as we were trying a new process with TWS. TWS mailed out renewal letters in the fall but we got very few responses. In December, we modified our Western Section website to allow you to also join or renew to TWS at the same time. Many of you took advantage of this and also subscribed to the Journal of Wildlife Management or the upcoming return of the Wildlife Society Bulletin. I recently sent out a second renewal notice in early March. I am hoping that TWS can work out the database glitches so we can run our renewals through TWS this fall. I'll keep you posted.

Membership also voted to amend our bylaws to align our membership from a calendar year renewal to an anniversary join date renewal that will be synchronized to a member's TWS renewal date where applicable. This will make it easier for Section members to renew to TWS and the Section at the same time. I will be working to develop a transition process for this.

As of March 1, our 2011 Section membership stands at 763 members. We have 650 Regular members, 93 students and 20 life members. By far our biggest membership comes from TWS with 440 joining or renewing through TWS. However 191 joined or renewed while signing up to attend the Riverside Annual Conference and 113 joined

or renewed directly on our Section website. We had 767 members in 2010 so we expect to exceed last year's membership. Thank you to all of you who have recently joined us and to those of you who promptly renewed this year.

Since this newsletter goes out to all current members and also to former members who remain on our Yahoo mailing list, please consider renewing if you haven't for 2011. As you can see from this newsletter, the Western Section has been busy serving wildlife professionals and the wildlife resource and annual membership dues make much of this possible. You can contact me at any time and I can check on your membership status if you are unsure.

## UC Davis Chapter

*Max Lambert*

In February of this year Bridgette Kirk, Tierra Groff, Adam Clause, Catherine Yasuda and I traveled from UC Davis to the Western Section Conference. The conference was an amazing way for us to meet some really interesting and dedicated wildlife biologists. I think all of us came away with a stronger dedication to this field. We also took this opportunity to get to know the Sac-Shasta Chapter better. Since the conference we have attended one of the Sac-Shasta Chapter Professional Development Team meetings and have organized a mixer between their chapter and our student chapter. I am also looking into ways to involve students from schools without TWS chapters with students from our chapter. The UC Davis chapter is looking forward to increasing the involvement of our students with the rest of the wildlife community.



It must be Spring! Duck nest.  
Photo by John McNerney



## Soliciting Papers for 2011 Transactions Publication

*David Wright*

**I**t's still a bit of a blur, but I find myself to be the new editor for the *Transactions of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society*. Kudos and thanks to Brian Cypher and Dave Germano, stepping up after the untimely death of Barry Garrison, and notably to John Harris for his fulfilling this role for several years. It's an honor to follow in their steps.

The *Transactions* publishes original papers of interest to Western Section members in the field of wildlife ecology and management, habitat management, conservation biology, and related natural resource topics. Papers do not have to have been presented at the annual meeting to be considered. If you have not seen the

**“If your work is not published it's as if it were never done”**

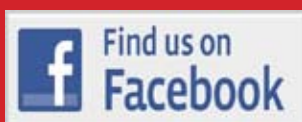
*Transactions*, past issues are available online on the Western Section website, under “[Resources](#).” The hard copy has nice production values and is distributed primarily to libraries. All manuscripts are peer-reviewed.

With this note let me encourage everyone to submit their original manuscripts for publication. As one of my early mentors used to say, if your work is not published it's as

if it were never done. I also hope members in the Western Section will consider it a privilege and will promptly review manuscripts for the *Transactions* when called.

Effective immediately we will be encouraging 100% electronic submissions and manuscript processing. Instructions for manuscripts are online as described above, and follow Journal of Wildlife Management standards. Keep 'em coming!

**For publication in the 2011 volume of the *Transactions*, manuscripts must be submitted by May 1, 2011.**



## Do You Like\* Us?

\*The 300th person to **LIKE** us gets one year of free memberships at the National, Section and Chapter Levels!

Don't delay - it could be your lucky day!

# F a c e b o o k

## Sacramento-Shasta Chapter Report to Western Section

### *Laura Patterson*

The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter was honored to be recognized as Chapter of the Year by the Western Section for the second year in a row. We hope we'll be able to accomplish as much this year as last, and we're off to a good start. The Chapter hosted a Giant Garter Snake Workshop at the UC Davis Alumni Center on February 16<sup>th</sup>. It was full house (over 170 attendees) and a long day (over 11 hours), but the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. In addition to 20 oral presentations, 16 posters were presented. Attendees heard from the leading experts on new research being conducted to assess habitat selection and suitability and population demographics as well as identification techniques and management considerations.

This year the Sacramento-Shasta

Chapter intends to work more closely with students, and to that end we contributed \$250 to the Western Student Wildlife Conclave at Humboldt State University, and we're partnering with the UC Davis Student Chapter to co-host our first social mixer of the year at the Graduate in Davis on April 6<sup>th</sup>. We're also working with them on putting together a members' picnic and field trip at Cosumnes River Preserve for the last weekend in April. We also have \$1000 available for academic scholarships to students going to college or conducting research within our Chapter's boundaries. The application is available on our webpage, and deadlines for submission are June 1<sup>st</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Other upcoming Chaptersponsored events include our lunchtime Brown Bag Seminar Series and a volunteer effort for Creek Week. On April 12<sup>th</sup>, we'll be hosting our first Brown Bag Seminar of the year from 12 – 1 at the ICF International Office in Sacramento. Tristan Edgarian, Wildlife Biologist with the Endangered Species Recovery Program at CSU Stanislaus, will discuss their surveys and habitat assessments for riparian brush rabbits and riparian woodrats in the northern San Joaquin Valley. The Chapter will also be gathering a group to help with Creek Week; The big clean-up day is April 16<sup>th</sup>. More information on Chapter events will be posted on our webpage, Facebook page, and through our emails to members.

## San Joaquin Valley Chapter

### *Linda Connolly*



The Chapter held its annual San Joaquin Valley Chapter Natural Communities Conference (NCC) on Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. The NCC is an opportunity to present research, management, regulation, and conservation in the San Joaquin Valley Chapter area. Our second Chapter board and membership meeting of the year immediately followed the NCC at the Lengthwise Brewery in Bakersfield.

The Chapter recently donated \$200 to support the Western Regional Wildlife Students' Conclave hosted by HSU, and is developing merchandise to show-off our new logo. We're working on the 2011 workshop schedule, which will include a repeat offer of last year's very successful Sensitive Small Mammal Species of the San Joaquin Valley workshop plus at least one additional opportunity. We are accepting applications for 2011 research grants, our application guidelines are available at: [http://joomla.wildlife.org/SanJoaquin/images/Documents/Research\\_Grant\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://joomla.wildlife.org/SanJoaquin/images/Documents/Research_Grant_Guidelines.pdf)

We held our Chapter board election in January. Our current board consists of Curtis Uptain (President), Richard "Skip" Moss (President-Elect), Justin Sloan (Treasurer), Erin Tennant (Secretary), and Linda Connolly (Chapter Representative, Past-President).

## Western Section Travel Grants



In pursuit of the objective to encourage high standards of professional achievement, the Western Section has established an honoraria fund to assist participation in professional meetings.

### Eligibility

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.

### Non-TWS and International Conferences/Symposia

Travel grants to International and non-TWS conferences/symposia will only be reviewed if the applicant is presenting a paper or poster. Travel Grants may be approved contingent upon paper/poster acceptance by the program committee.

### Review and Approval of Grant Requests

Travel Grants must be submitted to the Awards and Grants Committee Chair. Proposals are reviewed on a continual basis and award depends on fund availability. The Awards and Grants Chair distributes Travel Grant request copies to all Western Section board members for review and consideration. Approval requires a majority vote.

Priority is given to attendees of TWS meetings (Parent, Western Section, Chapters) and to attendees presenting a poster or paper at a given conference, symposium, etc.... Combined requests for shared expenses for the same meeting by two or more students will be considered and are preferred. A maximum of two grants may be awarded for a particular meeting (depending on funding).

### Amount and Conditions

In most cases, the Travel Grant 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. Travel Grants are to be used only for registration fees, meals, lodging, and/or transportation expenses. Individual Travel Grants will not exceed \$300.00/applicant/event/year. Reimbursement rates shall be as follows:

- Mileage reimbursement is 48.5 cents/mile for a personal vehicle (if a Government Owned Vehicle is not available)
- Meal reimbursement is for actual cost, not to exceed \$6.00, \$10.00 and \$15.00 for breakfast, lunch and dinner, respectively.
- Lodging reimbursement is for actual cost, not to exceed \$75.00 per night.

Each applicant must submit a written request/application to the Awards and Grants Chair 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 Grant, submit:

1. Application form (PDF, 25kB);
2. Abstract of paper/poster (if presenting);
3. Evidence of acceptance of the abstract (if required), and
4. Draft text of paper/poster to be presented (2-4 pages).

Application and all requested materials should be submitted to: [rburg@parks.ca.gov](mailto:rburg@parks.ca.gov)

## Western Section Grant Policy

The Western Section of The Wildlife Society (TWS-WS) has historically supported conferences, 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
- Timeliness 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

### Conditions

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 Meeting. This reporting requirement will be included in a letter from the Section which accompanies the actual disbursement of the grant.

If interested in submitting a grant request, download the application form [ONLINE](#) and submit to: [rburg@parks.ca.gov](mailto:rburg@parks.ca.gov) or Western Section of The Wildlife Society, PO Box 6756, Albany, CA 94706.





**The Wildlife Society  
Western Section**  
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