

The Wildlife Society Western Section

In This Issue:

- Executive Board Reports... 2-3
Annual Conference Announcement... 4-9
Pre-Conference Symposia... 8
President-Elect Candidate Statements... 11-12
Officer and Committee Reports... 1-2 & 13-20

President's Message

John McNerney

The old adage "time flies when you're having fun" seemed to hold true for my year as president of the Western Section. Working with an energetic and diverse Board has been a real pleasure and the fruit of our labor has been sweet. It has been a busy year to be sure. In addition to stabilizing the finances of the Section, we were able to craft and execute numerous professional development opportunities for our membership, fund student research grants, assist students in attending both Section and National Conferences, and develop a few pilot programs to start engaging younger students and introduce them to the wildlife profession. Here is a quick look back at some of the activities the Western Section has been involved in this past year.

- Very successful Annual Conference in Riverside
- Raptor Symposium in Riverside
- Fungus Symposium in Riverside
- Natural Resource Communication workshop in Chico
- Bat Ecology and Field Techniques workshop at Dye Creek Preserve, Tehama County
- Remote Camera Techniques workshop at Chimineas Ranch, San Luis Obispo County



- Non-invasive Acoustic Monitoring of Bats workshop at Swanton-Pacific Ranch, Santa Cruz County
- Hosting The Wildlife Society's 18th Annual Conference, Waikoloa, HI
- TWS Certification Workshop in Redding
- Awarded 25 student travel grants.
- Awarded 2 student research grants
- Sponsorship of the HSU Student Conclave

If you missed any of these activities, do not despair. We are already planning another great lineup of workshops and symposium for 2012 which are sure to be of equal interest and professional/ educational value.

It's that time of year again to start making arrangements to attend the 2012 Western Section Annual Conference in Sacramento. President-elect, Linda Leeman, has been busy leading the Program Committee in crafting a wonderful conference

Photo by Kasia Biel
Sierra Nevada Mountains

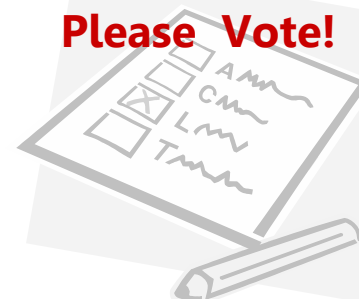
program. There are many interesting concurrent sessions, loaded with presentations on current research. The Plenary Session promises to be thought provoking, and the poster session will be one of the largest yet with over 30 poster presentations. The Professional Development Committee is putting a pre-conference fisher symposium together and also a technical writing workshop. More details on these will follow. Conference registration is now open so be sure to register soon.

It's also time again to elect a new leader for the Section. In this issue you will find statements from our very capable nominees for President-elect. The election will be held very soon and ballots should be arriving

(Continued, Page 2)

**Election Info
Inside & On-line!**

Please Vote!



President-Elect Message

Linda Leeman

We have an exciting line up for the 2012 annual conference in Sacramento! California Department of Fish and Game's new Director, Chuck Bonham, will be providing a keynote address during the banquet on the evening of Thursday, February 2nd. Earlier that day, a full plenary panel will be discussing the theme of "Conservation in the Age of Litigation." Also during the conference, there will be 13 technical sessions and 1 extra large poster session. Plus resume and oral presentation workshops, working group meetings, and lots of opportunities to network with other professionals. The conference is going to be full of great technical information, thought-provoking ideas, and lively discussions. You won't want to miss it!

Registration is now open. Register on or before January 7, 2012 to receive the early discount. Plus the first 100 people to register will get a gift with this year's cool logo on it! Look forward to seeing you!



President's Message (Continued From Page 1)

in your in box shortly. Please be sure to vote! I'm confident in the abilities of both candidates and look forward to working with the new President-elect in the coming year.

I would like to say thank you to our membership for providing me the opportunity to lead the Section. I also want to thank all of the other volunteer Executive Board members and Committee Chairs for donating time out of their increasingly busy lives to support the mission of the Western Section. I've said it before...and I'll repeat it here-volunteers are key to the survival of our organization. I encourage everyone who has wanted to get more involved in the Western Section to talk with an Executive Board member about opportunities, or volunteer to help out at the conferences, symposia or workshops. It really is a rewarding experience!

I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to seeing you all in Sacramento in February!

Humboldt State University Wins the 2011 TWS Quiz Bowl...Again! By Rhys Evans

If you haven't heard yet, in Hawai'i, our esteemed student team from Humboldt State University won the 2011 TWS Quiz Bowl! Congrats to the awesome team from our Western Section... To be honest, it was a nail-biting victory against a great team from Virginia Tech University – that team also deserves our congratulations! At the ten minute mark of the 15-minute final match, VTech had a small lead, but the Lumberjacks pulled out a victory by the final buzzer... Of course, we included the question "What is the official state fish of Hawai'i?" I'm sure nearly every Western Section member must know, it's the humuhumunukunukuapua'a....

Again, Jacks, congratulations!!! We're proud of you...again!



Pictured, left to right: TWS Executive Director, Dr. Michael Hutchins, Brian Fagundas, Phil Choan, TWS President-elect Dr. Winifred Kessler, Aaron Spidal (team captain), Amy Leigh Trost, and TWS President Dr. Paul Kraussman. Not pictured (sorry about that!), Sam Aguilar. The team is shown with the grand prize, an original oil painting provided by renowned wildlife artist Chester O. Martin. The Quiz Bowl was sponsored by the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association.

Past-President Message

Armand Gonzales

As the year comes to an end, so does my service on the Western Section's Executive Board as Past-President. It has been my honor and privilege to serve. I truly appreciate the opportunities I have had, and thank each and every one of you for your support over the years. It has been fun, rewarding, and at times challenging, but always well worth the effort.



Thinking back to my first year as President-elect, I knew planning the annual conference in Visalia was going to be one of those big challenges but I also knew it was likely going to be the most rewarding. I was determined to make the Visalia Western Section Conference the best ever despite its location (nothing wrong with Visalia) and the infamous Central Valley winter fog that would shroud us in February; and despite competing for registrations with the National TWS Conference in Monterey three months prior and the 80th Cooper Ornithological Meeting in San Diego the following week. While the coast that time of year probably always trumps the valley, as it turned out, the plenary was great, the banquet speaker was amazing, and the food was simply awesome.

I was also determined to make my year as President highly productive and memorable. I wanted to boost membership, update the Operations Manual, re-activate the Conservation Affairs Committee, and visit all the Chapters. Well, as you might suspect, life had a different plan and as well intentioned as I was and my initiatives were, it was going to be a little more challenging than I first thought. I'm still working on the Operations Manual and will see that effort through to the end. The Conservation Affairs Committee is once again inactive so we are now recruiting for a chairperson. I was able to visit every Chapter, albeit during the past two Annual Conferences. Although just a subset of the membership, it was nice to meet so many dedicated and enthusiastic wildlifers from around the Section. I was always warmly welcomed and offered a beverage; many thanks to everyone for that kind gesture.

This last year as Past-President was perhaps the most rewarding. Besides Board meetings and casting an occasional vote, it was my task to find candidates for President-elect. My challenge was to find two dedicated candidates with character and motivation, and the willingness to step-up and sacrifice their time and energy to do the job well, and represent the Section following the time-honored tradition for excellence that has been set over the decades by so many noble and generous leaders from the past. Before I began my search I looked for inspiration from the list of past Presidents on the Section web-site. For those of you who haven't seen the list I'm referring to, you should check it out. It is truly inspirational, and includes the names of wildlife legends, names of educators, researchers, decision makers and managers, all well recognized for their invaluable contributions to the wildlife profession.

Saving the best for last, I think I've succeeded. This year it is my honor to announce, we have found two outstanding candidates for President-elect, Linda Connolly and Doug Bell. You can read more about each of them in their candidate statements in this edition of the newsletter. I have every confidence whichever candidate you vote for and whichever candidate wins, our Section will be in good hands for three more years. So, please review the candidate statements and vote. This is your opportunity to contribute and help set the agenda. Whomever you vote for please, at your earliest convenience, let Linda and Doug know how grateful you are for their courage and selflessness.

Thank you all for everything, Armand

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT



**The Western Section of the Wildlife Society
will be hosting the 2012 Annual Conference on
February 1- 3, 2012
at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento, CA**

Come join other wildlife professionals to learn about cutting-edge research, management issues, and conservation challenges.
See old friends and network with other professionals.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Monday, January 30

Wilderness First Aid (January 30-31)

Tuesday, January 31 to mid-day Wednesday, February 1

West Coast Fisher Symposium:

Contemporary Conservation Perspectives

Scientific and Technical Writing Techniques Workshop

Wednesday, February 1

1:00 p.m. Official Conference Opening
1:00 to 5:00 p.m.: Concurrent Sessions
5:00 to 8:00 p.m.: Welcome Mixer and Poster Session
7:30 to 9:30 p.m.: Chapter Meetings

Thursday, February 2

8:00 to 11:50 a.m.: Plenary Session
1:00 to 5:00 p.m.: Concurrent Sessions
2:45 to 4:00 p.m.: Oral Presentation Workshop
4:00 to 6:00 p.m.: Resume Workshop
5:00 to 6:00 p.m.: Annual Business Meeting and Member's Forum
6:00 to 7:00 p.m.: No Host Cocktail Reception
7:00 to 9:30 p.m.: *Keynote Address: Chuck Bonham, Director, California Department of Fish and Game, Annual Awards Banquet and Raffle*

Friday, February 3

8:30 to 4:30 p.m.: Concurrent Sessions
10:00 to 12:00: Resume Workshop
12:00 to 1:30 p.m.: Student Leadership Lunch and Career Fair
4:00 p.m.: Western Section Executive Board Meeting (all members are welcome)



CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

PLENARY SESSION THEME: "CONSERVATION IN THE AGE OF LITIGATION"

Litigation, and the use of the judicial system, has increasingly become more common in our society to settle disputes over natural resource management. Early environmental laws protected species from over-harvesting. With growing environmental awareness, key federal and state laws were enacted to protect natural resources, including Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act, National Forest Management Act, and California Environmental Quality Act. These laws and their regulations represent an evolving ethic to protect wildlife for their natural values, as well as aesthetic and moral reasons, to benefit future generations and to sustainably use and manage resources. With implementation of these laws and regulations, use of the courts to enforce the laws or find solutions to conflicts between resource conservation and consumption/development increased. Since the 1980s, deep polarization about resource issues has become the norm in our society as we struggle to implement these laws. Contentious issues have arisen, such as property rights, "regulatory taking," protection of the commons, and environmental activism. More recently, diminishing non-renewable energy resources, climate change, and global needs for water, food, and fiber have further complicated the situation. Environmental laws, court rulings, and threat of litigation have formed a legal landscape in which we, as wildlife biologists, now practice our profession. How does this legal landscape affect our actions to manage, research, and conserve species and their habitats? What role does advocacy play? How do we consider social, political, financial, or legal frameworks, while using sound science to inform our decisions? The Plenary presentations and panel discussion will explore the idea of conservation in the age of litigation, drawing on our panelists' backgrounds in applying environmental policy and regulation, judicial rulings, and settlement agreements to wildlife conservation and management.

The Plenary Session will be held Thursday morning. Speakers include:

- Curtis Alling, Ascent Environmental
- Chris Carr, Morrison and Foerster
- Dave Ceppos, Center for Collaborative Policy
- Brendan Cummings, Center for Biological Diversity
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Dr. John Wiens, PRBO Conservation Science

REGISTRATION AND ACCOMMODATIONS

ONLINE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN:
[HTTP://Joomla.WILDLIFE.ORG/WESTERN/](http://joomla.wildlife.org/western/)

REGISTRATION RATES:

	ON/PRIOR TO 1/7/12	AFTER 1/7/12
<u>Conference Attendance:</u>		
MEMBER, TWS-WS	\$220	\$255*
NON-MEMBER	\$255	\$290*
STUDENT/NEW PROFESSIONAL	\$95	\$110*
DAILY	\$130	\$145*
<u>Other Events:</u>		
WELCOME MIXER	\$10	\$15
KEYNOTE AND BANQUET (PROFESSIONAL)	\$45	\$50
KEYNOTE AND BANQUET (STUDENT)	\$20	\$20

*Note, there will be a \$25 surcharge if registering on-site at the conference.

HOTEL INFORMATION AND ACCOMMODATIONS

The 2012 Annual Conference will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento. The Radisson Hotel is conveniently located 5 minutes from the Capitol, Old Sacramento, Cal Expo, Arden Fair Mall, Railroad Museum, and the Light Rail System.

Please help keep conference registration rates low by staying at the Radisson hotel.

Radisson Hotel Sacramento
 500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento CA 95815
 (916) 922-2020
<http://www.radissonsac.com/>

**Hotel Reservations must be made by
 January 13, 2012
 to obtain the special conference rates.**

Register Online:

<http://www.radisson.com/wildlifesocietywesternsection>

Or, phone: (888) 201-1718

Special per-night room rates for conference attendees. Please indicate that you are a member of the Wildlife Society – Western Section:

Room	Single	Double	Triple	Quad
Standard Room	\$84	\$104	\$124	\$144

+12% Tax and \$1.25 Sacramento Tourism Business Improvement District assessment fee

CONCURRENT TECHNICAL SESSIONS

SESSION TITLE	CHAIRPERSON
CHALLENGES OF NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN A CHANGING CLIMATE	ARMAND GONZALES
RENEWABLE ENERGY AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION	STEVE HENDERSON
CONSERVATION PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL OFFSETS: TOOLS FOR SPECIES RECOVERY?	LUCY HARRINGTON
MITIGATION MEASURES: CHALLENGES AND REALITIES DURING PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION	STEPHANIE PARSONS AND JON WAGONNER
LARGE MAMMAL AND BIG GAME ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT	JIM ASMUS
ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF UPLAND GAME BIRDS	ERIK BLOMBERG
ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF WATERFOWL AND WETLANDS	SHAUN OLDENBERGER
ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF SHOREBIRDS	MARK COLWELL
ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE ON MILITARY LANDS	RHYS EVANS AND KIRSTEN CHRISTOPHERSON
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF CARNIVORES	KATIE MORIARTY
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SONGBIRDS	STEVE HENDERSON
WILDLIFE DISEASES AND PATHOLOGY	LESLIE WOODS
CONSERVATION OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES	MICHAEL VAN HATTEM

Check <http://joomla.wildlife.org/western> for an updated list of technical sessions and schedule.

POSTER SESSION

A poster session will be held for the Annual Conference on the evening of Wednesday, February 1, during the welcome mixer and social. Posters will also be available for viewing at other times and locations throughout the week. Contact Canh Nguyen at cvnguyen@dfg.ca.gov if you have questions.

KEYNOTE PROGRAM AND BANQUET

Chuck Bonham, Director of the California Department of Fish and Game, will provide a keynote address during the banquet and award ceremony. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to hear about DFG's priorities and perspective on wildlife management issues.

SPECIAL EVENTS

STUDENT PROFESSIONAL LUNCH AND CAREER FAIR

The Section will host a student–professional lunch and career fair, free to students, at noon on Friday, February 3. Students will have the opportunity to discuss career choices, the job market, and job qualifications with practicing professionals from the Western Section. Students should indicate their intent to attend the free lunch when they register for the conference. Space is limited. Those not indicating their intent to attend on the registration form will be accommodated as space allows.

RESUME WORKSHOP

The Western Section is pleased to announce the return of our fantastic résumé workshop! Barbara Peters from the Career Center at Humboldt State University (retired) will be present to offer outstanding guidance on job searching to students and young professionals. Workshops will be held on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning.

EFFECTIVE ORAL PRESENTATION WORKSHOP

Whether you're just starting out or looking to improve, this informative (and likely humorous) mini-workshop will provide you with information and tips for presenting your research work to your peers. Instructor Jon Hooper will provide demonstrations on how to give an effective presentation... and how NOT to. Scheduled for Thursday afternoon.

ANNUAL RAFFLE AND AUCTION

A raffle and silent auction will be held during the conference banquet on Thursday, February 2. Tickets for the raffle will be available for purchase throughout the conference. Typical donations for the raffle include wine, wildlife artwork, books, travel and field gear. In addition, the Section is seeking, and will offer through the raffle and auction as available, hunting and fishing trips, adventure travel trips, whitewater rafting trips, and similar items. To donate items for the raffle, please contact Lisa Olliver at lolivier@fs.fed.us or call (707) 840-0829.

OTHER INFORMATION

ECOLOGICAL KARMA: Over the past several years, the Western Section has collected donations from conference attendees with the proceeds being used to fund local restoration projects that will offset the carbon footprint of the conference. This year, the registration fee includes a \$5 surcharge for ecological karma. The Western Section will match the amount collected from attendees, effectively doubling the amount of funding. The donation will be provided to the Sacramento Valley Conservancy, which is working to preserve the beauty, character and diversity of the Sacramento Valley landscape.

SPONSORSHIPS: We welcome potential sponsors to the meeting, individual events within the meeting or the pre-conference symposia. Organizations, agencies, consulting firms, chapters, individuals...let us know if you're interested. Sponsors can qualify for exhibit space, discounted or free event registrations, acknowledgement in the program and more. Opportunities start at \$250. Contact Linda Leeman at lwleeman@gmail.com for more information.

VOLUNTEERS: Opportunities abound. Please contact Lacey Kreiensieck at lkreiansieck@gmail.com if you are interested.

STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS: A limited number of student travel grants may be available. Check our website under "Resources" for more information or contact the Awards and Grants Committee Chair Richard Burg (rburg@parks.ca.gov) for additional details.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Members will be eligible to earn credit hours for Professional Development, Professional Development Certificates and for TWS Certification renewal (note: meetings such as this do not normally qualify for an initial TWS certification application). Additional information will be provided in the final conference program.

PUBLICATION IN THE WESTERN SECTION JOURNAL TRANSACTIONS: Presenters of papers at the Western Section's Annual Conference are urged to submit their papers for publication in the "Transactions of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society." There are no page charges for papers published by current members of the Western Section! Potential authors should review the guidelines for preparing and submitting manuscripts under the "Resources" tab on the Section web site at <http://joomla.wildlife.org/Western/> or contact the Transactions Editor, David Wright (dwright@dfg.ca.gov).

WORKING GROUPS: The Western Section is pleased to help facilitate the meeting of several working groups during the annual conference, as has been done in the past. In order to ensure space is available and to help minimize scheduling conflicts, if you are interested in holding a working group meeting at the annual conference, please contact Scott Osborn, Working Group Coordinator at sosborn@dfg.ca.gov.

LOGO: Art work for the conference logo is by Cynthia Clark, Scientific Illustrator extraordinaire! Online portfolio: <https://picasaweb.google.com/megatherium/ScienceIllustration?authuser=0&feat=directlink> Contact her at megatherium@gmail.com.

PRE-CONFERENCE SYMPOSIA

1

West Coast Fisher Symposium 2012 “Contemporary Conservation Perspectives” January 31 and February 1, 2012 Sacramento, California



The Western Section's annual conference will be preceded by a symposium focusing on contemporary conservation concerns of fishers (*Martes pennanti*) throughout their west coast range. This 1½ day symposium will be structured differently than the standard 'project update' format. Invited experts will be asked to address a limited set of key questions via oral presentation, then participate in an interactive panel/audience discussion to explore current challenges and conservation relevancy of research. Instead of lengthy descriptions of methods and statistical techniques, presenters will be focusing on applied research and management and audience participants will be asked to engage in these discussions. Although this will be a challenging symposium for the presenters and audience, we hope the diversity of experience will provide unique opportunities to increase awareness of differing perspectives, marry management needs with research goals, and explore new conservation avenues. The symposium will include five main subsections of presentations and panel discussions. A social mixer and dedicated poster session for fisher related submissions and project updates and will occur Tuesday evening.

Schedule: 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 31, 2012 (registration open at 8:30); conclude by 12:15 p.m. on Wednesday, February 1 (the 2012 Annual Meeting begins after lunch).

Pre-Register: Use the secure online form at <http://joomla.wildlife.org/Western>. Instructions for check payments are provided on the registration link. Registration cost includes some refreshments, coffee/tea, materials, and the evening mixer.

2

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL WRITING TECHNIQUES FROM FIELD WORK TO FINAL DRAFT...

TWS- West has frequently been asked to offer a report writing workshop; it turns out one of our members has prepared such a workshop and has offered to present it! Learn career-assisting techniques for technical writing in an interactive workshop format immediately before the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society. Well-organized, clearly written reports will more effectively communicate your findings and enhance your organization's credibility -- and your own. You'll leave with practical techniques for organizing your field work to facilitate writing reports that are clear, concise and easy to understand. Don't miss your chance to learn how to make every technical document more effective from now on!

Schedule: January 31-February 1, 2012

3

WILDERNESS FIRST AID

In addition to a half day of outdoor scenario practice of first aid and leadership skills, this class focuses on practicing skills and covering: patient assessment, shock and bleeding, head and spinal injuries, wounds, musculoskeletal injuries, heat and cold illnesses and much more. Gain some good tools and knowledge to handle a wilderness first aid emergency. Registration for WFA (Wilderness First Aid) is \$100, and a Adult First Aid certificate can be granted for an additional \$25. Adult First Aid is 4 hours of the 16 hour certificate.

Schedule: January 30-31, 2012, Radisson Hotel

Annual Meeting Help Needed!

- **Request for Loan of Laptops and LCD Projectors:**

In an effort to reduce costs, the Section uses loaner laptops and LCD projector equipment for the Annual Conference. The CA Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Forest Service have traditionally provided most of the equipment, but with tight agency budgets, some of the equipment is getting old and is not getting replaced. Your contributions can save us thousands of dollars in equipment rentals and helps us keep the conference registration costs down. If you have a reliable laptop and/or LCD projector that you can loan to us to use for the entire duration of the Annual Conference (Feb 1–3, 2012) please contact Don Yasuda at dymasudaTWS@comcast.net.

- **Volunteers Needed to Judge Student Presentations and Posters:**

If you are interested in judging the student presentations and posters at the 2012 annual conference, please contact Rhys Evans at sirsnav@verizon.net.

- **Exhibit Display Spaces Available:**

A limited number of spaces are available at the 2012 annual conference for vendors and publishers. The basic fee for a space is \$150. If you are interested, please contact Candace Renger at candace.renger@gmail.com by January 10, 2012.

MEETING SPONSORS NEEDED

The TWS-Western Section Annual Conference in Sacramento still has several sponsorship opportunities available.

Sponsorship levels:

Annual Meeting Refreshment Break:
\$500 (up to 3 available)

Student / Professional Lunch: \$750

Student Resume Workshop: \$750

Poster Session & Welcome Mixer:
\$2,500

Annual Meeting Technical Sessions*:
\$500

* Conservation Planning and Habitat Restoration, Implementation of Mitigation Measures, Renewable Energy and Wildlife Conservation; Challenges of Wildlife Management in a Changing Climate; contact us for a list of others.

If you would like to become a sponsor, please contact Linda Leeman, lwleeman@gmail.com

2011 TWS National Meeting Sponsorships

While we in the west didn't expect to host the 2011 annual meeting so soon after 2009 in Monterey, well...it happened. If you don't know, the facility originally contracted to host (in Pittsburgh) had some issues with renovations. So, having to move the meeting, and quick, I think it showed a significant amount of TWS "National" confidence in the Western Section's ability to host two meetings in three years. Honestly, it also shows that hotels on the Big Island and elsewhere were willing to make some deals to help them and us with this lousy economy.

But that said, the Western Section walked up to the plate! And several of our chapters were also there to help. Sacramento-Shasta, Southern California and Bay Area Chapters offered very much appreciated meeting sponsorships. Central Coast showed their support in a different, but still very cool way: helping Cal Poly San Luis Obispo students raise funds to support their participation.

The National Military Fish and Wildlife Association, which has many members in common with The Western Section, also signed on the dotted line to become an official sponsor of the Student Quiz Bowl. Finally, the Western Section itself was on the list by sponsoring Barbara Peters' awesome student resume workshop. Thanks for the amazing support from all!

A Thank you note to Western Section Members....



Photo by Tatiana Gettelman

Thank you Western Section of the Wildlife Society for your support!

Between 2007 and 2009 I received grants from the Western Section, California North Coast, and Sacramento-Shasta Chapters for support towards my masters field work. Our article "Decline in American Marten Occupancy Rates at Sagehen Experimental Forest, California" has been published in the Journal of Wildlife Management. The above noted TWS groups (WS, Sac-Shasta, and CNCC) were acknowledged.

Thank you for your help and assistance throughout the project. It was a great collaborative effort during our surveys and throughout the previous field efforts. It has been rewarding to have the opportunity to work with, and receive support from, people like you. Although not from Sagehen, these photos show a couple juvenile martens in Lassen National Forest. I took the photo of the male on the move and one of my volunteers snapped a nice shot of the female.

Katie Moriarty
PhD student, Oregon State University
Focus: marten movement ecology in managed landscapes



Photo by Katie Moriarty

President-Elect Candidate Statement

Linda Connolly

My name is Linda Connolly and I am running for President-Elect of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society.

My education includes a B.S. in Psychology (biology emphasis) from UC Davis and a M.S. in Natural Resources-Wildlife from Humboldt State University. I worked for about a decade as a field biologist, first on several research positions and then coordinating resource assessment projects for California Department of Fish and Game lands, and then moved to Fresno several years ago to begin a regulatory position. Now I am a Staff Environmental Scientist at Fish and Game performing environmental document review and endangered species permitting for complex projects. I really like this work, and I think it fits within the context of past research projects that involved natural resource conflicts involving such groups as recreational anglers, family farmers, and oyster growers. I've always been interested in the often complicated relationships among varied stakeholders, and in my current role I like the challenges inherent to permitting projects to have the fewest possible impacts and the best opportunities for meaningful conservation.

I've been a member of the Western Section and the San Joaquin Valley Chapter for the last five years. I grew up in a Chicago suburb without much exposure to natural outdoor places but with a keen interest in animals. I didn't find this field of study until after college graduation. After graduate school I worked for several years in a part of my Chapter area with limited representation in this organization, so it wasn't until I arrived in Fresno that I found TWS. I got involved in the Chapter almost immediately, and as current Past-President am finishing my third



year on the board. I also am the current Chapter Representative.

I really enjoy working on TWS projects. I introduced myself to my Chapter as someone who is committed and product-oriented, and so far I am pleased with what I've been able to contribute: I initiated a logo contest that resulted in a great image to represent our diverse area, and that looks terrific on our reasonably priced tees and totes. I also drafted our research grant guidelines and reestablished a formal annual budget. Over the last couple years I've been involved in workshop planning and development and in helping coordinate Chapter social events.

I've also been thinking quite a bit about TWS recruitment. I am in a Chapter area that has no student chapter, and I'd like to see how we can involve more students, either by assisting in establishing student chapters or by encouraging student groups informally within existing Chapters. I'm interested in what it's like in other areas within the Western Section and how Chapters can help each other. I also would like to explore the relationship between Chapters and the Western Section and see what opportunities for collaboration and growth there are in addition to current representation on the Professional Development Committee. While some of these topics seem to pertain to TWS operations and culture, my goal is to relate these functional issues to existing

and possibly new programs. I think of TWS membership in terms of both what TWS can provide to its members but also what members can contribute, through TWS, to the profession. I'd like to understand more about our non-members and what we might be able to do to meet them halfway.

As a Chapter Representative I've seen how the Western Section Board operates, and I would be truly excited to work with this group of dedicated and motivated professionals. And I guess I wouldn't sound like a true modern candidate without adding that prior to my education in wildlife I worked in small business management. As a result of that experience I am ever-mindful of the financial ebb and flow related to TWS-related business. I find that a very exciting part of this organization is being able to provide great training and learning opportunities that bring in money and then sending that money right back out to benefit the profession through grants for research and education; to benefit conservation through direct donations to people and organizations making on-the-ground changes; and to benefit the membership through social and networking events. If elected, I would be eager to continue pursuing these opportunities and working to meet the needs of the membership. I am not content if I am not being productive, and I would take the time that is necessary to get things done.

I thank you for your consideration. Regardless of whom you favor for this position, please do take the time to vote.

President-Elect Candidate Statement

Douglas A. Bell, Ph. D.

It is a great honor for me to be nominated for the position of President-Elect to the Western Section of the Wildlife Society. This position begins what is essentially a three year term as a Section officer, first as President-Elect, then as President and finally, as Past-President. It represents an extensive commitment and a great opportunity to serve the Western Section, its associated Chapters, and the National organization. The list of the Western Section's past Presidents reads like a "who's who" in wildlife management. I would be humbled to be associated with such great people and, if given the opportunity, I would look forward to serving the Western Section in their spirit as President-Elect. In addition to the President-Elect's role in conducting Section business, standing in for the President as directed, and organizing the Annual Conference, I would do everything in my power to support the continuing commitment of our dedicated Officers and work to expand our human resource base at every opportunity.

I served as President of the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Wildlife Society in 2009 and saw a revitalized chapter energize around committed officers. My experience as President made me realize how important people are to the life of an organization. These are exciting and challenging times both locally and globally and I believe we need to tap into as many professionals, academics, students and emerging professionals as possible to help us move forward and stay at the forefront of promoting wildlife science, policy, and its intersection with society. I am particularly interested in fostering greater cohesion and interchange between the Chapters of the Western Section by increasing communication and sharing of workshops, joint field trips and combining resources to tackle complex issues that cross Chapter jurisdictions within the Western Section.

In my current position as Wildlife Program Manager with the East Bay Regional Park District, a District that manages over 110,000 acres of all habitat types from salt marsh to regional inner coast range wilderness in the East SF Bay Area, I have been involved in wildlife issues at all levels, from hands-on urban wildlife management to influencing policy. In addition, through work and professional contacts, I am involved in habitat conservation planning, regulatory policy and permitting, rangeland management, invasive species management, volunteer programs, and targeted research, such as studying the biological impacts of wind energy development and ways to reduce those impacts. I serve on several Technical Advisory Committees and Working Groups that deal with diverse topics such as wind energy and endangered species. I believe that my extensive background in research, academics and practical wildlife management will leave me well poised to serve the Western Section as President-Elect and to provide a diverse perspective. I hope that you agree and thank you for supporting my candidacy.

BIOGRAPHY

Douglas A. Bell, Ph.D., is currently the Wildlife Program Manager for the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), where he is involved with "all things wildlife and then-some". A life-long interest in birds and wildlife has defined his career growth and development. A native Californian, he discovered raptors at an early age and soon thereafter realized that the peregrine falcon had "disappeared" from the state due a DDT-induced population crash. This led to his desire to pursue science to obtain a broad background and work to prevent future debacles. He began his undergraduate studies in wildlife management and then received a Bachelor's degree in zoology from Humboldt State University. He spent five years living and working in Germany, an exodus that led to his earning the equivalent of a Master's degree in biology from the Univ. of Muenster, Germany. His thesis work involved a functional study of prey capture in chameleons and involved field work in India. He completed his formal studies with a Ph.D. in zoology from the University of California at Berkeley, where he investigated hybridization between western and glaucous-winged gulls along the Pacific Coast for his dissertation. He did post-doctoral research on peregrine falcon population genetics and white-crowned sparrow song evolution with Luis Baptista at the California Academy of Sciences, where he retains a position as Research Associate. Dr. Bell has worked for the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory as a waterbird biologist and has taught at Sonoma State University and California State University, Sacramento, where he holds a current Adjunct Assistant position. He has performed field research in several countries and has published in numerous journals (e.g. Auk, Condor, Journal of Raptor Research, Behaviour, Evolution, Ecological Applications, Journal of Wildlife Management). In addition to studying ways to lessen impacts of wind development on species such as golden eagles through improved avian use and risk mapping, he is investigating the population genetics of prairie falcons and is using radiotelemetry tracking of this falcon to inform habitat acquisition and management decisions. He has also been engaged in avian disease screening to assess reintroduction potential for insular species in Mexico. Dr. Bell recently received the Mary Bowerman Award for Science and Discovery from Save Mount Diablo for his contributions to science and conservation. Dr. Bell holds a Master Banding License from the Bird Banding Laboratory. When not working he enjoys many outdoor activities. Falconry is a special passion of his.



Photo by Joe DiDonato
(Property of the East Bay
Regional Park District.)

Treasurer's Report

Scott Osborn and Craig Bailey

Section assets were \$172,511 on October 31, 2011. Of this total, about \$36K is in the Section's Endowment Fund. Operating funds make up the remainder and are split between our Wells Fargo accounts (about \$13K) and Charles Schwab liquid investment accounts (about \$123K). The Endowment Fund took an initial

hit due to market losses during the first few months after it was created, but has recovered somewhat since then. Operating funds in the near term will see a rough balance between costs for our contract employees and for hosting the TWS conference in Hawaii on the one hand, and income generated by registrations for the Section's 2012 conference, on the other. Overall, the Section is in good financial health.



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!

Secretary's Report

Janine Payne

As I returned home from attending the annual conference in Hawaii, I reflected on how rewarding it is to participate in The Wildlife Society across different levels of membership. From Chapter to Section to parent Society - I get something very different, yet equally valuable. As cliché as it may sound, I find the energy of that many wildlife professionals gathering in one place truly motivating. It's also a great chance to see friendly faces from my school days in Massachusetts, former co-workers from Montana, and fellow Western Section folks... all in one place!

Each time I attend the annual conference, I try to take advantage of the many workshops offered. This year I attended "Animal Trapping Techniques for Researchers and Managers" taught by Pat Jackson of Utah State and Bryant White from the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies. They gave a great overview of the many different traps available for use in wildlife research, recreation, and the management of invasive species. It felt good to get my hands dirty and deploy my first trap in quite some time!

I also attended the first annual meeting of the new Early Career Professional Working Group. This group was started by biologist Kristina Boyd to address the needs of those in the gray area that don't fully identify with either side of the "student/professional"





Section Representative Report

Don Yasuda

As you've probably heard via our Section Yahoo Group emails or read in other articles in this newsletter, the 18th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society hosted by the Section and held in Waikoloa, Hawaii was a resounding success. A huge thanks goes out to all of the Section and Chapter members who contributed to the committees and who volunteered, especially those from the Hawaii Chapter. Together we all made it work smoothly and being able to pull off a well-attended conference (attendance around 1,400!) in such short planning time is a testament of all of your commitment and your hard work. Special thanks also to the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Wildlife Club and Dr. John Perrine for an excellent and entertaining quiz bowl, and congratulations to the HSU Quiz Bowl team for yet another exciting win. One more congratulation is in order to Cheryl Lohr of the Hawaii Chapter, our newest graduate from the Section of the TWS Leadership Institute. Thanks again to all who had a part in supporting the Conference, including those who couldn't make the physical trip.

TWS Council met on the Friday and Saturday prior to the Annual Conference and again on Tuesday during the Conference. Business included approving several Position Statements that will be released soon for member comment. They are on Wolf Restoration and Management, Wildlife Diseases, and Work Force Diversity. Look for them to be announced soon in *The Wildlifer* and on the TWS listserv and please offer any comments you have. As a member of the Position Statement subcommittee, I can tell you that member comments do influence the final statements. We approved holding the 2015 Annual Conference in Winnipeg, so

the lineup is now Portland (2012), Milwaukee (2013), Pittsburg (2014), and Winnipeg (2015). And the next slated rotation somewhere in the west is 2017. Two other items of note. First, Council appointed a subcommittee to make recommendations on if and how TWS should enter into affinity agreements with wildlife-related companies. Second, responding to member concerns and desires, TWS recently reinstated and began publishing the *Wildlife Society Bulletin* as an online journal. However, the number of member subscriptions is still very low. If you haven't done so yet, please check out the quality of articles being published and please consider adding a subscription and referring colleagues to the journal, both to submit articles as well as to subscribe.

TWS continues to make good progress in pursuing its Strategic Plan. TWS staff, under direction of our Executive Director Michael Hutchins, have overflowing plates implementing our current planning efforts. However, we're approaching a crossroads where to grow and provide even more member services and benefits, such as our Government Affairs work and ability to recruit and offer even more professional development opportunities to members, students, and early career professionals, we will need to raise more funds and add more staff. While much of these additional funds will need to come from non-dues sources like grants and foundations, our ability to do more depends upon a strong and growing membership. I've talked about this before (and you'll see it again in my Membership Report), but if you are a Chapter or Section member but have not joined TWS, please consider "joining up" at the national/international level.

As always, please contact me if you have comments, questions, concerns, or ideas regarding TWS at the Section or national/international level.

Membership Report By Don Yasuda

As of November 15, our membership continues to trend upwards and stands at 893. We're roughly 100 members short of our all-time high numbers in 2002-2003. It's approaching renewal time again and the Section is continuing our pilot project with TWS headquarters. We have yet to fully incorporate our membership database due to technical and staffing issues but you should be seeing a renewal notice from TWS soon.

Last year, we voted to align our membership expirations with the TWS expiration dates and I will begin the process this membership year. If you are not a member of TWS at the national/international level, your expiration date will continue to be the calendar year. If you are a TWS member, I am recording your TWS join date, which signifies your expiration month. Once your expiration date is set, it remains the same, even

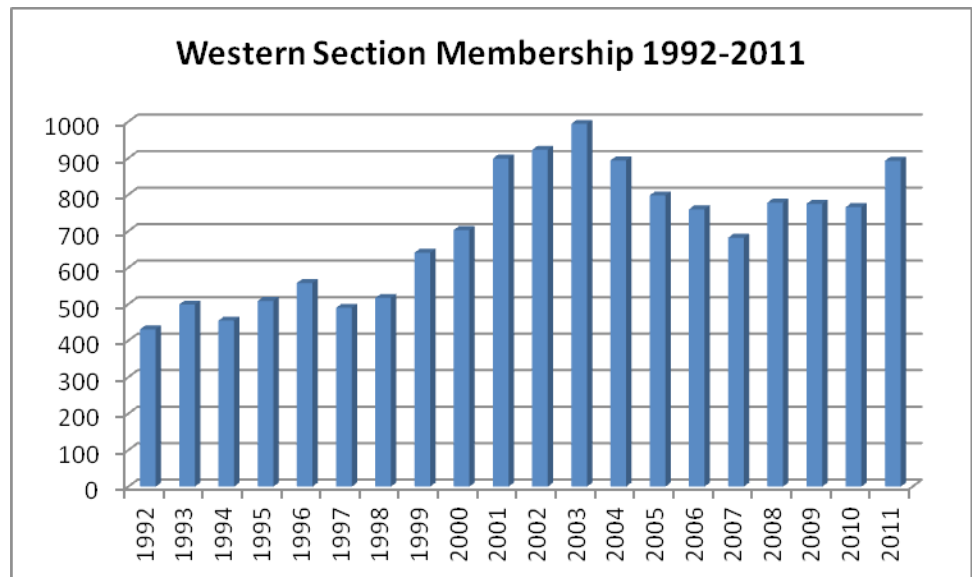
if you have a lapse of membership. I will extend memberships by a month or two as needed to bring the renewals into synch. What this means is you should continue to renew as you get your renewal notices, either from TWS or from me. I will try to avoid duplicates as much as possible, but please forgive me if I send you a renewal notice and you've recently renewed. Also some of you have renewed multiple times (e.g. via TWS, on the Section website, and when

Membership Report (Continued From Page 14)

registering for our Annual Conference) and when you do, I extend your membership for additional years. If you would rather receive a refund of dues submitted, please contact me.

Finally, TWS is once again offering a Sponsor-A-Student campaign (<http://store.wildlife.org/scriptcontent/Studentsponsorship/>). Last year over 145 new students were introduced to TWS through the thoughtful contributions of members. Student Chapter advisors are encouraged to nominate candidates (students who are not current or past members of TWS at the national/international level) to Shannon Pederson (Shannon@wildlife.org) at TWS headquarters. If you know of a student at a school that isn't a formal student chapter who would be a good candidate, please contact me with their name and information. If you are a professional, please consider sponsoring a student. You may submit an open sponsorship which TWS will match with a random draw from the pool of candidates or you may sponsor a specific student.

Please contact me if you have any questions about your Section membership. I can also help if you have questions or issues with your TWS membership that you cannot resolve directly with TWS.



Secretary's Report (Continued From Page 13)

dichotomy. We had a great cross-section of participants struggling with such questions as, "How do I transition from being a 'serial wildlife technician' into a career position?" "How can I be a Mom and build a successful career in the wildlife profession?" And, "As a new professional, how can I command the respect of my peers and be afforded training resources and support to attend conferences?" We came up with some suggestions for how the Society could offer specialized support to early to mid-career professionals such as providing an "advanced" resume workshop, and brainstormed ways to improve the current mentoring system.

As the Chair of the Merchandising Sub-Committee, most of my time was spent coordinating and manning (or "wo-manning", if you will) the conference store. I'm pleased to report that it was a great success and, perhaps because we had such a great logo this year, we sold over 500 T-shirts. I also attended the wrap up meeting with the Arrangements Committee for next year's conference in Portland. TWS staff expressed their gratitude for the Western Section's valuable contributions to the conference's success, including (but not limited to) the Quiz Bowl, conference store, and our sponsorship of the resume workshop.

Now that the Hawaii conference has come to an end, we have the Western Section's annual conference to look forward to. This year's plenary topic is a juicy one, which should prove to be quite interesting. See you all in Sacramento!

Awards and Grants Committee Report

The Western Section-Wildlife Society (TWS-WS) understands that students have limited financial resources and attending a professional conference can be costly. Each year, TWS-WS accepts applications from students to help defer expenses related to attending either the Section or National TWS Conference. This year TWS-WS is pleased to announce that 23 travel grants were awarded for the National Conference in Hawaii. Nineteen of the awardees presented either a poster or paper at the conference.

Western Section Travel Grant Policy



Purpose and Objectives

In pursuit of the objective to encourage high standards of profes-

sional achievement, the Western Section has established an honoraria fund to assist participation in professional meetings, conferences, symposia and other continuing education activities.

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 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.

Review and Approval of Grant Requests Requests for funding must be submitted to the Awards and Grants Committee Chair. Proposals will be reviewed on a continual basis and support will depend on fund availability. The Awards and Grants Chair shall distribute copies to all Board members for review and consideration. Approval of requests

will require a majority vote by the TWS-WS board.

Priority will be given to attendees of TWS meetings (Parent, Western Section, Chapters) and to attendees presenting a poster or paper at a given conference, symposium, etc.

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.

Amount 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.

Conditions 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 rate of:

48.5 cents per mile (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.

Administration Western Section funds will be budgeted in the spring of each year.

Requests/applications should be submitted to the Awards and Grants Chair. 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, submit:

Application form (Word);

1. Abstract of paper/poster (if presenting)
2. Evidence of acceptance of the abstract (if required), and
3. 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: **Richard Burg Western Section of The Wildlife Society, Attn: Awards and Grants Chair, PO Box 6756, Albany, CA 94706.** All requested material shall be submitted at least 60 days in advance of attending an event.

2012 Election Info

Please Vote!



**Voting will close
on January 30,
2012.**

The Western Section is offering and encouraging electronic voting!

Members can read the current by-laws, with proposed changes, and then cast an on-line vote!

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

Award Nominations Sought

The Awards and Grants Committee is currently accepting nominations for the various awards to be presented at the annual conference from the Section Membership at large. Below are the awards and required information:

Raymond F. Dasmann Award for the Professional of the Year

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

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

The Conservationist of the Year Award

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

Qualifications of Nominee: The nominee can be any individual or group who has demonstrated an active concern for wildlife conservation by accomplishing projects or programs that have significantly enhanced wildlife resource conservation within the Western Section geographical area.

Barrett A. Garrison "Outstanding Mentor Award"

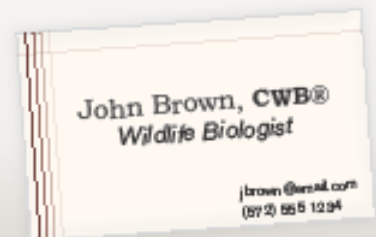
The "Barrett A. Garrison Outstanding Mentor Award" is bestowed to a professional within California, Nevada, Hawaii, and Guam who has contributed to our profession by assisting the

continued development of students and/or young professionals. The responsibility of a mentor is extraordinary. A mentor helps to shape and promote a young career.

Qualifications of Nominee: The nominee can be any member(s) of the Wildlife Society-Western Section, who is responsible for mentoring young professionals over their career in the Western Section geographic area.

Nomination materials should be submitted to: **Richard Burg, Western Section of The Wildlife Society, Western Section of The Wildlife Society, Attn: Awards and Grants Chair, PO Box 6756, Albany, CA 94706.** Request for nominations shall close December 31, 2011.

**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**

Vote on Western Section Bylaws Changes by January 30, 2012

Along with voting for a President-Elect candidate, please be sure to review and vote on recommended changes to the Section's bylaws. Bylaws changes must be approved by the membership and then accepted by TWS before they can take effect. The Western Section Executive Board recommends approval of all proposed bylaws changes. A brief explanation of the changes is provided below. Most changes are considered minor and are either a) to bring the Section bylaws in greater conformance with the TWS Model bylaws or b) minor editorial corrections or corrections for consistency within the existing bylaws. Three changes are more substantial and are highlighted in bold below. A full copy of the bylaws with marked edits and annotation is available on the website <http://joomla.wildlife.org/Western> or can be provided upon request. If you have question about these proposed changes, please contact Don Yasuda, Western Section Representative.

Article I, Section 4. Section Composition. Replaced the list of non discrimination categories with the same list from the current TWS bylaws for conformity.

Article II, Section 2. Implementation. Added Item 5, from the TWS Model Bylaws. "Focus the aims and objectives of The Society and the Western Section upon professional wildlife needs, problems, and events in local situations."

Article III, Section 2. Organization. A substantial edit. Re-worded to eliminate the list of Chapters so we don't have to amend the bylaws (requiring a member vote) every time we add a new Student Chapter.

Article VI, Section 3. Executive Board. Edits for redundancy and eliminated reference that the President-Elect serves as the Vice-President since that label is not used elsewhere in the bylaws.

Article VIII, Section 2. Finance. A substantial edit. Added Clause A that the Treasurer need not be bonded,

which is in conformance with the TWS Model Bylaws.

Article VIII, Section 2. Finance. Added "publications" and "other special activity sales" to the list of funding sources, in conformance with the TWS Model Bylaws.

Article XI. Awards. Re-organized the Awards section, separating out each award as a separate Clause for clarity.

Article XI, Section 1, Clause E. Barrett A. Garrison Outstanding Mentor Award. A substantial edit. Re-worded the Garrison Award to recognize a professional who has benefited students/young professionals within the Section. As written it implied the professional had to be within the Section but could have benefited students/young professionals elsewhere. This more clearly reflects the Section's intent for this award.

A few other editorial corrections sprinkled throughout.

Western Section *Transactions* Going Electronic

Bit by bit, we are now getting all articles published in the *Transactions of the Western Section of the Wildlife Society* into a searchable online format! A few articles are already findable, for example using Google Scholar, and many more are to come. We are committed to keeping the *Transactions* an active, high-quality, and visible professional journal, so please keep your manuscripts coming. Submission is now fully electronic. Submittals can be made at any time; note there is a May 1 deadline for inclusion in the current year (2012) issue. There are no page charges for current members of the section. Presenters at the Western Section conference are encouraged to submit their findings.

Sacramento-Shasta Chapter Report By Laura Patterson

This fall the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter continued to host a variety of events. As part of our effort this year to reach out to our northern membership more, we held a BBQ at the Nature Conservancy's Dye Creek Preserve near Los Molinos on September 23rd. We were extremely pleased by the turn-out, especially the large number of Chico State students who attended. Good food, good beer, good scenery, good conversations, good times! We also held a Halloween social mixer in Redding on October 27th that was a somewhat smaller affair but with a great diversity of attendees and, of course, good food, good beer, good conversations...are you seeing a theme here? Our annual Holiday party with the Association of Environmental Professionals was held at the Crocker Art Museum on December 8th. It was a fantastic gathering and a really great way to end another successful year.

The Chapter has also continued to offer professional development events. On October 11th, Chris Stermer from DFG spoke at our final lunchtime Brown Bag Seminar of 2011 on the great gray owl research he and his colleagues have been conducting in the Sierras. The turn-out was impressive, and the information they're gathering on nesting locations and home ranges should really improve management of and protection for the species. On November 2nd, we held our annual Natural Resources Symposium at Sacramento State, which was one of our highest attended symposiums to date. Topics ranged from effects of climate change and regulated flows below dams on wildlife to vernal pool ecology to recent survey results and their management implications for a variety of bird and mammals. Our final professional development offering this year was the Wildlife Biologist and Wildlife Technician Certification Workshop, which was held on December 3rd at the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area Headquarters in Davis. Thanks to Rhys and Cynthia for sharing their time and expertise and to Western Section for their contribution.

In an effort to continue to support students pursuing education and careers in the wildlife field, the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter was proud to award a \$250 travel grant to Katie Moriarty to help pay for her attendance at the "Modeling Patterns and Dynamics of Species Occurrence Workshop" held in Sacramento. Applications for travel grants and academic scholarships can be found at http://joomla.wildlife.org/SacramentoShasta/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=202&Itemid=314

Thanks to everyone who's contributed to making this a really great year for the Chapter. Don't forget to renew your membership and tell a friend or colleague about us! The more people we get involved, the more social and professional events we can put on and the more community outreach activities and students we can support.

Lastly, it's time for new officers, so please consider getting directly involved with the Executive Board or our Professional Development Committee. Contact Laura Patterson with questions, lpatters@water.ca.gov, and as always, if you want more information on Sacramento-Shasta Chapter activities and events, check our webpage at <http://joomla.wildlife.org/sacramentosshasta> or "like" us on Facebook.

SF Bay Area Chapter – Incoming Board Members

Board Members

President	Karen Swaim	kswaim@swaimbio.com
Past-President	Christine Gaber	christineogaber@yahoo.com
President-Elect	Natasha Dvorak	ndvorak@esassoc.com
Treasurer	Bryan Olney	bolney@esassoc.com
Secretary	Bryan Olney	bolney@esassoc.com
WS Representative	Jessica Martini-Lamb	Jessica.Martini.Lamb@scwa.ca.gov
Webmaster (acting)	Brian Pittman	bpittman@esassoc.com



San Joaquin Valley Chapter

The Chapter has been working this year to provide more great opportunities to our members, and our game plan for 2012 is taking shape. After some workshop scheduling conflicts we are looking forward to getting back on track, with the addition of a San Joaquin kit fox workshop that we expect to hold in the spring. We also recently approved a research grant for a graduate project addressing urban San Joaquin kit fox parental care and the role of helpers.

It must be the year of the kit fox! Earlier in the year we made a donation to the California Living Museum (CALM) in Bakersfield, a native zoo and garden, in support of the veterinary care and other support they provide to injured kit foxes. In early November we invited our members to CALM for a tour of the facility, led by head curator Don Richardson.



Above left – Learning about the canids on display: San Joaquin kit fox, island fox, gray fox, and red fox. Above right – this red fox was taken in as a pup and is not legally releasable in California. It is an ambassador that visits classrooms to help teach children about conservation.



Above left – Don tells us about their new mountain lions and bobcats from behind the scenes. Willow was especially curious about the children in the group! Above right – our group, in front of the future bighorn sheep area. CALM will soon be participating in the bighorn sheep captive breeding program.



**The Wildlife Society
Western Section**
P.O. Box 6756
Albany, CA 94706

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED THREE TIMES A
YEAR.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE SPRING ISSUE

ARE DUE BY MARCH 15, 2012.

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

Officers:

President
John McNerney
City of Davis
(530) 681-7874 cell
JMcNerney@cityofdavis.org

Past-President
Armand Gonzales
CA Dept. of Fish & Game
(916) 651-9476
agonzales7200@yahoo.com

President-Elect
Linda Leeman
Ascent Environmental, Inc.
(916) 930-3190
lwleeman@gmail.com

Section Representative
Don Yasuda
(530) 409-5405 cell
dyasudaTWS@comcast.net

Treasurer
Scott Osborn
CA Dept. of Fish & Game
(916) 324-3564
sosborn@dfg.ca.gov

Assistant Treasurer
Craig Bailey
CA Dept. of Fish & Game
(559) 243-4014 x261
craigtw@yaho.com

Secretary
Janine Payne
(510) 326-6965
el_janino@yahoo.com

Transactions Editor
David Wright
CA Dept. of Fish & Game
(916) 358-2945

Chapter Representatives:

California Central Coast
Kevin Cooper, CA Dept. of Fish & Game
kccooper@fs.fed.us

California North Coast
Sandra Hunt-von Arb, PNWB, Inc.
(707) 839-4643

Hawaii
Mike Lohr, udbirder@gmail.com

Nevada
Marjorie Matocq
mmatocq@cabnr.unr.edu

Sacramento-Shasta
Laura Patterson, CA Dept. of Water
Resources
lpatters@water.ca.gov

San Francisco Bay Area
Jessica Martini-Lamb, Sonoma County
Water Agency
Jessica.Martini.Lamb@scwa.ca.gov

San Joaquin Valley
Linda Connolly, CA Dept. of Fish &
Game
lindatws@hotmail.com

Southern California
Jeff Lincer, WRI Field Station
jefflincer@gmail.com

UCSB Student Chapter
Cassidee Shinn; Jeff Simeon
cassideeshinn@gmail.com
jeff.simeon@gmail.com

UC Davis Student Chapter
Tierra Groff
tcgroff@ucdavis.edu

Humboldt State Student Chapter
Bennett Hardy
bnsf97@gmail.com

University of NV – Student Chapter
Mitch Gritts
mitchellgritts@gmail.com

Staff:

Program Director
Cynthia Perrine
csgperrine@yahoo.com

Webmaster
Eric Renger
eric.renger@gmail.com

Newsletter Design - Registrar
Candace Renger
candace.renger@gmail.com

Bookkeeper
Michael Chapel
USDA Forest Service
mike.chapel@yahoo.com

Committee Chairs:

Awards and Grants
Richard Burg
CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation
rburg@parks.ca.gov

Conservation Affairs
Armand Gonzales
CA Dept. of Fish & Game
agonzales7200@yahoo.com

Membership
Don Yasuda
dyasudaTWS@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor
Debra Hawk
dhawk@schat.net

Professional Development
Rhys Evans
sirsname@verizon.net

Student Affairs Committee, co-chair
Kate Howard
katehoward82@gmail.com

Student Affairs Committee, co-chair
Cynthia Perrine - temporary

Historian
Jim Yoakum