



# The Wildlife Society

## Western Section

\* We inadvertently mislabeled Volume 54 in 2008 and are correcting the volume numbers for accuracy.

### President's Message

**Douglas A. Bell, Ph.D.**



It is hard to believe that nearly a year has gone by. A lot has happened in the intervening months since I became President of the Western Section. Before I go any further, though, allow me to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Section's Board. The Board, your Board, consists of Elected Officers, Appointed Officers, Chapter Representatives, Committee Chairs and Contractors (paid staff). It is they who make our Section work. I have never seen a more dedicated, engaged and knowledgeable group in any one society. It is humbling to see how hard they work and how much attention they pay to Section ac-

tivities and issues on a daily basis. My job as President, which for me has been clearly a "work-in-progress", has been made immensely smoother thanks to the Board. Although I am still learning, I have learned a great deal about our organization and how the pieces fit together. I have relied on the experience and wisdom of our Board members and Staff for advice and explanations, and they have been very patient with my repeated queries. I truly believe our Section is in great hands. So the next time you see a Western Section Board member or Staff, please thank them for their service, they are more than deserving of our appreciation. I know I will!

I have been proud of a number of things that we have accomplished in the last year. First was the annual meeting in January 2013 in Sacramento. I enjoyed the conference theme on the 40th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act, and was pleased to have had a very civil plenary with representatives from all sides of the argument, including the Hon. Pete McCloskey and Richard Pombo. It was also fun to listen to the experi-

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

**Please Vote!**

ences of Lily Raff McCaulou who spoke at the banquet on becoming a hunter, and of course having Joe DiDonato "mc" the banquet raffle. The Section sponsored no less than six workshops throughout the year on topics ranging

(Bell, cont'd on page 2)

### In This Issue:

Executive Board Reports.....	1-10
Committee Reports.....	11-14
Awards & Grants.....	14
Annual Meeting 2014.....	15-20
Chapter Reports.....	21-24
Pres-Elect Statements.....	25-26
Bylaw Changes and Voting.....	27
TWS-WS News.....	28-30
Upcoming Events.....	31-32
Contact Information.....	33

(Bell, cont'd from page 1)

from Natural Resources Communication, Bat Ecology and Monitoring, ESA Section 7 to Field Techniques in Wildlife Studies. The latter workshop, organized by Cynthia Perrine and led by her husband, John, was held at the Swanton Pacific Ranch over 12 days. It brought together undergraduates and mentor-professionals and offered college credit through Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Such workshops embody what the Section is all about – offering quality educational events to advance the wildlife profession. Our Board Retreat, held at Camp Ocean Pines, Cambria, Sept 20-21, was both fun and productive (imagine that!). We devoted the bulk of our time to Strategic Planning. Through this process we are developing a road map that will guide the Section for the next three

years. During the Strategic Planning portion of the retreat, our facilitator, Delia Horowitz, very aptly had us distill our goals and craft an action plan to achieve these goals. Briefly, we developed these goals: increase member involvement, improve communication between the Board and members, enhance careers, become the “gold standard” for dissemination of science-based information, maintain financial resources, and of course, finalize a strategic plan. The Board and engaged members have formed committees to address each of these goals and are working as we speak to create a first draft of our Strategic Plan for presentation at our annual meeting in Reno at the end of January. This is a big deal as the Strategic Plan will really codify what we are all about and where we want to go.

Our Board members continue to go above and beyond the call of duty. Don Yasuda has been diligently re-vamping the By Laws of the Western Section and has produced a draft for review by the Executive Board. John McNerney, Past President and now Treasurer, shepherded the resurrection of the Western Section’s publication, formerly known as the “Transactions” into what will now become “Western Wildlife”, an on-line publication. This effort is now chaired by Bridget Souza and has the backing of several experienced volunteer editors. I look forward to seeing the first articles published in “Western Wildlife” in 2014! Other milestones for me included seeing a new student chapter coalesce at San Francisco State University (Photo 1) and likely a new one at U.C. Berkeley is in the works, too. The S.F. Bay Chapter was instrumental in enabling these efforts. It is gratifying to see student chapters form as they serve a great purpose for engaging students and exposing them to wildlife and professionals alike. Plus they seem to have a lot fun on field trips.

My own fieldwork continues in the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area. This past August we trapped a golden eagle in very poor condition (Photo 2) and whisked it off to the School of Veterinary Medicine at U.C. Davis. It turns out it was suffering from an extremely bad mite infection. It has undergone a battery of tests and is recovering. As this was the third eagle with this unique condition observed in California so far, the California Department of Fish and

(Bell, cont'd on page 3)



*Photo 1. SFSU Student Chapter - Mount Diablo Tarantula Hike. Back row (standing), Left to right: Daniel Alonso, Natalie Greer, Sam McNally, Doug Bell, Sofia Prado-Irwin. Front row (kneeling): Left to right: David Zimmerman, Erika Walther.*



(Bell, cont'd from page 2)

Wildlife has put out a press release alerting the public to be on the lookout for additional cases: [Click here for article](#). It is truly amazing how wildlife keep surprising us in so many unpredictable ways. Speaking of surprises, yours truly was invited to speak at the TEDx Richmond conference on environmental sustainability. I used the example of golden eagles and wind farms to illustrate the complex issues we face when it comes to environmental sustainability. The conference was conceived, organized and run entirely by students at Earlham College in Richmond, IN. It was a truly enlightening experience and I was proud to be introduced as President of The Western Section of the Wildlife Society.

I am very pleased to announce that we have two outstanding candidates for President-elect: Matthew Bettelheim, who is currently President of the San Francisco Bay Chapter, and Don Yasuda, our very own Section Representative. For the Section we have a win-win situation because we have two tremendously talented and dedicated candidates to choose from. What more could one wish for than to know that no matter how the election pans out, we will remain in good leadership hands? Nevertheless, a choice must be made so please check out the Candidate's statements. I urge you to vote for the candidate of your choice and have a say in your Section. In fact, I urge all members to step up wherever you can and contribute to the success of your Section. Join the discussion on our Strategic Plan, help out a local student chapter, participate in the next workshop, offer the next workshop! There are so many ways to help us all move forward in our profession and ensure the future.

Our President-elect, Natasha Dvorak, together with the Annual Meeting Planning Committee, have crafted an exciting program for the annual meeting. I don't want to steal Natasha's thunder, but I think her choice of the plenary session theme, "Harnessing Citizen Science Toward Greater Conservation" is a timely and vital topic. There will be more workshops, symposia and student activities, during the week and pre- and post-conference activities, than ever before. We will also be celebrating our 60th anniversary at the Banquet. That is not a typo – 60 years of the existence of the Western Section! Please go to the Section's conference link for the latest details: [http://twswest.org/ac2014\\_conf.php](http://twswest.org/ac2014_conf.php). At the same time you will see that we have a new

and very attractive website, thanks to our webmaster, Eric Renger. I also want to remind everyone that the Western Section, as well as several chapters, offer travel grants to attend the Annual Meeting. I especially urge students to check with the Section and their local chapters to apply for these opportunities.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time serving the Western Section. The people of this organization are truly remarkable. There are so many dedicated individuals I want to thank for their help over the last year, but rather than name them individually and risk leaving someone out, I would like to offer my gratitude now "in toto" and later, in person. I also thank the membership of the Western Section for contributing to a fantastic year. I hope that my service over the past year has met with your approval and earned your acceptance. I look forward to seeing you in Reno in 2014! Thank you.



*Photo 2. Brian Latta holding a freshly trapped golden eagle suffering from an extreme skin mite condition. Note bare head and extensive feather loss. Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area, CA. Aug. 8, 2013*

## President-Elect Message

**Natasha Dvorak**



**G**reetings Wildlifers! Winter is upon us and 'tis the season for gatherings, first for the various holidays and then for our Annual Meeting at the end of January. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the conference. We received nearly 150 responses to our Call for Papers and abundant poster submissions! (In your face, budget crisis!) Thus, we have a great session line-up for you at the Wednesday through Friday concurrent sessions, and lots to see also during Wednesday night's poster session. Working group/technical group members will find the company of like-minded colleagues on Monday and Tuesday. Tuesday night will greet travelers with a Welcome Reception where you can mingle with old friends while drinking, eating tacos, and eyeing photographs. On Wednesday, Keynote Speaker Ken Mayer, formerly with the Nevada Department of Wildlife, will talk about science, politics, and wildlife leadership in the 21st century. On Thursday morning an excellent plenary panel of educators, scientists, and writers will weigh the challenges and benefits of public participation in scientific research (PPSR; I'd gone too long without an acronym, hadn't you?), and surely expand the way you think about scientific data collection and wildlife conservation. Thursday night we will celebrate 60 years of Western Section membership in the same great town where it all began six decades ago! All this, and so much more! Worried about winter travel? Check out [travel solutions](#) on the website. Need help convincing your boss to let you go? Check out these helpful [justification forms](#). Need travel assistance as a student or new career professional? Apply for a [travel grant](#). Any other questions? Ask me- your 2014 Meeting Chair- or any of the helpful members on our Annual Meeting Committee. Enjoy the holidays, and see you soon!

**From Black Nature:** *Four Centuries of African American Nature Poetry*, edited by Camille T. Dungy, Associate Professor in the Creative Writing Department at San Francisco State University. In her introduction, Camille asserts: "For years, poets and critics have called for a broader inclusiveness in conversations about eco-criticism and eco-poetics, one that acknowledges other voices and a wider range of cultural and ethnic concerns....To bring more voices into the conversation about human interactions with the natural world, we must change the parameters of the conversation." To that end, I submit one of my favorite poems from this collection (note: in the interest of space, the poetic structure is lightly preserved here).

### The Herd, by Tom Seibles

Some of the light, some of the first light arrived so softly it could have been dew drawn from the night air, and in the creamy-blue distance thunderheads flickered.

They were still sleeping then, scattered under trees or in groups in the open, their slate-colored flanks lightening.

Overnight three had been killed, but the wild dogs were gone now and the scavengers too, and the lake began to show down its muddy edges.

What was surprising was that they ever slept at all - with so many things alive in the dark, but they slept well, dreaming exactly what they dreamed they should dream, and when the strongest one rolled back the silence with a long throbbing yawn, the others answered, divvying up the air with staccato croaks, shrill bleats and near-growls- some with front legs still bent under them, some with eyes caught shining as if they had never before seen the world.

(Dvorak, cont'd from page 4)

No one knew how long they had been here or what to call them. Or how it was that they came to understand themselves, what to do, where to go. But they moved together like slow wind, as a wind moves from one place to another, dying off but rising again, the same wind moving.

And when the must broke into their blood they coupled fiercely, almost in panic, as if one by one they were beginning to drown- the heat sliding over each in turn like the shadow of a cloud.

Once it had cleared the treetops, the sun paved the veldt bright yellow, and the stilt-legged birds that had been chitter-whittling since early early, quieted; some stood in the shallows stabbing the lake for lazy, flat-headed fish.

The herd was eating too, nudging each other for room, nostrils flexing wet and open. You might have thought they'd been made for nothing but filling their mouths, so content did they seem, tugging at the stringy greens with their square teeth.

They were not stupid; though sometimes when weather changed unexpectedly, they would simply stampede barrel-eyed while the rain snapped against their backs. And if one among them bore some odd marking, when it reached a certain age, the others drove it away with head-butts and hard kicks.

I saw it happen once: a female with a bronze-colored face instead of the usual gray, limped a short ways behind the herd, her right foreleg fractured. Each time she tried to rejoin they attacked- mainly the bulls and the ranking cows- stomping, frothing, fussing up immense heaves of dust. The wounded animal seemed confused, not seeing, not being able to see what was wrong, unable to keep from following, just as the attackers couldn't stop themselves, couldn't understand what strangled inside their skulls to turn them against their own.

The dogs were made for this- their sharp, felt-furred ears barely visible, gliding above the high weeds by the lake, and when they took the open field their feet kissed the earth for allowing such speed and the taste of meat and they were upon her and the air turned over, so heavy with the smell of blood, it was nearly animal itself.

Hard to say what went on inside the herd with death blossoming right there, or if any had actually watched the kill, or if it made a difference either way. The dogs would always be there blind but for their teeth, and the herd would continue to find the sunrise next to the dark, returning from sleep to offer their young to the flat world.

And was it anything like sorrow that brought them back days later to scuff the ground where that one with the new face had fallen?

Or just some dumb itch of memory, some lizard's blink of deja-vu: the future circling to take them along.



## Past-President

**Linda Leeman**

**P**ast President is really the best position on the Western Section Executive Board. The responsibilities of organizing the Annual Meeting and running the day-to-day operations of the Section are handed off to the President-Elect and President, and so, I can direct my energy toward special projects and specific tasks.



One of these projects is developing a strategic plan for the Section. I identified the need for the Section to update our vision for the future while serving as President-Elect, but could not carve off enough time to start the effort until nearing the end of my Presidential year. With the capable assistance of our Program Director, Cynthia Perrine, last year we were able to survey the members (YOU!) on what matters most, what is working, and what is not. This year we were able to dig into the strategic plan and held a weekend retreat for the Executive Board with a facilitator to help guide us through the process. The strategic plan will set our goals and objectives for the next 5 years and help us focus our efforts. We are working on the draft of the plan now and will have it available for your review and comment at the Annual Meeting in Reno.

### THE TWS-WS STRATEGIC PLAN IDENTIFIES FIVE BROAD GOALS:

- Increase member involvement
- Develop and implement communication plans
- Enhance careers of wildlife professionals
- Be an active voice for science-based information
- Have funds to run programs

We want to incorporate your input into the plan before we finalize it. Please plan on attending the Annual Business Meeting and Member's Forum on Wednesday, January 29 in Reno to learn more about it or feel free to contact me at any time.

A standing responsibility of the Past-President is to seek qualified candidates for our next President-elect. I consider this task an honor, which requires thoughtful consideration of candidates that possess upstanding character, motivation and commitment to serve the membership, and leadership qualities to uphold the excellence of the Section.

I am very pleased to have found two excellent candidates for President-elect that have all these traits and more. You can read about Matthew Bettelheim and Don Yasuda in their candidate statements in this newsletter. I am very confident that whomever you elect, the Western Section will be in great hands for three more years. Please review their candidate statements and vote. This is your opportunity to contribute and help set course for the Section. Whichever candidate you vote for, please join me in thanking Matthew and Don for their willingness to serve the Section.



*TWS-WS Board Members attended a 3-day Strategic Planning Retreat in September, 2013 at the Camp Ocean Pines Retreat Center in Cambria, CA.*

## Treasurer's Report

*John McNerney*



**A**s of September 30, 2013, the Section's total monetary assets were \$277,621. This includes money held in two Charles Schwab investment accounts (Donaldson Trust and WS general investment), in addition to the Section checking and savings accounts.

The Section's finances remain strong. This year the Board was able to allocate additional funds to help support student research and travel, youth environmental education, subunit development, and sponsor TWS Annual Student Quiz Bowl. Below is a list of the grants and sponsorships that the Section has supported in 2013 to date:

- A student member research grant of \$1,000 for research on *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* prevalence and infection intensity on Jamaica's frogs in relation to canopy cover on small scale landscapes in coffee farms.
- Five \$300 student member travel grants to attend various Section and national events.
- A \$500 matching donation (with the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter) in support of the California Wildlife Foundation's Nature Bowl Program.
- A \$450 grant to the UCSB Student Chapter to assist in fundraising and member recruitment activities.
- A \$750 matching donation (with the Texas Chapter) toward the purchase of a new TWS Quiz Bowl buzzer system.
- Donation of artwork worth approx. \$650 for TWS Quiz Bowl prizes.

There are still funds available to support student travel to the 2014 Annual Meeting in Reno. Student members are encouraged to apply for up to \$300 of travel support. Funds are diminishing so apply soon! Hope to see you in Reno!

## Donate to the Western Section Endowment Fund!

The Donaldson Endowment Fund was established 2007 with a \$38,000 bequest from the estate of Section member Douglas Donaldson.

Interest generated from the fund is 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.

Please consider adding to the Endowment Fund by making a donation or becoming a Lifetime Member of the Section. Donations to the fund are tax-deductible. A lifetime membership is only \$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 Report

**Janine Payne Schneir**

I am certain we say this every year, but this has truly been a busy and productive year for the Western Section! The Executive Board came together for three, in-person meetings this year, including a multi-day strategic planning retreat. We voted on a staggering 40 issues, 24 as interim business via email. Since our retreat in September, we have been working diligently in our respective sub-committees via conference call to complete a draft of the Strategic Plan. Between conference planning and strategic planning, we have all logged a quite a few phone hours in recent months! I'm pretty sure I am now one of Verizon's favorite customers.



As my tenure as Secretary winds down, I have been somewhat reflective and amazed at how much our board has grown in both size and scope since I took office almost four years ago. During the last few years we have added several student chapters and each year our meetings are larger and more robust. Even more exciting is the fact that we are now exploring such creative new ways to serve our membership, the profession, and the scientific community at large.

Since I began in 2010, I have been working hard to create a place for all board members to collaborate and share information online using Google drive. Surprisingly (or not so surprisingly), sharing information without the benefit of a computer network can be quite the challenge. I believe we have made great strides in this area and will continue to improve communication as a key part of our new Strategic Plan. What I will miss most about serving as your Secretary is fielding the random requests for information that come my way. I have truly enjoyed corresponding with so many members regarding such a wide variety of topics. I'm happy to report, however, that I will continue to have the opportunity to assist you as the Onsite Registrar at our upcoming Annual Meeting. See you in Reno!

## Outgoing Section Representative and Membership Services

**Don Yasuda**



This is my final report as your Section Representative as I excitedly transitioned with your new Section Representative, Cynthia Perrine, at the TWS Annual Conference in Milwaukee. The Western Section has such a large and diverse membership, a diversity of wildlife issues, a different approach to operations, and a strong relationship between the Section and Chapters, that we carry an important voice to the TWS Council, and Cynthia has already hit the ground running. Here, I report on Council activities in the pre-Conference Council meeting and Cynthia reports separately on the Strategic Planning session and the mid-Conference Council meeting and other TWS news.

As reported previously, TWS is still very seriously addressing the current financial challenges so a large portion of the Council meeting was devoted to continuing to assess current operations and to develop strategies to improve our short-term and long-term financial condition. This was clear in the reports by outgoing President Wini Kessler, incoming President Jon Hauffler and our still relatively new Executive Director Ken Williams. To be clear, TWS is still okay financially but we've had to dip into reserves and Council is deeply concerned and committed to re-building reserves, changing processes



(Yasuda, cont'd from page 8)

to avoid repeating this situation in the future, and ensuring we continue to provide important services to our members.

All programs of TWS have been affected by tightening budgets, but Government Affairs has been especially affected. There is strong support to moving towards a Conservation Affairs Network that strengthens the role of subunits. This aligns well with the Section's re-building of our Conservation Affairs Committee and the Western Section has been very active in shaping the Conservation Affairs Network. Our Committee needs active member support to be successful so please sign up if you haven't already.

Membership has been an emphasis area for me and I'm proud to have been a part of Council's decision to form a new Diversity Subcommittee. This subcommittee will help TWS ensure it remains relevant by reflecting the human diversity of our profession and of society as well as helping guide our services to be inclusive and available to all.

As I wrap up my Council duties, I have two residual tasks. I will finish up working on an ad hoc committee evaluating the TWS ethics policies and procedures. Regarding membership, I will continue to be assisting TWS in piloting a new program to increase awareness of TWS products and services and encourage subunit members to join up at the national level. Similarly, we will be outreaching to TWS members to join down to the Section and Chapter levels. The hope is that we can increase and stabilize our base TWS membership while also strengthening local involvement at the Section and Chapter levels. This increase in base membership is part of the strategy to improve the financial stability of TWS.

It has been an honor and pleasure to represent all members in the Western Section over the last six years. I want to thank you all for allowing me to serve on your behalf.

## **Membership Report**

It is that time of year again for most of you – time to renew your TWS memberships. I state that as a plural – memberships – because many of you already support TWS at multiple levels – the national level, the Section level, and your Chapter level. Some of you however, may not be aware of these other levels and opportunities. At the national, or actually international, level you receive the award winning member magazine, The Wildlife Professional and can subscribe to our peer-reviewed journals, Journal of Wildlife Management and Wildlife Society Bulletin. In addition, you can join Working Groups, get a 25% discount on books at Wiley and at John Hopkins University Press, and you get access to the Mentorship program and many other benefits listed at: <http://www.wildlife.org/membership/join>. More importantly, by joining TWS at the national level, your voice is leveraged with the other 10,000+ members when TWS speaks on your behalf and on behalf of our profession and for wildlife resources and wildlife management. Similarly, the Chapter level is your local connection to peers living and working near you. Most chapters provide similar member benefits to the Section such as a local newsletter of events and news of members, professional development related to local issues and at local venues, and social events to support peer networking and to just provide a fun event. To make it easy for you - you can join or renew your membership to any level of TWS on either the Western Section membership web page or at TWS' membership page.

As always, the Western Section thanks our current members for their continued support. Some of you who will receive or read this newsletter are past members but have not paid current dues and we welcome you to come back and renew your membership to support our activities. It takes the financial support of your dues to allow us to continue to provide the Annual Conference, this newsletter, awards, grants and scholarships, professional development, and more. You can increase your member benefits and give back to TWS by your active participation through volunteering on Committees or volunteering with events as well as your attendance at the Conference and other professional development events. If you have any questions about your membership account or about membership in general, please contact me at [dyasudaTWS@comcast.net](mailto:dyasudaTWS@comcast.net).

## Section Representative to Council and Program Director

**Cynthia Perrine**

**G**et active! Get involved! Get a better Wildlife Society! As your recently installed Section Representative, I am proud to represent the best Section on Council. I really mean this! Western Section has long been on the leading edge of the Society's core programs. This really hit home recently as I worked with fellow Section members Don Yasuda and Marshall White to sort through historical documents kept by Jim Yoakum. The collection took us all the way back to the beginning of our Section, and it's clear that we really have been on the cutting edge of defining the standards for professional wildlife biologists. I'll do my part to make the three years of my term prove to be both productive and inspiring for members of The Wildlife Society.



In October, I participated in a two-day strategic planning exercise to guide the next 3-5 years of Society initiatives. The strategic plan will help our new Executive Director focus resources and direct staff to maintain, expand, and improve our most critical services. With ideas ranging from improving certification activities to effectively shaping policy initiatives - one common and repeated theme of discussion was a desire to better engage the talents and expertise of TWS members and also empower and connect the units that make TWS strong - the chapters, sections, and working groups. This process immediately preceded the 20th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society, and also my first Council meeting as a Section Representative. I attended that first Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico and both our profession and TWS have seen many changes in this time. There were far fewer female participants at that 1st meeting and 1 female plenary speaker while this conference had nearly 50-50 representation and we had a full symposium on Women of Wildlife to look more closely at opportunities for women - both past and present to get an idea of what we can do to ensure better support in the future.

A hot topic during the strategic planning retreat and at the annual conference was money. You may have heard about financial difficulties at the Society level. The situation is reminiscent of what happened in our Section in the past decade with overspending beyond our savings and reserves. Council is committed to preventing this situation from being repeated; we have already drafted bylaws changes for membership approval and revised the financial policies to provide more detailed and more frequent oversight. We voted on a plan to re-build the financial stability of TWS, and also better engage the membership in our activities. Please contact me if you are interested in being more involved at any level.

During the first meeting, I was appointed to two standing committees of Council. Diversity and COWCH. Diversity is a new TWS committee and our charge has 6 parts. Celebrating our Wildlife Conservation Heritage (COWCH) was initiated years ago and our charge is to identify wildlife professionals and others who have contributed to the conservation and management of wildlife, and document their perspective via a taped interview. The COWCH tapes are housed and managed by the TWS Historian at our Bethesda office. My contributions to these committees will depend in part on the ideas and needs of Western Section members, so contact me with your thoughts, ideas, and concerns and I'll pass them along to The Wildlife Society.

(Perrine cont'd from page 10)

## Program Director Update

Here is a summary of the tasks I've completed this quarter:

- Coordinated the first Western Section Field Camp (article on page 28)
- Coordinated a strategic planning process with Delia Horwitz of Collaboration Soup (see Past-President's message on page 6)
- Assisted with annual meeting program planning, including coordinating the keynote address and revising the meeting schedule in response to survey input (see Annual Meeting details, pages 15-20)
- Prepared and delivered two presentations on Western Section programs at the Milwaukee meeting of The Wildlife Society -- Get Outside Watch, Inquire, Learn, Do (GO WILD) and Western Section Professional Development.

President Doug Bell and I are working on revising and extending my Program Director contract to continue working on tasks into 2014.



*Swainson's Hawk nest. Davis, CA. Photo by Josh Bush.*

## Conservation Affairs Committee

**Erin Aquino-Carhart**



In response to proposed defunding of the State and Tribal Wildlife Grant Program, North American Wetland Conservation Fund, Neotropical Migratory Bird Fund, Forest Legacy Program and Land, and Water Conservation Fund, the Western Section joined TWS National and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in a letter to Congress to support these critical programs. The FY 2014 Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill has yet to be passed, and we still have the opportunity to gain policymaker support.

The Conservation Affairs Committee (CAC) is currently involved in two efforts to better serve our members and be an active voice for conservation issues in the Western Section (WS), the Conservation Affairs Network (CAN) and the WS Strategic Plan. The CAN is being developed by TWS Government Affairs Program, Section CACs, and Chapter CACs to improve communication and coordination between each other and provide support and guidance to CACs. For the WS Strategic Plan, we are developing a strategy to improve how we do business, communication between members and CAC, and promote the CAC.

If you're interested in joining CAC or would like to take action on a plan or issue, please contact me at [erinaquino@gmail.com](mailto:erinaquino@gmail.com).



## Student Affairs Committee

**Mandi McElroy**

I was introduced to The Wildlife Society as an undergraduate wildlife student at the University of Georgia. Our student chapter was an integral part of my education and social life, and offered an invaluable introduction to the profession. Classroom lectures and field labs provided the necessary foundation, but the student chapter really showed me what to expect from a career as a wildlife biologist. Bi-weekly lectures from a wide variety of wildlife professionals gave a glimpse of the 'real world', and allowed me to engage in a discourse with faculty and professional biologists from the comfort of my turf - the classroom or lecture hall. I forged deep, everlasting bonds with my classmates who are now professional colleagues, and years later we reminisce about Conclaves and Quiz Bowls and Wildlife Suppers.



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With great enthusiasm, I'm happy to announce the development of two new student chapters in the Bay Area. Students and faculty advisors at San Francisco State University and UC Berkeley have gathered around the common interest of creating student chapters of The Wildlife Society. The SF Bay Area Chapter is actively engaged with these fledgling chapters, and we are so excited to share with them the benefits and rewards of being TWS members.

For starters, we're encouraging students to participate in our Chapter field trips and the Western Section annual conference, in an effort to foster interactions between students and working professionals. We also hope to provide the students with local volunteer opportunities to develop field skills, lab skills, or other interests. Reflecting on my own experience as a student, I'm thrilled that entirely new student chapters will be introduced to the sense of belonging and professional pride that comes from being an active member of The Wildlife Society.

If you're in the Bay Area and you're interested in doing a lecture at SF State or UC Berkeley, or if you could use student volunteers on your project, please contact me at [mandi.mcelroy@gmail.com](mailto:mandi.mcelroy@gmail.com).

## Professional Development Committee

**Rhys Evans**



**B**efore I get into stuff that has already happened and other stuff that's happening soon, I have a question: At the conclusion of the ESA Section 7 Workshop in Sacramento (January 2013), I asked participants about their interest in a follow-up workshop, ESA Section 10, which was then under consideration for Reno 2014. Because there are several OTHER cool things scheduled for Reno (see below AND our website), we decided to shift this back a year, for 2015 in Santa Rosa. I'd like to gauge interest from our membership. For those who aren't fully up to speed on the Federal ESA, Section 10 is Recovery Permits, Research Permits and the big one: Habitat Conservation Plans. Safe Harbor Agreements, Candidate Conservation Agreements, the 'No Surprises Rule' and Critical Habitat would most likely also be covered (though that cool stuff is not all found in Section 10...). If this workshop (probably 1.5 or 2 days before the Santa Rosa meeting) would appeal to you (you might need to see a shrink!), drop me a line (no obligation to attend) at [sirsnav@verizon.net](mailto:sirsnav@verizon.net).

A cooperative effort back in August with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (mostly them) on Field Techniques in Wildlife Studies was successful, with 14 participants (see related article).

The Natural Resources Communication Workshop, sponsored by the Western Section of The Wildlife Society and the Department of Recreation, Hospitality, and Parks Management at California State University-Chico, will be held from January 6-10, 2014 in Chico, CA.

Late January (and into early February), in association with the 2014 annual meeting (at which we will celebrate the Western Section's 60th anniversary!), a LOT of stuff is happening. The Golden Eagle CA/NV Work Group meets on Monday. A full-day Symposium, Greater Sage-grouse: Policy, Biology, and Threats to Persistence is scheduled for the following day (Tuesday, Jan 28). Observer Reliability and Identification of Wildlife Tracks and Signs Half-Day Workshop is on Friday afternoon and something related, but different (and no one should plan to attend both!) is scheduled for a full day on Saturday: One Day Track and Sign Certification Event. As you might gather from the title, the full-day workshop will be more in-depth, and it will include a difficult test, but you'd actually be awarded a Level 1 Track and Sign Certificate.

Is that enough? NO!!! Saturday will also include a Wildlife Disease Investigation Practical Workshop (what we've previously called a Necropsy Workshop). Wilderness First Aid will be repeated on Saturday-Sunday. And I'm not stopping yet! All students should consider joining the student affairs committee of TWS Western Section for a weekend of networking after the Annual Meeting with fellow wildlifers at Sagehen Creek Field Station. Details on ALL this stuff are available on our website.

Questions on any of this stuff? Contact your Professional Development Committee. Ideas for other events? Ditto.

## WANTED!

### JUDGES FOR STUDENT PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS

It doesn't take much of your time, we'll try to match you with topics you're interested in, and it's fun!

Well-rounded communication skills are critical for wildlife biologists in report writing, preparing manuscripts for peer-reviewed journals, or for oral presentation. The TWS-WS student award competition provides an opportunity for seasoned wildlifers to judge, encourage, and offer constructive criticism to future members of our profession. If you are interested in judging the student presentations and posters at the 2014 Annual Meeting, please contact Janae Scruggs at [jscruggs@tidepool.com](mailto:jscruggs@tidepool.com).

## Awards and Grants Committee

*Richard Burg*



# CALLING FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS!

The Western Section recognizes outstanding individuals and organizations that have gone above and beyond to make contributions toward the Western Section's goals. If you know of a deserving nominee for any of the below awards please contact the Award and Grants Committee Chair [richard.burg@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:richard.burg@wildlife.ca.gov) ASAP.

- 1) **Raymond F. Dasmann Award for the Professional of the Year** The "Dasmann Award" is presented by the Western Section to Professionals who have made an outstanding contribution to wildlife resources management and understanding in California, Nevada, Hawaii or Guam.
- 2) **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.
- 3) **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.

## Did you know?

### TWS-WS Grant Money is Available to Members

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, conferences, symposia and other continuing education activities.

Additionally, each year The Wildlife Society-Western Section makes funds available to students to encourage their participation. These funds can be used for partial reimbursement of transportation, lodging, registration and meal expenses. Travel grants of up to \$300 will be awarded to a limited number of students.

For more information visit our website at:

<http://www.tws-west.org/grants.php>





# ANNUAL MEETING

January 27 to January 31, 2014  
Grand Sierra Resort  
Reno, Nevada

ONLINE REGISTRATION IS OPEN:

[https://www.wildlifeprofessional.org/western/ac2014\\_reg.php](https://www.wildlifeprofessional.org/western/ac2014_reg.php)

## PLENARY SESSION THEME

### HARNESSING CITIZEN SCIENCE TOWARD GREATER CONSERVATION

What do the Section's 3,000+ wildlife species and 1,000 wildlife professionals have in common with the year 2014? Roughly 42,000,000 million people. Combine that with urban sprawl, 472,000 lane-miles of roadways, a ~0.75 percent population growth rate, climate change, and sea level rise, and our wildlife conservation goals seems more tenuous than ever. With only 1 wildlife professional for every 15,000 people or so, it seems a winning strategy to not only enhance relationships with like-minded citizens but engage them in data collection and applied research as we face serious issues relating to population growth, urban expansion, climate change, and other wildlife challenges. Points to be considered include increasing public participation in scientific research, creating effective study designs, establishing trust and data reliability, and using technology tools. The plenary session will present the views and experiences of representatives from academia, public agencies, non-profits and the private sector. The Plenary Session will be held Thursday morning.

Confirmed speakers, as of mid-December:

- Allen Fish, Director of the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory
- Mary Ellen Hannibal, Award Winning Science Writer
- Gretchen LeBuhn, Professor of Biology at San Francisco State University/Director, Director of the Great Sunflower Project
- David Moskowitz, Cybertracker Conservation International
- Tina Phillips, Cornell Lab of Ornithology
- Emilyn Sheffield, Professor of Recreation and Parks Management at California State University, Chico
- Fraser Shilling, Co-Director of the UC Davis Road Ecology Center

# ANNUAL MEETING 2014 -- SCHEDULE

## Monday, January 27

- 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Golden Eagle CA/NV Work Group \*  
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Registration Packet Production

## Tuesday, January 28

- 8:00 a.m. to Noon Golden Eagle CA/NV Research Group  
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Greater Sage Grouse Symposium \*  
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Western Section Executive Board Meeting (all members welcome)  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Southern Sierra Nevada Fisher Working Group Meeting  
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall Setup  
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Fisher Conservation Strategy Technical Team  
5:00 p.m. Official Conference Opening Registration and Exhibit Hall Open  
5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Conference Registration and Exhibit Hall  
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. **new!** Welcome Reception, Wildlife Photo Gallery, Taco Buffet and No-Host Bar \*

## Wednesday, January 29

- 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Conference Registration and Exhibit Hall  
7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. **new!** Breakfast Roundtables \*  
8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. California Fisher Working Group  
10:00 a.m. to Noon **new!** Keynote Address & Dialogue: Ken Mayer  
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. TWS-WS Retirees Meeting (Executive Boardroom)  
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions:  
  - Energy Expansion and Conservation in Nevada and California Deserts
  - Ecology and Conservation of Mustelids
  - Ecology and Conservation of Raptors
  - Island Biogeography and Mainland Applications
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Poster Setup  
5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Annual Business Meeting and Member's Forum  
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Poster Session w/ hosted cocktails and snacks  
8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Chapter Meetings

## Thursday, January 30

- 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Conference Registration and Exhibit Hall  
8:00 a.m. to Noon Plenary Session: "Harnessing Citizen Science Toward Greater Conservation"  
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions:  
  - Applications of Citizen Science
  - Ecology and Conservation of Mammals
  - Ecology and Conservation of Birds
  - Web & GIS Technologies for Wildlife Science and Conservation
  - Anticipating and Responding to Urban Growth & Climate Change
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Resume Workshop for Undergrads  
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. HSU Reunion  
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. No-Host Cocktail Reception  
7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Annual Awards Banquet, Raffle, & 60th Anniversary Celebration \*

## Friday, January 31

- 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Conference Registration and Exhibit Hall  
8:00 a.m. to Noon Concurrent Sessions:  
  - Wildlife Diseases and Pathology
  - Game Management
  - Human Dimensions in Wildlife
  - Ecology and Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles
  - Wildlife Technologies (non-GIS)
8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Resume Workshop for MS/Ph D  
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Advocacy Workshop with Terra Rentz  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Career Fair  
Noon to 1:00 p.m. Student-Professional Lunch  
12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Observer Reliability and Identification of Wildlife Tracks & Signs Workshop \*  
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Conservation Affairs Committee Meeting  
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Resume Critiques  
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Wildlife Apps Workshop  
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Conference Planning Committee Wrap-Up Meeting  
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Job Interview Panel  
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Student Sagehen Weekend, Sagehen Field Station, Truckee \*

## Saturday and Sunday February 1-2, 2014

- Ski Mt. Rose \*
- Wildlife Disease Investigation Practical Workshop \* (offsite) 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday
- One Day Track and Sign Certification Workshop \* (offsite) 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday
- Wilderness First Aid \* (Sagehen Station, Truckee, Saturday and Sunday 8am - 5pm)
- Student Sagehen Weekend continues \* (Sagehen Station, Truckee, Saturday and Sunday)

*Please note: The Conference format is changing slightly for 2014 in response to comments and suggestions provided by members.*

*This year there will be more networking opportunities, no meetings competing with concurrent session talks, and the poster session reception is included in the meeting registration price.*

*\* Requires separate registration fee*

# ANNUAL MEETING 2014 -- THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

## \$2,500 BIGHORN Gold Sponsors



## \$1,000 SEA TURTLE Bronze Sponsors



FLETCHER CONSERVATION LANDS

**ONLINE REGISTRATION IS OPEN:**

[https://www.wildlifeprofessional.org/western/ac2014\\_reg.php](https://www.wildlifeprofessional.org/western/ac2014_reg.php)



# ANNUAL MEETING 2014 -- NEW EVENTS

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS



### **Leadership in Wildlife Management in the 21st Century: Know when to Hold Em' and Know when to Fold Em**

Ken Mayer is a longtime member of The Wildlife Society, active former board member of the Western Section, and a Certified Wildlife Biologist. During his long career with California Department of Fish and Game (now Fish and Wildlife), where he served in a number of supervisory and executive positions, he addressed a plethora of wildlife management and conservation issues. As Director of Nevada Department of Wildlife from 2007-2013 and member of the Governor's Cabinet, he was an advocate for science-based wildlife stewardship -- navigating many challenges that included advocacy-based policy implications for wildlife conservation and population management. Ken

received his B.A. and M.S. in Natural Resource Management from Humboldt State University.

## **Tuesday Night Welcome Reception, Wildlife Photo Gallery, and Taco Bar**

By popular demand, we are adding more opportunities for networking and socializing amongst wildlifers! Join us on Tuesday evening to kick-off the Annual Meeting and make connections with new & old friends and colleagues. We will serve up our famous taco bar, and several well-stocked no-host bars will also be available. Tuesday evening will also launch our first-ever wildlife photo exhibit. Check out what fellow Western Section members have been up to lately and celebrate the opening night of our 60th Anniversary Annual Meeting. Relax, you have arrived in Reno! We have a great week ahead of us.

**We need your photos! Win an iPad!** A slideshow will be displayed at the Welcome Reception at our upcoming annual conference. The content is up to you! Send in your photos of wildlife, coworkers, TWS workshops, study animals, unexpected situations, beautiful locations, etc. Help us celebrate wildlife and the wildlife profession! Please send photos in jpg format to [evelarrucea@gmail.com](mailto:evelarrucea@gmail.com). Each person that submits a photo(s) for the Tuesday night wildlife gallery will be entered in a drawing for a brand-new iPad! The drawing will be held on Tuesday evening at the Welcome Reception. Need not be present to win.

## **Breakfast Roundtables**

The objective of the Roundtables is to provide more opportunities for conference attendees to exchange ideas and cultivate productive professional relationships.

**The two concurrent Breakfast Roundtable themes are:**

- TWS 60th Anniversary
- Human/Wildlife interactions

To encourage conversation, the (round) tables will seat 6-8 people and the rooms will not be too loud. We will set each table with background information, introduce the topics, provide simple guidelines, and end the event with a summary of ideas from each table.

# ANNUAL MEETING 2014 -- TRAVEL

## TRANSPORTATION TO RENO

**“Let the pros do the driving so you can finish reading that new issue of The Wildlife Professional on the way to the conference!”**

**We encourage meeting attendees to travel to Reno on the historic and highly scenic AMTRAK SNOW TRAIN. Avoid the hassle of driving in inclement weather and instead enjoy spectacular views of snowy peaks and relax or work as you travel.**

Plan to arrive on the Tuesday train which gets you to Reno in plenty of time for the Tuesday night Welcome Reception.

- Amtrak [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com) You have the option of the CA Zephyr Train (Emeryville to Reno, 6.75 hours. Sacramento to Reno, 5.25 hours) or the Amtrak Bus (which shaves off an hour or so of travel time and with a slightly lower fee.) Grand Sierra Hotel will provide free transportation to/from Amtrak Reno – reservations required. Email [candace.renger@gmail.com](mailto:candace.renger@gmail.com) to make your ground transportation reservation. Reservations must be made before January 23, 2014.
- Megabus <http://us.megabus.com> Megabus is a brand new, super clean, luxury bus system with free wifi and at-seat plugins. Leave from either the San Francisco Cal Train or Sacramento (L & 13th) Stations. From SF it takes a little over 4 hours. From Sacramento, the ride is 2.5 hours. Cost is around \$40 round trip. The bus drops off at the Silver Legacy Casino which is a 30 minute walk to the Grand Sierra, or a 10 minute bus ride on the city bus.
- Reno Airport <http://www.renoairport.com/flight-info> Nonstop flights to Reno depart from San Diego, Los Angeles, San Jose and San Francisco on Southwest, United, US Airways, American, Delta and Alaska Airlines. The Grand Sierra Hotel runs a complimentary airport shuttle service every ½ hour beginning at 5:30am with the last shuttle departing at 11pm. No reservation required. Pickup just outside of baggage claim.
- Washoe Regional Transportation Commission <http://rtcwashoe.com/> Convenient transportation within the Reno Area. Use the Google Maps link on the RTC website for convenient scheduling.



**Please arrive early as there are no registration refunds available due to inclement weather delays.**



## VENUE INFORMATION AND HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

The 2014 Annual Conference will be held at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada. The Grand Sierra is conveniently located 1.5 miles from the Reno International Airport.

**Please stay at the Grand Sierra Resort and use our room block so we can meet our contractual obligations with the hotel.**

Grand Sierra Resort 2500 E. 2nd Street. Reno, NV 89595

Phone: 775-789-2129 / 800-648-5080

**CLICK BELOW TO REGISTER AT OUR GROUP RATE:**

[https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome\\_ei\\_new&eventID=9739071](https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=9739071)

Special per-night room rates for conference attendees who book by Tuesday, January 14, 2014.

Please indicate that you are a member of The Wildlife Society – Western Section. Reserve your sleeping room online through the Passkey link above and receive a \$10 Grand Sierra food credit coupon.

Room	Single	Double	Triple	
Grand Sierra Standard Room	\$70	\$90	\$110	
Luxury Summit Grand Room	\$84	\$104	\$124	+13% Tax

The larger Luxury Summit Grand Rooms have a butler's pantry with microwave and mini refrigerator.

All Luxury Summit Grand Rooms are on the upper floors and have a separate elevator.

### Any questions about the 2014 Annual Meeting?

Meeting Planner Candace Renger - [candace.renger@gmail.com](mailto:candace.renger@gmail.com) or (510) 684-8590

## ONLINE REGISTRATION IS OPEN:

[https://www.wildlifeprofessional.org/western/ac2014\\_reg.php](https://www.wildlifeprofessional.org/western/ac2014_reg.php)



## Central Coast Chapter

**Wendy Knight**

**The Central Coast Chapter has elected Chapter Board Members:**

- Immediate Past President - Brooke Langle
- President - Wayne Vogler
- Vice President - Jon Claxton
- Secretary - Susan Christopher
- Treasurer - David Hacker
- Chapter Representative - Wendy Knight



### **Summer 2013 Chapter Activities**

- Chapter Board Meeting, September 23, 2013
- San Joaquin Kit Fox Workshop, Carrizo Plain, July 15-18, 2013.
- Happy hour for Cal Poly students and wildlife professionals changed to first Wednesday of each month at Spikes.
- Check us out on Facebook – the California Central Coast Chapter of The Wildlife Society!

### **Upcoming Events**

- Chapter Board Meeting: December 10, 2013
- Chapter Symposium planned for February 28, 2014. Meant to have a focus on local Chapter area and species occurring in Monterey, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara Counties.



*2013 San Joaquin Kit Fox Ecology, Conservation, and Survey Techniques Workshop.  
Carrizo Plains/Chimineas Ranch, San Luis Obispo County, California.*

## Sacramento-Shasta Chapter Report

**Laura Patterson**

**T**he Chapter continues to put on social and professional events. Since last newsletter, we hosted a sold out Burrowing Owl Workshop in August, two “back to school” student-professional social mixers in September (Chico and Sacramento), and the Natural Resources Symposium in November at Sacramento State. Our next event will be a holiday social mixer with AEP and APA on December 12th at Gallery 21Ten.



We've again contributed to the Nature Bowl, and we thank the Western Section for matching our contribution to this very important [event](#). We strongly encourage members to get involved with coaching or judging.

We still have academic scholarships and travel grants available for deserving members (FYI - UC Davis Student Chapter members are automatically granted Sacramento-Shasta Chapter membership). The next deadline for academic scholarships is June 1st. More info [here](#).

For more information on not only Chapter activities, but job announcements, events of interest, and training opportunities, check out our newsletter, the Magpie, on our website, as well as the other links for more current events. \*\*\*NOTE NEW ADDRESS\*\*\* <http://www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta/index.php> And if you haven't already, you really should 'Like' us on Facebook!

Happy Holidays, and we hope to see you at the Annual Meeting in Reno!

## Humboldt State University Student Chapter

**Andrew Wiegardt**



The HSU Student Chapter held weekly student talks during the fall semester and they look forward to weekly guest speakers during the spring semester. The board meets two times per month on a year-round basis.

The Chapter held four workshops during the fall semester: a tracking workshop near Prairie Creek, a raptor workshop at Bear River Ridge, a native plant restoration at the Arcata Marsh and a Wildlife Sanctuary Resume workshop.

In the fall, the Chapter also participated in the Annual Wildlife Society National Conclave in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and were awarded 2nd Place in the Quiz Bowl. Congratulations!

In the spring semester the Chapter will hold 3 events: a Bio-blitz! Weekend all taxa species count, a bird banding workshop, and a telemetry workshop.

## San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

*Jessica Martini-Lamb*



**T**he San Francisco Bay Area Chapter has had a very busy year! Here's a summary of what's been happening and what we're looking forward to:

We have a logo! Designed by Bay Area wildlife artist Lisa Sindorf, in collaboration with Chapter members, the logo features the iconic San Francisco garter snake, salt marsh harvest mouse, peregrine falcon, and Golden Gate Bridge. This is the first logo designed specifically for our Chapter and we're pretty excited about it. The Chapter has stickers featuring the new logo; stayed tuned for t-shirts and other gear for purchase.

**Student Chapters:** Following attendance at last year's Western Section annual conference, San Francisco State University student Erika Walther was inspired to organize a student chapter. She kept the momentum going over many months and found faculty advisers and students interested in establishing a student chapter at SFSU. Several San Francisco Bay Area Chapter board members attended an informational meeting for students in September. Since then the student chapter has begun organizing charter members and officers. The San Francisco Bay Area Chapter will provide financial assistance for charter memberships with National. Across the Bay, there is interest in establishing a student chapter at UC Berkeley. A student there has begun assembling a faculty advisor and student board. This effort has just begun, but we're excited about the prospect of two student chapters in the San Francisco Bay Area!

**Newsletter:** The winter Wandering Tattler was published in October and included an informative article by Chapter President, Matthew Bettelheim, on the dollars and cents that go into workshop registration fees, as well as a summary of the Chapter's member survey. You can find the newsletter on our [website](#).

**Events:** The Chapter held a number of field trips in the summer and fall, including a behind-the-scenes tour of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at UC Berkeley, tide pooling at Duxbury Reef, hiking at Point Reyes National Seashore to see tule elk, and a trip to the Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge to dig for the elusive silvery legless lizards and to get a glimpse of the endangered Lange's metalmark butterfly.

A Canid Tracking Identification (aka What's Not a Kit Fox!) Workshop was held on October 26-27 at the University of California's Blue Oak Reserve east of San Jose. The workshop was taught by Jim Lowery, author of The Tracker's Field Guide, and focused on identification of tracks and signs of canids commonly encountered in the San Joaquin Kit Fox's northern range.



The San Francisco Bay Area Chapter had a table with Tree Frog Treks at the Bay Area Science Festival's Discovery Day at AT&T Park. Over 30,000 attendees were expected and it certainly seemed like they all showed up! The chance to speak with real-life wildlife biologists and naturalists, along with the western pond turtle, snakes, and insects (all permitted of course!) on display and the over 200 stickers given out, drew a lot of attention to our table. It was a great opportunity to outreach to the community and let them know about The Wildlife Society.

The next Chapter field trip will be on Sunday, November 27 to the Isenberg Crane Reserve in Lodi to observe the evening fly-in of sandhill cranes, swans, cackling geese, and other waterfowl. Chapter member Ivan Parr organized the evening of birding and photography for fellow members.

Our next Chapter meeting will be held at the Western Section's annual conference in Reno on Wednesday, January 29th. Check the conference program for exact time and location. We look forward to seeing you there!

Don't forget to check out our [Facebook page](#)!



## UC Santa Barbara

### *Joseluis Ocaranza*

**T**he mission of The Wildlife Society at UCSB is to promote wildlife-based stewardship among students by educating about past and present wildlife and environmental issues, participating on projects in the field, exploring local natural habitats, and inspiring individuals to enhance their ecological responsibility. The Chapter's current topic of focus is the California Condor Recovery Program.

The UCSB Student Chapter continues to offer excellent activities to their 30+ members.

### **UCSB Student Chapter Fall Events:**

- Habitat restoration at Goleta Valley Beautiful where they propagated native species of plants and removed invasive ones
- Green Fire film screening about the conservationist Aldo Leopold and his contributions to wildlife and environmental protection
- California Condor Presentation
- Allyson Gaarder, and Joseluis Ocaranza teamed up to do a presentation on the California Condor, its recovery program, and ways we can contribute to increase their numbers
- Gaviota Point Hiking Trip
- Fire Ecology Presentation - Graduate Student Stephanie Ma from the UCSB EEMB department presented issues dealing with, and her current research on fire ecology
- Hallo-Clean - Isla Vista; where the majority of UCSB students live turns into a crazy place on during Halloween, TWS-UCSB chapter aided in the cleanup of Isla Vista for the Halloween aftermath
- California condor presentation by TWS officers-Educated club members about threats to the California condor population, such as lead poisoning and micro-trash ingestion
- Pine Mountain Hike lead by Chaparral specialist John Halsey
- California Condor Micro trash Pick up in Los Padres National Forest
- Habitat Restoration at Camino Corto Open Space at UCSB
- Tour of the Santa Barbara Natural Museum

### **Future activities under consideration include:**

- Channel Islands camping trip
- Coal Oil Point Reserve beach cleanup
- Professionals/grad student Q & A session
- Fieldtrip to Santa Barbara Zoo
- Whale watching trip
- FrogWatch USA



## President-elect Candidate Statements

### Don Yasuda

Hello Western Section members. I'm Don Yasuda and I'm honored to be a candidate for President-elect of the TWS Western Section.

I have just completed my second term as your Section Representative to TWS Council and I feel like this is an ideal time for me to continue my service to TWS and to you. It has been an incredible experience serving on TWS Council and shaping the organization to serve our profession and our members. I have also been proud to have served the Western Section Executive Board over these last six years and hope to continue.

In my years serving as the membership coordinator and working on membership issues for Council, I strongly believe that the strength of TWS lies with its members. You all do, or if you are a student or early career professional, you aspire to do incredible work to further the knowledge, conservation, and management of wildlife and wildlife resources. The Wildlife Society is here to support you and facilitate your success by giving you conferences and professional development, networking opportunities with your peers, updates on wildlife-related news and opportunities, and a voice on important issues. The Western Section should be proud of our programs in these areas, making these services available to you locally, and I am committed to continuing our excellence. If elected, I will work to develop and implement actions that will come from the current strategic planning efforts of the Board.

I have been actively involved with the Western Section since 1999, and since 2000 I have been chair of the membership committee and I currently manage the Section's membership database. As many of you know I have also been coordinating the audio-visual set-up for the Section conference for over a decade. Contributing to a well-run and successful conference is important to me as I have seen the benefits that our members receive.

I am currently the Regional Analyst for the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region. The major projects I'm involved with are serving as the wildlife biologist on the planning team working on Forest Plan revision for the Inyo, Sierra, and Sequoia National Forests and as the chair of the California Biodiversity Council's Interagency Alignment Team. I have a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology from UC Davis and I became a Certified Wildlife Biologist in 2000. I am proud of my TWS affiliation and am committed to giving back for the benefits that I have received. My emphasis areas will be to increase not only our membership, but opportunities for member involvement, continue and enhance our excellent professional development programs, and build stronger relationships between the Section and our Chapters.

Thank you for supporting the Western Section and please take the time to express your voice by voting!



## President-Elect Candidate Statements

### Matthew Bettelheim

When I graduated from U.C. San Diego in 2000, I had no idea what to do with myself. I first found myself as a docent at a local natural history museum, next a scientific aide for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and then a sports fisheries port sampler in Oregon. It took two years before I stumbled blindly back into the Bay Area following a job posting for a wildlife biologist. Here, I rediscovered myself as a budding herpetologist interested in western pond turtles, as a natural historian fascinated by the history and natural history of California, and as a fledgling member of The Wildlife Society.

In the passing years, I've graduated from wet-behind-the-ears to wet-wading-through-a-pond, embracing this amazing profession. Having matured today into a husband, a father, and a senior biologist with URS Corporation, I've settled in to a life and career I continue to find challenging and rewarding. When I'm not biologizing at work, I do so on my free time: through independent research and volunteer work studying western pond turtles, and by freelancing as a science writer for publications like Outdoor California, Bay Nature, and the academic journal *Bibliotheca Herpetologica*. This fall, I published a children's book – *Sardis and Stamm* – about the endangered Lange's metalmark butterfly of the Antioch Dunes.

I joined TWS shortly after becoming a Bay Area biologist. In 2005, I co-organized the sold-out Western Pond Turtle Workshop: Ecology and Conservation with Dave Cook, and in 2011 I achieved my personal goal of becoming a Certified Wildlife Biologist. It's closing in on a year now since I accepted the position of San Francisco Bay Area Chapter President, a decision I do not regret. Looking back now, I realize what a success this last year has turned out to be.

It doesn't hurt that we have a new flag – our revamped chapter logo, a WPA-inspired view of the Golden Gate Bridge paired with species emblematic of the San Francisco Bay Area: a peregrine falcon, salt-marsh harvest mouse, and San Francisco garter snake. But we've also leaned on other tools: our new GoogleGroup chapter listserv to simplify chapter communication channels, our new private Facebook group to facilitate information sharing and coordination between members, and our new public Facebook page.

We've also begun successfully engaging the public to establish ourselves in the community as a professional association and scientific resource. This year, we hosted a table at the Bay Area Science Festival at AT&T Park. There, we shared with the public a live western pond turtle and handed out stickers emblazoned with our new chapter logo. Hopefully, outreach like this will reinforce the idea that becoming a wildlife professional can be a fun and challenging career.

Our chapter has also made inroads growing new student chapters. We may soon have not one, but two students chapters fledging this year at SFSU and UCB, where with our chapter's financial support, professional guidance, and collaborative teaming, we hope to incubate future wildlife professionals (and future TWS members).

Today, as your candidate for TWS Western Section President-elect, I will carry forward the same enthusiasm, problem solving, and engagement as I have successfully done this year on the local chapter level. I realize now, more than ever, that our great society – The Wildlife Society – is a mirror of ourselves. Its successes are measured by those who participate and contribute with passion and professionalism – with your support, I hope to lead the Western Section to continued successes in the coming years.





## Proposed Changes to TWS Western Section Bylaws 2013

The Western Section periodically reviews its Bylaws to ensure they are up-to-date and reflect our current organization. We last changed our Bylaws in 2012. The changes proposed are broken down into two categories: substantive changes and minor changes. Full versions of the existing Bylaws and the proposed changes with annotations along with a descriptive summary of the changes are posted on the Section's website and are available in print by request.

**A brief summary of the substantive proposed changes are provided here.**

1. Membership [Article V, Section 5, Clause B.5] Change the name from "New Professional" to "Early Career Professional" to align to TWS and extend eligibility from three years to be "generally not to exceed five years" and include recent student graduates.
2. Voting, Elections and Officers [Article VI, Section 3] Specify the Executive Committee composed of the Officers of the Section and empower them to act on behalf of the entire Executive Board on urgent matters.
3. Voting, Elections and Officers [Article VI, Section 3, Clause H] Add the chair of the new Western Wildlife Committee and add the Newsletter Content Editor as two new Executive Board voting members.
4. Voting, Elections and Officers [Article VI, Section 4] Change the terms of office for Treasurer and Secretary from one-year term to two-year term to be consistent with other voting Board positions. May be reappointed for successive terms except the proposed Newsletter Content Editor shall have a two consecutive terms limit.
5. Voting, Elections and Officers [Article VI, Section 6] Add direction modeled after TWS Bylaws for removal of officers, voting board appointees, other committee chairs, and Chapter representatives from the Executive Board.
6. Meetings [Article VII, Section 1, Clause C] Increase the quorum for Executive Board meetings from 6 to 7 voting Board members based upon the proposed addition of two new voting Board members.
7. Management and Finances [Article VIII, Section 7] Add that the proceeds of the Annual Conference raffle will be contributed to the Endowment Fund unless specified for other purposes by the Executive Board. This allows consideration to designate annual raffle proceeds for special purposes such as memorials for fallen members.
8. Committees [Article IX, Section 2, Clause I] Add a new standing committee called the "Newsletter and Outreach Committee" with the chair being the Newsletter Content Editor who is proposed to be a new Board voting member.
9. Committees [Article IX, Section 2, Clause J] Add a new standing committee called the "Western Wildlife Committee" with the chair proposed to be a new Board voting member. Western Wildlife will be the replacement and expanded publication for the Transactions of the Western Section.
10. Additional minor changes include: clarifying Section voting, including non-election related Section business; clarifying duties and roles of officers, voting board members, and committee chairs; clarifying the annual reporting requirements; clarifying the appointment to committees and composition and duties of some committees; and other editorial changes.

A membership vote is required to approve these proposed changes and TWS must approve the changes before they become accepted. Members who are current in their Western Section dues are asked to vote on these proposed changes.

### 2014 Election Info

**Please Vote!**



**Voting will close on  
January 24, 2014.**

The Western Section  
is offering and  
encouraging  
electronic voting!

Members can read  
the candidate  
statements, and then  
cast an on-line vote!

Click here for:

[Candidate & Bylaw  
Statements](#)

[Election Ballot](#)

## Western Field Techniques Camp



**W**hat was the seminal experience that convinced you that wildlife was more to you than just taking classes, and maybe your passion? That wildlife and conservation defines your lifestyle and might define your career?

In August 2013, Western Section partnered with Cal Poly to provide an environment for hands-on, intensive learning during the first Western Field Techniques Camp, also known as Summer 329 or Field Vertebrate Zoology. Swanton Pacific Ranch was an excellent setting and provided access to a wide variety of habitats and species.

Professional wildlifers joined for 2-4 days to teach field techniques and provide mentoring and career advice. During the 12-day camp, students assisted with mist-netting, trapping, firing dart rifles, deer immobilization, radio telemetry, tracking, setting pitfall traps, observed birds and mammals in the field, and noosed and netted reptiles and amphibians. Practicing field scenarios forced students to consider personal values when reacting to real wildlife management activities, like euthanizing an invasive non-native mammal found in the trap. Students completed a group project to compile documentation of all species found during the field camp.

Mentor-instructors deserve a huge amount of appreciation for their time and leadership -- Cheryl Strong (USFWS), Gary Falxa (USFWS), Karen Swaim (Private Consulting), Michael Marangio (Private Consulting), Natasha Dvorak (Private Consulting), Henry Lomeli (California Department of Fish and Wildlife), and Emily Taylor (Cal Poly) joined Lead Instructor John Perrine (Cal Poly).

Only time will tell how this year's participants -- representing four departments (Forestry, Environmental Management, Animal Science, Biological Sciences) will see their field camp experience help shape their career, but Wildlifers gave them a good introduction to the fun, rigor, and occasional monotony of working with wildlife in a field setting. The camp was a good start to what should be an annual or every-other-year professional development activity for the Section!

## **SPECIAL BOOK COLLECTION SALE TO BENEFIT FRIENDS OF JIM YOAKUM AT THE 2014 ANNUAL MEETING OF WESTERN SECTION, THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

When Jim Yoakum passed away last November, his estate included a large personal library of books – nearly 1800 titles mostly relating to wildlife conservation and management, wildlife art, and the West. The books will be distributed to interested individuals on a donation basis. All funds collected by the “Friends of Jim Yoakum,” will be turned over to the University of Nevada, Reno to digitize, curate and manage Jim’s collections. These collections of personal effects – correspondence relating to engaging in legislation on local, state and national level, items documenting his career as the first wildlife biologist employed by the Bureau of Land Management and the materials for researching and preparing his manuscript on Pronghorn.

Books will be on display on tables in the Reno exhibit hall, and a complete list of books will be available for review. Books of interest not on display will be retrieved for viewing the following day. Remember, donations will ensure curation of Jim’s life and contributions to the wildlife profession. In addition, several prints and books will be included in our Western Section raffle at the Reno meeting.

If you are interested in pre-viewing the book titles to be sold at the annual meeting, please contact Marshall and Jennifer White, [jmwhite@berkeley.edu](mailto:jmwhite@berkeley.edu) to obtain the complete list of books remaining.



*Burrowing Owl. Davis, CA. Photo by Joe Zinkl.*



## An Update on the TWS Annual Meeting 2013 in Milwaukee

*Rhys Evans*

I thought it appropriate to tell our members about the 2013 Annual Meeting in Milwaukee. Though the US Government shut-down hurt attendance and many speakers had to cancel (many at the last minute), the conference went onward (it HAD to, from a financial stand-point). Walk-up registration was lower than expected, but attendance was overall pretty good (I don't know specific numbers yet).



The opening night Awards Banquet was successful -- much quicker than I had thought it would be walking in; award recipients weren't asked to say anything (except the Aldo Leopold Award winner). As you may recall, our esteemed member, former officer, etc. Mike Chapel was recognized with a Distinguished Service Award. The Student-Professional Mixer was interesting. VERY crowded, very loud; I'm a bit frustrated that we never have really gotten this event 'perfect,' though in Portland, it was pretty close.

You may have already heard about the TWS - West sponsored Quiz Bowl. Our new buzzer system worked like a charm. There was an entertaining interlude match between TWS Council members\*. Overall, 17 teams competed (maybe a record?), it was a really good competition, and we all should be very proud of Humboldt State earning second place. The winning team, University of Minnesota Crookston, took the final game in a real squeaker, final score 105 to 100.... And this was their first-ever National competition! The University of Minnesota Crookston had competed regionally in Conclaves several times. But the Lumberjacks performed amazingly, and they have a very nice, one-of-a-kind painting of two Cerulean warblers for their awards room (do they need to expand the awards room yet?). We should all be very proud (especially the Lumberjacks among us!). TWS-West was acknowledged several times verbally and on the screen for our sponsorship -- that was nice. (By the way, this event came in significantly under budget, too). (\* Surprisingly, Darryl Walter of TWS Staff -- who isn't a biologist -- got several questions correct; mind you, some of those questions were about the Beatles and the Rat Pack, not beetles and wolf packs).

The closing night reception was also quite nice and unique; walking around the Milwaukee Natural History Museum while drinking beer/wine and finding regional and international foods tucked away in various places (the "Brat and a Shot" table was perhaps the most popular; by the way, in that sentence "Brat" and "Shot" rhyme, the former as in Bratwurst; the latter was a small cup of beer...).

I could count (but haven't done so), and you can all look it up -- there were 79 topical events including papers, posters, symposia, panel discussions, roundtables, etc. And a whole bunch of Working Groups, 1.5 plenary sessions, Workshops, Field Trips and much more. Probably in the neighborhood of 400 posters and 300 oral presentations...

A final note; many of you already know this, but it's semi-relevant. Council voted on the 2017 meeting going to Albuquerque. We had submitted a bid to host in either San Diego or Palm Springs, but I hope there are no hard feelings about our 'loss' (or is it really Albuquerque's loss?! They have a lot of work to do!) - San Diego was just too expensive and a significant weakness of Palm Springs is their airport. I don't know about any of you, but I'd like to continue to ask Bethesda to look at Monterey again....

## **Last-Minute Space Available! NATURAL RESOURCES COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP**

*January 6-10, 2014*

The Natural Resources Communication Workshop, sponsored by the Western Section of The Wildlife Society and the Department of Recreation, Hospitality, and Parks Management at California State University-Chico, is designed to help natural resource workers more effectively communicate with general as well as technical audiences through personal presentations using good visual aids. The workshop focuses on the use of computer-generated images created with Microsoft's PowerPoint software. The workshop is practical-oriented and enhances participants' communication skills in planning, preparing, presenting, and evaluating presentations. Since many of the problems in natural resources management are people-oriented, more effective communication can significantly improve many management programs.

### **Workshop Content:**

- Discussion topics include:
  - Planning: communication principles, audience analysis, graphic design
  - Preparing: creating computer-generated graphics, photographic composition, rehearsal tips
  - Presenting: equipment setup, speaking tips, dealing with difficult audiences
  - Evaluating: evaluation of performance
- Each participant will bring a selection of computer-generated images (ex., graphics created with PowerPoint or other presentation software programs) for organization into an illustrated talk.
- Each participant will prepare graphics (titles, graphs, charts, maps, cartoons, etc.) to be used in their presentations.
- Each participant will give a 5- and 15-minute presentation (which will include graphics prepared during the workshop). These presentations will be evaluated by the class and the instructors.

**Instructor:** Dr. Jon K. Hooper, Professor, Calif. State Univ., Chico (Certified Wildlife Biologist, Certified Interpretive Trainer, Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology, 35+ years teaching communication workshops around the country). Dr. Hooper will be assisted by Ms. Kim Rubin, who has experience as a tour guide and environmental interpreter. She has 14 years' experience facilitating the Natural Resources Communication Workshop.

**Location:** California State University, Chico (90 miles north of Sacramento)

**University Continuing Education Credit:** Participants receive 1-unit CSUC Continuing Education credit. The workshop qualifies for a maximum of 42 contact hours in Category I of The Wildlife Society's Certified Wildlife Biologist Renewal/Professional Development Certificate Program.

**Application Procedure:** The initial deadline for applications has passed; however, due to a number of unexpected last-minute cancellations, workshop enrollment is low and the workshop may be cancelled. As a result, Dr. Hooper is still accepting applications. The registration fee is \$789 and must be paid by credit card.

To ensure late enrollment in the class, please contact Dr. Hooper by phone prior to Wednesday, December 18th. A decision will be made to hold or cancel the workshop based on sufficient enrollment and all applicants will be contacted on December 18th if the workshop will be cancelled.

To apply, first contact Dr. Hooper by phone at the number below. If the workshop is held, applicants will then be asked to provide an email describing: (1) your current position within your agency or organization, (2) how you will use the training, (3) any special reasons why you feel you should be chosen as a participant, and (4) if you already have official agency/organization approval to attend. In your application, include your job title, address, phone number, fax number, and email. To apply or for more information, call:

Dr. Jon K. Hooper -  
(530) 898-5811 or 898-6408  
e-mail: [jhooper@csuchico.edu](mailto:jhooper@csuchico.edu)

\*\*\*\*\*

**FLASH!!!** Participants in the 2014 workshop will not only learn professional tips for using PowerPoint, but also will gain exposure to Photoshop Elements (digital photo editing software).

## U p c o m i n g   E v e n t s

### **Natural Resources Communication WS**

January 6-10, 2014 - Chico, CA

### **TWS-WS Board Meeting** (Open to all Members)

Tuesday, January 28, 2014. 9am-5pm - Reno, NV.

### **Western Section Annual Meeting**

January 28-31, 2014 - Reno, Nevada

### **Greater Sage-grouse Symposium**

January 28, 2014 - Reno, NV

### **Observer Reliability and Identification of Wildlife Tracks & Signs Workshop**

January 31, 2014 - Reno, NV

### **Wildlife Disease Investigation Practical Workshop**

### **One Day Track and Sign Certification Workshop**

February 1, 2014

### **Wilderness First Aid**

### **Sagehen Student Weekend**

February 1-2, 2013 - Truckee, CA

### **TWS Annual Meeting**

October 25-30, 2014 - Pittsburgh, PA

### **Western Section Annual Meeting**

January 28-30, 2015 - Santa Rosa, CA

## **Raptors of the Northwest Symposium**

**February 5-7, 2014**

It is my pleasure to announce the “Raptors of the Northwest Symposium” to be held in conjunction with several other meetings and symposia, including the annual meeting of the Washington Chapter-TWS, and the 4th International Burrowing Owl Symposium. The specific dates for the Raptors of the Northwest Symposium are February 5-7, 2014; although, the other meetings/symposia will overlap and/or extend past these dates. The venue will be the Red Lion, in Pasco, WA, which is ¼ mile from the Pasco Airport.

The geographic areas to be focused on during the symposium are the NW U.S. states, including Alaska, and the Western Canadian Provinces. The theme will be the critical challenges to raptor conservation and management and relating research to those needs. Both diurnal and nocturnal raptors will be addressed.

We want there to be widespread and diverse geographical and organizational involvement and support from as many agency, academic, NGO sectors, and other land management stakeholder groups as possible; so if you have suggested contacts, we would welcome them.

For more information on the Joint Meeting, or to submit an abstract (for all meetings), click [here](#).





## The Wildlife Society Western Section

P.O. Box 6756  
Albany, CA 94706

<http://twswest.org>

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### Officers:

#### President

Douglas A. Bell  
East Bay Regional Park District  
(510) 520-3945 cell  
dbell@ebparks.org

#### Past-President

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

#### President-Elect

Natasha Dvorak  
Environmental Science Associates  
(707) 795-0937  
ndvorak@esaassoc.com

#### Section Representative

Cynthia Perrine  
perrine.cynthia@gmail.com

#### Treasurer

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

#### Secretary

Janine Payne  
(510) 326-6965  
el\_janino@yahoo.com

#### Newsletter Editor

Debra Hawk  
dhawk@schat.net

### Staff:

#### Program Director

Cynthia Perrine  
perrine.cynthia@gmail.com

#### Webmaster

Eric Renger  
eric.renger@gmail.com

#### Newsletter - Meeting Planner

Candace Renger  
candace.renger@gmail.com

#### Bookkeeper

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

### Chapter Representatives:

#### California Central Coast

Wendy Knight  
wmfknight@gmail.com

#### California North Coast

Lisa Ollivier, US Forest Service  
lollivier@fs.fed.us

#### Hawaii

Rachel Sprague, NOAA National  
Marine Fisheries Service  
rachel.s.sprague@noaa.gov

#### Nevada

Marjorie Matocq  
University of Nevada  
mmatocq@cabnr.unr.edu

#### Sacramento-Shasta

Laura Patterson  
CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife  
laura.patterson@wildlife.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. Fish and Wildlife  
lindatws@hotmail.com

#### Southern California

Jeff Lincer, Researchers Implement-  
ing Conservation Action  
jefflincer@gmail.com

#### UCSB Student Chapter

Joseluis Ocaranza  
j\_ocaranza@yahoo.com

#### UC Davis Student Chapter

Rachel Fichman  
rafichman@ucdavis.edu

#### Humboldt State Student Chapter

Andrew Wiegardt  
andrewwiegardt@yahoo.com

#### University of Nevada Student Chapter

Alex Clarke  
alclarke4679@gmail.com

#### Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Student Chapter

Adam Yaney-Keller  
adamyks27@gmail.com

### Committee Chairs:

#### Awards and Grants

Richard Burg  
CA Dept. Fish and Wildlife  
richard.burg@wildlife.ca.gov

#### Conservation Affairs

Erin Aquino-Carhart  
CA Dept. Fish and Wildlife  
erinaquino@gmail.com

#### Membership

Don Yasuda  
dyasudaTWS@comcast.net

#### Professional Development

Rhys Evans  
sirsnaeve@verizon.net

#### Student Affairs Committee

Mandi McElroy  
mandi.mcelroy@gmail.com

Jena Epperson  
jee116@humboldt.edu

David Wyatt  
wyattd@scc.losrios.edu

#### Historian

Vacant