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San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the Wildlife Society

President's Message

Natasha Dvorak

Greetings colleagues. Welcome to 2012! "May you be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each year find you a better person." No, I don't think Ben Franklin meant that you should trade in for a new mate every 365 days. That would be excessive, and doesn't sound like very sound advice (however sound advice sounds). Ahem, moving right along....Thank you for the opportunity to be your Chapter President this year! I'm very excited for the events we have planned. I follow one tenet this year: Events and Participation. We have talked about becoming more active in an advocacy role, and increasing our visibility and enhancing our public image by participating in BioBlitz activities and other such benevolent and public events. For us to be successful in these endeavors, we need to function well as a group. And in order to function well as a group, we need to know each other better. And in order to know each other better, we need to have shared group experiences. Voila, we have come round full circle to *Events and Participation*.

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Chapter Announcements

SFBA Chapter Meeting Next Week – Western Section Conference on Wednesday, February 1, from 7:30-9:00 pm in the Edgewater A room

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Bryan Olney



Neither sleet, nor snow, nor gloom
of night stays Bryan from his duties
as Secretary/ Treasurer

“Careful. We don't want
to learn from this.”

Calvin and Hobbes
- *Bill Watterson*

Hi everyone! Current membership for the chapter is doing quite well at 131 members; we typically see a slight dip at this time of year as everyone is still renewing for 2012. Roster updates for our members who renewed through the Western Section Conference (and wisely got discounted rates) are a little slow to come in, so these numbers very well may be missing some active members. Chapter membership didn't necessarily grow as much as in 2010, but with a more active 2012 I think we'll be able to pull some fresh new faces into the chapter. One fairly untapped group in our chapter are students – if you know of any students who would be interested in joining, please encourage them to contact me. We still have several sponsored memberships available. On a related note, when you decide to renew your membership, consider using the TWS National online store. You do not necessarily need to become a member of TWS National, but renewing your chapter or section membership through this avenue lets us get your information more readily and we can add you to our roster post-haste.

As for the chapter finances, in total we have a little more than \$15,000, which is a healthy sum and will help fund any upcoming events in 2012. Our finances changed very around very little in 2011, and are still relatively high from chapter events in 2010. Recent expenses include a \$1,000 donation in support of TWS National's annual conference, and our chapter mixer at Pyramid Brewery in Walnut Creek.

If anyone has any membership or finance questions, or just wants to say hello to me in person, please come find me at the conference. I hope to see you all there!

- *Bryan*

President's Message, Continued from pg. 1

The Bay Area is a tough place to run an active group, especially with all of us hard-working, day-job types. The evening weekday traffic is horrific, and the precious weekends have to be forcefully *pried* out of our cold, clinging hands. Despite these obstacles, it has been a joy to watch the Chapter come alive again over the last five years. Sensitive to how difficult the weekdays are and how precious the weekends, most of the activities planned are family-friendly and I have tried to schedule one activity in each of our Bay Area counties. Your votes from last year's survey of interests are incorporated. Most are hikes, with a couple of special events thrown in, and plans (hopes?) for at least one workshop. I largely stick to a regular and easily-remembered schedule: *the second Sunday of every month*. Many of the activities can be enhanced by our members' experience and expertise, so if you recognize a park or preserve on the list where you have performed studies or can provide us with a more focused and interesting experience, please consider this my plea for you to step in and make it better!

Public service is also important to me, and I believe that when we engage in public service as a Chapter we increase public awareness and perception of our Society as a community of accessible wildlife professionals who share common values. This sets the stage for public acceptance of, and deference to, our opinions and advocacy efforts. In this spirit, I will be working to stage successful events on Earth Day and National Public Lands Day. When I look at the ethnic makeup of our Chapter membership and read articles in *The Wildlife Professional* about diversifying our membership to preserve our future, I see a need to reach out to urban and minority youth. In this spirit, I hope to have one of our monthly hikes be an opportunity to pair up with minority/urban youth and either introduce them to the idea of a career in wildlife or encourage them to make a decision they've been waffling on. I'm hoping to work with Professor Camille Dungy of SFSU and/or the Berkeley Institute of the Environment to make something happen, and if any of you have other ideas and relationships to enhance this effort, please contact me. In a fun effort to encourage participation, for every event you attend you will get a raffle ticket (work events like Earth Day are worth three) towards a chance to win a fabulous year-end prize.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Chapter meeting next week, to be held at the Western Section Conference on Wednesday, February 1, from 7:30-9:00 pm in the Edgewater A room. Here's to a terrific 2012!

- *Natasha*



Natasha introduces the summer 2010 San Joaquin kit fox workshop in the Carrizo Plain

“Men will gather knowledge no matter what the consequences. Science will go on whether we are pessimistic or optimistic, as I am. More interesting discoveries than we can imagine will be made, and I am awaiting them, full of curiosity and enthusiasm.”

- *Linus Pauling*

SFBA Chapter 2012 Schedule of Events

- Wednesday, February 1: Chapter Meeting at the TWS Conference, 7:30-9:00 pm, Edgewater A Room
- Sunday, February 19: Ano Nuevo State Park, Elephant Seal Guided Tour, 1:30-4:00 pm. Limited to members only, first 20 members to sign up (email Natasha Dvorak at ndvorak@esassoc.com).
- Sunday, March 11: Hike\Skyline Wilderness Park, Napa County
- Weekend Mar 31/Apr 1: Pinnacles National Monument, joined by bat biologist Paul Johnson. 10:00 am Saturday to 4:00 pm Sunday. Group camping is limited to members only, first 20 members to sign up (email Natasha Dvorak) but families and individuals can book their own private campsites online. Once our group camp is full, the Chapter will reimburse members who share an individual camp site with 4 or more members [\$23 for Sat night](max 6 people per site and one car. Email Natasha for more details).
- Sunday, April 8: Hike\Cataract Falls, Marin County
- Sat or Sun, April 22: Earth Day stewardship event
- Sunday, May 13: Hike\Tolay Lake, Sonoma County
- Sunday, June 10: Hike\Led by SJSU professor and marsh ecologist Dr. Lynne Trulio. See burrowing owls (adults and chicks), nesting Forster's terns, avocets, stilts, and possible black skimmers. Shoreline Park, Santa Clara County.
- Sunday, July 8: Hike\Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve, Contra Costa County
- August [tentative]: SJKF workshop, Carrizo Plain
- Sunday, Sept. 9: Farallones boat trip with The Oceanic Society
- Saturday, Sept. 29: National Public Lands Day stewardship event
- Sunday, Oct. 14: Marin Headlands, HawkWatch with Dr. Allen Fish, head of the GGRO. 11:00-2:00, optional picnic on the beach afterwards.
- Sunday, Nov. 11: Hike\Sunol Regional Wilderness, Alameda County
- Sunday, Dec 9: Hike\Grizzly Island Wildlife Area, Solano County

*****Hikes are scheduled for the second Sunday of every month, rain or shine. Severe weather cancels*****

Announcements

Critical Habitat Revision for Leatherback Sea Turtle

NMFS recently revised the final designation of critical habitat to provide additional protection for endangered leatherback sea turtles along the U.S. West Coast. The regulation will formally publish in the Federal Register on January 26, 2012.

The final designation targets activities that could affect leatherback prey densities. The proposed designation also had a component that included migratory pathway conditions (i.e., the state of the areas through which leatherbacks traverse for feeding and reproduction); though this consideration was removed in the final ruling. The final ruling principally focuses on activities that could alter the distribution, diversity, abundance and density of jellyfish, particularly the brown sea nettle and moon jelly.

In brief, the final rule identified seven activity types that could affect prey populations, which are: pollution from point sources (e.g., National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)); runoff from agricultural pesticide use; oil spill response; power plants; desalination plants; tidal, wave, and wind energy projects; and liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects. Turtle migration and 'habitat' was not addressed in the ruling. Here's a link to the revised ruling:

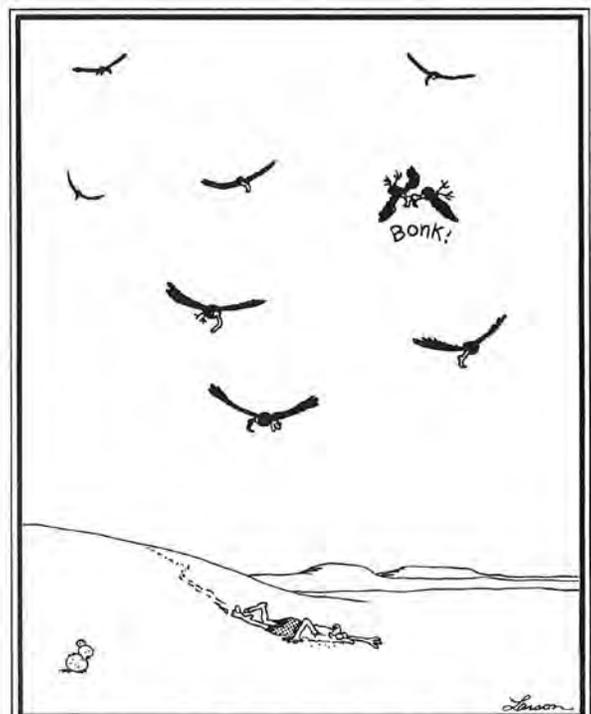
http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2012-00995_PI.pdf

The Laguna de Santa Rosa Pond Workshop Returns

Rare Pond Species Survey Techniques Workshop
March 31- April 1, 2012

This Sonoma County workshop is designed to provide practical training on aquatic survey techniques for the California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, and western pond turtle. The range of these three rare and protected species overlap and they often occur in similar pond habitats. Details are online at:

http://www.lagunafoundation.org/news_calendar.shtml



The perils of improper circling

SF Bay Area Chapter Officer Directory

President	Natasha Dvorak (ndvorak@esassoc.com)
President-elect	*** Open ***
Past President	Karen Swaim (kswaim@swaimbio.com)
Secretary/Treasurer	Bryan Olney (bolney@esassoc.com)
Chapter Representative	Jessica Martini-Lamb (Jessica.Martini.Lamb@scwa.ca.gov)
Newsletter Editor	Brian Pittman (bpittman@esassoc.com)
Webmaster	*** Open ***
Advisors at Large	Dana Ostfeld and Doug Bell



Dorsal view of *Phrynosoma blainvillii*.
Photo by B. Pittman

Chapter Newsletter

Submit articles to the Chapter Newsletter! Let the rest of the Chapter Members know about the wildlife issues in your corner of the woods. Any submittals, stories, comments or insights are appreciated.

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Mailing Date</u>
January 15	January 31
April 15	April 31
July 15	July 31
October 15	October 31

Please submit articles to:

bpittman@esassoc.com

Membership Renewal

If you would like to renew please contact Secretary/Treasurer Bryan Olney. Regular annual dues are \$10. Due to coordination issues between the Western Section and TWS National, a number of our members were accidentally dropped from our active member list in 2011 (including Chapter Officers). At this time, the Western Section does not share membership data with TWS National, who distributes member lists to chapters. In response, we recommended membership renewal through TWS National or directly through the Chapter until the issue is resolved.

Cover Photo

Coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*) from Los Padres National Forest. Photo by B. Pittman

Chapter Website

The SFBA Chapter website link is:

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