

The Wandering *tattler*



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San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the Wildlife Society

President's Message

Doug Bell

It is a pleasure to introduce myself and offer my heartfelt greetings to you as your new president of the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Wildlife Society. Allow me to provide some background as to how I became president. While traveling to Sacramento to attend the Western Section's annual meeting, I was feeling a bit anxious because unexpected work commitments had prevented me from attending the meeting as planned. I calmed myself down by reflecting on the fact that every Wildlife Society meeting I attend, no matter how short, resulted in some delightful outcome – whether through reestablishing an old contact or developing new ones – something good and special always happened. This time was no exception as I found out after arriving at the meetings that I had been nominated for Chapter President! My propulsion to the top position in the San Francisco Bay Chapter leaves me somewhat humbled as I know there are many more experienced members

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Announcements: SFBA Chapter Meeting & Ohlone Campout

Our first SFBA Chapter Kick-off Meeting begins at 6:30 pm, May 13, 2009 at the East Bay Regional Park District's Trudeau Training Center in Oakland. Topic: reducing wind turbine-raptor impacts in the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area featuring Doug Bell.

A Classic Returns: Save the date for the **Camp Ohlone Campout**, June 6-7 in the East Bay Regional Park District's Sunol Regional Wilderness.

Introducing President-elect Christine Gaber

Christine Gaber

Hello from your President-elect!

After a two year hiatus I'm happy to be back on the Chapter Board and actively participating in the Chapter again. Some of you may remember me from my four year stint as Secretary/Treasurer supporting Chapter Presidents Brian Pittman, Doug Padley and Tom Kucera. During that time we enjoyed bringing you workshops and professional development activities, as well as social events to keep that very important skill set sharp too!

For the past eight years I have been a member of the Wildlife Society and our Chapter. A wise ex-USFS biologist-turned-consultant introduced me to the Society when I was a fresh-faced college graduate finishing up a biological monitoring gig and looking for work that didn't involve staring at fiber optic cable in a trench. He emphasized the value of Society membership and the importance of staying active in our profession by attending annual meetings and workshops, and serving on the Chapter Board. From my work in biological consulting to graduate school and now in my position as a wildlife biologist at Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Chapter members have been invaluable mentors, colleagues, and friends. I can identify several key points along my career path where Chapter member connections or guidance were essential to successful decisions. Our Chapter represents a diversity and wealth of wildlife experience and knowledge that can greatly benefit the rest of us. I'm excited about the mentoring program that the Chapter Board has been developing and other opportunities to transfer that knowledge.

The Chapter Board has several great events planned for 2009 and we are always open to ideas on how your Chapter can better serve you. Please feel free to email any of us on the Chapter Board with comments, suggestions, and ideas for workshops, meetings or other events that you would enjoy.

Hope to see you at our May meeting!

Editor's Notes

Brian Pittman

To round out the trio of new officers who came on board this January, I'm pleased to be the one donning the printer's hat. The last *Tattler* seen 'round these parts was in winter 2005, after which the SFBA Chapter was adrift without an editor. In the absence of a newsletter, some of us relied on the SFBA Chapter Yahoo group started by Julie Remp as an unofficial chapter information source; however, the website was intended as only a temporary fix for the larger problem that was the editor vacancy. What most of us came to expect from the *Tattler* (thanks to hard work of Amy Fesnock and later Matthew Bettelheim) were the latest updates on workshops and training opportunities, policy statements, announcements, and of course, Chapter news. I've come to regard the newsletter as vital to maintaining a healthy chapter and engaged membership. Thus, my first action as editor is the reactivation of the *Wandering Tattler* which, needless to say, is our SFBA Chapter newsletter.

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"I have no fear of losing my life - if I have to save a koala or a crocodile or a kangaroo or a snake, mate, I will save it."

- Steve Irwin

President's Message – Continued from pg. 1

out there who have been intimately involved with the Chapter's inner workings over the years and who have contributed so much to the organization, not the least of which includes our Past President, Ron Duke, President-elect, Christine Gaber, Secretary/Treasurer Dana Ostfeld, Chapter Representative Natasha Dvorak and Newsletter Editor Brian Pittman. To them I offer my thanks for their past efforts and also look forward to their assistance in making this next year a success for the San Francisco Bay Chapter. To this end I also request all Chapter members to become involved in our Society in any way they can. There is no shortage of opportunities. The National Chapter is looking for volunteers to assist in all aspects of the National Meeting to be held in Monterey, CA, Sept. 20-24th, 2009. Please contact the National Chapter and offer your expertise to make this a very successful meeting.

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Christine and Doug with Radar looking on

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Dana Ostfeld

The San Francisco Bay Chapter of The Wildlife Society was formerly a student organization of the University of California – Berkeley, formed back around the time of the Summer of Love. At the time the Chapter offered various services and activities, including:

- (1) Newsletter – five issues per year to disseminate information of interest to local members.
- (2) Meetings – five per year in Berkeley, featuring informative guest speakers.
- (3) Annual field trip – in summer for members and their families and friends.
- (4) Teacher training workshops – to improve knowledge and teaching skills in wildlife biology and management.
- (5) Review and commentary - of Environmental Impact Reports for Bay Area projects.
- (6) Professional advice – on wildlife issues and problems in the Bay Area.

We have seen many changes over the years, including an organization that went from one of primarily students, to one with almost none (why this is, I am not sure, but I have a hunch that the internet is partially to blame). The world's environmental problems have changed, too – DDT was banned in 1972, but how do we reduce bird and bat mortality at large-scale wind farms? Despite these changes, though, it's amazing that 40 years later the needs of wildlife professionals has remained relatively unchanged over the years, and the San Francisco Bay Chapter today provides similar services to those provided in its early years.



Dana Ostfeld

Student Sponsors Needed

YOUR LOGO HERE, seriously! We've been brainstorming different ways to increase student involvement in the SFBA Chapter and came up with the idea of (gasp!) corporate sponsorship for our student members. With a nod to the Mentorship Program that was conceived a few years back but never fully implemented, I've been having a blast bringing SSU wildlife students out on various field assignments. These students are about to leap from Field Herpetology 101 into careers as working wildlife professionals, and they can greatly benefit from our assistance. For me, engaging these future professionals in advanced field techniques is very rewarding – but how to get this fresh talent involved with the SFBA Chapter and TWS. That's where Student Sponsorship comes into play.

At our April 14, 2009 officer's meeting, the Board approved corporate advertising in the *Wandering Tattler*, similar to the sponsor page for the TWS Western Section conference program. A fifty dollar tax-deductible donation will provide a quarter page logo in the *Tattler* for six months with special recognition as a student sponsor. Sponsorship funds will be specially earmarked to provide free full time student memberships and I plan to list sponsored students in the newsletter. With the student membership rate reduced to \$5 as of April 2009, a one-time donation will sponsor ten students.

If you're able to support this initiative, please consider making a sponsorship donation.

More on mentorship programs in future issues. [BP]

President's Message – Continued from Page 3

On a more local level, please plan on attending our Chapter's first kick-off meeting beginning at 6:30 pm, May 13, 2009 at the East Bay Regional Park District's Trudeau Training Center in Oakland. Yours truly will be showcasing the District's grassland management efforts and research into reducing wind turbine-raptor impacts in the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area. Food and light refreshments will be provided. This meeting will serve as a great opportunity to get to know each other and to brainstorm new ideas about where you want your chapter to go from here. We are also planning a camp-out the weekend of June 6-7, at the District's Camp Ohlone site located in the heart of the Alameda Creek watershed. This event will provide opportunities to observe fledging raptors and, if there is still water in the creek, possibly wood ducklings and rare amphibians.

A research group from San Diego State University that is on site is engaged in studying rattlesnake/ground squirrel interactions. If we tread lightly around their study area we may be introduced to some of their focal organisms rather than surprised by them!

Aside from fun events, high on our list of goals is increasing student involvement. At our Board meeting on April 14th we approved reducing student chapter fees to \$5.00. This combined with our pursuing student membership sponsorships from companies and organizations in the community may really help boost student membership. We are also entertaining a pilot student/mentor program. Please get the word out to your friends and associates that we are reaching out to increase student involvement in the chapter specifically and wildlife in general. I believe it is safe to say that we want to highlight opportunities available to young people, both in terms of career choices in wildlife as well as life-style choices! In sum, we have many challenges ahead of us, but I look forward to working with all of you and hearing of your ideas and suggestions to make it a successful year.

Thank you. [DB]

TWS National Position Statements – June 15 Comment Deadline

At their recent meeting, TWS Council approved the following revised position statements:

- Acidic Deposition
- Alterations of Stream, Riparian, and Wetland Habitats
- Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
- Confinement of Wild Ungulates Within High Fences
- Conservation Education
- Conservation Law Enforcement
- Conserving Biological Diversity

The Wildlife Society Council seeks member review and comment on these statements, prior to renewing them. Comments must be received by

15 June 2009 to be considered in a final position statement.

To view the statements visit:

http://joomla.wildlife.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=117&Itemid=187

Send comments to:

Laura Bies
Director of Government Affairs
The Wildlife Society
5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 200
Bethesda, MD 20814-2144

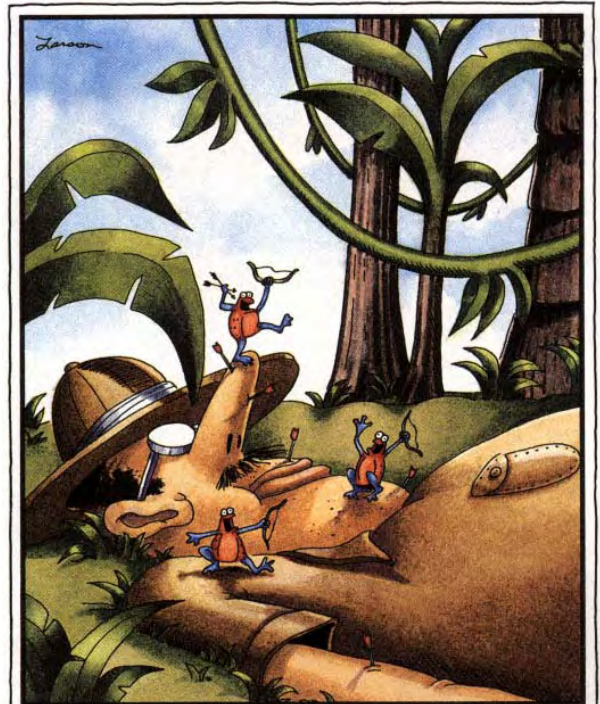
Or via email to:
laura@wildlife.org.

Editor's Notes – Continued from Page 2

Our little newsletter doesn't have the expansive reach or budget of the TWS National or Section publications, but I hope to keep the *Tattler* relevant to our members by speaking to important central California issues, events and policies that matter to us.

Program development was high on the list the April during our May Board meeting. To start the year with engaging events, we came up with two shindigs for spring, starting with an informational Chapter kick-off meeting on May 13 (topic: reducing wind turbine-raptor impacts in the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area) and then a step out to the wild with a field outing at the East Bay Regional Park District's Camp Ohlone (June 6-7). Details of these upcoming events are in the President's Message and reminders should arrive email.

Please note that future newsletters will be distributed electronically, so be sure that your email address is current with our Secretary/Treasurer Dana Ostfeld.



The rarely seen victory dance of the poison-arrow frog

Upcoming Workshops and Events of Interest



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY'S 16TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE



We're going to make a big splash in Monterey.

Come be a part of the excitement



September 20-24, 2009

- ☆ Attend dozens of technical sessions.
- ☆ Choose from a full day of workshops.
- ☆ Enjoy many networking opportunities.
- ☆ Keep up to date with current technology at the Trade Show.
- ☆ Tour local attractions. Welcome Reception at Monterey Bay Aquarium.
- ☆ New! Career Fair - Students and professionals, meet potential employers.

www.wildlife.org/conference



California Department of Fish and Game and
the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Announce



Willow Flycatcher - Great Gray Owl Workshop

This workshop will focus on the status, biology, and ecology of willow flycatcher and great gray owls in the Central Sierra Nevada region of California. This 2-day workshop will be geared towards natural resource planners, foresters, biologists, and others who are responsible for the conservation of these species, or identifying habitats on the ground and conducting surveys related to land management activities.

The workshop will take place in Truckee, California, and consist of both classroom and field components. This two-day workshop will cover status, ecology, demography, life history, distribution, conservation, modeling and research, and basic identification (visual and vocal), of willow flycatchers and great gray owls. Discussion will also focus on ecology and management of mountain meadow ecosystems. We will spend the first day in lecture, and the second day visiting field sites to identify habitat and review survey techniques.

Date and Time: June 3-4, 2009 **Location:** Truckee, California

For more information contact: Armand Gonzales (916) 358-2876

Upcoming Herp Workshops in Livermore, CA

The Alameda County Resource Conservation District, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and partners are offering these workshops on the biology and management of three listed herps. Each workshop is led by recognized experts on the species, and includes both classroom and field experience. Participants will receive field training in species identification, sampling techniques, and habitat requirements. Class sizes are limited to allow for a more interactive experience, so please register as soon as possible if interested. For more information, please follow the links below, go to www.acrcd.org, or contact Peggy Kiefer at peggy.kiefer@acrcd.org, (925) 371-0154, ext. 122.

California Tiger Salamander Workshop, May 11-12
Presenter: Dr. Pete Trenham

Join California tiger salamander expert Peter Trenham, PhD. for a workshop covering the biology and conservation of this federally threatened salamander. Cost: \$300.

Alameda Whipsnake Workshop, May 27
Presenter: Karen Swaim

Karen Swaim, M.S., and Swaim Biological, Inc. staff will detail the biology of the Alameda whipsnake and how this information can be applied to habitat management, conservation planning, impact analysis, project monitoring, and educational outreach. Cost: \$250.

SF Bay Area Chapter Officer Directory

President	Doug Bell (dbell@ebparks.org)
President-elect	Christine Gaber (cog3@pge.com)
Past President	Ron Duke (rduke@harveyecology.com)
Secretary/Treasurer	Dana Ostfeld (dostfeld@esassoc.com)
Chapter Representative	Natasha Dvorak (ndvorak@esassoc.com)
Newsletter Editor	Brian Pittman (bpittman@esassoc.com)
Webmaster	Luke Maculay (luke.maculay@gmail.com)



Yellow mariposa lily (*Calochortus luteus*), Contra Costa Co., CA. 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.

Deadline	Mailing By
April 15	April 30
July 15	July 31
October 15	October 31
January 15	January 31

Please submit electronic articles to:
bpittman@esassoc.com

Submit hardcopies to:
Brian Pittman
ESA
1425 N. McDowell Blvd., Ste 105
Petaluma, CA 94954

Membership Renewal

If your membership dues are not paid for 2009, or you would like to become a member please complete the membership form on the Chapter website (forthcoming) or contact Secretary/Treasurer Dana Ostfeld. Regular annual dues are \$10 and \$5 for full time students.

Chapter Website

The Chapter Website is getting a major overhaul for 2009 and will include a photo gallery, calendar of events, newsletter articles and more. We're still working to pull the old Chapter link off the web, so bear with us.

The new site will be located on the National TWS server at:

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