

THE WANDERING TATTLER

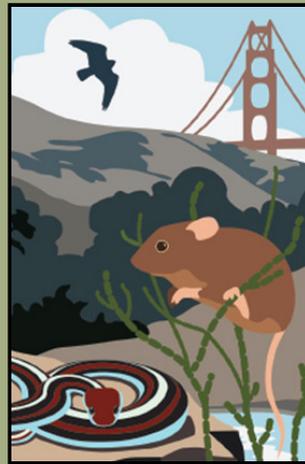
THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA CHAPTER
OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

**This newsletter is desktop-friendly, but may have formatting issues on your mobile device. Please use a computer because, we don't want you fishing your phone outta the toilet tonight :-o

Vol 10 | No 2 | Fall 2019

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Happy Holiday Season to you all. Hope you are enjoying the "taste" of the season and the beautiful colors which the cool nights bring to the greater Bay Area. Those of us affected by the PG&E power outages were (ironically) treated to something city dwellers seldom see.....the amazing night sky. Hope you and your families are doing well and have a happy and healthy Holiday Season.



has decided to resign from this position. Jeanne has recently retired from CDFW and is making time for relaxing, playing with her dogs and generally kicking back. Jeanne has done a tremendous job for the past five years as our connection to everything politically important and has led the charge to contact our elected officials by letter writing, phone and email contact, and attending many public and private meetings with these folks. Jeanne and her energy have allowed the SF Chapter to have an impact on the issues that affect us and natural resources at local, state and national levels. Jeanne truly will be missed. But, not to worry, as she always does, she had a backup plan to keep continuity in our CAC. Jeanne recommended Patricia Valcarcel who has accepted the CAC chair position, leaving no gaps in the Chapter's ability to stay on top and respond to critical issues of environmental importance.

Introducing Patricia Valcarcel:



She is a senior wildlife biologist at WRA, Inc in San Rafael and a TWS Certified wildlife biologist. Her background includes positions within a variety of academic-oriented jobs and organizations with a focus of science to inform management. According to Patricia "this led me to wonder how science was incorporated into policies and used in the real world, and I have learned a lot over the last few years in the consulting realm". Recognizing it's hard to keep up with all the policies and regulations out there, one of Patricia's goals is to keep members aware of what is happening and make it easier for them to participate in the decision making process. She adds, "as biologists, our voices are important and can help promote how our science is incorporated into natural resource policies. I look forward to working with everyone!"

Editor's note: hard to tell from this picture if Patricia is into rock climbing or is the last to fledge from this cliff nest. Either way, we welcome her to the Board and are excited to watch her soar.



Tarantula Migration at Henry Coe State Park

by Natalie Reeder, TWS SF Bay Chapter, President-elect

On Sunday, October 6, SF Bay TWS was generously hosted by Henry Coe State Park volunteer Mike Hundt for a tarantula talk and hike. Spider expert Merav Vonshak gave us a talk about arachnids and plant galls under the shade of an old barn at the top of a hill overlooking the vast Henry Coe park lands. Several TWS biologists were in attendance, but also some members of the community and quite a few spider expert kids. After the talk, we ventured out in the fall heat to look for big hairy spiders. We didn't have any luck, but along the way we saw many fascinating galls as well as plants, flowers, and birds. Of course, once we wound up all the way back at our starting point, a male tarantula was about to crawl into the barn where we had been sitting just an hour before. He was on his way to find a mate, so we took pictures from a respectful distance and allowed him to continue on his way. It was a great time with our fellow professional biologists, future professional biologists, and just a bunch of people who are fascinated by spiders!

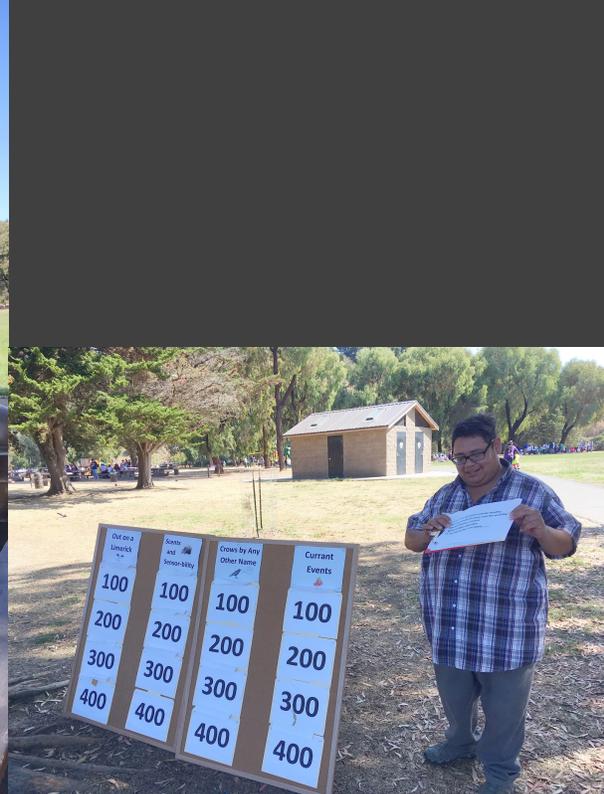


BIG HAIRY SPIDERS , OH MY!!!

Gourmet Greens and Beasts Feast

Sept 22, 2019

at Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline in Richmond, CA



The Gourmet Greens and Beasts Feast was a smorgasbord of wild and domestic dishes with a taste of trivia and competition. Many dishes were prepared for the event that was held along the SF Bay shoreline at Miller Knox Regional Park in Point Richmond. This joint venture with TWS SF Bay Area Chapter and California Native Plant Society (CNPS) served up delicious dishes of local, native and non-native delicacies including wild pig and deer sliders, wild mushrooms, a variety of greens from gardens, lawns and the field, desserts and drinks and many happy smiling tummies.

The annual dish of trivia and games was provided by none other than that "Trivial Trickster", the "Linguistic Mystic", the "Guru of Games", that "Zany Zoologist", Mr. Ivan Parr. Ivan's games of searching from clue to clue led groups across the park in search of answers to plant and animal trivia. Additionally, he developed a Jeopardy Board of natural and unnatural facts that would rival Alex Trebek. Does this man sleep???

Ironically, Ivan won the raffle and the cherished award as "Grand Beast" for the event and was

Also provided by members of the CNPS were beautiful botanical specimens that were raffled off to the attending guests!

Whether you went home with a belly full of grub or a new plant for your landscaping, everyone enjoyed the day and the camaraderie of the groups sharing a nice afternoon of picnicking, games and laughter. Thanks to the organizers for coordinating the annual event and providing all of the picnic goodies.



Regulatory Update: Four bumble bees granted CESA candidate status (provided by TWS member Brian Pittman, ESA)

Time to start thinking about bumble bees. On June 12, 2019, the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) voted 3-1 that listing four subspecies of bumble bee may be warranted under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). The decision was made after the Xerces Society, Center for Food Safety, and Defenders of Wildlife filed a petition to list the Crotch bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*), Franklin's bumble bee (*Bombus franklini*), Suckley cuckoo bumble bee (*Bombus suckleyi*), and western bumble bee (*Bombus occidentalis occidentalis*) as endangered species under CESA. As with all other state candidate species, the action grants full State endangered species status to each of these species during the year-long candidacy review period.

So, what does rare bumble bee habitat look like and importantly where is it? To clear that up, here's a link to CFDW's report to the Commission: [https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?](https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=166804&inline)

[DocumentID=166804&inline](https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=166804&inline), and Xerces link for bumble bee identification: <https://xerces.org/bumble-bee-identification/>. Also, here are some brief crib notes for bumble bee ranges:

Crotch bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*) – The Crotch bumble bee is nearly endemic to California, historically ranging across southern California, from the coast and coastal ranges, through the Central Valley, and to the adjacent foothills. The Petition indicates the Crotch bumble bee's range declined 25 percent relative to its historical range in recent years, with this decline particularly pronounced in the center of its historical range, the Central Valley.

Franklin bumble bee (*Bombus franklini*) – Since the early 20th century, it has only been found

Western bumble bee (*Bombus occidentalis occidentalis*) – the Petition only provides approximately 20 records concerning the species' current abundance and distribution in the state. It does note that in California, western bumble bee populations are now largely restricted to high elevation sites in the Sierra Nevada, though there have been a few observations of this species near the coast.

Suckley cuckoo bumble bee (*Bombus suckleyi*) - the listing Petition provided two data points concerning the Suckley cuckoo bumble bee's current range from the Klamath region of northern California.

Presently, no insects are listed as threatened or endangered under CESA, but of course the Legislature defines invertebrates as Fish (see FGC section 45), so the protection of bees is not precluded under CESA.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE

2019-2020 Native American Research Assistantship program

The application period for this program is now open through January 19th.

Feel free to contact:

Mariah Simmons

Unit Services Manager

[The Wildlife Society](#)

P: 301-897-9770 ext. 310

msimmons@wildlife.org

<https://wildlife.org/apply-now-for-usfs-native-american-research-assistantship/>

Do you like to write, edit other's work, organize articles of importance, get the word out?? Well then.....

<https://wildlife.org/wildlife-society-bulletin-seeks-editor-in-chief/>. The *Wildlife Society Bulletin* is seeking applicants for the position of editor-in-chief. **The deadline to apply is January 3, 2020.**

Mariah Simmons

Unit Services Manager

[The Wildlife Society](#)

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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Integrating Wildlife Science and Management

The **Wildlife Society** seeks qualified applicants/nominees for the position of **Editor-in-Chief** for its peer-reviewed publication, **Wildlife Society Bulletin**.
Click here to learn more!

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POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

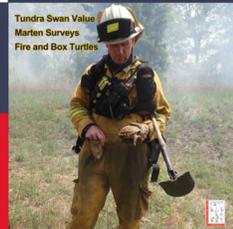
The **Wildlife Society** is accepting applications and nominations for the Wildlife Society Bulletin's next **Editor-in-Chief**.
Click here to learn more!

Application Period Ends:
January 3, 2020

4 ISSUES YEAR

60k FULL-TEXT DOWNLOADS IN 2018

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

California Fish and Game Commission Lists Foothill Yellow-legged Frog within most of the state.



Foothill yellow-legged frog (adult & egg mass - Alameda County)

At its December 2019 meeting in Sacramento, the California Fish and Game Commission made a listing decision under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) regarding the foothill yellow-legged frog. Due to the level of genetic divergence, geographic isolation, and differing levels of imperilment between populations and threats within these populations, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) recommended separating the listing into different clades for the foothill yellow-legged frog. The Commission's decision was consistent with that

threatened under CESA. The Commission also decided that listing the North Coast clade is not warranted at this time. The Commission is scheduled to adopt findings for the decision at its February 2020 meeting.

Additionally, The Center for Biological Diversity petitioned the USFWS in 2012 to protect the foothill yellow-legged frog under the federal Endangered Species Act. Under a lawsuit settlement agreement with the Center, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will decide by 2020 on whether the species warrants federal protection.

<https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/imperiled-yellow-legged-frogs-protected-under-californias-endangered-species-act-2019-12-11/>

""NEWSFLASH"" For Immediate Action

Mid-peninsula Regional Open Space (MPROS), San Mateo County, has proposed changes to their Grazing Management Policy that may allow for the control of predators including mountain lion and coyotes, that are deemed a threat to livestock. The next public meeting to discuss these proposed amendments is December 17 in Mountain View.



Livestock grazing is a commonly-used vegetation management practice across the California landscape and is the primary management tool deployed by most of the greater Bay Area public open space land managers including on private property. Management of lands by grazing animals is largely completed by cattle although both sheep and goats are used for more specific tasks in close proximity to the urban interface. Scientific evidence supports the removal of dense stands of exotic Mediterranean grasses, introduced with the European colonization of North America, as a legitimate management tool to sustain native forbs, grasses and the associated wildlife. Additionally, voters continue to overwhelmingly approve and support the expansion of Open Space lands for recreation and natural resource preservation across many Bay Area counties. Inherent in these proactive management goals are conflicts with habitat protection, wildlife management and public safety. Research has shown that native mammals including mountain lions and coyotes, continue to utilize and often expand their use of these lands and the adjacent urban interface occasionally creating increased public safety concerns. While it has been documented that these predators are capable of and may occasionally take livestock, they are mainly focused on native prey species and livestock depredation is a rare

the future removal of these predators, compensation for the loss of livestock, and the implementation of avoidance and hazing measures targeted towards predators. As we have often seen in public forums, emotions can run high and affect the outcome of the governing body's decision. That is why it is important for you, as a member of the SF Chapter of TWS, to be represented in person or in text, at this next public meeting. Below is the link to the meeting agenda and the proposed policy amendments.

<https://www.openspace.org/grazing-management-policy-amendment>

The Western section of the Wildlife Society's Annual Conference REDDING, CA FEB 5-8, 2020 RED LION HOTEL

[Link to Conference Website](#)

Register by December 6th for the lowest rates!

Rates increase soon...

67th Annual Meeting UPDATE

2020 Annual Meeting Contributed Paper Abstracts: We are excited to announce the 2020 Annual Meeting Oral and Poster Session Program: [Link to accepted abstracts and schedule](#)

Seeking Raffle Donations to Support Student Programs Every year, we reach out to supportive individuals and organizations (like you!) in search of auction/raffle donors to support our annual meeting. In the past, generous donations to the Western Section raffle and auction have allowed us to help support the educational and professional development of the next generation of wildlife biologists and managers. This year we are again expanding the scope of our auction to include member-donated experiences and items for our silent auction.

If you are an illustrator, a painter, a knitter, an author, an outdoors woman, or simply a Western Section member with something unique to offer your fellow wildlifers, we are reaching out to*you* to see if you would be interested in donating an experience or item. Maybe you are an avid birder who can share the art of birding by ear, or an outdoors person who can lead a guided hunt. Perhaps you can offer a weekend getaway in your family's summer cabin or a chartered flight to an out-of-the-way fly-fishing destination. Paintings, signed books, a wildlife-themed knitted beanie, and a locally-gathered and home-cooked meal are examples of "hand-made" items that members would love to have. Goods crafted by hand with love and experiences to share with fellow wildlifers not only can help support the Western Section, but also can help forge new friendships between members along the way.

Please contact Raffle and Silent Auction Chair Susanne Marczak if you have any questions or



Last Chance before Bobbie Foster retires -- Foster Calm Wilderness First Aid Class! Bobbie Foster is retiring next spring and the 2020 Wilderness First Aid class is the last one to be offered at a TWS-WS Annual Meeting. Be sure to sign up soon before the class fills up so you have one last chance to learn from the best! <http://tws-west.org/redding2020/pre-meeting-workshops/>

Rep the SF Bay Chapter!



[Click here](#) to buy high performance t-shirts and SF Garter Snake (i.e. "one of a kind") pins. Visit our online store [here](#)! These items are also available at our workshops and field trips. We also have logo stickers to put on your water bottle or on your new baby's bottom (Congrats on the newest member [Kristin](#)).

OUTGOING OFFICERS

Many, many thanks to our outgoing officers for their great work:

Jen Jelincic - Past-president

Matthew Bettelheim - Senior Advisor

Wendy St. John - Media Director

Janine Payne - Chapter Representative

Note from Editor: I have observed the dedication and many hours of hard work that these and other members of the Board have done since I joined the ranks. I can tell you that the entire Board is made up of champions, tirelessly dedicated to making this chapter the best amongst many. You can stand up and clap now, they deserve it!!

Interested in becoming a board member? Please [email](#) us for open opportunities!

OFFICER DIRECTORY

Elected Board Members:

President.....Natalie Greer
 President-Elect.....Natalie Reeder
 Past-President.....Jen Jelincic
 Chapter Rep.....Natasha Dvorak

Appointed Board Members:

Secretary.....Christina Kelleher
 Treasurer.....Ricka Stoelting
 Newsletter Editor.....Joe DiDonato
 Media Director.....Meghan Bishop
 Conservation Affairs.....Jeanne Chinn (resigned 11/19)
 New Conserv. Affairs.....Patricia Valcarcel
 Historian.....Rachel Roberts

Committee Chairs:

Professional Development.....Molly Peterson
 Student Affairs.....Halia Eastburn
 Public Outreach.....Laura Duffy

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Are you a photographer or have something you want to share? Submit your photographs and stories to the editor by February 15 for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Editor: Joe DiDonato
 jedidonato@gmail.com

BLAST FROM THE PAST

If you have any interesting wildlife tails from your adventures in the field, or photos that you would like to share, please write to us at <https://www.sfbaywildlife.org/contact>

Tarantulas, honeybee, wild turkey, members at Greens and Beasts Feast, lion, coyote, black-tailed deer, yellow-legged frog: Joe DiDonato

Patricia Valcarcel - self supplied image

Merchandise: Ricka Stoelting



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