

THE WANDERING TATTLER

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

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IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message.....	pg 1
Membership Update.....	pg 2
Treasurer's Report.....	pg 2
Chapter Stickers.....	pg 2
Upcoming Workshop.....	pg 4
Chapter Announcements....	pg 5
Board Directory.....	pg 5
Membership Directory.....	pg 5
Cover Photograph.....	pg 5
Submission Deadline.....	pg 5

Featured Article:

Remembering Wendy Dexter pg 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Erika Walther

2015 is shaping up to be a great year for the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of TWS. We have filled virtually every Board position, and it seems that every officer possesses a special talent and/or passion that makes her or him perfectly suited for accomplishing some great things in that position.

Your Chapter's new officers are listed at <http://tws-west.org/sfbay/sample-page/officer-directory/>

We started the year with an outing to Natural Bridges State Park in January to see overwintering monarchs and visit the tidepools. Our Chapter had a strong presence at the Western Section meeting in Santa Rosa, where we hosted a lively Chapter meeting and were awarded Chapter of the Year by the Western Section for the second consecutive year (woot woot!). In February, we hosted a wildly popular Half-day Branchiopod Workshop at Vasco Caves with Jamie Kneitel of Sacramento State University and Doug Bell of East Bay Regional Park District. Special, surprise guest Mary Belk also joined us. March brought Birding by Ear with Denise Wight in Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, followed by the Annual Mixer at Spice Monkey Restaurant in downtown Oakland. About 25 members attended the Mixer and we received positive feedback from several members regarding the food and atmosphere. If you liked this venue (or didn't, or would like to suggest a location for 2016), please let us know. It is not an easy task to find a venue for our Annual Mixer, so



TWS Western Section Meeting | Janine Payne Schneir



Branchiopod Workshop at Vasco Caves | Erika Walther

Future plans for 2015 include:

- Continuing our monthly outings
- Updating the website to be more engaging and beautiful. We have recently added a Local Jobs Board page and we welcome job announcements for wildlife biologist positions within, or adjacent to, the greater San Francisco Bay Area. We now also post the meeting minutes from our Board meetings under the "About us" header.
- Interacting with the general public to educate them about who we are and what we, as wildlife biologists, do, and sharing our knowledge about local natural resources
- Establishing an annual budget for 2015
- Planning one or more professional development workshops
- Updating our bylaws and documenting Standard Operating Procedures
- Contributing our opinions on conservation affairs issues so we can better organize a regional response to those issues
- Creating opportunities for our student chapter members
- And much more!

Please contact a Board member (officers and email contacts are available on our Chapter website) if you would like to provide input on any of these topics, and we hope to see at one or more of our events this year!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Nicole Christie

We currently have 128 total members of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter. Since the beginning of the year, we have had 67 people either join or renew their Chapter membership. Six of those members have taken advantage of the relatively new method of joining through the Chapter website. Of the other members, 25 joined through the Western Section and 36 signed up through the National website. Not everyone lists an association when they sign up, so we do not always get a complete picture of the types of memberships in the Chapter. However, we do know that most of the new/renewed members are professionals as there were only four members listed as students.



Birding By Ear Workshop | Erika Walther

TREASURER'S REPORT

Rachel Danielson

The year is off to a great start financially with \$17,436.48 of Chapter funds between its checking and investment accounts at the close of December 2014. The Chapter earned a \$3,115.92 profit in 2014 which was generated primarily through the camera trapping workshop and merchandise sales of t-shirts and stickers displaying our Chapter logo. While hosting dinner and drinks at the Annual Western Section Conference Chapter meeting and sponsoring the Chapter's Annual Mixer slightly diminished funds in the first quarter, the Chapter has hosted two profit-generating workshops, the Branchiopods Workshop in February and the Birding by Ear Workshop March. Collectively these workshops generated \$295 which offset Chapter-funded events since the beginning of 2015.



Mount Diablo Summit | Matthew Bettelheim

GOT A CHAPTER STICKER?

Show us where it's taken you.

We want to see where in the Bay Area or farther afield you've found yourself sporting your new San Francisco Bay Area Chapter sticker. Send us a photo of you and your sticker out and about on our facebook page - [San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the Wildlife Society](#).

Don't have a sticker? Get yours at our online store!
tws-west.org/sfbay/merchandise



Briones Regional Park | Matthew Bettelheim

REMEMBERING WENDY DEXTER

JULY 22 1967 - JAN 27 2015



By Erika Walther

Many of us were shocked and saddened to learn of Wendy Dexter's passing this past January. Wendy was the President and Principal Biologist at Condor Country Consulting, the firm she founded in 2001. Wendy earned her B.S. in Environmental Planning and Management from U.C. Davis, and completed her Master's coursework on Terrestrial Biology at California State University, Hayward. After graduating from U.C. Davis, Wendy embarked on what would be a 22-year career as a wildlife biologist, beginning with three and a half years working for the USDA Forest Service overseeing spotted owl surveys.

For the next eight years, Wendy gained a wide range of experience with a breadth of California species; however, her specialty would become the herpetofauna of the San Francisco Bay Area: she possessed 10(a)1(A) permits for,

and worked extensively with, California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, San Francisco garter snake and Alameda whipsnake. She also had extensive experience surveying for large branchiopods.

Wendy was a devoted wife and mother. She married Sean Dexter in 2003 in Port Costa, California, and Sean became her partner in business, as well as in life, helping her run Condor Country Consulting as CFO and Principal Archaeologist. In 2005, they welcomed their daughter Aspen into the world. Wendy and Sean enjoyed taking Aspen, and their two lucky dogs, on a multitude of camping trips in their RV. Wendy spent time in Aspen's classroom, sharing the magic of science and nature; she also volunteered as an avian advisor in Belize, dedicated time to the PTA, and attended and volunteered at her church.

As Wendy's obituary explained: "Wendy's approach to life was to make every day matter. She spent it with loved ones and enjoyed life to its fullest. Wendy was brave and strong, ethical and thoughtful, sunshine and flowers, light but very deep. She approached her responsibilities with enthusiasm and dedication. She was a bright shining star and she will be missed dearly by all who loved her." Wendy is surely missed at Condor Country Consulting and by all those who appreciated her depth of experience, her commitment to protecting wildlife, and her practical and sunny disposition.

The San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of TWS is collecting donations through May 31st in Wendy's memory for one of Wendy's favorite organizations, Friends of Alhambra Creek. To make a donation, please visit the [donation page](#).

UPCOMING WORKSHOP:

ADVANCED CAMERA TRAPPING

*Susan E. Townsend, PhD
and Steven Hammerich*



By Janine Payne Schneir

Are you a biologist currently using camera trap technology but looking to take it to the next level? If so, keep an eye out for an announcement regarding registration for our upcoming Advanced Camera Trapping Workshop, scheduled for September 25th - 27th at Pepperwood Preserve, Santa Rosa.

This workshop will be geared for wildlife biologists that are already familiar with camera trapping but would like learn more about designing camera trapping studies, managing, summarizing and analyzing data effectively, building a useful database, and reporting results from camera trapping studies. This workshop will have both lecture and field components.

Lecture component will cover basic information regarding camera trap selection in light of camera trapping objectives, how to formulate objectives, considerations in establishing protocols, how to organize and catalogue photographs, summarize effort and results, data collection and management, and types of analysis including occupancy modeling applicable to camera trapping with an emphasis on landscape-level camera trapping efforts. Field components will include implementing a study, setting up camera traps using protocols and datasheets, downloading data, and participating in a landscape-level camera trapping research project currently in its third year at Pepperwood Preserve.

Camera trapped coyote | Susan E. Townsend

We will review current methods for landscape level camera trapping such as TEAMNETWORK and the Wildlife Picture Index (a method to determine trends in biodiversity) and present case studies from Mongolia and Sonoma County, California. Additionally, workshop participants will get first-hand experience with landscape level camera trapping research project currently being conducted at Pepperwood Preserve measuring trends in biodiversity, health of the ecosystem and role in regional connectivity. Participants will also receive digital copies of materials including methods, instructions and links to other camera trapping manuals and protocols, links to hardware, software and organizations (websites) that provide relevant information.

CHAPTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Additional upcoming events:

An Introduction to IDing Nature: Keying the Birds of Lake Merritt and the Trees They Call Home.

WildOakland is a nonprofit that engages with the community to get people outside in Oakland city limits and allows the public to learn about nature in their own urban backyard. The walk will occur the second Saturday in June, June 13th. It is free to all and is a great opportunity to engage friends, family, and youth in learning how to identify species. This will involve a day of activities, including the identification walk in the morning, followed by hands-on restoration of Lake Merritt in the afternoon. Stay tuned - more information to come.

Please contact Kristin Tremain if you have interest in attending/volunteering this event.

New website!

Be sure to visit our gorgeous new website designed by Wendy St. John at <http://tws-west.org/sfbay/>. Our old website will be gone by June 15th, so be sure to update your bookmarks!

OFFICER DIRECTORY

Elected Board Members:

President..... Erika Walther
President elect..... Tammy Lim
Past-President..... Mandi McElroy
Chapter Representative..... Matthew Bettelheim

Appointed Board Members:

Secretary..... Nicole Christie
Treasurer..... Rachel Danielson
Newsletter Editor..... Catherine Yasuda
Media Director..... Wendy St. John
Conservation Affairs..... Jeanne Chinn
Historian..... Scott Lindemann

Committee Chairs:

Professional Development... Janine Payne-Schneir
Student Affairs..... Ivan Parr
Public Outreach..... Kristin Tremain



Owl Walk | Janine Payne Schneir

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Matthew Bettelheim

Encouraged by San Francisco Bay Area Chapter members during past Annual Mixers, this Spring our Chapter finalized our first ever San Francisco Bay Area Chapter Member Directory, an opt-in directory to facilitate reaching out to your colleagues and knowing where our members' expertise lies. Those who have opted in will receive a copy of the directory in the next few weeks as a digital .pdf file; new members will have the option to add themselves upon registering through the Chapter website. If you would like to be included in future directory updates, please contact chapter secretary Nicole Christie (nicolechristie10@gmail.com) and include your first/last name, Company/Affiliation, Address (street, city, zip), phone, email, and your particular expertise:

EXPERTISE: (W) = General Wildlife, (I) = Invertebrates, (F) = Fisheries, (R) = Reptiles, (A) = Amphibians, (O) = Ornithology, (M) = Mammals

To respect members privacy, the final directory and future revisions will only be distributed to those that opt in to have their information included in the directory.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH

The cover photograph is of a double crested cormorant photographed at Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge by Catherine Yasuda.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Are you a photographer or have something you want to share? Submit your photographs and stories to the editor at catherineyasudadesigns@gmail.com by **JULY 1ST** for inclusion in the next newsletter.