

The Valley Fever

January 2015

Board Positions for 2015 Election

The chapter is conducting its annual elections to fill the board positions for president-elect, treasurer, and secretary. We are pleased to have very qualified and enthusiastic candidates for all three board positions. Please read their candidate statements on pages 7-8. Since each position does not have two candidates to vote for, the candidates will be appointed by the current chapter president, Lori Bono, at the next chapter meeting in Santa Rosa. Thank you candidates!

Thank chapter would also like to thank the outgoing treasurer, Justin Sloan, and the out-going secretary, Erin Tennant, for their dedicated service to the chapter the last 4+years. Your efforts have been greatly appreciated!

In 2015 Justin will also hand over the reins of membership coordinator to Renee Robison who has graciously volunteered to help in this important position. Thank you, Renee!

Please see page 2 for a special announcement regarding the president-elect, Rick Perry.

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

2015 Annual Conference of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society

January 26-30, 2015

Vineyard Creek Hyatt Hotel
Santa Rosa, CA

**The chapter meeting is Thursday Jan. 29,
8:00 to 9:30 PM in the Hyatt Sonoma
Mountain Room**

Are you a student? Please join our meeting and see what's happening. It's a great way to meet new biologists, network, and get involved.

Head over to the Western Section's website for registration and all the details and updates for the annual conference: <http://www.tws-west.org/>

Announcing Conference Grants to Students and New Professionals

The chapter is offering 5 grants for up to \$600 each to cover costs for registration, travel, and lodging for the Annual Conference in Santa Rosa! This is a fantastic opportunity to attend a great meeting, with many networking and educational opportunities. Please submit the following qualifications to Lori Bono at lori.bono@wildlife.ca.gov

1. Be a current chapter member, only 5 bucks to join!
2. Submit proof you are a current student or have graduated within the last three years
3. Submit a very brief summary of yourself to apply
4. Keep all receipts (registration, lodging, food, gas) for reimbursement

Board Member Reports

Special notice: On January 13, President, Lori Bono, received a call from President-elect, Rick Perry, and he informed her that he will not be able to fulfill the duties of president for 2015 due to personal conflicts. Lori Bono informed the chapter board immediately and quoted, "He sends his deep regrets, but because of this he will not be able to take on the role of President for the upcoming year". In order to fill the President position, Erin Tennant suggested to ask Eric Schaad, who ran with Rick last year for the position. Jeff Davis contacted Eric, and although he appreciated the consideration, Eric has many commitments for the upcoming year and is unable to fulfill the President position. Lori asked the board if anyone was willing to fill the position last minute and the current Secretary, Erin Tennant, has offered to take the position for 2015. She will be officially appointed by Lori Bono at the next chapter meeting January 29 in Santa Rosa. Thank you to Rick and Eric for their efforts to help the chapter. We appreciate your enthusiasm and understand that sometimes other commitments take priority. We will always be searching for new candidates, so maybe sometime in the future there may be a better time to serve. Also many thanks to Erin for her willingness to take on the duties on such short notice! We have still included Rick Perry's Board member report below because it still has great meaning to the mission of the chapter and The Wildlife Society.

President-elect, Rick Perry

What We Are to Me

By Rick L. Perry

President Elect San Joaquin Chapter

June 12, 2014

For the first article I have written for our Chapter newsletter, I thought I would share my feelings and ideas about what The Wildlife Society and our Chapter are for me. The people who make up our Chapter have lots of titles, biologist, ecologist, natural resource specialist, naturalist and many others, but as a whole we are a group of people concerned with or who have an interest in the plant and animal communities in our areas or world. Where it gets touchy is in how we go about doing what we do. Some of us are citizens with an interest, some are consultants working for developers or others, some are agency personnel trying to write permits that protect our resources, and some are researchers trying to get more and more knowledge out to the rest of us. This puts a lot of us on opposite sides of the table when negotiations are happening and although I'm sure most of you won't believe it, we even get on each other's nerves once in a while. Except for me of course...everyone loves me since I am your President Elect after all.

All kidding aside, when those of us in consulting spend months working on projects proceeding in good faith, we can take it personally when the person on the other side of the table disagrees with us and wants something different. Those of us who are regulators may take it personally when consultants or applicants don't agree with the permit conditions. Does it mean we didn't do a good job? No, not necessarily, it just means another professional disagrees with our conclusion. That happens daily in the science fields and can foster healthy debate. The same can be true when a citizen is reviewing documents made public and they provide comments. I don't think anyone is trying to be mean spirited or personal, they are just doing what they believe is best for the resource.

What does this have to do with The Wildlife Society and our Chapter? With all the above types of tensions going on in our day to day lives, once a year, once a quarter, or whenever our schedules allow, we get to come together as members of The Society or the Chapter and while we're there we have an opportunity to let those tensions go. At that moment we all find ourselves as just biologists, ecologists, natural resource specialists who all have a common goal and interest which draws us together. The Wildlife Society and our Chapter give us all a break, to just be people with a common interest and share ideas and sometimes even get more done than we can do back in our jobs or positions as citizens. The Wildlife Society gives us a common voice to move society and politics, to teach the public, to give a face to the plants and wildlife we love.

So I would like to encourage all of you to keep, if not The Wildlife Society as a whole, the Chapter in mind when you see or hear of things where the public, your kids, your kid's friends, news articles, and other opportunities for education may arise. Many of those opportunities are too big for a person to handle, but if they're too big for a person, maybe the Chapter can handle it. If it's too big for the Chapter, then we move on up the line. This isn't a topic where a person has to take on the world, although that happens. That's part of what the larger groups are for, being a part of solving the problem when the problem is too big for an individual to solve.

Board Member Reports cont.

Treasurer and Membership Coordinator, Justin Sloan

The Chapter currently has \$37,811 in the bank.

Overall Chapter membership has increased in the past year and the Chapter currently has 261 members. Now is a great time to renew your membership for 2015. You can mail in the 2015 membership form at the back of this newsletter with dues or you can renew through TWS National or the Western Section. Please continue to spread the word about the Chapter and encourage any friends or co-workers to join. Expanding the membership base allows the Chapter to provide more opportunities in the form of workshops, conferences, grants and outreach.

Website Coordinator, Howard Clark

Thank you, Howard, for keeping the website current!

New Chapter Website link: <http://www.wildlife.org/sanjoaquin/>

Chapter Announcements for 2015

Natural Communities Conference - Spring 2015

The annual Natural Communities Conference is planned for a date TBA in the spring. Location in Bakersfield, exact date, and a call for papers will be announced very soon via the chapter member's email. This one-day conference offers the opportunity to hear the latest research and management of species within the San Joaquin Valley and surrounding areas, network, and catch up with fellow biologists. The cost is only around \$30 dollars, and half off for students. It is an unbelievable deal for a day packed with information and sharing ideas.

Other Possible 2015 Workshops and Events

The board is planning a **Botany Workshop** tentatively set for April 9-11, but the exact date and location is in the planning stages. Due to the recent rains it is looking very positive that there will actually be some green Valley plant life to observe in the field this year! It is a nice change of pace compared to the underachieving plant displays seen the last several years. Please contact, Jeff Davis, if you are interested in getting involved with the planning process of this workshop!

A 2-day **Wildlife Tracking Workshop with tracking expert, Jim Lowery of Earth Skills**, is also in the works for Oct. or Nov. at the Wind Wolves Preserve located at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley. Stay posted for the exact dates and details sent out via email and posted on the chapter website.

Please let the board members know if you have ideas for future workshops, fun social events, or quarterly meeting locations! We want to hear from the membership!

Chapter Membership – Time to Renew!

It's time again to renew your membership (or become a member if you aren't already!) to the San Joaquin Valley Chapter. As with the Western Section, membership with the Chapter is annual, following the calendar year. We're very pleased to still have a membership rate that is about the lowest within TWS, at a mere \$5 annually. Membership dues help us to fund events, research grants, and general operations. Some benefits of membership include reduced rates at chapter workshops and other events, participation in quarterly board meetings, and the ability to vote in board elections. It's easy to pay your dues – you can do so when renewing with either National TWS or with the Western Section or you can send payment along with a 2015 registration form, included in this newsletter. We appreciate all our members and look forward to offering more opportunities and ways for members get involved.

Research Grants

Just a friendly reminder that our research grant guidelines are posted on the Chapter website at <http://www.wildlife.org/sanjoaquin/>. If you are conducting or planning wildlife research in the Chapter area, we encourage you to submit an application so that we can consider funding your work. Grad students, here is your chance, every bit helps!

Chapter Correspondence – Chapter Mailing Address!

All chapter correspondence, including sending memberships forms and checks, should be sent to the chapter's mailbox. The mailbox is checked regularly and all mail will get to the appropriate board member. Thanks for your help with this, as it helps us to be consistent and serve the membership better. **Please make sure you have TWS San Joaquin Valley Chapter in the address, and not just the board members' name.** Otherwise the post office kicks it back to you! Here is the address:

The Wildlife Society San Joaquin Valley Chapter
438 E. Shaw Ave. #230
Fresno, CA 93710

2014 Chapter Highlights

Natural Communities Conference

The annual conference this past March 27th was well attended by over 120 people and included a full day of presentations and posters on new research, conservation, and mitigation for species of the San Joaquin Valley and surrounding habitats. This annual meeting continues to provide valuable information for agency personnel, researchers, managers, and consultants working with San Joaquin Valley flora and fauna. There are many chapter members who help make this event possible, especially Larry Saslaw, David Germano, Brian Cypher, Linda Connolly, and Justin Sloan who organize the bulk of the conference. The chapter would also like to thank all the speakers who took the time to put presentations and posters together. Thanks to all the attendants as well. Stayed tuned for our next NCC in spring 2015, right around the corner!

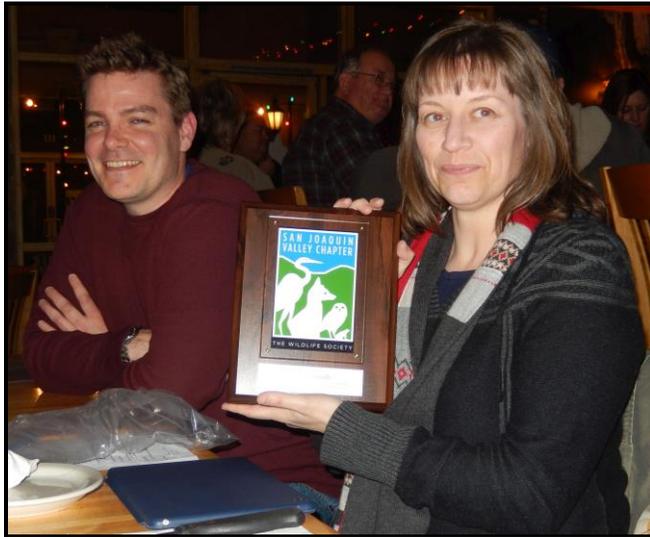
Certification Workshop by Lori Bono

On October 18, 2014, the San Joaquin Valley Chapter co-sponsored a Certification Workshop with the Western Section at the Quad Knopf office in Fresno, California. The Chapter and Section offered the workshop for a low registration cost of \$20 and we ended up having a great turnout. Rhys Evans from the Western Section provided an overview of the certification program and then provided a detailed review of the certification application and addressed questions specific to each person's professional (cont. on pg. 5)

and educational experience. Everyone left with a better insight into the certification process and many attendees were well on their way to completing their application for certification. The Chapter would like to thank Rhys and all of the attendees that came to the workshop.

Two 2014 Awards to two Hard-Working Chapter Members

At the Dec. 13, 2014 chapter meeting, **Linda Connolly** was presented with a **lifetime membership** award by the chapter president, Lori Bono, for her tremendous contributions to the San Joaquin Valley Chapter as president-elect, president, past-president, Chapter Representative to the Western Section, and all around chapter organizer. Linda is a very organized and enthusiastic member who has taken the chapter to new levels. Thank you very much, Linda, for all that you have done for the chapter and thank you to Brian Cypher who encouraged the chapter to pursue this award for Linda. It was an award well deserved!



Linda Connolly holding San Joaquin Valley Lifetime Membership plaque Dec. 13, 2014 Fresno, CA. Justin Sloan, treasurer and membership coordinator, to the left. Photo by Howard Clark.

On the National level, as quoted in the winter 2014 newsletter of the Western Section, “The Wildlife Society Council presented **Brian Cypher with the TWS Fellow** in recognition of his exceptional service to the wildlife profession on Sunday, October 26, during The Wildlife Society's 21st Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This award recognizes members who have distinguished themselves through exceptional service to the wildlife profession. TWS Fellows are appointed for life and serve as ambassadors of The Wildlife Society”.

Brian Cypher is a lifetime member of the San Joaquin Valley Chapter and has made many valuable contributions to the chapter, the Western Section, and to the National level of The Wildlife Society . Thank you, Brian, for your dedicated service to the wildlife profession and the conservation efforts in the San Joaquin Valley and beyond!

Notes and Photos from the Field



Western bluebird, Chino Hills, CA. An excellent photo by Howard Clark, chapter webmaster.

Candidate Statement for President-elect by Kristofer Robison

As with many motivating ideas for projects and collaborations, my nomination for president-elect took place over a round of beers. While attending the latest meeting of the San Joaquin Valley Chapter of The Wildlife Society, I learned of the opening for president-elect. Being new to living and working in the Central Valley, it seemed like a perfect way to dive in head first and become actively involved with wildlife professionals in the area.

My college career and interest in biology started while attending Antelope Valley College where a course in Environmental Science opened my eyes to the extent of ecological degradation around the globe. A fire was started within me, and from there I transferred to UC Davis to complete a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology. During that period I was introduced to TWS, became involved with the UCD student chapter where I served as chapter representative, and volunteered at the national conference in Monterey. While completing my degree, I was offered a summer job working with western and Clark's grebes. That experience turned into a multi-year effort that eventually led to a Master's degree. I had the distinct privilege of studying under Dr. Dan Anderson, one of the primary investigators studying the ecological effects and connections of DDE and eggshell thinning. Dan has remained my professor, mentor, and friend.

My wife and I moved to Fresno just over a year ago to work with Colibri Ecological Consulting. Before that, I had no intention (or desire) to live or work in the San Joaquin Valley. However, my sentiments have since evolved as my knowledge and interest in the area has grown. Learning about and working to protect the iconic species of the Valley, big and small, and the habitats that support them has helped me understand the massive extent of ecological change that has occurred. Although the magnitude of change is bewildering, there still remain many valuable natural resources in the Valley.

It is incumbent upon organizations such as TWS to draw on its membership and networks to help raise awareness of the unique natural resource challenges of the San Joaquin Valley. I look forward to the opportunity to help the TWS-SJV Chapter further educate and motivate its members by sharing knowledge through workshops, lectures, and other professional development events.

Thank you for considering me for TWS-SJV Chapter president!

Candidate for Secretary – Julie Vance

I have been a member of the Wildlife Society (TWS, Western Section, and San Joaquin Chapter) since 1998. I had the pleasure of serving as Western Section President in 2007 and as Chapter President in 2004 and 2009.

At CDFW, I manage our regulatory programs for activities proposed in CDFW's Central Region, which includes the San Joaquin Valley, as well as in the Kern County portion of the Mohave Desert and San Benito, Monterey, and San Luis Obispo Counties. I have been at CDFW for the past 10 years, and prior to that time I worked for the Department of Water Resources (DWR) out of the Fresno Office. At DWR I spent much of my time conducting surveys for our rare southern San Joaquin Valley species, such as blunt-nosed leopard lizard, kangaroo rats, San Joaquin kit fox, burrowing owl, and Swainson's hawk. I have lived in the San Joaquin Valley (Fresno) since elementary school. I attended Fresno City College and CSU Fresno, where I obtained a BS in Ecology (1996) and an MS in Biology (2000). My thesis was entitled: *Instream Movements of the California Newt in an Intermittent Central California Foothill Stream*. Since 2001, I have continued to study PIT-tagged newts at the McKenzie Preserve in my free time. I also spend my personal time gardening, cooking, hiking, camping, beach combing, and playing with my two young boys. I have limited my active participation in the Chapter for the past few years due to the demands of motherhood and my job, but I am looking forward to directly re-engaging with our fantastic board and members.

I would be honored to serve as your Chapter Secretary, and thank you for considering me for this position.

Candidate statements cont.

Candidate for Treasurer – Ryan Lopez

Thank you for considering me for the position of Treasurer for the San Joaquin Valley Chapter of The Wildlife Society. I have been involved with The Wildlife Society for many years now, and am excited to take my involvement to a new level. My experiences as a Fresno State Presidents Scholar while receiving my bachelors and masters in Biology/Ecology, in addition to the ensuing professional experience, have given me the necessary skills to succeed in this new role. During my college career, I worked in the Fresno State Forest Ecology lab on projects in the Sequoia National Park, the Sierra National Forest, and the foothills of Kern County. I have worked with the NRCS mapping invasive vegetation on the Kaweah River, with the San Joaquin River Parkway as a canoe guide, completed over 600 hours of college level instruction for Fresno State and Fresno City College in science courses, and was an EPA Star-GRO Fellow from 2004-2006. After college I began work as a Biologist/Planner at Wildlands, where I still work as the Central Valley/Desert Regional Manager, principally in charge of mitigation development, entitlement, land acquisition, conservation budgeting and planning, and land management on most projects in California between Stockton and Mexico. While at Wildlands I have been integrally involved with the permanent protection of ~35,000 acres of habitat for threatened and endangered species and habitat types. I have experience with special status plants and animals including desert tortoise, vernal pool species, giant kangaroo rat, San Joaquin kit fox, salt marsh harvest mouse, and delta smelt, among others.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve the San Joaquin Valley chapter and contribute towards efficiently and creatively utilizing chapter dues and fees for events to maximize the positive benefit the chapter has on its members, the community, and the environmental resources we work daily to protect. Our money will work harder when we partner with other local organizations like the Sequoia Riverlands Trust and the San Joaquin River Parkway. I will leverage chapter money to help restore the San Joaquin River, install informational kiosks throughout our region, and sponsor local events and causes that foster understanding and appreciation for our natural world. Ideas I will investigate include the Fresno Salmon Fest, Fresno Zoo adopt an animal or other sponsorship, and the Bakersfield Festival of Beers or Tehachapi Mountain Festival. Thank you for your consideration, and if given the opportunity, I look forward to working with you over the upcoming year.

San Joaquin Valley Chapter of the Wildlife Society 2015 Membership Form

Date: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ M. I. : _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Work Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail address: _____

Employer/Affiliation: _____

Areas of Interest:

Are you a student? Yes No If yes, which school? _____

Would you be interested in serving on a committee or become an officer? _____

Annual Dues: \$5.00 (make checks payable to "San Joaquin Valley Chapter-TWS")

Or did you pay your chapter dues when renewing with National and/or the Western Section? Yes / No

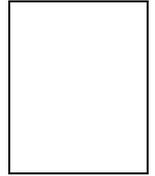
If you said "yes" please fill out this membership form as well and send it to the address below.

Mail forms with dues payment to:

The Wildlife Society San Joaquin Valley Chapter
438 E. Shaw Ave. #230
Fresno, CA 93710

For more information, contact Justin Sloan at: jsloantws@gmail.com

San Joaquin Valley Chapter TWS
Newsletter Editor
438 E. Shaw Ave. #230
Fresno, CA 93710



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

2014-15 Chapter Executive Board and Committee Chairs

President	Lori Bono, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, lori.bono@wildlife.ca.gov	(559) 243-4014
President-Elect	Erin Tennant, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, erin.tennant@gmail.com	(559) 515-1882
Past President	Jeff Davis, Colibri Ecological Consulting, jdavis@colibri-ecology.com	(559) 246-3272
Secretary	Erin Tennant, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, erin.tennant@gmail.com	(559) 515-1882
Treasurer	Justin Sloan, US Fish & Wildlife, jsloantws@gmail.com	(559) 243-4014
Chapter Rep.	Jeff Davis, Colibri Ecological Consulting, jdavis@colibri-ecology.com	(559) 246-3272
Newsletter	Christine Van Horn Job, Endangered Species Recovery Program, evanhornjob@gmail.com	(805) 838-6237
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Website Master	Howard Clark, HT Harvey & Associates, Howard.clark.jr@gmail.com	