



THE VALLEY FEVER

March 2018



Welcome President-Elect Erin Whitfield

Erin's interest in wildlife and conservation biology was sparked at a young age while on annual camping trips with her family throughout the west. She has a bachelor's degree in Biological Science from Humboldt State University (HSU), 1986. Erin was active in The Wildlife Society's HSU student chapter while in college. Since moving to Bakersfield in 1990 she has been involved in the San Joaquin Valley Chapter. Additionally, Erin has served on committees and boards for numerous volunteer organizations starting as early as high school senior class president. She has served on the board of the HSU Student Legislative Council, chaired several committees for the Junior League of Bakersfield, most recently, served on the board of the Bear Mountain Water Association. Professionally, Erin has been a sole proprietor for 17 years. She has been actively involved in wildlife conservation work since joining the California Conservation Corps in 1978. Currently the majority of her work is within the California desert bioregions.

Natural Communities Conference: Announcement and Registration

Thursday, March 29, 2018, Hodel's Country Dining Restaurant, Liberty Hall Meeting Room, 5917 Knudsen Drive, Bakersfield, CA 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM (Check-in starts 8:00 AM)

This one-day conference is an opportunity for biologists conducting research, management, regulation, and conservation activities for natural communities and biota in the San Joaquin Valley Chapter area to exchange information, ideas, results, and progress of their work. The conference is set in a casual and informal environment.

A Silent Auction fundraiser and a Game Camera Photo Contest will also be held! (see page 2)

Directions to Hodel's: Meeting room is located on

the north side of Bakersfield, just west of Hwy. 99. The main exit is Olive Dr. Hodel's is on Knudsen Dr. north of Olive Dr. Liberty Hall meeting room is on the north side of the parking lot, opposite the main entrance to the restaurant.

The registration form is available on our website: <http://wildlife.org/san-joaquin/>. Please register by end of day, March 20 for an accurate attendance estimate for the catering order. Please notify us by March 20 if you registered but can no longer attend.

Registration Rates (includes electronic abstract package, continental breakfast, a delicious lunch, and two refreshment breaks): Chapter Members—\$30; Nonmembers—\$35; Students—\$15; Presenters—Free! The nonmember rate includes chapter membership for 2018.



TRAIL CAMERA PHOTO CONTEST



San Joaquin Valley Chapter TWS Natural Communities Conference

Thursday, March 29, 2018
Hodel's Country Dining Restaurant
Liberty Hall Meeting Room
5917 Knudsen Dr., Bakersfield, CA
9:00AM - 5:00PM (Check-in starts 8:00AM)

The San Joaquin Valley Chapter TWS will be holding a Trail-Field Camera Photo Contest at the Natural Communities Conference. Pictures will be displayed at the back of the meeting room. All attendees will have the opportunity to vote on their favorite shot.

Rules:

- Pictures are taken by a commercial trail camera acquired during field studies.
- Entries submitted as an 8x10 print at the NCC or sent to Larry Saslaw, 14700 Orchard Crest Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93314 by March 24th. If desired, watermark or sign the lower right corner or the back of the photo for credit.
- You may submit 2 entries per person.
- Judging will be the highest number of votes by NCC attendees: one vote per attendee of their favorite shot by placing a ticket into a cup labeled for each entry

GRAND PRIZE: Cuddeback model 1224 long range IR camera

PHOTOS WILL BE AUCTIONED OFF (silent auction) as a fund raiser to support California Living Museum San Joaquin kit fox mange rehabilitation

The San Joaquin Valley Chapter will supply sheet protectors for each photo for the display and auction. Framing is not necessary, but it is a nice touch.

Please email Larry Saslaw, larry7719@sbcglobal.net if you will submit an entry so we can arrange for table space



Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard Workshop: Save the Date

Renée Robison, Membership Coordinator; renerobison929@gmail.com

The date for this year's blunt-nosed leopard lizard workshop has been set! Please save the date for Friday, May 18th and Saturday, May 19th. A series of lectures by species experts and practitioners will be held on Friday the 18th at Hodel's Country Dining in Bakersfield. The following day workshop participants will be guided through survey methods and data collection in the field, and have the opportunity to see blunt-nosed leopard lizards. More information regarding registration will be released in the coming weeks.



Attendees from the 2016 Workshop begin their exploration of Semitropic Ecological Reserve. Photo by Renée Robison.



Blunt-nosed leopard lizards (*Gambelia sila*), from the Semitropic Ecological Reserve, 2016 Workshop. Photos by Howard Clark.

Kern River Valley Bioregions Festival

Saturday April 21, 2018 at Circle Park Kernville and at the Kern River Preserve in Weldon, CA
For more information please visit www.southernsierraresearch.org or kern.audubon.org

The clean, sharp smell of Great Basin Sage in the wind....a Scott's Oriole perched atop of a Kern Joshua.....mixed flocks of warblers foraging in a huge cottonwood....the call of a Wren-tit bouncing over a dense stand of chaparral... the deep blue skies and towering pines of the Sierra Nevada....

It is not unusual to encounter these things as you travel around California. It is unusual however, to come across all of them within a few miles of one another – but that's exactly what you can do in the Kern River Valley. Located at the southern edge of the Sierra Nevada, the Kern River Valley is a unique place. Five of California's six bioregions (a region defined by characteristics of the natural environment rather than by man-made divisions) meet here in the Kern River Valley: Great Basin, Mojave Desert, Coastal Chaparral, Sierran Forest and California Grassland; including the largest remaining contiguous riparian forest in the state. With so many different habitats meeting in one place, plants and animals usually separated by many miles can be spotted within a short distance including 350 bird species, 138 butterfly species, 2,000+ species of plants, and the highest mammal diversity in the United States (115 species). The Kern River Valley Bioregions Festival is an annual event that celebrates the local unique biological diversity found in the valley.

Come join us to celebrate the uniqueness of the Kern River Valley!

EVENTS - will be headquartered in Kernville at Circle Park and at the Kern River Preserve in Weldon, CA. Walks are **free** and spaces for events are limited. Additional events may be added.

Sign up at Circle Park or to obtain more information for events please contact Wendy Rannals at wrannals@fs.fed.us

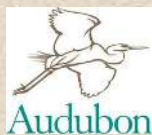
7:00 and 9:00 Guided bird identification walk at the Canebrake Ecological Reserve by John Stanek, Wildlife Biologist with the Southern Sierra Research Station. Meet at the Kern River Preserve headquarters at 7 am sharp.

7:00 and 9:00 Guided Bird walks at the Kern River Preserve, Weldon. Take a 1 mile walk through cottonwood-willow riparian forest and forest restoration plots along the South Fork Kern River. Each walk will take between one and two hours. Meet at the Kern River Preserve headquarters in Weldon.

7:30-10:00 Bird Banding Demonstration at the Kern River Preserve by Patti Wohner, Conservation Ecologist with the Southern Sierra Research Station. Meet at the Kern River Preserve Headquarters in Weldon. No dogs at the banding station please. No limit for participants or reservations required.

7:30-10:00 Guided bird identification walk at Tillie Creek Campground by John Schmitt, naturalist and professional wildlife artist.

9:00-10:00 Wildflower Hike Cannell Trail Wildflower Walk by Steve Anderson, Biologist USFS. Meet at Circle Park and caravan to the Cannell Trail. This will include hiking along a trail and the hills sides of Cannell Trail discussing and identifying flowers, types of brush and some historical features. Area subject to change, Participant total limited to 15.



10:00-11:00 “Valuing Nature’s Benefits - An Ecosystem Services Approach to Managing America’s Forests”

Ecosystem services are the benefits people receive and value from nature, however, the linkage between natural resource management and societal benefit is not always clearly understood. Festival attendees are invited to come out for a fun, casual, and informative walk through a local forest. Along the walk participants will learn how to identify trees and plants commonly found in a forest ecosystem, learn about forest ecology, and have a chance to discuss current trends in forest policy, land management, and ultimately how humans both affect and receive value from forest ecosystems.

12:30-2:00 Keyesville Historic mining walk and talk by Tim Kelly, Archaeologist USFS. Meet at Keyesville road across from Main Dam Campground. Hiking up to 4 miles throughout the Keyesville area making stops at various locations of historic features along the way. Participant total limited to 12.

6:30 pm Owl Prowl in the Greenhorn Mountains by Ernie Flores, Board President of Southern Sierra Research Station. Meet at the intersection between Rancheria Rd and 155 on the Greenhorn Summit near the USFS Summit Fire Station. Come enjoy searching for local owls, including Western Screech-Owl Northern Saw-whet Owl, Spotted Owl, and Northern Pygmy Owl with our own Owl enthusiast.

ACTIVITIES AND VENDORS – Information booths from USFS (defensible forest space), Kern River Environmental Magnet School, Kerncrest Audubon, California Native Plant Society, Southern Sierra Research Station, Keepers of the Kern, Randall Skate Park committee, Terri Gallion– musician, Tübatulabal Native Americans, US Department of Fish & Wildlife, Wind Wolves Preserve, Friends of the Condor, Tule Elk Preserve, music by Archie Logsdon and others. There will also be a kid’s activity table and face painting.

Sign up at Circle Park or to obtain more information for events please contact Wendy Rannals at wrannals@fs.fed.us



The San Joaquin Valley Chapter is on Instagram



The San Joaquin Valley Chapter is on Instagram—our account name is @sanjoaointws. Feel free to send photos of wildlife or fieldwork for posting to: Howard Clark (howard.clark.jr@gmail.com) or simply tag the IG account

Western honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) on Matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*), northern San Diego Co. Photo by Howard Clark.





THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Leaders in Wildlife Science, Management and Conservation

APPLY NOW FOR 2018 LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Wildlife Society (TWS) is currently accepting applications for its Leadership Institute. The Institute's goal is to develop leadership skills among early-career wildlife professionals. The Institute will recruit promising early-career professionals for a series of intensive activities and mentoring relationships. The focus will be on exposing the participants to the inner workings of organization management, using TWS as example, and increasing the number of capable, active leaders in the wildlife and natural resource management profession.

From May until October, participants will engage in a series of activities to develop and expand their leadership skills. Institute members will attend TWS' Annual Conference in Cleveland, Ohio, October 2018 and participate in various activities, including mentoring and leadership workshop sessions. The Institute is free, and participants receive complimentary registration and a travel grant to attend the conference.

Participation in the Institute is geared toward early-career professionals who are 2 to 3 years out of school (either undergraduate or graduate school), currently working full-time in a wildlife professional position, and have demonstrated evidence of their leadership potential. Also eligible are more recent graduates who have shown strong evidence of their leadership potential and those who are working while concurrently pursuing a graduate degree. All applicants must be members in good standing of TWS and a chapter or section of TWS. The selection committee will be seeking to create a diverse group with participants of varying gender, ethnic, and regional diversity. Selection will be based upon:

- An excellent academic record
- Demonstrated leadership capability or potential
- Demonstrated level of excellence in current position
- Commitment to and involvement in TWS

Preference will be given to individuals who are certified as Associate Wildlife Biologists® or Certified Wildlife Biologists®, or who have submitted such an application to TWS.

Applicants must submit (in one PDF, excluding recommendation letters):

- Completed Leadership Institute application form
- Cover letter with evidence of leadership capacity or potential, such as previous leadership in TWS organization units or in other organizations
- Résumé including a list of publications, awards, etc.
- Academic transcript(s)
- An essay (1000 word limit), which succinctly summarizes 1) your concept of leadership, 2) your aspiration for your engagement within TWS and the wildlife profession in 5 to 10 years, and 3) why you are an ideal candidate for the Leadership Institute
- Have two letters of recommendation sent from supervisors, academic advisors, professors, or others with whom you have worked and who are familiar with your previous and potential leadership, history and commitment to TWS, and commitment to wildlife management and conservation
 - Letters should be sent directly to leadership@wildlife.org with subject line "Leadership Institute Recommendation for [applicant last name]"

Application deadline is March 18, 2018. Email all materials to: leadership@wildlife.org. Visit wildlife.org/leadership-institute for more information.

Chapter Executive Board and Committee Chairs

Larry Saslaw.....	President.....	larry7719@sbcglobal.net
Erin Whitfield.....	President-Elect.....	Hart.Flat@gmail.com
Kacy O'Malley.....	Past-President.....	kacyomalley@chevron.com
Julie Vance.....	Secretary.....	Julie.Vance@wildlife.ca.gov
Ryan Lopez.....	Treasurer.....	rlopez@natural-resources-group.com
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Lori Bono	Granting Committee Chair.....	Lori.Bono@wildlife.ca.gov
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Skip Moss.....	Conservation Affairs.....	smoss@natural-resources-group.com

The San Joaquin Valley Chapter Area

The San Joaquin Valley Chapter covers a nine county area that includes areas of the San Joaquin Valley, Coastal Range, Sierra Nevada Range, and western Mojave Desert.



The Goals of the Society and the San Joaquin Valley Chapter

- Develop and maintain professional standards for wildlife research and management.
- Enhance knowledge and technical capabilities of wildlife managers.
- Advance professional stewardship of wildlife resources and their habitats.
- Advocate the use of sound biological information for wildlife policy decisions.
- Increase public awareness and appreciation of the wildlife profession.

