



The Murreletter

Society for Northwestern
Vertebrate Biology

Volume 9, No. 3

October 2001

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have struggled over the past six months with the question of whether SNVB should pursue new directions or remain with the “winning formula” that has led to the success we currently enjoy. I think we all recognize that the annual meetings and the journal are the mainstays of our organization. But are there other activities or groups that we should be targeting that would make us an even more vital organization?

Without doubt the Northwest Forest Plan and recent Endangered Species Act listings have made many of our members in the U.S. turn our attention to groups of animals (and plants, fungi, and bryophytes) that may not have previously appeared on our collective or individual “radar screens.” Certainly that has been my experience as I, like many other SNVB members, have drifted into the arena of terrestrial and freshwater mollusks. I also know that there is some exciting work being conducted on many other invertebrate groups, such as earthworms and arthropods. This has led me to believe that SNVB should consider expanding its mission to include our Region’s invertebrate fauna.

As I’ve discussed this possibility with a few current and past board members, the idea has been met with both support and opposition. I would like to start a broader dialog on this subject here (which may cause some to look up the procedure for impeachment!!). Since the decision is an important one, I want to involve you all as early in the discussion as possible, and well prior to deciding whether to move forward with any possible board motion and official membership vote.

The Need

Northwestern Naturalist and *Northwest Science* are the main two outlets for natural history papers of regional interest. As you should already know, *Northwestern Naturalist* publishes both papers and shorter notes pertaining to the natural history of vertebrates of the Pacific Northwest. *Northwest Science* (published by the Northwestern Scientific Association), on the other hand, publishes papers on topics ranging from botany and zoology, to geology of the Pacific Northwest. *Northwest Science*, however, does not publish notes on natural history or geographic distribution.

As a result there is no regional and scant few national outlets for peer-reviewed notes on the natural history and distribution of our Region’s invertebrate wildlife. Similarly, I am unaware of any “umbrella” group that holds regular meetings where members can present papers on studies of our Region’s invertebrates. Consequently I believe that such a move would facilitate a greater awareness of and understanding of our Regions’ wildlife populations.

Potential Benefits to SNVB

There are several benefits that SNVB may expect to see if the mission were

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broadened to include the invertebrate fauna:

- 1) There is a potential to add new members and increase participation in the organization,
- 2) It would serve to better inform membership of a broader range of "wildlife" issues and research in the Pacific Northwest,
- 3) It would provide members a needed outlet for publishing and presenting papers on the natural history of the Region's invertebrate fauna,
- 4) There is a potential to increase journal submissions,
- 5) The Society's name could be changed to less of a "tongue-twister"

Potential Harm to SNVB

- 1) SNVB may lose its identity,
- 2) SNVB may upset and lose some long-standing members,
- 3) The Society's name would need to be changed.

I do not mean to suggest that the above points represent the full range of pros and cons for making a change. I also want to make it very clear that the Board has not taken up the issue. This is in the idea stage and I would like to hear from our membership on this. All comments are welcome and needed from the membership.

I genuinely would appreciate hearing comments from you on this topic. Please send your opinions and ideas to me either by email or "snail-mail."

- Bill Leonard, President

EDITOR'S REPORT, NW NATURALIST:

I'm happy to report that we seem to have weathered the poor level of submissions during 2000 while maintaining the number of journal pages in Volume 82 at the goal of 120 established a few years ago. Submissions this year are up considerably and we should be able to get closer to the 140 pages that we published in Volumes 80 and 81. But that doesn't mean it is time to relax—keep those manuscripts coming!!



- Burr Betts, Editor, NW Naturalist

TREASURER'S REPORT:

We have a new address.... Do you?

Howdy Members! Recently you were sent a post card in the mail notifying you of our new mailing address, just to be sure we reach everyone, please update your records with the following:

Kelley K. Jorgensen
Treasurer
Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology
PO Box 61526, Vancouver, WA 98666-1526

Email, phone and fax remain the same at:
jorgenk@wsdot.wa.gov
Phone: 360-905-2170 Fax: 360-905-2177

If you have had an address change, please send me your new address so you can continue to receive the journal and newsletter. Also, some folks seem to change their email accounts like they change their shirts, so if you have a new one, please share it with us! No junk mail, I promise!



2002 Renewal Notices

Thanks in part to the 2001 Renewal notices mix-up this last Winter/Spring, many of you fabulous members have paid your dues twice this year. The good news is you are prepaid for next year! The other news is that you will still receive your 2002 dues notice with the Northwestern Naturalist Winter 2001, as it is automatically sent out with the last issue of the year. If you are like me, you might forget that you have already paid and be tempted to pay again. That's okay, I will just credit you for 2003! I will try to pre-empt this however by sending those of you who are paid for next year a friendly reminder post card around the time the Notices go out that your Dues Status for '02 is Paid. No Worries! Hopefully next year we will all be back on track with tracking dues...

NOMINEES WANTED!

Interested in becoming more involved with SNVB? Now's your chance! Three officer and board positions are opening up this spring. We are seeking enthusiastic people that would like to fill the following positions:

- Treasurer
- Vice-President for Oregon
- Trustee

Term duration is two years for treasurer and VP and three years for trustee. Please send names and phone numbers of potential nominees to: Sally Butts, email: sbutts@quinault.org or call her at (360) 276-8215, ext. 299.

General duties of board members include:

Attending 2-3 board meetings per year (by phone or in person) & the annual meeting (in person), and soliciting society memberships and submissions to the *Northwestern Naturalist*. All members are encouraged to contribute to the journal & newsletter and assist on *ad hoc* committees.

Specific duties for each position follow:

- **Trustee:** Assists on annual meeting and nomination committees; solicits newsletter submissions; helps the society prosper as outlined in the general duties or by other means. This is a great position for learning the ropes of the society.
- **Vice-President:** Serves as the primary representative for members living within their region. Writes a regional report for the *Murreletter*. When the annual meeting falls within the region of the VP, they are the primary oversight contact for the meeting but utilize a local organizing committee and other board members. The VP also has the option of holding regional meetings and field trips.
- **Treasurer:** Receives and manages all funds for the Society as authorized by the Executive Board. Prepares annual financial reports for the Board and includes abbreviated financial reports in the *Murreletter*. Keeps an accurate record of all members of the Society including processing new membership applications and managing the membership database. Receives and processes all registration materials and fees for annual meetings. Prepares or oversees annual tax return preparations for Society.

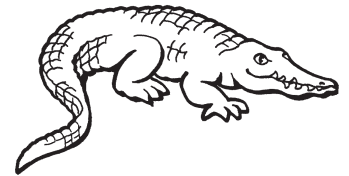
- Rebecca Thompson, Inland VP

REGIONAL REPORT - WASHINGTON

Greetings from your WA correspondent, writing from Cajun country in southern Louisiana (where it rains more, yet is sunnier than Seattle!). My big news is that I recently moved from my temporary job in

Washington to a tenure-track job in Biology at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. The job offer came unusually late in the spring, well after I took up the post as VP. This all means that I'll have to step down as VP at the 2002 meeting and hand over the position to someone who actually lives in Washington. The Board has contacted Elissa Ostergaard, runner-up in last spring's election, and she has agreed to fill the remainder of my term. Thanks, Elissa!

Although I've been occupied with the big move and new job, I've also been lobbying biologists at several Washington universities to go to the meeting in Hood River. Besides me, several people at UW and the Burke Museum who would have been interested in the meeting left this summer for positions elsewhere, so the UW pool of potential meeting attendees has shrunk. But there are plenty of other biologists around Washington, and I'll continue to proselytize for new or returning attendees.



I'm looking forward to the 2002 meeting, and I'll bring stories of alligators right here on campus in the swamp next to the student union!

See you next spring.

- Brad Moon, VP for Washington

OREGON: IN BRIEF

Leaves are turning, mornings are chilling, and all manner of critters are on the move...to the south, towards water in our parched landscape, to dorm rooms! The usual is happening, but what is new on the Oregon horizon?

The OSU Cascades Campus is now open for business! Fall classes started September 17th. Housed at the Central Oregon Community College, in Bend, there are 3 academic programs that might suit budding vertebrate biologists: General Science; Environmental Sciences; and Natural Resources (with options: Forest Resources Technology; Natural Resource Policy; and Resource Conservation). Check it out!

Of general interest, our State Climatologist, George Taylor, has initiated a "Climate Forum" to open dialogue regarding humans' impact on global and regional climate. See <http://www.orst.edu/forum/forum.html>

As a side note, you can read about drought conditions, the ongoing La Nina, and the forecast for an "average" winter at <http://www.orst.edu/wint01/wint01.html>

- Dede Olson, VP Oregon

2002 ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

SNVB's 2002 annual meeting will be held from April 3 to 5 at the Hood River Inn, Hood River, Oregon. Rooms at the Hood River Inn will be available to government employees at \$55 (US; single) and \$67 (US; double-occupancy); 52 rooms will be held for SNVB conference registrants until March 14. Other accommodations are available for every wallet, from *The Bingen School Inn Hostel* to *The Columbia Gorge Hotel*. Conference registration and accommodation information (including prices) will be included in the Winter Murreletter and will be posted on the SNVB website in the near future.

Hood River is located in the Columbia River Gorge, one of the most scenic places in the Pacific Northwest. Spring recreation opportunities abound in Hood River and the Columbia River Gorge. There is a walking path from the Hood River Inn to downtown Hood River (15-minute trip) that does not take you on the freeway. There is a Columbia River bike and walking path that travels from Hood River to Mosier for approximately 3-5 miles (parking fee is \$5), which is highly recommended by Cathy Flick. It is part of the restored Old Columbia Highway system.

In addition to plenty of beautiful scenery, numerous birding, herping and botanizing hotspots are located within a few minutes drive of the conference facility. On the Oregon side is Rowena Dell Nature Preserve and numerous creeks and waterfalls; across the Columbia River in Washington are Bingen Pond and Catherine Creek Research Natural Area. Local bird outings take place once a week, year round, at Bingen Pond, WA (just across the Columbia River from Hood River Inn).

Catherine Creek is also across the river near Lyle, WA and just a short (10 minute) drive away on Hwy 14 east. It will be chock-full of wild flowers and reptiles.



For history buffs, the Columbia River Gorge Interpretive Center, located in Stevenson WA, has a small but very nice collection of Native American artifacts. And at Horsethief Lake State Park (located in WA across the Columbia River from The Dalles) visitors can view (tours available Friday through Sunday) *Tsagaglalal* ("She Who Watches"), one of the most moving Native American pictographs in Washington State.

SURVEY & MANAGE SALAMANDER WORKSHOP

In conjunction with its 2002 annual meeting, SNVB will be hosting a Survey & Manage Salamander Workshop in Hood River. To be taught by Richard Nauman and Charlie Crisafulli, the workshop will provide biologists training in the proper use of sampling protocols for salamanders required under the Northwest Forest Plan. Additional details will be included in the next Murreletter and will be posted on the SNVB web site soon.

INVERTEBRATES!!

Here is an early heads-up for all members and friends. Due to popular demand, SNVB will be hosting a session on INvertebrates at our annual meeting!! All aspects of invertebrate biology – behavior, physiology, ecology, zoogeography etc. – will be considered. Although the society still proudly bears the "V" in our acronym, we feel that there is a need to provide an outlet for information on invertebrates specific to the Pacific Northwest. This is a trial run, and we are looking for feedback. Please send your comments, ideas for presentations, general philosophy on this issue to Judy Jacobs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2600 S.E. 98th Avenue, Portland, OR 97266 or e-mail: judy_jacobs@r1.fws.gov

It's a long way from amphioxus,
It's a long way to us.
It's a long way from amphioxus
To the meanest human cuss.
Well, it's Goodbye to fins and gill slits,
And it's Welcome lungs and hair;
It's a long, long way from amphioxus,
But we all came from there.

*Written by Philip H. Pope and sung by
Sam Hinton (to the Tipperary tune)*

LEARNING ABOUT WETLANDS

In the first week of July I attended a Wetlands Institute, a wetland education program offered by the BC Wildlife Federation. The course is held for 7 days each summer at a different location within the province. This year we met in Nanaimo, on Vancouver Island. Participants came from all over BC and included, among others, teachers, naturalists, consultants, and biologists. The diversity of backgrounds and experiences within the participants, as well as the variety of instructors and course content, resulted in an information-packed week. We learned about orienteering, vegetation zone, interest, and barefoot mapping, how to develop project ideas, water quality testing, sampling for fish, amphibians, and Odonata (i.e., dragonflies and damselflies), and we visited wetlands in the area under various developmental pressures. The course encourages each student to develop a wetland conservation project that they can realistically implement within a short time. Examples of the projects participants from our group hope to develop include signage at a threatened wetland, educational materials/guidelines for forestry workers, curricula for an elementary school, and a wetland plant identification guide for volunteers.



If you are interested in attending a Wetlands Institute, please contact Theresa Southam at: tsouth@netidea.com

- Elke Wind, VP Northern Region

LOCAL FORESTRY COMPANY WINS ECOLOGICAL AWARD

The Ecological Society of America announced that this year's recipient of their Corporate Award would be Weyerhaeuser Corporation British Columbia, Coastal Group and Forest Project Team. This is the first time that this award is being given to a corporation outside of the USA.

"This year's Corporate Award will be given to Weyerhaeuser Corporation British Columbia Coastal Group and Forest Project Team for the conception of, commitment to, and implementation of their "Forest Project" approach to forestry management.

The Corporate Award is given annually to recognize a corporation, business, division, program, or an individual of a company for accomplishments in incorporating sound ecological concepts, knowledge, and practices into planning and operating procedures. Started in 1997 by MacMillan Bloedel Ltd., which was later purchased by Weyerhaeuser in 1999, the Forest Project divides the forest resource into three zones (timber, habitat and old-growth), each with a unique mix of management objectives and techniques. Relying on input from the scientific, environmental, and corporate communities, the Forest Project Team strives to balance environmental and economic needs."

(taken from

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2001-07/esoa-eaa071101.php)

One aspect of the Forest Project includes the implementation of a long-term monitoring program of all aspects of Weyerhaeuser's operations by the end of 2003. The Adaptive Management Working Group is a team of biologists helping Weyerhaeuser develop this monitoring program for wildlife. Songbirds, owls, amphibians, gastropods, ground beetles, and lichens are being assessed for future incorporation to the monitoring program.

If you would like more information please contact Glen Dunsworth at:

glen.dunsworth@weyerhaeuser.com

- Elke Wind, VP Northern Region

BC HAS THE LOWEST VOLUNTEER RATE IN CANADA

The statistics were released this past week, stating that the volunteer rate in BC is the lowest in Canada, dropping from 32% in 1997 to 26% in 2000¹. It appears that we Canadians are giving more money, but fewer of us our time. The few that do volunteer are giving more of their time, which could lead to burn out. Part of the problem may be the image that most people have of who becomes a 'volunteer'. People, still hold a stereotypical image of the 1950s 'stay-at-home' mom, which of course is not the standard family make-up in this day and age. People of all ages, races, and economic backgrounds are needed, in a variety of settings. We as biologists can do our part as volunteers too. There are plenty of non-profit, conservation and education-oriented organizations that could use our help/expertise.

¹ Taken from <http://www.nsgvp.org/n-2000hr-ca.htm>

Here in BC, local naturalists groups and schools could use volunteers to help run special events, or offer time/expertise on local projects. These groups often organize local stream, beach, and park clean-up programs. Why not organize a talk on something you feel passionate about, and offer to present it at local schools and naturalist meetings? We all know how much museums and interpretive centres are feeling tightening purse strings. Biologists that have the time (and the creative skills) to design displays and pamphlets, donate photographs and/or specimens, organize or enter historical data into computer databases, or offer to lead groups on interpretive walks would be welcomed with open arms. Think about it, but don't take too long – help is needed now.

- Elke Wind, VP Northern Region

PNARC News

News and



Views from The Pacific Northwest Amphibian and Reptile Consortium

Are Fertilizers Killing Amphibians?

A study conducted at Oregon State University (OSU), published in the journal *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry* (Vol. 18, No. 12, pp. 2836-2839), sheds light on one of the possible causes of amphibian declines - Fertilizers. OSU researchers found that some tadpoles and young frogs ate less, were more lethargic, developed physical abnormalities, became paralyzed and eventually died when exposed to nitrates (a compound found in fertilizers). In addition, the report states that the "study results indicate that water quality criteria set up by the Environmental Protection Agency does not guarantee the survival of some protected and endangered amphibians."

So: What to do for lawn care??

For information on best management practices, check out the Fish and Wildlife Service's **Homeowner's Guide to protecting Frogs - Lawn and garden care** available (in Adobe format) online at: http://contaminants.fws.gov/documents/Homeowners_Guide_Frogs.pdf

For more information and links to ongoing studies of frog deformities and amphibian declines, visit the Fish and Wildlife Service's environmental contaminants site at: <http://contaminants.fws.gov/Issues/Amphibians.cfm>

- Judy Jacobs, PNARC

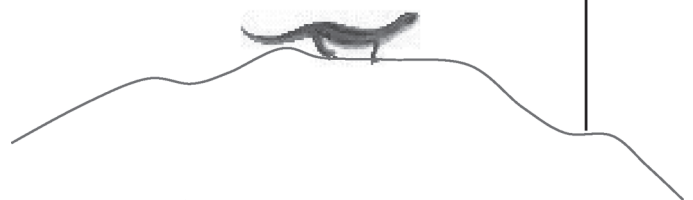
New Publication of interest:

Zug, GR, LJ Vitt, and JP Caldwell. 2001. *Herpetology: An Introductory Biology of Amphibians and Reptiles*. Second Edition. Academic Press. 630 p.

A salamander on the move...do extreme rain events act as temporal travel corridors for torrent salamanders?

Following a day and a half stretch of record-breaking rainfall, I observed an adult male Olympic torrent salamander (*Rhyacotriton olympicus*) during the afternoon of August 22, 2001, approximately 165 feet (50 meters) from any flowing water. Rainfall between 3:00 a.m. on August 21 and 5:00 p.m. on August 22 totaled 4.90 inches (12.45 centimeters) on the southwestern Olympic Peninsula of Washington. Torrent salamanders are usually found in and near small, fast-flowing streams and seeps. However, this salamander was found away from any stream or seep on moist (but not saturated) ground, partially covered with leaf litter. This area is in an old-growth forest stand in the Salmon River watershed. The Salmon River is a tributary of the Queets River. The legal description of the location where this observation was made is in the southwest¼ of the

50 meters
to next
stream



northwest¼ of Township 23½ North, Range 11 West, Section 2, Willamette Meridian.

I have not had the time since this observation to conduct an exhaustive literature search to find all documentation of torrent salamanders found in upland sites. However, from the literature with which I am familiar, this salamander was found exceptionally far from where you would expect them to be. The amount of rainfall immediately prior to my observation almost definitely influenced the location and movement of this particular salamander. Since any good herper knows that many amphibians take advantage of heavy

rain events to travel between sites, I wonder if the same is true for torrent salamanders? And if so, does this happen with moderate rain events or does it take record-breaking rainfall, as they are so closely associated with streams and seeps? Or maybe they take advantage of heavy rain events to forage in upland sites? I would be interested to know if my observation is one of a hundred and just not well documented or if I was fortunate enough to catch a torrent on a big journey to another stream. You can e-mail me at: sbutts@quinault.org.

- Sally Butts, Trustee

HERMAN FAREWELL

A celebration recognizing the distinguished career of Dr. Steven G. Herman was held on 2 September 2001, at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. Steve Herman has taught ornithology and zoology at Evergreen for over thirty years. Over those years he reached upwards of 2500 students, inspiring many to pursue careers in natural resource science and management. Recently granted Emeritus status, Steve has announced his retirement from full-time teaching. Friends, colleagues and alumni were invited to gather in honor of his career during a festive evening of food, music, and memories, and over 300 people were in attendance. If you would like to drop a note of appreciation to Steve or contribute to the gift fund (funds were gathered to send Steve to a Jerry Jeff Walker concert in Central America!) contact Kort Jungel at JungelK@evergreen.edu. Are you a TESC alum and Hermanite who didn't get an invitation?

Remember that Alumni can update their records to receive information on future events by contacting Jackie Barry at barryj@evergreen.edu.



- Kelley Jorgensen, Treasurer

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Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology Membership Form

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Renewal ____ or New Member ____ (check one)

Area of Interest/Expertise _____

Mail your payment (US funds) and this application form to:

Treasurer, SNVB
PO Box 61526
Vancouver, WA 98666-1526

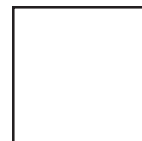
Membership Category (check one)

- ☐ Student (\$12 annual dues)
☐ Regular (\$20)
☐ Additional family member (\$10)
☐ Contributing (\$30)
☐ Sustaining (\$45)
☐ Life (\$300 one-time payment)
☐ Institutional (\$50)

For membership information, call Kelley Jorgensen at:
360-905-2170, or e-mail to: jorgenk@wsdot.wa.gov



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