



The Murreletter

Society for Northwestern
Vertebrate Biology

Volume 16, No. 1

January 2008

President's Message

Another year has passed and the days are slowly but surely getting longer, which means our annual meeting is just around the corner! We've never had an annual meeting so far east, and are excited about our collaboration with the Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society and Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation - Northwest Chapter.

The board chose to meet in the Inland Region in an outreach effort to current and future members within our geographic scope, and to improve our presence and visibility in the interior. While the Inland Region represents approximately 10% of our membership, Northwestern Naturalist contributions from members and non-members in the region have been upwards of 50% of the content of recent volumes. The Inland Region has clearly been coming to us, now it's time for us to come to you.

It's been quite some time since I've been to Montana. I'm pretty sure it was in summer of 1993 on a cross-country road trip with my dad. We didn't have much time to stop and visit, but did some great roadside bird watching. He still talks about a rather exciting Bald Eagle observation like it was yesterday. In an effort to prepare for the journey east and brush up on Montana, I went to my first source for information, Google. I entered the search terms "Montana facts" and thought I would share some of the results with you...

The website www.50states.com/facts provides a list of 50 factoids about each state. More than half of Montana's list of 50 was about its amazing natural heritage. Here are a few that stood out to me... Montana boasts the largest migratory elk herd in the nation, the largest breeding population of trumpeter swans in the lower 48, and the largest population of nesting common loons in the western United States. Apparently, Montana has the greatest mammal diversity of any U.S. state. While of course not evenly distributed, the state evidently contains 1.4 elk, 1.4 pronghorn antelope, and 3.3 deer per square mile. Moose, now numbering over 8,000, were thought to be extinct in the Rockies south of Canada in the early 1900s. Wild buffalo can still be viewed at the National

Bison Range in Moiese, south of Flathead Lake and west of the Mission Mountains. While I cannot attest to the accuracy of my Google search results, I can point you to more reliable information about Montana's wildlife and natural heritage.

For more accurate information about Montana's wildlife, I encourage you to check out the Montana Natural Heritage Program website, <http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/>. A wealth of information and resources are posted. The Natural Heritage Tracker is a web-based GIS tool that displays the species distribution maps for Montana's vertebrates and select invertebrates too (<http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/Tracker/NHTMap.aspx>). The Montana Field Guide is an excellent reference for animals, plants and lichens (<http://fieldguide.mt.gov/>). Finally, the Community Ecology Field Guide provides wonderfully detailed information about some of Montana's diverse ecological communities (<http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/community/index.asp>). Perhaps you can use these tools to help plan your trip or for an after meeting adventure. Hope to see you in Montana!

Cheers, Tara

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Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology

*...the oldest scientific association devoted to the study of
terrestrial vertebrates in the Pacific Northwest*

- established in 1920

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Who we are...

The Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology was founded in 1920 as the Pacific Northwest Bird and Mammal Society. Long recognized as the pre-eminent union of ornithologists and mammalogists in the Pacific Northwest, the society adopted its current name in 1988 to reflect an expanded taxonomic scope that included amphibians and reptiles. The scope expanded again in 1999 to include fish. Today the society strives to promote close working relationships among ornithologists, mammalogists, herpetologists, and ichthyologists in our region; foster exchange of scientific information and interest in the study of vertebrates; and offer a forum for these activities through meetings and publications.

Membership

All persons or institutions interested in the study of birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and fishes are eligible for membership. Individual members receive the Northwestern Naturalist and the Murreletter, our newsletter. Other SNVB publications, such as Northwest Fauna, are available at a reduced rate. Other privileges of membership include notification of all SNVB meetings, power to vote in SNVB meetings and elections, and participating as a member of the SNVB board.

**For more information or to
become a member visit
<http://www.snwvb.org>**

The Murreletter

The Murreletter is published three times yearly and is distributed to the members of the Society of Northwestern Vertebrate Biology. Submission of stories, meeting announcements, and other material of interest to members of the society is encouraged. Submissions should be sent to the Murreletter Editor, Kathryn Ronnenberg. To receive the Murreletter electronically, which is strongly encouraged, please provide your current email address to SNVB Treasurer Julie Grialou.

SNVB Mission, Vision, and Values

In 2006, the board gathered for a retreat to outline our mission, vision and values. At the moment, the only guiding documents SNVB had are what is legally required, a constitution and bylaws. Mission, vision, and values statements are far more informal than the constitution and bylaws, and are certainly not binding, but they are equally as important. They provide members with a sense of identity and direction. The mission, vision, and values statements clearly describe what we do, what we want to become, and the traits or qualities we consider worthwhile. The board developed the preliminary draft statements you will find below. If you would like to provide comments and volunteer a few hours on the committee, please let Tara know, tarachestnut@gmail.com. Thanks!

Mission Statement: SNVB promotes interest in the study of vertebrates and their associated ecosystems in northwestern North America through communication and education.

Vision Statement: As the pre-eminent society of vertebrate biologists in northwestern North America, SNVB will:

- 1) continually improve access to and dissemination of the most current and credible scientific information
- 2) inform an active and engaged membership
- 3) promote the expansion of our membership to include a large and diverse group of individuals representative of our community at-large

Values Statement: SNVB members value rigorous scientific inquiry, open communication, accessible transfer of information, accountability, and last but not least, an active, engaged, and long-standing membership.

Room Sharing

Need to keep meeting costs down? If you would like to share a room with a member contact Cathy Flick (*stewart@gorge.net*). She will try to match you with another person meeting your criteria.

Registration and Lodging Assistance Available

If you would like to go to the annual meeting but limited funds are preventing your attendance, we may be able to help! A limited number of partial registration waivers and hotel rooms are available to SNVB members on a first come first served basis. (Must be willing to help out with registration or other duties if needed) Please contact Tiffany Hicks (*hickstlh@dfw.wa.gov*) by February 11th.

SNVB ANNUAL MEETING RIDE-SHARE!

If you are interested in carpooling to the annual meeting contact Cathy Flick (*stewart@gorge.net*). Cathy has volunteered to coordinate carpooling efforts for our members. If you have room for a passenger or would like to ride with someone send an email to Cathy and she will put you in touch with others interested in carpooling from your area.

In the body of the message, please provide us with:

- your contact information (email and phone number)
- departure location (city)
- number of extra spaces in your vehicle, and
- approximate departure date and time (to and from the meeting)

Volunteers Needed at the Annual Meeting

Looking for a break from talks? Just want to keep busy? Want to meet some new people? Volunteer to help out at the annual meeting! If you are interested in volunteering to help staff the registration table, coordinate the silent auction, or other assorted duties, please contact Tiffany Hicks (*hickstlh@dfw.wa.gov*) by February 11th.

Donate to the Silent Auction

Donations are needed for the silent auction at the annual meeting. If you are attending the annual meeting please consider bringing a donation for our annual fund raiser. We are especially interested in donations of artwork, outdoor gear, books, trips, wine baskets, and other wildlife-themed items. (Maybe Dede will bring another pie, too. Yum!) The funds generated from the silent auction help us offer travel assistance, provide student scholarships, offset journal publication fees, and keep the costs of the meeting down. Thanks!

SNVB Board Elections

Elections for board positions will occur at the annual meeting. If you cannot attend the annual meeting please mail your ballot to: Tara Chestnut, 575 F Street SW, Tumwater, WA 98512. Ballots must be received by Monday, February 25, 2008.

Vote ONLY for the Vice President for the region in which you reside. All members vote for Treasurer and Trustee

Circle candidate's name or write in a candidate on the ballot below. Candidate biographies follow the ballot.

Write In:

VP for the Southern Region	Hart Welsh
VP for the Northern Region	Elke Wind
VP for Oregon	Doug DeGross
Trustee	Hans Purdom
Treasurer	Tiffany Garcia

VP for the Southern Region

HART WELSH

Hart Welsh is a research wildlife ecologist with the Pacific Southwest Research Station of the U. S. Forest Service. He is stationed at the Redwood Sciences Laboratory in Arcata, California. He has a B. S. Degree in zoology from the University of California at Berkeley, an M. S. Degree in wildlife biology from Humboldt State University, and a Ph. D. in wildlife ecology from U. C. Berkeley. He has previously held positions with the Forestry and Natural Resources Department at U. C. Berkeley and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Ecology Center in Colorado. His primary research interest is herpetology and he has over 40 publications on the herpetofauna of the western United States and Mexico (Baja California). His current research interests include: (1) the relationships of forest structure and riparian attributes to the distribution and abundance of forest herpetofauna; (2) the use of amphibians as indicators of ecosystem health and integrity; and (3) the mechanisms of amphibian declines.

VP for the Northern Region

ELKE WIND

Elke has been a member of the SNVB for over 10 years, and a Board member since 1998. She is a self-employed contract biologist living and working on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. In 1996, she received her M.Sc. from UBC. Her thesis research investigated effects of forest fragmentation on Wood frogs in north-central Alberta. Since that time, her main area of research has continued to focus on impacts of forest harvesting on amphibian populations, especially habitat management of small wetland habitats. She has

written numerous reports for government, species recovery teams, and non-profit organizations. Recently, she has been expanding into education through her work with a local Young Naturalists' Club, including developing a leader's manual and program guide for children aged 10+. She has extensive experience as a Board member, including organizing the 2001 and 2007 annual meetings in Victoria and numerous wetland and amphibian workshops and meeting sessions.

VP for Oregon

DOUG DEGROSS

Doug completed his B.S. in Environmental Geography at Ohio University in 1997 and his M.S. in Environmental Science at Oregon State University in 2004. His Masters Thesis focused on gene flow and relatedness of the Del Norte and Siskiyou Mountain salamanders. Doug is interested in population genetics, biogeography, ecology, herpetology, Plethodon evolution, and the Klamath-Siskiyou region in general. He spends his leisure time hunting, fishing, herping, spending time with his dogs, playing soccer, skiing (all winter forms), cooking, imbibing fine tequilas, socializing, and traveling.

Trustee

HANS PURDOM

Hans received his B.S. in Environmental Science from The Evergreen State College and is currently back at Evergreen working towards his Masters. Hans is currently employed by the Washington Department of Transportation. Also,

Board bios continue on next page

Board candidate bios, continued...

Hans assists with amphibian and small mammal surveys at Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. Research interests include small mammal ecology, disturbance ecology, herpetology, population ecology, old growth, sustainability, human demographics, public lands conservation and Cascade Range volcanoes. When not at work or school he generally spends his time engaged in one of the following activities: backpacking, eating elk jerky, hunting, restoring his old house (this is what he mostly does right now), tree climbing, organic gardening, and savoring Portuguese wine and single malt scotch.

Treasurer

TIFFANY GARCIA

Tiffany Garcia is a broadly trained ecologist with a strong interest in amphibian systems and freshwater habitats. She works mainly in ephemeral streams and ponds studying the impacts of environmental stressors on species interactions. These stressors, which include invasive species, water quality, habitat fragmentation, and unpredictable hydroperiods, can be strongly associated with agricultural systems. As a new Assistant Professor in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Oregon State University, her research program explores the direct and indirect effects of management-induced stressors and ways of integrating ephemeral habitats into modern agricultural landscapes.

Previous to her new job in the Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife, Tiffany was a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow, studying with Dr. Andrew Blaustein at Oregon State University for three years. This research quantified behavioral and physiological plasticity in larval amphibians in response to environmental stress and the indirect effects on aquatic communities. She received her doctorate under Dr. Andrew Sih at the University of Kentucky and completed her undergraduate degree at UC Davis.

Surviving pre-tenure life, adopting a new puppy, and planning her wedding takes up most of Tiffany's time. When not potty training, she enjoys making (and drinking) wine, learning about new and interesting ways to lengthen undergraduate attention spans, and spending exorbitant amounts of money on Le Creuset cookware. Eventually, she also plans on learning how to cook.

Please be sure to vote, even if you can't make it to the meeting this year!

Noted Author Robert Michael Pyle Begins the First Butterfly Big Year

On the first day of January 2008, award-winning author and lepidopterist Robert Michael Pyle began a grand year-long adventure to find, experience, and identify as many as possible of the 800 species of butterflies in the United States and Canada. When Bob's journey is complete at the end of 2008, Houghton Mifflin will publish his encounters with butterflies, people, and landscapes as a book entitled *Swallowtail Seasons: The First Butterfly Big Year*.

You can support The Xerces Society's butterfly conservation efforts by making a pledge to the 2008 Butterfly-A-Thon. Individuals can pledge a certain amount for each butterfly species that Bob Pyle positively identifies, or may instead choose to pledge or donate a fixed amount. All proceeds from the Butterfly-A-Thon will directly benefit the Xerces Society's efforts to protect endangered, threatened, and rare butterflies. To make a pledge, or to track Bob's progress and read his stories from the road, please visit the Butterfly-A-Thon webpage at www.xerces.org/Butterfly_Conservation/butterflyathon.html.

Bob Pyle founded The Xerces Society (<http://www.xerces.org/>) in 1971 and has published fifteen books, including such butterfly classics as the *Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Butterflies*, *The Handbook for Butterfly Watchers*, and *The Butterflies of Cascadia*, as well as award-winning literary works such as *Wintergreen*, *The Thunder Tree*, *Where Bigfoot Walks*, *Walking the High Ridge*, and *Sky Time in Gray's River*, which recently won the National Outdoor Book Award for Natural History Literature. A lifelong butterflyer, Bob envisions this undertaking as a chance to aid butterfly conservation while gaining a broad perspective on the state of butterfly habitats across the continent and their response to climate change.



2008 ANNUAL MEETING – A JOINT MEETING OF THE MONTANA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY, THE SOCIETY FOR NORTHWESTERN VERTEBRATE BIOLOGY, AND PARTNERS IN AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE CONSERVATION

February 25 – March 1, 2008
Holiday Inn Parkside, Missoula, Montana

Northwest Connections: Sustaining our Wildlife Populations in the Face of Climate Change, Human Population Growth, and Energy Development

This year's theme builds upon the theme of the previous two MT TWS conferences which captured the essence of wildlife as a public trust and energy development issues. Complicating the picture for sustaining wildlife over the long term are climate change and human population growth.

Monday 25 February

The Wildlife Society Working Group Meetings

- Common Loon (10:00-11:30)
- Harlequin Duck (11:30-12:30)
- All Bird (1:00 - 4:30)
- Herps (5:00 – 7:00)
- Bats (7:00 -9:00)

Tuesday 26 February and Wednesday morning 27 February: Workshops (see below for descriptions)

- Impacts of Climate Change on Wildlife
- Human Development and Wildlife
- First annual meeting of the Northwest Chapter of Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

Wednesday 27 February - Friday 29 February

Concurrent Sessions

Topics include:

- Climate Change and Pacific Northwest Wildlife
- Maintaining Wildlife Connections in the Face of Development
- Energy Development Impacts on Pacific Northwest Wildlife
- Northwest Faunal Connections – Phylogeography of the Pacific Northwest
- Human Population Growth and Development Trends in the Pacific Northwest
- Vertebrate, Invertebrate, and related habitat sessions

Saturday 1 March

Field Trips

1. Local Birding with Paul Hendricks
2. Wolf Tour of Yellowstone NP

WORKSHOPS

Climate Change, Energy Development, and Wildlife

This workshop will give an overview of expected climate change scenarios for the Pacific Northwest, expected changes in habitat cover types, discussions of impacts to various taxonomic groups, and updates on federal and local legislation. Updates on the fossil fuel and renewable energy development and energy conservation will complete this workshop.

Human Development Pressures on Wildlife Habitat

How can biologists help direct development to minimize potential impacts? This workshop will explore the causes and concerns with development, tools available to help analyze and direct development, present case studies of on-going efforts, and future policy directions.

Northwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

This northwest PARC workshop will focus on conservation updates from individual western states and Canadian provinces on recent research and the most pressing herpetological conservation issues. The northwest ReGAP modeling effort and NRCS Farm Bill will also be discussed. A Ranid Reintroduction discussion will also be held.

TO REGISTER FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING:

Register on-line (early bird rates through Feb. 11) using the link provided at the bottom of the Montana TWS home page (www.montanatws.org) provided by Meetings, Etc. Look for hotel information under the "Conference / Meeting Information" link on the left side of the screen. If you have questions or encounter any problems please contact Victoria Edwards, vedwards@co.missoula.mt.us.

Registration Form for the SNVB/MTWS/NW PARC 2008 Joint Annual Meeting

(one form per person please)

See page 6 for information about online registration. *Hardcopy forms plus cheques or money orders (in USD) can be mailed to the Treasurer (see membership form below):*

Name: _____ E-mail address: _____

Society Affiliation? (circle all that apply): SNVB MTWS TWS-NW Sect. PARC Non-member

Professional Affiliation (for your name tag): _____

Mailing address: _____

Office Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

I will be presenting a (circle one): poster oral presentation neither

I will need the following audio-visual equipment (circle one): (PowerPoint) LCD projector slide projector

COST
(US \$s Only)

REGISTRATION I will / will not be attending the banquet. (circle one)

Regular Member Annual Meeting Registration (includes banquet)

Early Registration (before 2/11/2008) \$125.00 _____

Late Registration (after 2/11/2008) \$155.00 _____

Retired Member Annual Mtg. Registration (does not include banquet) \$40.00 _____

Student Member Annual Mtg. Registration (does not include banquet) \$30.00 _____

Single Day Annual Meeting Registration (does not include banquet)

Early (before 2/11/2008) Circle day: Wed. 27 Feb. / Thurs. 28 Feb. / Fri. 29 Feb. \$40.00 _____

Late (after 2/11/2008) \$50.00 _____

Business Luncheon (circle which society) MTWS -or- SNVB Number of tickets: _____ \$15.00 _____

Banquet (for guests or those not paying regular registration) _____ \$25.00 _____

Banquet (student) _____ \$15.00 _____

WORKSHOPS

Climate Change, Energy Development & Wildlife [Feb. 26 th & 27th — 1½ days includes evening social (26th), lunch (26th)& breaks on both days] \$75.00 _____

Climate Change, Energy Development & Wildlife (Feb. 27th — ½ day only, includes break) \$30.00 _____

Human Development Pressures on Wildlife Habitat [Feb. 26th & 27 th — 1½ days includes evening social (26th), lunch (26th) & breaks on both days] \$75.00 _____

Human Development Pressures on Wildlife Habitat (Feb. 27th — ½ day only, includes break) \$30.00 _____

Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation [Feb. 26th & 27 th — 1½ days includes evening social (26th), lunch (26th) & breaks on both days] \$75.00 _____

Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (Feb. 27th — ½ day only, includes break) \$30.00 _____

Student 1½ days workshop on Feb. 26th & 27th (Choose one: Climate Change, Energy Development & Wildlife, or Human Development Pressures on Wildlife, or Partners for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation) \$30.00 _____

Student ½ day workshop on Feb. 27th (Choose one: Climate Change, Energy Development & Wildlife, or Human Development Pressures on Wildlife, or Partners for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation) \$15.00 _____

Field Trips (Limited space available on a first come-first served basis)

Wolf Tour in Yellowstone National Park (March 1st – No Refunds!) \$100.00 _____

1 day tour includes guide, transportation from Gardiner Montana, optics, and YNP entrance fee. Questions? Contact: bmaxell@mt.gov

Local Birding led by Paul Hendricks (afternoon Feb 29th and/or March 1st). Questions? Contact: phendricks@mt.gov \$5.00 _____

TOTAL: _____

Membership Form for SNVB and/or MTWS

Name: _____
 Affiliation: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Fax: _____
 E-mail: _____



SNVB Renewal _____ or New Member _____ (check one)
 MTWS Renewal _____ or New Member _____ (check one)

Area of Interest/Expertise: _____

- | | |
|---|---|
| SNVB Membership Category (check one) | MTWS Membership Category (check one) |
| _____ Student (\$15 annual dues) | _____ Student/Retired (\$7 annual dues) |
| _____ Regular individual (\$25) | _____ Regular (\$12) |
| _____ Additional family member (\$10) | _____ Northwest Section Membership (\$5) |
| _____ Contributing individual (\$35) | |
| _____ Sustaining individual (\$50) | |
| _____ Life (\$325 one-time payment) | |
| _____ Institutional (\$60) | |

Please make checks payable in U.S. funds to: **The Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society**
 Please mail checks for total of dues and registration fees to:

Vickie Edwards
 Treasurer
 2618 Laurie Drive
 Missoula, MT 59804

Please note: A meeting registration receipt will be emailed to the address given on the registration form. Confirmations will be sent via email from reg3@mtgs-etc.com. If you have a spam filter in place, please make arrangements to allow this address to filter through.

Montana Factoid:

Montana holds the world record for the greatest temperature change in a 24-hour period. On January 15, 1972 the temperature rose exactly 103 degrees in Loma, from -54 degrees Fahrenheit to 49 degrees.

Montana state flower is the Bitterroot (*Lewisia rediviva*)
 Montana state tree is the Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*)
 Montana state bird is the Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*)
 Montana state mammal is the Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*).

(This is probably one facet of Montana's environment we'd just as soon NOT experience at the annual meeting!)

Development of a Western Pond Turtle Conservation Strategy

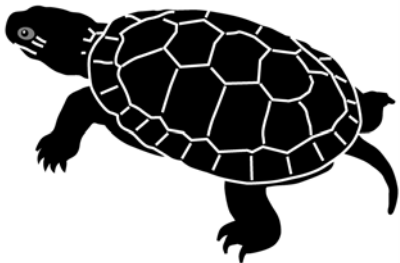
California Department of Fish and Game has recently commissioned Redwood Sciences Laboratory to develop a conservation strategy for the Western Pond Turtle. California has a wide variety of biogeographic regions, and an even greater number of conservation issues for this charismatic poikilotherm. During these early stages of development, we are soliciting input from turtle researchers, scholars, consultants, and enthusiasts statewide to discover and document current and future or potential concerns. We hope to establish and maintain communication with interested parties during development of a proposed plan for the conservation of Western Pond Turtle populations throughout the Golden State.

This is an opportunity for those working with the species to share their experience. We urge you to participate in whatever capacity you can. You can contact us (Hart Welsh and Don Ashton) directly at Redwood Science Laboratory. We will also try to meet with folks during upcoming regional conferences and meetings. The first is in January with the CA/NV Amphibian Population Task Force meeting (see http://www.parcplace.org/meeting_calendar.html for more info) in San Diego (likely on Wednesday preceding the APTF meeting). We will be at 2008 Western Section of The Wildlife Society meeting in Redding in February, and several other meetings throughout the winter and spring 2008.

Over the next several months we plan to visit each bioregion to assess local conservation issues. If you wish to contribute or participate, let us know how we can facilitate. We are just beginning on this effort and are assembling our contact list of interested parties. Please contact us to indicate whether you'd like to hear more as this project unfolds.

Thank you.

Dr. Hartwell Welsh, Jr. (Principal Investigator) and Don Ashton (Primary Contact): dashton@fs.fed.us



Western Pond Turtle, *Clemmys marmorata*
Drawing by K. Ronnenberg

And Don't Forget Darwin Day!

The concept of an annual celebration of Darwin, Science and Humanity was born in 1994 and the first Darwin Day (DD) event was held at Stanford University in 1995. Since that time DD has become an annual international celebration, on, or near, Darwin's birthday, February 12. To learn more go to <http://www.darwinday.org>. Currently, supporters of science are looking forward to a Global Extravaganza to mark the occasion of Darwin's Bicentennial Birthday in 2009 however, 2008 offers all of us an opportunity for a 'warm-up' performance!

The name "Charles Darwin" uniquely focuses the attention of both the press and the citizens of the world. By declaring February 12th the common date on which to celebrate science, scientists can establish a new tradition—one that honors our most valuable knowledge system and is based on empirical data.

Darwin Day Celebration (DDC), as a COPUS* Network Participant, is reaching out to all of the other COPUS Participants to invite each of you and your members to join in the 2008 'warm-up' by taking the initiative to sponsor and produce your very own DDC EVENT, on or near February 12, 2008! We would be pleased to have you register and advertise your event, at no cost to you, on our website at <http://www.darwinday.org/englishL/events/index.html>, thereby joining all the others in a common cause. To assist you to get started, you will find many examples of previous celebrations on both our Homepage at <http://www.darwinday.org> and listed by categories at <http://www.darwinday.org/englishL/links/links1.html>.

Clearly, it damages the international community to be misinformed about science, particularly evolutionary science in the 21st Century. However, it is heartening to realize that the COPUS Network Participants have an opportunity to create an authentic annual tradition to actually CELEBRATE science. We hope you will join the many other groups already participating in this celebration of Science and Humanity!

*COPUS, the Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science, is an American Institute for Biological Sciences (AIBS) program. SNVB is an AIBS member and COPUS Network participant.

Montana Factoid:

Montana is the fourth largest state and has the fourth smallest human population in the country. Though it can claim one of the fastest-growing counties in the country (Ravalli County, in the Bitterroot Valley south of Missoula), emigration from the small communities in the eastern part of the state has held statewide population fairly steady.

Upcoming Meetings and Workshops

Rare Pond Species Survey Techniques Workshop

March 28 - 30, 2008
Sonoma State University, CA

This workshop is designed to provide practical training on aquatic survey techniques for the California Tiger Salamander (CTS), California Red-legged Frog, and Western Pond Turtle. The workshop will be held on March 28-30, 2008 at Sonoma State University, California. The range of these three rare and protected species overlap and they often occur in similar pond habitats.

The lecture session will include a review of the biology and

ecology of these species, identification of life stages, state and federal regulations, and approved survey protocols. There will be five field trips to differing habitats. The field trip sessions will provide field training in aquatic survey techniques, including dip net sampling for CTS larvae, evening spotlighting for frogs, and turtle visual encounter and trapping. Also, seining (netting) and snorkel survey techniques will be demonstrated, if weather conditions permit.

For registration information see:

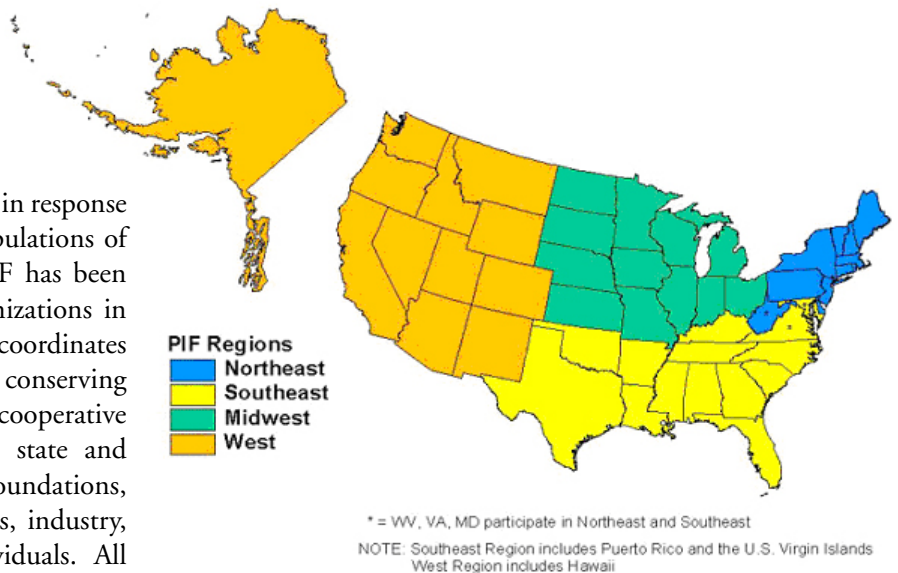
http://www.lagunadesantarosa.org/news_calendar.shtml

For questions about the workshop email Dave Cook at salamanderdave@sbcglobal.net

Partners in Flight Western Working Group Meeting

Olympia, WA
April 9 - 10, 2008

Partners in Flight (PIF) was launched in 1990 in response to growing concerns about declines in the populations of many bird species. The central premise of PIF has been that the resources of public and private organizations in North and South America must be combined, coordinates and increased in order to achieve success in conserving bird populations in this hemisphere. PIF is a cooperative effort involving partnerships among federal, state and local government agencies, philanthropic foundations, professional organizations, conservation groups, industry, the academic community, and private individuals. All PIF meetings at all levels are open to anyone interested in bird conservation and we eagerly seek your contribution. For more info about the Western Working Group meeting contact Rex Sallabanks, Working Group Chair (rsallabanks@idfg.state.id.us)



Advanced Ageing and Sexing of Passerines Workshop with Peter Pyle

May 19 – 23, 2008

Please join the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (SFBBO) and Ventana Wildlife Society (VWS) in cooperation with the Institute for Bird Populations (IBP) for an advanced ageing and sexing of passerines workshop on May 19-23, Monday – Friday, 2008. Peter Pyle, IBP Biologist and author of *The Identification Guide to North American Birds, Part I*, will be the primary instructor. The action-packed week will consist of presentations, field mist-netting, banding, and processing at multiple locations on the central coast of California, and field trips to renowned birding locations. Participants will be

trained in a synthesis of methods pertaining to identification, aging, and sexing of landbirds in the hand and in the field. Participants should already be familiar with bird handling and basic mist-netting and banding techniques. Cost is \$750 (\$650 early registration, by April 7th). Breakfasts and lunches are included; lodging not provided. For more information and a registration form please see our website at <http://www.sfbbo.org/activities/education.php> or contact Jessica Griffiths at the Ventana Wildlife Society (jessicagriffiths@ventanaws.org)

Summer Field Course in Conservation Biology, with an Emphasis on Amphibians and Reptiles

June 2 - 27, 2008, Lakeside Laboratory, Iowa

A field course in Conservation Biology will be offered at the Lakeside Laboratory from June 2nd to June 27th 2008. Lakeside Lab is located in northwestern Iowa, along the intersection, from east to west, between the Eastern Deciduous Forest and Great Plains, and along the intersection, from north to south, between the recently glaciated Lakes Region and the older, better drained, and more variable stream systems associated with Missouri and Mississippi River uplands.

A combination laboratory and field course, Conservation Biology examines the history of the Upper Midwest from the retreat of the latest glaciers to the present day. Northwest Iowa is a landscape of lakes, wetlands, prairie, and oak savannah; it is also a place of intense agriculture, an area of concentrated summer tourism, and it hosts a wind farm! In this context,

native ecosystems will be compared against altered ecosystems, and the processes of restoration will be measured against these extremes. Students will participate in a habitat restoration and should bring rugged clothing, sturdy boots, heavy canvas gloves, and a hard hat.

The herpetofauna of this area is well known. Highlights include the turn-of-the-century (19th to 20th) commercial collections of 20 million leopard frogs/yr, the pioneering surveys of Frank Blanchard in the 1920s, and more recent findings that bear on the global problems of amphibian malformations and declines. We will visit the only known prairie rattlesnake populations in Iowa.

For information about Lakeside Lab (soon to be updated for 2008) see: <http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/lakesidelabl>

For more information about the course, contact Mike Lannoo at: mlannoo@iupui.edu

Climate, Environment, and Infectious Diseases Workshop

12 - 13 May 2008

Westin Arlington Hotel, 801 North Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia

Interrelationships of climate, environment, and human health are manifested in infectious disease patterns, notably seasonality. Vector borne diseases, such as malaria, dengue, Avian influenza, SARS, and related diseases are known to be closely linked to the environment and, more recently, to climate. Interactions between climate, climate change, and the environment have been studied extensively by investigators in the United States and abroad. The AIBS annual meeting will address these issues.

The interplay of science and science policy in cross-cutting themes involving science, public policy, and education will

also be addressed in a special session with plenary speakers featuring science communicators, including authors of popular books addressing various aspects of infectious disease, human health, climate, and the environment. Participants will have the opportunity to explore the issues of climate change as these issues intersect with human health.

For more information, to register online at earlybird rates, and submit a poster:

http://www.aibs.org/annual-meeting/annual_meeting_2008.html

Personalized License Plate Funds Wildlife Conservation

Did you know that the money that comes from the sale of Personalized License Plates in Washington State is, by law, directed to the Department of Fish and Wildlife specifically for the management of non-game wildlife? To learn more: http://wdfw.wa.gov/license_plates/plp.htm

GO TRTLS





For more information about the

Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology

check out our Web site:

<http://www.snwvb.org>

Registration Info Inside

MONTANA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY,
SOCIETY FOR NORTHWESTERN VERTEBRATE BIOLOGY, and
NORTHWEST CHAPTER, PARTNERS IN AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE
CONSERVATION

Joint Annual Meeting, in Missoula, Montana,

February 25 - March 1, 2008