



EVENTS

January 22, 2013 (Irvine, CA)

Amy Vandergast and **Barbara Kus** gave a public lecture on cactus wren biology and conservation to the **Sea and Sage Chapter of the Audubon Society**.

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=149>

January 26, 2013 (Palmdale, CA)

Kristin Berry gave a keynote address at the 38th Annual Banquet and General Meeting of the **Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee**.

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=148>

January 27-31, 2013 (Memphis, TN)

Research by **Joe Fleskes**, **Elliott Matchett**, **Josh Ackerman** and **Julie Yee** were featured at the **Ecology and Conservation of North American Waterfowl** meeting.

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=146>

January 30, 2013 (Sacramento, CA)

Many WERC scientists presented at **The Wildlife Society's Western Section Annual Meeting**, on topics including bird use of salt ponds, greater sage-grouse, as well as climate change and American pika.

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=142>

February 5, 2013 (Sacramento, CA)

Laura Valoppi talked with students about the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project to kick off the **Spring 2013 Ecology-Geology Colloquium Series** at Sacramento State University.

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=151>

February 15-17, 2013 (Las Vegas, NV)

Kristin Berry is the symposium chair and **Steven Schwarzbach** is a featured speaker at the **38th Annual Meeting and Symposium of the Desert Tortoise Council**, in addition to briefings from **Susan Jones**, **Lesley DeFalco** and others.

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=150>

This Biweekly Update is produced as a service to USGS/WERC staff, colleagues, partners and the interested public. To add your email address to the mailing list or to report errors/suggestions, please contact blandis@usgs.gov. Download this issue at <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/outreach.aspx>.

Biologist Roger Hothem Retires from USGS

The WERC family congratulates principle investigator **Roger Hothem**, who has retired from USGS after 39 years of federal service and a career of influential research on environmental contaminants in California. Hothem will continue to serve as a research wildlife biologist emeritus, completing projects and continuing to mentor WERC scientists. "Roger was one of the earliest biologists to conduct field work on the impacts of environmental contaminants on wildlife," says WERC center director **Steve Schwarzbach**. "With Harry Ohlendorf, Roger worked on the selenium problems at Kesterson National Wildlife Refuge, which became an important national story that led to a national effort throughout the Western U.S. to address selenium problems in irrigation drainage." Among his many other achievements in California ecology, Hothem also lead extensive surveys on seabird breeding colonies on Alcatraz Island for the National Park Service in recent decades.

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/outreach.aspx?RecordID=171>

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Hothem>

NEW JOURNAL ARTICLES

Kleinhenz, P, MD Boone, **G Fellers**. 2012. **Effects of the amphibian chytrid fungus and four insecticides on Pacific treefrogs (*Pseudacris regilla*)**. *Journal of Herpetology* 46(4): 625–631. doi: 10.1670/11-070

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4848>

Marrero, M, M Hester, KD Hyrenbach, P Michael, **J Adams**, C Keiper, J Stock, A Collins, C Vanderlip, T Alvarez, S Webb. 2013. **Winged Ambassadors: ocean literacy through the eyes of albatross**. *Current: The Journal of Marine Education* 28(2): 26-30.

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4850>



EVENTS (CONT'D)

February 20-23, 2013 (Visalia, CA)

Nathan Stephenson is one of the hosts of this latest **Southern Sierra Nevada Adaptation Workshop**, jointly hosted by NPS, Cal LCC, BLM and California Fire Science Consortium.

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=141>

March 11-15, 2013 (Denver, CO)

Jan van Wagtenonk will join **Mary Ann Madej, Steve Ostoja, Phil van Mantgem** and others at the **2013 George Wright Society Conference**. WERC presentations include a session on conservation along the U.S.-Mexico border.

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=144>

IN THE NEWS

Seabird Research on Display at New Boating Center (California Sea Grant)

Christina Johnson writes about a new exhibit at the Channel Islands Harbor boating instruction and safety center, which includes a display on **Josh Adam's** research on migrating sooty shearwaters.

<http://www-csgc.ucsd.edu/NEWSROOM/NEWSRELEASES/2013/SeabirdDisplay.html>

Tigers Thrive in India National Park (OurAmazingPlanet.com)

Reporter Becky Oskin covered the recent **WERC guest lecture** by biologist Firoz Ahmed, who presented findings and photos from herpetological and tiger survey projects in Northeastern India, including photos of "kung-fu elephants" destroying remote camera traps.

<http://www.ouramazingplanet.com/4041-tiger-tracker-interview-firoz-ahmed.html>



TCRI/Aaranyak

Fighting Fires: You're Doing It Wrong (OurAmazingPlanet.com)

Reporter Becky Oskin interviews **Jon Keeley, C.J. Fotheringham** and NPS fire ecologist Martha Witter in a feature story on the Southern California Wildfire Risk Scenario Project.

<http://www.ouramazingplanet.com/3988-fighting-chaparral-fires-myths-busted.html>

New Location for WERC Dixon Field Station

The USGS Western Ecological Research Center relocated its **Dixon Field Station** in January 2013, from its old address at 6924 Tremont Road to its new facilities at **800 Business Park Drive, Suite D, Dixon, CA 95620**. Research projects led by **Mike Casazza, Joe Fleskes, Peter Coates, Brian Halstead** and **Roger Hothem** will be based here. Also moving to the new location is the lab of **Josh Ackerman**, formerly based at the Davis Field Station.

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/outreach.aspx?RecordID=170>

<https://maps.google.com/maps?q=800+Business+Park+Drive,+Suite+D,+Dixon,+CA+95620>



San Francisco 49ers/NFL



Kaepernick Family

Sad from Super Bowl Defeat? Hug a Tortoise!

It may surprise you to learn that San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick has had a pet tortoise since he was 10 years old (yes it's still the same tortoise). In a new blogpost, **Kristin Berry** talks about the differences between Sammy the African spurred tortoise (*Geochelone sulcata*) and the Agassiz's desert tortoises (*Gopherus agassizii*) native to California.

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/outreach.aspx?RecordID=169>