



Ron Eby via ESNERR

AWARDS

The **National Park Service Pacific West Region** has announced the honorees for the 2013 Regional Director's Awards. The award for **Professional Excellence in Natural Resource Research** goes to researcher emeritus **Gary Fellers**, recognizing his longtime contributions to herpetological and bat research at Point Reyes National Seashore and Yosemite National Park. This is the second straight year a WERC scientist was chosen for this regional NPS award, with **Nathan Stephenson** receiving the honor in 2012. Fellers will now be in the running for the national NPS Director's Awards, which will be announced at a future date.

EVENTS

September 24, 2013 (Sacramento, CA)
Hydrologist **Kelly Smalling** will give a guest lecture on a recent study documenting pesticide accumulation in Sierra Nevada frogs, a joint study with **Gary Fellers** and **Patrick Kleeman**. Part of the USGS-USFWS-CSUS fall lecture series.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=164>

October 10, 2013 (Sacramento, CA)
Phil van Mantgem has been invited as a panelist on climate change and forest conservation planning at the Working for Conservation Conference "**Active Engagement in Forest and Woodland Sustainability**" hosted by UCANR.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=163>

October 20, 2013 (Los Angeles, CA)
Adam Backlin and other WERC herpetologists will be speaking with kids and parents at the 5th annual **Reptile and Amphibian Appreciation Day (RAAD)** hosted by the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=165>

Calif. Sea Otter Numbers Continue Slow Climb

California sea otter numbers are up, according to the latest population survey led by federal, state and university scientists. The reasons: more pups — and the addition of San Nicolas Island sea otters to the population count. For the 2013 report, **Brian Hatfield**, **Tim Tinker**, and colleagues list the population index as 2,941. For southern sea otters to be considered for removal from threatened species listing, the population index would have to exceed 3,090 for three consecutive years. The annual survey is conducted for USFWS by an alliance of sea otter researchers from USGS, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Monterey Bay Aquarium, UC Santa Cruz and other institutions. The alliance also kicked off **a new research project on Elkhorn Slough sea otters** on September 16th, learning about how sea otters utilize estuarine habitat, should they ever recolonize other California estuaries such as San Francisco Bay.

<http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=3687>

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

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

http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/localnews/ci_24081954/

NEW JOURNAL ARTICLES

Kats, LB, G Bucciarelli, TL Vandergon, RL Honeycutt, E Mattiasen, A Sanders, SPD Riley, JL Kerby, **RN Fisher**. 2013. **Effects of natural flooding and manual trapping on the facilitation of invasive crayfish-native amphibian coexistence in a semi-arid perennial stream.** *Journal of Arid Environments* 98: 109-112.

doi: 10.1016/j.jaridenv.2013.08.003

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4957>

McAllister, CT, RS Seville, DW Duszynski, SE Bush, **RN Fisher**. 2013. **Two new species of *Eimeria* Schneider, 1875 (Apicomplexa: Eimeriidae) from emerald tree skinks, *Lamprolepis smaragdina* (Lesson) (Sauria: Scincidae) from Papua New Guinea and the Philippines.** *Systematic Parasitology* 86(2): 165-171.

doi: 10.1007/s11230-013-9442-7

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4963>

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NEW JOURNAL ARTICLES (CONT'D)

Shedd, JD, [JQ Richmond](#). 2013. Conserved ontogeny of color pattern leads to the misdiagnosis of Scincid lizards of the *Plestiodon skiltonianus* species complex. *Herpetological Review* 44(3): 417-420
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4958>

Steen, DA, CJW McClure, LL Smith, [BJ Halstead](#), CK Dodd, WB Sutton, JR Lee, DL Baxley, WJ Humphries, C Guyer. 2013. The effect of coachwhip presence on body size of North American racers suggests competition between these sympatric snakes. *Journal of Zoology* 289: 86-93. doi: 10.1111/j.1469-7998.2012.00965.x
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4955>

NEW BOOK CHAPTERS

Parker, VT, MC Vasey, [JE Keeley](#). *Arctostaphylos*. p686-705. In Baldwin, BG, DH Goldman, DJ Keil, R Patterson, TJ Rosatti, DH Wilken (editors). 2012. *The Jepson manual: vascular plants of California*, second edition. University of California Press, Berkeley.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4962>

Taylor, WC, [JE Keeley](#). *Isotaceae*. p109-110. In Baldwin, BG, DH Goldman, DJ Keil, R Patterson, TJ Rosatti, DH Wilken (editors). 2012. *The Jepson manual: vascular plants of California*, second edition. University of California Press, Berkeley.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4959>



WERC Monitors Waterbird Behavior at America's Cup Sailing Races

Reporter Brian Hackney interviews [Tanya Graham](#) and profiles the WERC research assessing the impacts of the America's Cup sailing race on waterbird behavior in San Francisco Bay, led by [Susan De La Cruz](#) and [John Takekawa](#) at the request of the City and County of San Francisco and Golden Gate Audubon Society.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/sfwatertraffic>
<http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/video/9315842-usgs-watches-bird-population-closely-during-americas-cup-races/>

IN THE NEWS



Scientists kick off new study to save sea otters (KTVU 2)

Reporter Robert Handa visited the sea otter field captures in Moss Landing and interviews [Tim Tinker](#) and Monterey Bay Aquarium research partners about the new Elkhorn Slough research project.
<http://www.ktvu.com/videos/news/moss-landing-scientists-kick-off-new-study-to-help/vCCwBs/>

Radio transmitters aid study of Elkhorn Slough sea otters (*Santa Cruz Sentinel*)

Reporter Donna Jones also visited the sea otter field captures in Moss Landing and interviews [Tim Tinker](#) about the new Elkhorn Slough research project.
http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/watsonville/ci_24135847/

California's Fire History Written in the Trees (KQED Science)

Reporter Craig Miller talks about how the historic wildfire record in tree rings may inform future forest management, and cites the WERC film "Living with Fire" in discussing the complexities of wildland fuel management practices.
<http://blogs.kqed.org/science/audio/californias-fire-history-written-in-the-trees/>