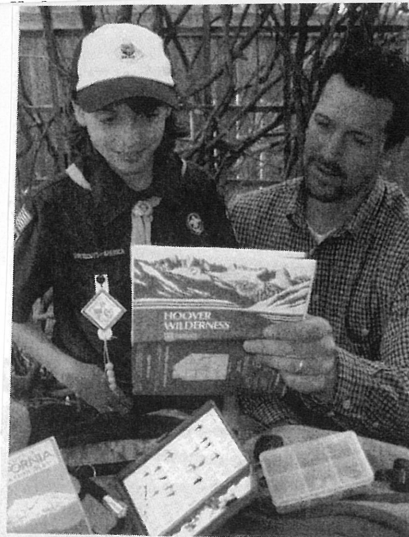
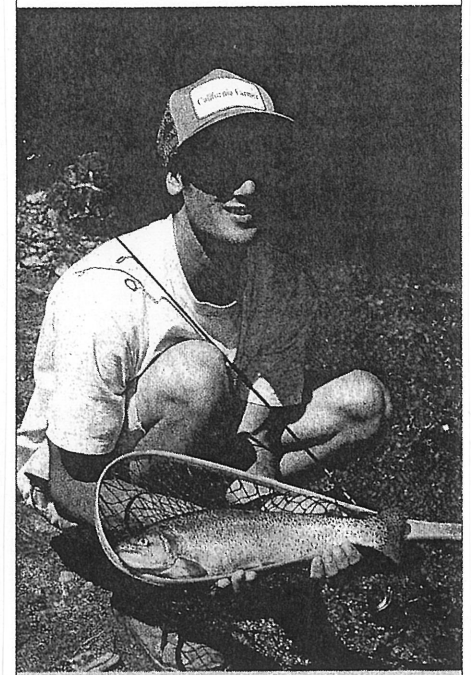
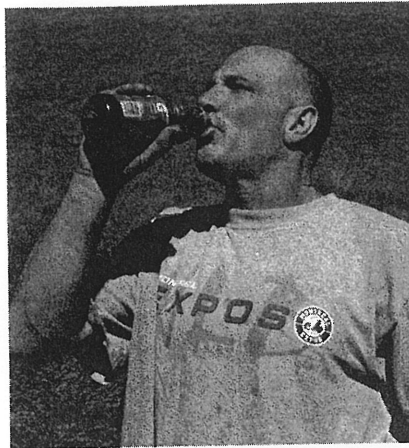
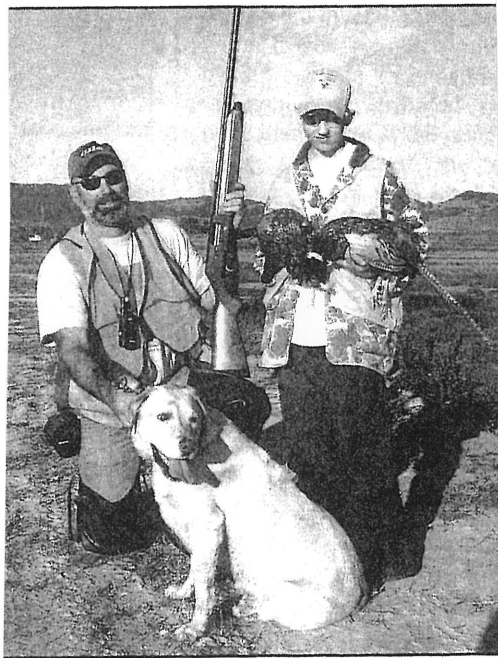


# CALIFORNIA GAME & FISH

## IN THE FIELD

By: Don Vachini



Book Two  
Issues  
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## Shopping For A Sportsman?

Because the scope of an outdoorsman falls into so many varied interests or groups, shopping for any one can be a daunting task. Fortunately, numerous options exist for those seeking stocking-stuffer possibilities, ranging from local sporting goods stores to various online sites.

Knowing or learning a bit about the person's interests you are buying for is certainly a big help. Tried-and-true (as well as practical) gifts commonly ranging from as little as \$10 to well over \$150, can be located with a little effort. Some solid suggestions include assorted outdoor clothing, fishing tackle, ammunition, socks, mesh reusable bags, gloves, bungee cords, travel gear and outdoor-related magazine subscriptions (or their renewals).

An extremely useful item is a 2012 annual fishing license with accompanying stamps, which is now available online. In California, you are required to have the actual sport fishing license printout (printed on special waterproof paper to prevent fraudulent duplication) in possession while fishing and to present it upon request to any game warden who asks.

Another increasingly popular item is the hand-held satellite personal tracker or SPOT, which communicates through the GEOS international satellite system for worldwide coverage. Handy for following trip progress on your personal computer, in an emergency a call alerts the ground control center to relay the distress signal and GPS coordinates to a local search and rescue team. For additional information, visit [www.findmespot.com](http://www.findmespot.com).

For those who relish hair-raising hunting escapades, check out the book selection from [www.SafariPress.com](http://www.SafariPress.com). Included at this site is a great holiday gift book for both kids and their parents. Authored by Californian Sue Watkins, *Getting Involved! A Guide to Hunting and Conservation for Kids* goes through the gamut of topics needed by youngsters to understand the "why's" and "how's" of becoming a hunter and conservationist. It names

the organizations that help introduce, train and teach youngsters an understanding of the interaction between humans and wildlife, and how people play an integral part in the survival and growth of wildlife populations the world over.

The publication is also available at Borders Books, [www.borders.com](http://www.borders.com), Amazon, [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or by e-mailing Watkins directly at [sw1665@aol.com](mailto:sw1665@aol.com).

Of course, the time honored, prepaid gift cards or certificates, available at specific stores for any amount, allow the recipient to choose their own selections.

Whether given to a friend or family member, young or old, one of the most simple and significant gifts involves the gift of time. In this scenario, the sender plans some sort of commitment (usually in writing) with the recipient to attend a future outing.

To expand your shopping options, search popular sites like Cabela's ([www.cabelas.com](http://www.cabelas.com)), L.L. Bean ([www.llbean.com](http://www.llbean.com)), Coleman's ([www.coleman.com](http://www.coleman.com)), REI ([www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com)), The North Face ([www.thenorthface.com](http://www.thenorthface.com)) and the Gear Junkie Archive, ([www.thegearjunkie.com/archive](http://www.thegearjunkie.com/archive)).

While it is the thought that counts, shoppers are reminded not to wait until the last moment to shop and to try to personalize the gift. In doing so, the gift can truly be tuned to the individual's needs or interests. □

## Crow Hunting Season

Not a lot of hunters realize there is a crow season in California. There is plenty of game, liberal limits, and a four-month season at a time when you can't hunt much of anything else.

Back in the 1940s, '50s and '60s, the crow was considered a pest and hunted vigorously, spurred on by an encouraging government and a grateful farming community. Bounties were offered and serious crow hunters of this era killed these black bandits by the millions.

According to Crow Busters ([www.crowbusters.com](http://www.crowbusters.com)), crows were originally classified as varmints and could be shot at any time of the year. However, the United States negotiated a treaty with the Mexican government to protect several species that move back and forth between the two countries.

Thus, with federal protection and ideal breeding conditions, crow populations have steadily increased throughout their range. In certain areas, they have reached epidemic proportions, causing massive damage to crops and wildlife and becoming a nuisance to cities where they take up residence.

Crows severely impact waterfowl populations. When ducks begin laying eggs, crows break open and eat the eggs. Later, they return and devour the fledglings. Studies have shown that crows in close proximity to duck nesting areas took an average of 110-120 eggs or fledglings per crow per year, approximately 20,000,000 ducks. The survival rate of waterfowl at their breeding grounds is paramount. Shooting crows can make a real difference.

These predators also take a heavy toll on upland game birds, accounting for nest depredation on quail, pheasant, dove and grouse as well as small mammals such as rabbits and squirrels.

The season begins on the first Saturday in December and extends for 124 consecutive days, offering a long bird season with a 24-bird limit per day. The possession limit is 48 crows.

Crows may only be taken by shotguns 10-gauge or smaller, using shot shells only with a maximum of three shells in the chamber, or bow and arrow or falconry.

Shooting hours remain from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. There are some areas where crows may not be hunted. Check the regulations before hunting.

To learn how to eat crow, check the Crow Buster Web site for delicious recipes. □

BY DON VACHINI

## Bertram Deer

Jason Bertram has always enjoyed hunting alongside his father, brother and other family members. As a young lad, he accompanied his father and family members when they harvested deer, pheasants, bear and bobcat. As he grew older, he wanted more than anything to have the same hunting privileges.

In 2004, he decided it was his turn to obtain a hunting license and start bagging his own game.

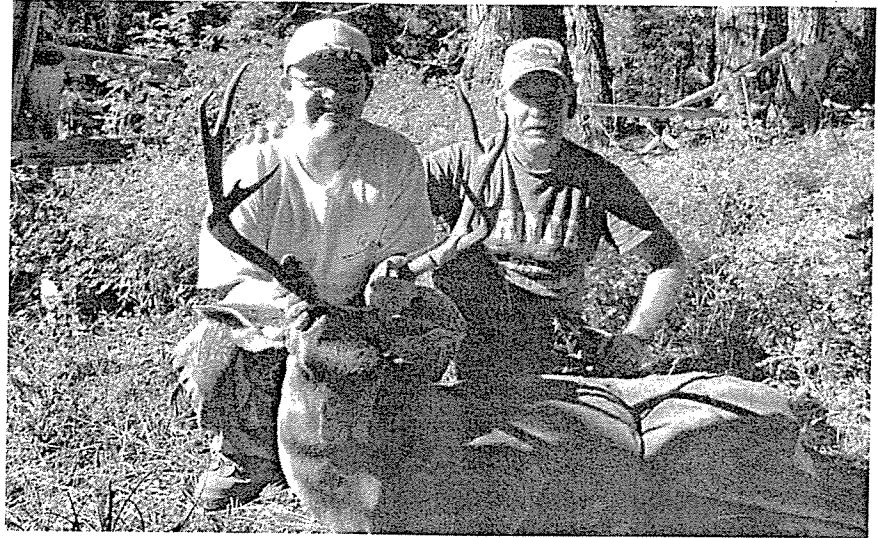
However, achieving a hunting license posed a unique challenge for Jason, who has Down's Syndrome. Jason's father, Ron Bertram, of Clear Lake, Calif., started helping him prepare for the test. After several months of diligent preparation, Jason received his Hunter Safety certificate. Shortly after passing the Hunter Safety test, California Fish and Game officials informed him that he is the first person in the state with Down's Syndrome to obtain a hunting license.

He could not wait until deer season. His first hunting session as a licensed hunter began in the fall of 2005. Jason and his father chose to hunt in zone B-5, Tehema County. Over the course of several weeks, they had put a lot of miles on both their vehicles and boots without any luck. Then, on the last Thursday of the season, things changed dramatically.

The father and son team had been walking and glassing all morning before returning to camp for lunch. Tired, but with time running out, they decided to hit the trails again. Late in the afternoon, they spotted a pair of bucks stealthily climbing uphill together; a remarkable 5x5 and a 4x4. Ron lined up the 5x5, shot, but missed. However, Jason did not hesitate, firing on the 4x4 and dropping it with one shot to the neck.

His rifle was a .250 Savage, which was passed on to him by his late aunt, Mary Madden. She, too, had shot her first buck with the rifle. Needless to say, Jason and his family were ecstatic and he was definitely hooked now!

Since then he has hunted and harvested several pheasants in the Sacramento Valley as well as a wild pig on a hunt in Mendocino County with his brother,



Jason Bertram (left) and his dad, Ron, and the 4x4 blacktail. Photos Courtesy of Jen Bertram.

Shawn. He continues to avidly hunt alongside his father and brother, who both yearn to harvest a buck the caliber of Jason's 4x4 blacktail.

When anyone talks to him about hunting, he now proudly replies, "Well, I have killed the biggest buck, now I have to go elk hunting!"

Don't bet against him. □

## Fishing/Hunting Information At Your Fingertips

The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has released a mobile Fishing Guide Web application that provides access to fishing locations, latest fish planting sites and fishing license sales locations. The Web app, which is optimized for iPhone, Android and Blackberry smartphones, can be accessed by navigating to [www.dfg.ca.gov/mobile](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mobile).

The new Web app has three components:

1. Fishing Guide: The core Fishing Guide component provides a listing and maps of more than 1,500 fishing locations across the state. This includes locations that are accessible by car as well as back-country sites.
2. Fish Planting Schedule: Recently planted locations often provide excellent fishing opportunities. Anglers can

now use their mobile phones to quickly find the latest fish planting sites in their area.

3. Fishing Licenses: Use your mobile phone to find one of the more than 1,600 locations around the state that sell fishing licenses. □

## New Bike Trail

Cyclists and hikers have a new National Recreation Trail to explore in Northern California. Paving of the Sacramento River Trail, has now been completed along its 16.7-mile length, from Redding to Shasta Lake. The Sacramento River Trail is jointly maintained and managed by the Bureau of Land Management and City of Redding.

The scenic trail is anchored on its ends by Sundial Bridge and Shasta Dam. The experience between these points includes views of the Sacramento River and the colorful vegetation that grows beside it (wild pink oleander, oak woodlands and pines).

Rental bikes are available in Redding at three locations, year round. Most riders take the shorter seven-mile loop from Santiago Calatrava's 2004 cable-stayed Sundial Bridge, past the 1915 open-spandrel-arched Diestelhorst Bridge, and back. □

BY DON VACHINI

## 50/50/50

Ken Niles (72), a resident of Sonoma, is an avid angler who has fly-fished in many countries throughout the world. Accompanied by his wife, Betsy, he recently set his sights on a special quest, attempting to accomplish something believed to be a first ever.

Using only flies and a fly-rod, he set a unique goal — to catch 50 different species of fish, within 50 weeks, catching at least one fish in each of the 50 states.

Thus, between September 5, 2003 and August 14, 2004, the pair visited some of the most beautiful rivers, lakes, and historical sites in the United States, dividing the quest into three time phases, they covered 37,126 miles using an RV, rental car and truck, while catching 1,841 fish in an attempt to qualify for a record.

Some of Nile's most vivid memories include the valuable assistance of his long-time friend, Jim Smith, releasing a rare bull trout in Idaho, a most tedious effort in Kansas, and Alaska's bountiful array of fishing species and opportunities. "Throughout the whole adventure, people we're extremely helpful, friendly and accommodating to our challenge," he said. "This made the adventure truly rewarding!"

Meticulous photo, written and witness documentation of each fish caught took place daily. After the journey, Niles had to have forms notarized before submitting the completed packet. Finally, after several months of anxious waiting, Niles received official notification from the *Guinness Book of World Records* that his 50/50/50 feat was indeed recognized in "the book!"

Recently, their incredible odyssey was chronicled in a book authored by Ken Niles, entitled *Fishing Fifty; 50 Species 'n 50 States 'n 50 Weeks*.

Entertaining and informative, the coffee-table book not only shares facts, photos and stories, but lists the dates and states visited, various RV campgrounds, waters fished and most effective flies used as well as anecdotes about some of America's most unique people met while visiting numerous interesting sites.

For additional information, contact Niles at P. O. Box 298, Sonoma, CA 95476. □

## Ginger's Medicinal Value

As many outdoor enthusiasts have learned over the centuries, natural remedies can often provide simple and inexpensive answers to effective prevention and treatment of common ailments. Indeed, scientific proof now often lends credence.

According to Dr. Kay Judge, a medical director at Sutter Downtown Integrative Medicine Program in Sacramento, ginger, an herb with a complex chemical structure, has proven effective in treating certain medical conditions. She points to numerous studies over the past two decades, which have shown it to be a common additive and medicinal herb.

Its most common use is to treat gastrointestinal problems such as motion sickness, colic, morning sickness, upset stomach, gas, loss of appetite, diarrhea, nausea and vomiting after surgery or cancer treatment. Judge adds that the root also has antiemetic, anti-inflammatory and hypoglycemic effects and, "... is helpful for decreasing musculoskeletal pain in rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis." □

## Krill Seekers

A shrimp-like crustacean with a half-inch long, translucent body, krill is found in all the oceans of the world. Scientists monitor it to determine the overall health of the world's oceans. It feeds on microscopic phytoplankton and lives in massive swarms, forming an estimated biomass of more than 500 million tons, according to Kirsten Lindquist, a field biologist with the Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association. Forming the cornerstone of the marine food web, "... the crustaceans need to be numerous because just one 40-ton humpback whale consumes up to 1.5 tons of krill and small fish daily!"

Conditions along California's Pacific Coast are ideal. Here, upwelling currents along the undersea slope plunging from the edge of the continental shelf continually churn krill, which are fodder for fish, seals, squid, penguins, birds and whales. Thanks to this briny mixture, the Farallone Islands, a string of small, rocky islands about 27 miles outside the Golden Gate, make up the largest seabird colony in the continental United States and are primary breeding grounds for sea birds, seals and sea lions as well. "There is unparalleled breeding success along these rocky islands, which are one of the richest hotspots in the Pacific," Lindquist mentioned. "In years when krill concentrations dip low, bird and mammal numbers also decrease," she added.

The Farallones and Cordell Bank marine sanctuaries monitor the oceanic ecosystems in 8,000 square miles of federally protected waters from Bodega Bay to Cambria in San Luis Obispo County. Past surveys along the Farallones reveal that huge numbers of krill coincided with record numbers of humpback and blue whales, along with numerous avian species.

In order to assess patterns in the marine ecosystem, scientists conduct four to five survey cruises annually, measuring water conditions and counting birds and mammals. In order to effectively study krill concentrations, a boom-mounted device is lowered 650 feet and measures ocean temperature, salinity, clarity, oxygen content and phytoplankton content (via a chlorophyll sensor) throughout the water column.

Data compiled is available to sanctuary managers and policymakers to guide conservation efforts, gauge the impact of climate change and natural conditions such as freshwater outflow from the bay and rivers, and to evaluate possible ocean uses, such as aquaculture.

Certainly, one of the ocean's smallest members continues to have one of the largest impacts on the future health of the Pacific Ocean. □

BY DON VACHINI



## Organic Classrooms For Kids

As part of a growing nation-wide movement to bring kids to nature and nature to kids, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is doing their part to reach as many children as possible. In California, a pair of projects continues to highlight the Forest Service's decade-long conservation education commitment to get kids outdoors, to educate them about natural resources and to train them to be future stewards of the land.

The USFS is investing \$1 million to bolster its current conservation education programs by targeting More Kids in the Woods and Children's Forests projects across the country. Because this funding was already in the agency budget, children will have more opportunities to experience the great outdoors and gain first-hand knowledge and skill development about natural resources while utilizing "organic classrooms." The two Golden State projects include:

1. Cedar Pass Children's Forest — Situated within the Cedar Pass Forest Health Restoration Project area on the Modoc National Forest (MDF), it will maximize a wide variety of educational resources and recreation opportunities. Its primary component will offer place-based, experiential learning in the forest environment, and has the capacity to serve more than 900 students in grades K-12. MDF staff has partnered with local school districts, natural resource agencies and community groups to expose students to service learning projects that meet state standards and incorporate forest succession and ecology, forest management, range management, fisheries, wildlife, geology and recreation.
2. Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) Program Summer Camp — Community Services & Employment Training (CSET) has partnered with the USFS since 1976 to hold summer camps for at-risk youth and to meet the conservation needs of national forests. This is the

first camping experience for almost all of the youth, who come from extremely poor, rural, predominantly Hispanic, agricultural-based communities throughout Tulare County. An intense, service-learning experience available to students who have successfully completed the GREAT curriculum at their school, GREAT camps teach at-risk youth in 4th through 6th grades about natural resources, conservation, environmental stewardship, and leadership skills during a five-day experience. For each of the past two summers, the Tulare County Probation Department has referred almost 100 local youth.

The USFS investment for this effort is enhanced by strong partner involvement, including: Modoc Joint Unified School District, Surprise Valley School District, New Day Academy (a local independent study charter school), Environmental Studies Academy (Martinez, Calif.), Butte Community College, Modoc National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, Modoc National Wildlife Refuge, Cal Fire, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Ducks Unlimited, Rocky Mt. Elk Foundation, National Audubon Society, Resources in Indian Education (RISE), The Klamath Bird Observatory, Eagle Peak Wildlife Rehabilitation, Modoc County 4-H, Modoc High School FFA, Boy and Girl Scouts, Cedar Pass Ski Club, Modoc County Family Empowerment Center, Community Services & Employment Training (CSET), Tulare County Probation Department, U.S. Department of Justice GREAT Program, Local Schools in Tulare County, Restorative Justice Program and Junior Leadership Program. □

## Conserve California Sturgeon

In order to help conserve California's green and white sturgeon, the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is asking anglers to use special precautions and extra vigilance. Both species are caught by anglers in a popular sport fishery centered in the San Francisco

Estuary and are governed by strict special regulations to protect the long-term health and growth of the species.

White sturgeon are a substantial management concern and green sturgeon are a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act. "The state's anglers are on the front line of saving the ancient green sturgeon in our waters," said Marty Gingras, DFG supervising biologist. "Together we can grow their populations, save a threatened species and continue year-round sturgeon fishing in California."

White sturgeon need to be between 46 and 66 inches (those that are smaller or larger must be released immediately). Green sturgeon may not be kept. While strict length regulations are designed to conserve older sturgeon, Gingras feels anglers should place a strong emphasis on careful measuring techniques to ensure that they survive the actual catch-and-release process.

It is common practice for anglers to remove sturgeon from the water for measurement, including those that are oversized. "This stresses the fish, particularly females, and may lead to ovarian follicular atresia, which means they absorb their eggs rather than spawn them, said Gingras. "Egg-laden females are routinely caught and egg loss can take several years for them to recover."

The DFG encourages anglers to use high-strength fishing line to reduce duration of the fight, in-water techniques for measuring fish size and single-barbless hooks to facilitate quick release. Anglers should leave oversize sturgeon in the water at all times and know how to identify an endangered green sturgeon.

Last year, California anglers reported catching 5,446 white sturgeon (most were undersized) and 151 green sturgeon. Another 73 sturgeon were reported as caught but not identified by species.

Data on the sturgeon fishery can be found at [ftp://ftp.delta.dfg.ca.gov/Adult\\_Sturgeon\\_and\\_Striped\\_Bass/2010%20Sturgeon%20Card%20Complete%20Draft%20Version%201.pdf](ftp://ftp.delta.dfg.ca.gov/Adult_Sturgeon_and_Striped_Bass/2010%20Sturgeon%20Card%20Complete%20Draft%20Version%201.pdf). □

BY DON VACHINI



## Return Of Falconry

Historically, the Roman culture elevated falconry from a means of obtaining food to one of sport during 500 AD. Over the centuries, its popularity among the rich grew, and it was sometimes even referred to as the "sport of kings."

Somewhat reviving an Old World tradition, falcons today are being used effectively throughout the business world in far more unique ways than ever before, according to Jimmy Almaguer, a master falconer at Marin County's Redwood Landfill. "They provide environmentally-friendly, humane control of nuisance birds in vineyards, airports and landfills."

Huge flocks of starlings dine heavily on grapes and their pecks spread botrytis or bunch rot, in some instances causing an estimated 20 percent loss of a crop. Large congregations of gulls or other sizeable birds at airports pose hazards to jet engines while foraging gulls can transmit harmful bacteria from landfills to neighboring communities. "Basically, the falcon's job is to soar high above, scaring birds and preventing them from lighting."

Saker falcons are the bird of choice for specialists like Almaguer. Approaching 18 inches in length with a 3-foot wing span, adults weigh in between 2-3 pounds. Found naturally in Eastern Europe across Asia to Manchuria, *Falco cherrug* is a fierce hunter, feeding on birds and rodents. In captivity, however, it is trained to use its skills in frightening birds away from crops and the like, not killing.

Since they are federally protected, falcons can only be possessed by licensed individuals. "Falconers must pass a rigid test, obtain a sponsor and spend a minimum of two years as an apprentice falconer." After spending five years as a general falconer, a person becomes a master falconer," he adds.



Master falconer Jimmy Almaguer readies Corkey for his shift. Photo by Don Vachini.

Falconry is highly regulated at both state and federal levels. In order to fly his teircel (male) saker, named Corkey, Almaguer has a Federal Bird Abatement license in addition to those issued by the California DFG and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

He firmly believes that today's trained falcons are adept at intimidating rather than harming, making use of the pest bird's inherent fear of anything raptorial. "Since a mere silhouette can elicit an intuitive, primal fear, we try to manage the falcon to achieve the most predatory presence possible."

Under contract with the Redwood Landfill, Corkey's responsibility is to prevent seagulls from landing on garbage. In preparation for his 45-minute shifts, he is kept hungry enough to hunt but not hungry enough to kill. "Based on their life tendencies, gulls and starlings are persistent and will adapt to a rigid schedule. To counter this trait, we continually change shift flight schedules to keep them off-guard."

When Corkey's session is over, he is fed frozen, pen-raised quail, mixed with vitamin supplements and then rested in a traveling trailer.

In California, there are currently 640 falcons involved in bird abatement projects. □

## Ride The Rails

The driving of the golden spike in Utah during 1869 not only commemorated the completion of the transcontinental railroad, but effectively connected New York City with San Francisco. Setting in motion a faster,

arteriole network of travel and commerce, this memorable event helped transform the young nation. Indeed, trips that once took several months via wagon train could be completed in mere days!

Over the past 140 years, times have rapidly progressed. The advancement of cars and jet airplanes along with efficient freeway and highway systems has dramatically enhanced the dynamics of the country. However, for many, the reign of trains still retains its hold on the Old West imagination, offering a more relaxed commute or entertainment-focused excursion.

Today, Golden State travelers intent on either revisiting iconic jaunts or just savoring the landscape at a much slower pace, can select from among a trio of compelling rides and relaxing trips:

- The Coast Starlight travels from Los Angeles north to Portland, Oregon. The ride features views of the Pacific Ocean, the Cascade Range plus myriad sights along the way. Even the night sky, with its million points of light, can be witnessed from the observation car. Contact [www.amtrak.com/deals](http://www.amtrak.com/deals) or (800) 872-7245.
- 2. Another Amtrak venue, the California Zephyr, connects the city of Emeryville with Salt Lake City, Utah. Affording comfortable sleeper cars and a sightseer lounge with wide picture windows, the 17-hour trip allows vistas of the Sierra Nevada, historic Donner Summit, high desert sage flats, the Humboldt River Valley in Nevada and the Great Salt Lake as it parallels Highway 80 across the three states.
- Connecting the tiny northern California towns of Willits and Fort Bragg, the Skunk Train remains entirely within the state's borders. Its riders can sightsee from open-air observation cars as the train follows the route of an old logging railroad, coursing through aspen, oaks and ancient redwoods. Restored passenger cars and a freshly painted depot have brought a new look to this time-worn locale and an added snack car stocks local microbrews and wine. Contact [www.skunktrain.com](http://www.skunktrain.com) or (866) 457-5865. □

BY DON VACHINI



## Half Dome Lottery

It is common knowledge that many national parks and wilderness areas are extremely popular with visitors. But, in many cases, the people “love them to death,” often creating overcrowded and, in some cases, dangerous scenarios.

In California, one such venue is **Yosemite National Park**. One of its main attractions is **Half Dome**, more specifically the **Half Dome Trail**. Last year, in an effort to address crowded conditions, park officials cut in half the daily number of Half Dome hikers by instituting an advance-sales permitting process. However, after officials capped hikes at 400 people per day and established a fee of \$ 4.50, some people abused the system by scalping the tickets.

According to park spokeswoman Kari Cobb, the permitting process will continue this season, but with a few modifications initiated to curb the scalping issue. “To help make the system fair and to limit scalping, we are implementing the lottery system.”

People will put their name and application for up to six guests in the digital system ([www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm-71k](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm-71k)) for a non-refundable fee of \$ 4.50 online and \$ 6.50 over the phone. Notifications will be sent to those successfully chosen. Under the new rules, persons will not be able to sell or give his ticket to anyone else. Using a smart phone, park rangers stationed at Subdome will check a hikers ID before allowing the person to proceed up the rock.

Park officials will continue to iron out any glitches. A limited number of permits will be available on short notice through an online application lottery, which will grant same day results two days in advance of the hiking date. Hikers applying for backcountry wilderness permits can also stipulate they would like to include the Half Dome hike on their trip. Up to a quarter of the total day-passes will be reserved for these multi-day passes.

Cobb notes that competition for future years could get even steeper. Park officials recently released an environ-

mental analysis of the effects of allowing various numbers of daily hikers on the Half Dome Trail. “They endorsed a draft proposal to cut the number of visitors to 300 per day, stating that this stricter limit provides the optimum visitor experience while protecting wilderness character along the trail.”

The Half Dome hike remains one of the most popular in the park, maintains Cobb. “By implementing a permitting program, we are not only providing for the safety of our visitors but also providing a genuine wilderness experience.” □

## Endangered Woodpecker?

State wildlife officials are taking steps to protect a rare woodpecker partly because the U. S. Forest Service continues logging the bird’s ever-shrinking habitat in burned stands of national forests in the **Sierra Nevada**.

The California State Fish and Game Commission (CSFGC) recently voted to add the black-backed woodpecker to the list of species that are candidates for protection under the California Endangered Species Act, launching a year-long status review of the bird. The bird is at the center of an ongoing legal battle over salvage logging in the area where 250 homes burned near Lake Tahoe in 2007.

The Forest Service has designated the black-backed woodpecker as an indicator species for all fish and wildlife dependent on burned forest across the Sierra Nevada from north of Tahoe to south of Yosemite. It is the same kind of designation agency biologists gave the northern spotted owl in the 1980s to serve as a barometer of the overall health of old growth forests in the Pacific Northwest.

Chad Hansen, executive director of the John Muir Project, said the action was significant because they (CSFGC) are acknowledging that not only is there a total lack of protection from clear cutting on private lands, but the woodpeckers don’t have any protections on Forest Service land to fall back on.

It is the first time anybody has acknowledged that a species is impacted

by post-fire salvage logging, mentioned Justine Augustine, a lawyer for the Center for Biological Diversity.

“They accepted the fact there is substantial evidence there is a problem here and we’re going to have to step in.”

Hansen, a wildlife biologist at **UC Davis**, helped persuade the Forest Service to designate *Picoides arcticus* the indicator species and has been citing the agency’s own research for years in his bid to show the bird may already be on its way to extinction. “Even in burned forests, the black-backed is one of the rarest birds in the state,” he said, adding there is no dispute its habitat has declined a lot since the 19th and early 20th century due to fire suppression.

“As a result, such post-fire habitat now comprises less than one-half of one percent of the Sierra forests the woodpecker once inhabited,” he added.

While more information needs to be gathered, he notes that management of National Forest system lands is inherently complex, having to manage public resources for a wide variety of often-conflicting threats and opportunities. “Halting or restricting fire suppression activities is unlikely to be implementable due to social and political resistance.” □

## State’s Water Study

A recent Department of Interior report indicates that precipitation and run-off in California will not fall dramatically with the climate change attributed to global warming. Indeed, the federal study shows that rising temperatures will likely have an uneven effect on the state’s water supplies.

According to climate model estimates, temperatures should rise 5-7 degrees this century, increasing evaporation and the spring snowpack will drop sharply, changing the timing of peak run-off, which is crucial for the state’s irrigated agriculture. Precipitation and run-off on the **Sacramento River** may increase a bit by mid-century and then decline somewhat, possibly as much as 3.6 percent. □

BY DON VACHINI

## Outdoor Hall Of Fame

Joe "Sep" Hendrickson was recently inducted into the California Outdoor Hall of Fame during a celebration at the International Sportsmen's Exposition in **Sacramento**.

Hendrickson is an outdoor writer, author, photographer, radio show host, seminar speaker and avid hunter and fisherman. He makes numerous guest appearances on television and radio shows and is a knowledgeable, instructional source of information, particularly when covering the art of freshwater trolling for trophy-sized trout and kokanee salmon in several western states, Canada and Alaska.

Innovators and manufacturers of Sep's Pro Fishing Tackle for over 20 years, Sep and his wife and partner, Marilyn, have led the industry in designing and promoting ultra-light tackle and techniques. In addition to co-authoring the book, *Trolling Truths for Trout, Kokanee and Landlocked King Salmon*, they are active members of the Outdoor Writers Association of California, regularly furnishing articles and photographs for several outdoor publications. Both are lifetime members of California Inland Fisheries Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization that works with the California Fish and Game in a cooperative effort to improve angling in the state. Sep is the executive director; Marilyn is the vice-president.

Sep is the host of the award-winning *California Sportsmen* radio show on KHTK 1140 AM Sacramento, Saturdays from 6:00-8:00 a.m. Sep and Marilyn also own *Ultimate Bass* radio show on KHTK 1140 AM from 5:00-6:00 a.m. □

## Archery State Record Big Horn

When Bret Scott of **Riverside** submitted his application to the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) for a chance at getting a coveted California desert big horn sheep tag, he knew the odds were almost as difficult as winning the

multi-million dollar California Lottery.

However, when he received word from the DFG that he had, indeed, drawn one of the two permits for the San Gorgonio desert big horn sheep hunt zone, he assembled his crew of Doug Meeks, Bill Payne, Dave Semple, Travis Scott, Ed Fanchin, Jack Hankins, Jason Duysongs and Wayne Raupe and put into motion the plan to fulfill his dream of bagging a sheep with a bow.

They immediately began hiking and scouting known sheep locales within the hunt zone, meticulously glassing along ridges, slopes, cliffs, rockslides and canyons from top to bottom, again and again. At first, they found mostly ewes and a few legal rams, but nothing within Scott's established personal minimum score in the 160s. Scott also conferred at length with DFG sheep biologist Jeff Villepique and religiously shot his bow every chance he got.

When the hunt finally began, two days passed without any sightings, but on the third day, Raupe scoped a trio of rams, two of which were big. Using Google Maps, they used the satellite image to pinpoint the location of the sheep and the landmarks around them.

Two days later, they again located the targeted rams bedded on the steep hillside adjacent to where they were initially spotted. Performing a rigorous circle loop to the east, Scott climbed about 2,000 feet to get to the top of the ridge, then slowly crawled to the edge on hands and knees.

Searching the downward slope, he spooked a nearby ewe, which caused the entire flock to take off downhill.

He immediately came to his knees and held perfectly still. When they stopped to look back, he ranged the distance to the nearest ram at 57 yards, drew his bow and watched his arrow disappear into its rib cage. The ram angled downhill about 300 yards before stopping on a narrow finger ridge, laid down and toppled over without falling into the canyon on either side!

Villepique officially measured the ram, showing bases 16 inches, right horn 37 and left horn 35 inches. While his ram is the new number one in the California Big Horn Big Game Club record book, several more honors

await. Because his ram scored above 163 inches, it qualifies him for the highest award given by the Big Game Club, the Whitney-Hill Award, in category "A." After a 60-day waiting period, the ram is going to rank as the 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th or 10th all-time sheep ever recorded by the DFG in California.

It is interesting to note that of the top 10 all-time sheep recorded in California records, only three have been killed by hunters. The rest were found dead. Of the current rams listed, none were taken with a bow and arrow. Thus, Scott's ram is the new California state-record desert big horn sheep killed with a bow.

There is also potential for it to rank high in the Pope and Young Club and the Safari Club International books. □

## Another State Record Big Horn

Last year, the DFG offered two random drawings for big horn sheep, which generated over \$130,000 for vital conservation programs.

While one of these hunts accounted for a potential Pope & Young record big horn sheep (see above), yet another pending state-record desert bighorn sheep was shot with a rifle by hunter John Behrens, of **Sacramento**.

The recipient of one of the state's two draw-tags, Behrens lined up guide Terry Anderson of San Gorgonio Outfitters. The guide had been watching this particular sheep for four years and the pair hiked in 7 hours to the same spot where he was last seen during pre-season scouting. The sheep was shot the in the **Orocopia Mountains** between the **Salton Sea** and Interstate Highway 10. "It was just a great old ram, and he was holed up the farthest from the world as you can get in the Orocopias," said Anderson.

The massive sheep was rough-scored at 186 inches on the Boone & Crockett Club scoring system. Anderson said the ram should beat the old record of 182 by at least four inches after the required drying period. □

BY DON VACHINI



## Website Aids California's At-Risk Birds

The Golden State's at-risk birds will benefit from a new interactive website which allows the public, birders and biologists to exchange avian information.

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) Conservation Science recently launched the Bird Species of Special Concern website to allow the public to quickly access current information on at-risk birds and learn about the projected effects of climate change on these species.

Geographic areas with the greatest number of special concern species are southern and central coastal California where expanding human populations are expected to intensify in coming decades. Habitats experiencing the highest rate of degradation include wetlands, scrublands and riparian forests.

Registered users are encouraged to share their scientific information on these species, nominate new birds for consideration and upload pertinent materials.

"In times of rapid environmental change, keeping track of bird species at risk is more important than ever," said DFG Staff Environmental Scientist Lyann Comrack. "By allowing public access and input, this website will broaden our knowledge base and help us better serve the conservation needs of California's at-risk birds."

The website is a result of a major collaborative project between DFG, PRBO and the Western Field Ornithologists. In 2008 this group completed a comprehensive report entitled California Bird Species of Special Concern: A Ranked Assessment of Species, Subspecies, and Distinct Populations of Birds of Immediate Conservation Concern in California. The book provides a detailed analysis of the status of the state's at-risk birds using the latest data to describe current populations, ranges and threats along with recom-

mendations to reverse negative trends.

The website provides detailed information on 63 at-risk bird species, a list of which is available for download. Links also include data summaries, maps, resources for bird conservation, climate models and provide a way for the public to suggest changes to the list. The database will enable the DFG to more easily update the species of concern list. Other important features found on the site include access to other bird data sets and a map-based tool allowing users to view species presence by month, boundaries and other criteria.

For more information, visit <http://data.prbo.org/apps/bssc/> and [www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/nongame/ssc/birds.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/nongame/ssc/birds.html). □

## Duck Stamps

Originally enacted in 1934, The Federal Duck Stamp was created as an addendum to the waterfowl hunting license as well as a means of funding to conserve waterfowl habitat. Since then, the program has generated more than \$800 million to protect approximately six million acres of waterfowl habitat in the United States, land now part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wildlife Refuge System. Ninety-eight percent of the stamps revenue goes directly to land purchases, easements and leases.

Federal Duck Stamps are administered by the USFWS and are available at U.S. Post Offices, some license agents and online at <https://shop.usps.com/>.

No longer referred to as a stamp, the California Duck Validation sheet may be purchased online at [www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/ols/](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/ols/), in person at any DFG license sales office (a list of which can be found at [www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/officelocation.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/officelocation.html)) or from any license agent (<http://dfg-internal5.dfg.ca.gov/lasweb/>), where validations can be purchased at the same terminal as the hunting license.

Although waterfowlers are no longer required to affix a physical stamp to the actual license like in the past,

the physical stamps are still produced for collectors' purposes. The DFG fully realizes how much the physical stamp is appreciated so they have continued to produce them. If hunters purchase the California Duck Validation sheet and still want to receive an actual stamp, they must request it online at [www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/collectorstamps/](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/collectorstamps/).

The DFG's new automated system now handles the stamp situation much differently by printing the "Privilege of Validation" directly on the license.

For hunters not fortunate enough to have private hunting access, DFG License Program Analyst, Glenn Underwood, suggests accessing the state's waterfowl reservation system. Although some refuge areas are extremely difficult to draw, reservations are currently issued by random drawings performed through the Automated License Data System (ALDS) with drawing results posted online. They are only viewable by the individual after logging in to ALDS.

Underwood publishes the drawing statistics online and mails them to hunters each year along with the *Waterfowl Season Update*. He also posts the drawing results online for the convenience of hunters.

The computerized drawing systems used for big game tags and waterfowl reservations have pre-draw and post-draw audit logs that record all the steps in the drawing and awarding of tags and reservations. □

## California Deer Association

As a non-profit, tax-exempt wildlife conservation organization, the California Deer Association's (CDA) principal goal is to improve the state's deer herds through direct financial support for habitat improvement and research projects.

For more information or to become a member, contact 1 (888) 499-DEER. □

BY DON VACHINI

## California Cactus Haunts

Tall and towering or short and stout, the cactus plant is a symbol of the arid Southwest. Dependent on latitude, soil characteristics and elevation, these succulents have, without a doubt, adapted to this territory's extremely hot temperatures. While 95 percent water, they can endure temperatures of 138 degrees and survive years without water. Although their spines can be a real pain, they serve as protective armor against predators, help the cactus to retain warmth in cold weather and guard it against ultra-violet rays on sunny days. In addition, they offer protective nesting sites for various bird species, among them the appropriately named cactus wren and Arizona and Gila woodpeckers, who carve their abodes in the spiny trunks.

Common resident species, such as the saguaro, which sprout trumpet-shaped blooms, the fishhook cactus with its vivid yellow flowers or prickly pear with its magenta petals, add vivid colors to an otherwise dreary landscape.

While these mysterious prickly plants exist in numerous locations in California, from sea level to near 9,000 feet along the Eastern Sierra slopes, there are a few places in the state where cacti are the central focus. Indeed, veteran cactophiles can visit certain destinations, which honor these grotesque yet gorgeous lifeforms.

One such venue is **Anza-Borrego Desert State Park**, located in the parched **Colorado Desert** of eastern **San Diego County**. Named for Spanish explorer Juan Bautista de Anza and borrego (which is Spanish for bighorn sheep), California's largest state park has over 500 miles of dirt roads, 12 designated wilderness areas and 110 miles of hiking trails, providing visitors many opportunities to experience the park's unique desert environs. Amid sandy washes and rocky slopes, its various heat-resistant wildflowers require just the correct mix of water, sun, wind and heat, but its 18 cactus species are less demanding — and readily available. Even after a drought year with scant rainwater, the resident cacti here produce showy

displays, with April through June a good time to view these annual blooms.

For pertinent information, contact (760) 767-5311 or [www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=638](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=638).

**Joshua Tree National Park**, located in **Twentynine Palms**, is renowned for its plant diversity with over 813 vascular plants. In addition to the twisted limbs of the Joshua Tree and massive granite boulders, 14 species of cacti are found in the park. Of particular note, the Teddy Bear cholla is adorned with barbed spines that seem to adhere to any living creature passing near them. This tendency to latch onto anything mobile is actually a reproductive feature as the spines are seeds that will drop off at other locations and sprout.

Currently housing over 500 archeological sites, 88 historic structures and 19 cultural landscapes, Joshua Tree first became a National Monument in 1936. Additional information can be obtained by phoning (760) 367-5500 or visiting [www.nps.gov/jotr](http://www.nps.gov/jotr). □

## Pheasants Forever

**Dan Connelly**, of **Granite Bay**, was recently named as the state coordinator of Pheasants Forever, Inc. (PF) in California. PF was formed in 1982 as a response to the continuing decline of upland wildlife habitat throughout the United States.

Formerly of the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), he will serve in a volunteer role as the national non-profit conservation organization's primary contact in the state, which houses six PF chapters and one Quail Forever (QF) with over 1,000 combined PF/QF members.

According to Matt Holland, senior field coordinator with PF, Connelly has extensive experience in wildlife conservation within the state. Since the organization will need motivated and purpose-driven advocates to grow in California, "We couldn't be happier that he is applying his skills to move Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever's mission forward."

Connelly's primary task will be to spearhead the organization's efforts to

expand and increase membership and serve on California's Upland Game Bird Advisory Committee and participate in associated upland game bird habitat programs.

Among other duties, he will foster relationships with volunteers, supporters and state agencies, plus other private and federal partners with a mutual desire to improve wildlife habitat and awareness of pheasant and quail conservation efforts.

Connelly earned a B.S. Degree in Wildlife Management from the University of Nevada, Reno and had a 27-year career with the DFG where he was the senior wildlife biologist supervising waterfowl, upland game and game bird heritage programs. He also spent seven years as the Valley Bay CARE coordinator for Ducks Unlimited.

Contact Holland at (320) 354-4377 or [www.pheasantsforever.org](http://www.pheasantsforever.org). □

## Trout Fest Expanded

Trout Fest is a free educational event that introduces people to the sport of trout fishing and responsible angling. Over the past five years, it has been a huge success in Southern California but is now expanding to encompass other sections of the Golden State.

Working in coordination with the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), Trout Fest expanded to include **Kern**, **Fresno** and **Tuolumne** counties during April and May 2012. According to DFG Regional Manager Jeff Single, Trout Fest has been a huge success in the southern state with tremendous community support. "We are very excited to add two new festivals this year that extend its presence in the **Central Valley**, bringing activities that are geared toward introducing both children and adults to hatcheries, conservation and fishing."

As in previous years, Trout Fest activities will introduce attendees to proper fishing techniques, how to clean and cook a fish and the role of the DFG's hatchery system. □

BY DON VACHINI

## Bounce Into The Outdoors

Outdoorsmen can be an innovative group. They often find items intended for other uses, making it easier to cope with conditions ranging from backyard to backcountry.

Indeed, the manufacturer of Bounce, a fabric freshener and softener designed for the dryer, probably didn't envision the myriad uses that hunters, fishermen, hikers runners, et al have found for this Proctor and Gamble product. While people most commonly toss them in their dryer to keep clothes soft, tried and true outdoorsmen have found numerous other uses for this commodity containing biodegradable catatonic softeners and perfume. Varied usage includes the following:

- Fishermen can place a sheet of Bounce in their vests, fanny pack, shirt pocket or tie a loop around their belt to keep bees, yellow-jackets, wasps, mosquitoes, gnats or flies away. It will also repel ants when a sheet is laid near them.
- Spreading sheets around foundation areas or in trailers, cars or campers deters mice from entering.
- To freshen the air in a tent, motor home or camper, hang an individual sheet of Bounce inside. In your car, place a sheet under the front seat.
- Prevent musty suitcases or duffel bags by placing an individual sheet of Bounce inside empty luggage before storing.
- Clean baked-on foods from a cooking or frying pan. Put a sheet in the dirty pan, fill with water and let it sit overnight. In the morning, sponge it clean. The anti-static agent apparently weakens the bond between the food and the pan.
- Collect and remove cat or dog hair from car or truck seats. Rubbing the area with a sheet of Bounce will magnetically attract all the loose hairs.
- Eliminate odors in dirty laundry. Place an individual sheet at the bottom of a laundry bag or hamper.
- Deodorize shoes or sneakers by placing a sheet in them overnight.
- Put a Bounce sheet in your sleeping

bag or tent before folding and storing them. It will keep them smelling fresh as well as deter nuisance pests.

- For those dried-on bugs glued to your car; wet a sheet, hose down the vehicle then easily wipe them off.
- Keep a sheet in your suitcase or duffel bag even after you have unpacked to prevent bugs from nesting in it. □

## Fort Ord National Monument

A Golden State coastal wilderness that served as an Army training ground for generations of soldiers was recently designated a national monument by President Barack Obama. His signed proclamation protects nearly 15,000 acres near **Monterey Bay**.

At its peak, Fort Ord spanned a total of 28,000 acres and trained an estimated 1.7 million soldiers for battle from the beginning of World War 1 through Operation Desert Storm. The facility was closed in 1994 and in 2008 the Army transferred about 3,300 acres of the one-time infantry training center to local authorities. Currently, this scenic area is a popular destination for hikers and mountain bikers as well as home to protected wildlife and plants.

A little more than 7,000 acres will initially be open to the public while the remaining 7,400 acres will remain under Pentagon control until cleanup of ordnance is complete, approximately by 2019. "This national monument will not only protect one of the crown jewels of California's coast but will also honor the heroism and dedication of men and women who served our nation and fought in the major conflicts of the 20th century," Obama said in a statement.

The area under protection is on Fort Ord's eastern half and doesn't include the oceanfront lands along Highway 1 that make up Fort Ord Dunes State Park, hundreds of homes and businesses on the seaside and marina or

the campus of **CSU Monterey Bay**. The area under federal protection will preserve a major swath of rare Central Coast Maritime chaparral ecosystem, a habitat unique to the state. Mountain lions, deer, eagles and the California black legless lizard all reside at Fort Ord. □

## Lake Mendocino Trout Plants Continue

For a second consecutive year, **Lake Mendocino** will receive trout plants throughout the winter months. Last season, rainbow trout were planted for the first time ever in this man-made impoundment, expanding year round fishing opportunities.

In the past this reservoir, created by **Coyote Dam** on the East Branch of the **Russian River** near **Ukiah**, contained only warmwater species to include large and smallmouth bass, striped bass, channel, bullhead and white catfish, tulle perch, bluegill and redear sunfish.

According to Scott Harris, an environmental scientist with the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), there are very few trout fishing opportunities in **Mendocino County**. "We are pleased that we can add Lake Mendocino to the annual allotment list as a winter trout fishery."

Approximately 15,000 pounds of triploid trout were planted during its first year and about the same amount will be due this coming winter. "Triploids are the choice because they put all their energy into gaining weight and don't spawn, making these larger size specimens more attractive to anglers," he said.

To ensure there is a constant supply of fish in the East Branch of the Russian River above the lake, catchable-sized rainbows in the 10-12 inch category will be stocked in the tributary feeder from late April through October. □

BY DON VACHINI

## Olympic Gold For CA Shooter

Already a four-time Olympic medalist, 33-year-old shotgunner Kim Rhode of **El Monte**, California, set her sights on the 2012 Games in London. Her result at this event, held this past August, proved predictable as she captured gold in women's skeet.

Beginning when she was 10 years old, Rhode has exhibited a smooth, almost effortless, natural shooting motion. Averaging between 500 to 1,000 rounds a day, seven days a week, helps keep her edge, enabling her to enjoy a spectacular career in both national and international trap and skeet shooting championships.

Entering and winning competitions, she has distinguished herself with amazing accuracy records and continues to do so. Before the 2012 summer games, she broke a record that stood since 2005 at the International Shooting Sports Federation Shotgun World Cup held in 2010. Shooting a perfect 75/75, she won the World Championships, automatically qualifying her for the 2012 Olympics.

Prior Olympic appearances all accounted for medals. In 1996, at age 17, she won a gold medal in double trap at Atlanta, a bronze in that event four years later at Sydney, followed by the gold in Athens in 2004. After that Olympics, women's double trap was eliminated so she made the transition to skeet, earning the silver at Beijing in 2008.

Surviving the theft of her customized shotgun and a scare from breast cancer, Rhode arduously prepared for London. However, the actual journey to England proved more adventurous and tedious than her contest. First, her husband lost his passport, then her dog chewed up the replacement document and finally, numerous, unexpected flight delays caused her to miss several training sessions.

Once at the Royal Artillery Barracks, however, she breezed through the preliminary rounds, hitting 74 of 75 targets (breaking the old record of 72) to advance to the finals. During the medal round of her event, she was greeted

with challenges in the form of swirling winds, light changes and driving rain but these conditions just made her focus that much harder. Incredibly, she set an Olympic finals record of 99 out of 100 (the old mark was 93) and become the first American to take an individual medal in five consecutive Olympics!

Joining the ranks of multiple USA medal winners and earning recognition as the top women skeet shooter in the world, Rhode doesn't appear to be slowing down. "Longevity seems to be a trademark of this competition," she admitted.

At present, her plans are to compete in the Rio de Janeiro games in 2016, but beyond that, she plans to continue her career one competition at a time. □

## Christmas Shopping

Whether patronizing local stores or perusing online shopping sites, numerous options exist in all budget classes when gifting for the outdoorsman. While it is the thought that counts, holiday stocking-stuffer possibilities exist for the diligent who shop early and personalize the gift to individual needs or interests.

Tried-and-true possibilities include fishing licenses with their accompanying stamps (now available online), ammunition, socks, gloves, fishing tackle, lures, baits or flies, outdoor-related magazine subscriptions or their renewals and pre-paid gift cards from sporting good stores.

Popular and convenient websites such as Coleman's ([www.coleman.com](http://www.coleman.com)); Cabela's ([www.cabelas.com](http://www.cabelas.com)); The North Face ([www.thenorthface.com](http://www.thenorthface.com)); Safari Press ([www.safaripress.com](http://www.safaripress.com)) and REI ([www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com)) will help expand shopping options.

One of the most high-profile authors in California, Tom Stienstra is noted for his "California" series, which include *California Camping*, *California Fishing* and *California Lakes*. His newest work, entitled *Sierra Crossing*, is now in e-book form. Visit [www.tomstienstra.com](http://www.tomstienstra.com)

to peruse the vast array of his books.

For the shutterbug, Dan Suzio's award-winning book, entitled *Death Valley Photographers Guide-Where and How to Get the Best Shots*, provides an artists-eye tour of **Death Valley's** most scenic attractions and photogenic locations. The publication won Best Book awards with the Outdoor Writer's Association of California (OWAC). It is available from [www.DeathValleyPhotographersGuide.com](http://www.DeathValleyPhotographersGuide.com).

For dog lover's, a rather fascinating book, entitled *Soldier Dogs*, passes on previously untold stories about heroic military canines. Their true stories were garnered from government files by author Maria Goodavage, a reporter for *USA Today* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. For information on this book or her previous books, *The Dog Lover's Companion to California* and *The Dog Lover's Companion to the San Francisco Bay Area*, contact [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) or go to [www.soldierdogs.com](http://www.soldierdogs.com).

Probably one of the simplest and most significant presents for young or old alike is the gift of time, whereby the sender makes a commitment with the recipient to attend a future outing. □

## Backcountry Fishing Guide

A new online guide published by the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) now makes it easier to pinpoint golden trout in the **Eastern Sierra Nevada**. Entitled *The Eastern Sierra Back Country Fishing Guide*, it is designed to provide anglers with a quick, informative and accurate account of the distribution of not only golden but brook, brown, rainbow and cutthroat fisheries in backcountry, high-elevation lakes. This guide does not address front country or lower level waters, defined as lakes and streams that are accessible by vehicle.

The downloadable guide is available at [www.dfg.ca.gov/regions/6/](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/regions/6/). □

BY DON VACHINI



## Waterfowl Hunt Program

The Department of Fish and Game's Shared Habitat for Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Program was recently awarded a grant through the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP). The purpose of the VPA-HIP award to the SHARE program is to cost-effectively assist states and tribal governments with encouraging owners and operators of privately-held farm, ranch and forest land to voluntarily make that land available for access by the public.

Beginning in September 2012, the California Waterfowl Association (CWA) and the SHARE Program have begun a three-year partnership to offer hunters of all ages the ability to hunt on lands otherwise unavailable for public use. These opportunities are being offered through CWA's Hunt Program.

This partnership will increase land-owner participation and hunter access, while lowering hunter application fees. The hunting opportunities offer mentored and guided opportunities, providing new or novice hunters the ability to develop skills to become lifelong outdoorsmen and/or women. The Hunt Program is an effort for CWA and SHARE to help reverse the steady decline in hunter participation.

Through the partnership, 70 individual properties, encompassing over 50,000 acres, have contributed their landscape for hunting opportunities. Over 400 hunters will be able to hunt on lands otherwise unavailable for waterfowl, pheasant, dove, turkey and pig harvesting.

In addition to providing hunts to the general hunting public, the Hunt Program hosts specialty hunts that cater to families, youth (apprentice), women and mobility-impaired hunters.

For additional information, visit [www.calwaterfowl.org](http://www.calwaterfowl.org). □

## Bees

In addition to making honey, bees are remarkable pollinators, which has a beneficial, worldwide effect on eco-

systems.

However, a recent development of concern among global beekeepers is the condition referred to as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). In 2006, honeybee colonies began to succumb to CCD and deteriorate at a record rate. Under this scenario, worker bees suddenly disappear and the hives perish. Scientists have attributed this to a combination of factors including fungus, virus, pesticides and environmental stress.

In the United States alone, honeybee populations have fallen by some 30 percent, creating an alarming weak link in the food chain. Approximately a third of U.S. agricultural crops depend on honeybees for pollination. While humans can survive without honey, we can't exist without pollination. Without it, tomatoes, cucumbers and countless other crops won't fruit. Therefore, understanding and promoting the activity of native pollinators has indeed become important to large-scale farmers as well as backyard gardeners. Fortunately, in North America, the 3,500 or so native bee species have been less affected by diseases that kill honeybees. Many are excellent pollinators.

In California, native bees are of prime agricultural concern. The state is more affected by CCD than any other because the \$1.9 billion almond industry there depends on trucked-in honeybees to pollinate the almond trees. Fortunately, the state is home to over 1,500 species of native bees, which pollinate everything from rosemary to watermelons. For example, the squash bee has always been highly valued by gourd and melon growers. It stores pollen in underground tunnels, often dug along fencelines.

Entomologists in the state are working on ways to propagate these and other pollinators. Of great assistance is that there are many native bee enthusiasts, such as the Urban Bee Project at UC Berkeley. Since its founding in the late 1990s, it has been promoting native bee populations in urban gardens, which are increasingly threatened by habitat destruction, pesticides and disease. University researchers have found that certain plants draw certain

bees. California poppies for instance, will bring bumblebees and sweat bees while black sage will attract digger bees.

The discovery of these predictable bee-plant relationships has allowed farmers and gardeners alike to encourage diverse native bee populations. Among the local bees beneficial for Golden State gardens are squash bee (tolerates cold weather), orchard mason bee (fantastic at pollinating fruit trees), mariola bee (produces honey) and bumblebee (extremely effective pollinator). □

## Backyard Bird Count

If feathered friends rank high on your enjoyment list, you can help scientists understand birds, their habits, migratory patterns and population numbers during the 16th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). This year's four-day event will take place from February 15-18.

With thousands of people participating, these surveys can help detect patterns in how birds are faring from year to year, according to Janis Dickinson, director of Citizen Science at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Cornell, the National Audubon Society and Wild Birds Unlimited help sponsor and promote the annual event.

"The GBBC is a great example of citizen science," says Gary Langham, Audubon chief scientist. Like Audubon's Christmas Bird Count, volunteers help us with data year after year, providing scientific support that is the envy of many institutions."

Any one can participate in the GBBC, from beginning birdwatchers to experts. Participants tally the highest number of birds of each species seen together at one time. To report their counts, they fill out an online checklist at the GBBC website.

To learn more, visit [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org), where you can enter your results, or [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org), which now features an online birding guide. □

BY DON VACHINI

## Rice Farmers Aid Birds

The Golden State's rice farms lie in a region where about 95 percent of the native wetlands that once provided habitat for migratory and water birds have disappeared. It's rice paddies, which produce much of the sushi rice consumed in the United States, take up more than a half-million acres in the **Sacramento Valley** while protected wetlands cover a little more than 77,000 acres.

Even with these shrinking wetlands, this valley, which stretches from the state capital north for about 160 miles to **Redding**, is a part-time home to cinnamon teal ducks, dowitchers, sandpipers, black-necked stilts and dozens of other migratory birds.

"Migratory birds face a number of perils, not the least among them is the effects of climate change," said Khara Strum, a water bird ecologist with PRBO Conservation Science. "This factor is expected to reduce the future **Sierra Nevada** snowpack and the amount of water feeding the remaining wetlands," she continued.

The Sacramento Valley falls under a flight pattern known as the Pacific Flyway, a major route for migratory birds that stretches from Alaska to Patagonia. To help alleviate dwindling habitat, biologists see a different opportunity in adding to and improving conditions on the only other wetlands that proliferate here: rice farms.

The hundreds of vast, flooded rice fields that cover miles of the Sacramento Valley may seem like an unlikely safe haven for shorebirds. However, changes occurring in rice country may help improve the outlook for dozens of species in decline in recent decades.

So far, more than 165 rice farmers have signed up for an incentive program that will build a system of islands and other habitat improvements in their paddies, such as flattening the tops of hip-high, "A-frame" style levees. These improvements will provide birds like the avocet, stilt and killdeer a place to rest, feed and breed throughout the year.

The incentive, funded by \$2 million from the U. S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, helps defray the costs of building the islands or of new equipment needed to make levees and other farm infrastructure more amenable as habitat.

Beyond building islands and creating other new habitat, the farmers are changing the way they manage the water they use to flood the paddies. Farmers have agreed to begin gradually draining their fields, leaving some partially flooded for birds that like to feed in the shallow, muddy areas. "They are doing variable drawdowns, keeping water in the fields longer for different species that like different water levels," said Strum. □

## State Hot Springs

Hot springs are a naturally occurring phenomena produced by the emergence of geothermally heated groundwater from the earth's crust or mantle. Because heated water can hold more dissolved solids, these springs have a very high mineral content with calcium, lithium and radium being the most prevalent. Due to ancient folklore and the claimed medical value that some of these springs have, they are often locations for rehabilitation, or tourist destinations. Many people simply enjoy the therapeutic dips, claiming the mineral content provides a healthy and invigorating sensation.

California contains an abundance of these geothermal hot springs, with over 50 developed sites plus hundreds of undeveloped or secret ones. While some are private, most were built and maintained by local volunteers.

The following are some cross-section choices:

**1. Vichy Springs Resort (707) 462-9515, [www.vichysprings.com](http://www.vichysprings.com):** Located north of **San Francisco** near **Sonoma's** fabled wine country. Visitors can enjoy their carbonated mineral waters while soaking in 150-year old bathtubs enjoyed by writer Jack London.

**2. Surprise Valley Hot Springs (530) 279-2040.** Situated in the state's northeastern high desert sector, this remote, family-owned getaway sits in full view of the **Warner Mountains**. It offers a special fly-n-soak option to pilots using the nearby airstrip.

**3. Keogh Hot Springs (760) 872-4670:** Nestled alongside the Eastern Sierra Range in the **Owens Valley**, it is 8 miles south of **Bishop** off Highway 395. With temperatures ranging up to 130 degrees, this facility houses a large, 100 x 40-foot pool for splashing and a small, 104-degree pool for leisurely soaks.

**4. Mono Hot Springs (559) 325-1710:** Follow Highway 168 east of **Fresno** for 2.5 hours along the west slope of the Sierra Nevada. Visitors can soak outside or in stone bathhouses at the 7,000-foot elevation near the **John Muir Wilderness**.

**5. Grover Hot Springs (530) 694-2248:** Reached by driving four miles west of **Markleeville** on Hot Springs Road to **Grover Hot Springs State Park**. A series of maintained pools sit in an alpine meadow on the Eastern Sierra.

**6. Sykes Hot Springs:** A bit out of the ordinary, this primitive site sits in the **Coastal Range Mountains** outside of **Big Sur**. It is only accessed by a 10-mile hike (basic campsites are nearby).

**7. Marin Tidal Hot Springs:** This unique venue is located just north of the Golden Gate Bridge on a stretch of **Marin County** coast between **Steep Ravine Cabins** and **Stinson Beach**. It bubbles directly into saltwater.

\* \* \*

For a complete listing of statewide sites plus directions and contact information, check out the *California Hot Springs Guide*, [www.gocalifornia.about.com/od/topcalifornia/a/ca\\_hot\\_springs.htm](http://www.gocalifornia.about.com/od/topcalifornia/a/ca_hot_springs.htm) or Google: Hot Springs in California. □

BY DON VACHINI

## GFA Expands, Reaches Out

For over 60 years, the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) has kept angling records for the entire world, including All-Tackle- and line- and tippet-class categories for hundreds of fresh and saltwater species. Beginning in 2011, the organization added a new 100 percent release category to its records section.

Based on length rather than weight, the IGFA's All-Tackle Length record category has made 60 freshwater and 67 saltwater species eligible for new world records while requiring the fish to be returned to the water alive after measurement. With an additional 127 new world record vacancies now available, the World Records office is experiencing a flurry of competition for these standards.

To stay in touch in this fast-paced global network, the organization has been on the front lines of communicating with thousands of anglers with the creation of their webpage. However, in an effort to quickly and efficiently reach even more anglers than ever before, the IGFA now has a mechanism in place that will allow it to do just that.

By introducing the new IGFA I-Membership, which is a free, global angler registry system, information can be exchanged instantly and subsets of the greater world recreational fishing community can be organized and mobilized. According to Rob Kramer, IGFA president, this communication hub can help better define the universe of participants who recreationally fish on a global level. "By creating a simple 'user profile' with an e-mail address, password and country of residence, an individual can become part of the network. All existing IGFA members will be prompted to their old log-in information, making it easier to access their account."

As well as providing a tool by which a large portion of the recreational community or subsets thereof could be called to action on important issues, this type of network could also be used proactively to collect valuable data to

utilize in fishery management forums and other areas to benefit the fishing industry. Economic surveys, catch and effort reports and other useful macro-data analyses could be assembled with ease and at little or no cost. The network could also be made available to recreational clubs and associations to be used on a more local level, where a subset of the anglers registered in the network could then be targeted for information gathering or distribution efforts, providing quick and quantifiable communication.

In addition to the general incentive of quantifying and better organizing IGFA on a global level, Kramer states that IGFA has created a new content and services on its website that will be available to all anglers who join this new network.

For more information on IGFA's new free I-Membership, visit <https://membership.igfa.org>. □

## Mono County Chosen Top Destination

The world's preeminent travel publisher, Lonely Planet, was founded by Tony and Maureen Wheeler in 1973. Today, their award-winning website and magazine are committed to independent travel, trustworthy advice and editorial independence, and the publication annually researches and compiles lists of the "Top 10 Places to Go," enabling curious travelers to experience the world via guidebooks and e-books of almost every destination on the planet.

Mono County, located along California's Eastern Sierra, recently made the exclusive Top U.S. Destinations for 2013 List. "This is fantastic recognition to have the Eastern Sierra chosen as one of Lonely Planet's top recommended destinations in the country," said Alicia Vennos, an official for Mono County.

Some of the areas most exciting county attractions are highlighted, including the fascinating ghost town at **Bodie State Historic Park**, the **Devil's Postpile National Monument** in

**Red's Meadow** and the popular trout fishing destinations in **Bridgeport** and **Mammoth Lakes**. Noteworthy seasonal options include summertime day hikes or extended backpack trips, the autumnal landscape painted in yellows and oranges and the abundant winter snowfall at the Mammoth Mountain Ski Resort.

The entire Top U. S. Destinations for 2013 can be viewed at [LonelyPlanet.com](http://LonelyPlanet.com). □

## Yosemite Upgrades

Yosemite National Park's **Tenaya Lake**, the sparkling alpine water along the park's busy Tioga Road (Highway 120) has been upgraded with new parking and picnicking facilities. In addition, the trail system to the beach has been re-routed to avoid harming the shoreline's delicate wetlands.

The renovations are intended to undo decades of neglect to basic services and also to ease damage done by the free range trampling by families trekking to the lake to swim and paddle in the summer. A portion of the new East Beach Trail includes a boardwalk that guides hikers over the wetlands rather than through them and, for the first time, provides easy access to the beach for wheelchairs and strollers. The \$1.7 million project was underwritten by the Yosemite Conservancy.

According to Mike Tollefson, former Yosemite superintendent and current Conservancy president, the renovations have been much needed because they add to the few sites in the 1,200 square mile park that are handicapped accessible. "It's a significant accommodation since national parks can be daunting for visitors with limited mobility."

Projects like this one, and the re-vamping of the Yosemite Falls Trail, bring popular attractions up to the standards of the Americans With Disabilities Act. □

BY DON VACHINI

## Critical Fish Habitat Restored

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), the Fishery Foundation of California and the NOAA Fisheries recently completed removal of a 7-foot dam, which re-opened more than 6 miles of spawning habitat for federally protected steelhead.

In the **San Francisco Bay Area**, fish barriers have been identified as a limiting factor for the steelhead population. The removal of this dam on Bear Creek, a tributary to San Francisco Creek, will allow steelhead to access historic habitat for spawning and rearing for the first time in decades. It will also improve ecological connectivity for other fish and wildlife resources. "With few streams left in the Bay Area that support self-sustaining steelhead populations, protecting and enhancing these watersheds is vital for the continued existence of these fish," said DFW Environmental Scientist Kristine Atkinson.

As adults, steelhead migrate from the Pacific Ocean into freshwater streams and rivers to spawn. The dam at Bear Creek was on private property in Woodside and blocked fish passage for more than 60 years. The population of steelhead native to Bear Creek, the Central California Coastal Evolutionary Significant Unit, was listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1997. The DFW and NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement worked collaboratively with the property owners to remedy the situation.

"Habitat loss and degradation is a high priority for us under ESA, and this case is a good example of how providing compliance assistance helps us solve problems collaboratively," said Martina Sagapolu, acting special agent in charge for NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement's Southwest Division. "Partnering with landowners as well as agencies such as DFW and the NOAA Fisheries Restoration Center is critical to our success."

The removal of the dam took two years and cost approximately \$30,000. Funding for the project was provided by both the private landowner and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's

San Francisco Bay Salmonid Habitat Restoration Fund.

To view a time-lapse video of the project, go to: [youtube.com/watch?v=00O17tSE6Ak](http://youtube.com/watch?v=00O17tSE6Ak). —*Don Vachini* □

## Marines Aid Desert Tortoises

Native to the inhospitable landscapes of California, Arizona, Utah and Nevada, the desert tortoise has managed to exist under harsh conditions for countless centuries.

Throughout its range, it not only tolerates temperatures of 140 degrees and water imbalances on a daily basis but exists among natural predators such as roadrunners, Gila monsters, badgers, and coyotes. However, residential development and the use of off-road vehicles plus a persistent upper respiratory disease have put their existence at risk over the past 60 years. Their sharp decline resulted in being placed under the Endangered Species Act.

Scientific data shows this species exhibits a strong site fidelity, establishing home ranges where needed resources exist; has generally low reproductive rates; and that more than 90 percent of young tortoises do not reach maturity.

During the mid-1990s, the federal government came to their aid, declaring 6.4 million acres of desert, much of it in California, as critical habitat. Recently, several research sites were established in hopes of reversing the plight of California's state reptile.

One such location is the U.S. Marine base at **Twentynine Palms**, located in **San Bernardino County**. In 2006, a unique partnership between the Marine Corps and UCLA was fostered, assisted by a budget of approximately \$100,000 a year from the Department of Defense. About 500 hatchlings currently live in the 5-acre Desert Tortoise Head-Start Facility located on the 600,000-acre base. Here, under the watchful eyes of leathernecks and biologists, the baby tortoises are protected from natural predators by wire and netting while away from man-made dangers such as tanks. —*Don Vachini* □

## Printable Steelhead Zone Maps

Steelhead in California are carefully monitored by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and governed by special fishing regulations. All wild steelhead (identified by their intact adipose fin) caught must be released unharmed. Hatchery steelies are missing their adipose fin and have a scar in place of the missing fin.

In addition to a valid California fishing license, anglers must have a non-transferable Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card (SHRRC) in their possession when fishing for the sea-going trout. It must be filled out and sent to the DFW at season's end.

In order to clarify regulations spanning differing locales, the DFW has created and posted two different SHRRC location code maps to help anglers easily identify boundaries and accurately report their catch.

The maps include a printable pocket guide for use in the field and an interactive, web-based map that not only allows anglers to identify location code boundaries but also helps them explore potential fishing areas within each location. Additional layers on the map can help identify fishable waters, topography and roads.

A list of location descriptions has also been posted to accompany these maps or act as stand-alone reference. Both maps and location code descriptions can be found by visiting the SHRRC website at [www.dfg.ca.gov/steelheadcard](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/steelheadcard). Complete fishing regs can be found at <http://dfg.ca.gov/regulations/>. —*Don Vachini* □

## Correction

In the article "Kings and Flashers" on p. 28 of the April issue, the captions for the first two photos refer to herring when the fish were clearly caught on spinners. More importantly, the lead photo itself was erroneously included as it depicts a fall chinook bearing an adipose fin. In the spring only adipose fin-clipped chinooks may be kept. We regret the errors. —*The Eds.* □



## Kern River Trout Project

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is reintroducing native rainbow trout to the Kern River. The new project is designed not only to restore native fish but improve fishing and help the local economy, too.

The program will focus on Kern River rainbow trout, a strain of trout endemic to the Kern River. Because of heavy angling pressure and non-native introductions over the last century, the native fish can only be found in remote isolated areas of the Kern River.

According to CDFW Senior Fisheries Environmental Scientist, Brian Beal, four water wells were recently drilled at the Kern River Trout Hatchery to serve as a back-up water source during adverse river conditions in preparation for the reintroduction. "This is an important phase of the project and represents a significant milestone in preserving the heritage species in the Kern River," he said. "Upgrading our facility to reintroduce native trout will offer great fishing opportunities while providing economic benefits and encouraging tourism."

As the program evolves, CDFW also plans to replace the existing non-native trout plants in the main stem Kern and surrounding area with native trout. The non-native species include brown and other strains of rainbow trout that were planted over the years but not native to the river.

Contact [www.dfg.ca.gov/fish/hatcheries/KernRiver](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fish/hatcheries/KernRiver) for an update. □

## California's Lone Wolf

During January 2012, the first wolf in 88 years entered the Golden State, believed to be the first of these predators to roam here since 1924, when the last gray wolf was killed by a trapper.

This lone *Canis lupus* is known as OR-7 (nicknamed Journey) because he was the seventh in Oregon to be fitted with a GPS tracking collar. While most wolves stay within 100 miles of where

they were born, OR-7 has proved quite different. During his 3 1/2 years he has traveled 1,000 miles from northeastern Oregon to California's border, then logged over 2,000 more since arriving.

Early this past January, Journey passed his one-year anniversary as a transplant resident, according to Richard Callas, a senior environmental scientist with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). "Probably due to the fact that this wolf has a Twitter account and an online site about his travels, the general public shows remarkable knowledge about his movements, much more than some world events."

Scientists estimate the Oregon wolf is looking for a mate or a new pack since he has trekked across two states. Karen Kovacs, wildlife program manager for the DFW has remained focused on this one animal. "The reality is he most probably won't find a mate in California."

Still, his presence has prompted action by one state and two federal agencies that now have to figure out how to manage the species if others follow. Federal wildlife agencies had not considered California a part of the original western states wolf recovery plan. If the state's wildlife commission approves the petition this coming October, authorities would determine how many wolves would be needed to populate a given area before the species would not be considered endangered anymore. It would also include a plan to deal with livestock depredation and monitoring for disease such as distemper and rabies.

Wolves seem to captivate public interest no matter how one feels about them. While OR-7 created a positive reaction from animal-rights groups; negative vibes came from ranchers, farmers and sportsmen who see potential for heavy depredation if wolf packs get established. Wolves introduced into the northern Rockies during the mid-1990s migrated into Idaho and Oregon where they have quickly reproduced.

Journey has aroused concerns among residents of the northeastern counties who fear the wolf will kill livestock, although CDFW officials say he has not. The California Cattleman's Association

opposes listing the wolf on the state's endangered species list based on a single animal wandering into the state.

Kovacs department updates a tracking map when OR-7 moves, but recently he has been hanging out mostly in Tehama County. For maps and tracking updates, visit [www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/nongame/wolf/](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/nongame/wolf/) or Twitter.com/wolf\_OR-7. □

## Otters Ignore Boundaries

A quarter-century federal ban on California otters was officially lifted recently, giving the threatened species freedom to migrate along the entire 840-mile coast.

Historically, sea otters (*Enhydra lutris*) roamed the shallow coastal areas from Oregon to Mexico. However, the species was hunted to near extinction for its fur during the 18th and 19th centuries and was subsequently listed as threatened during the late 20th century. A ban on hunting, reintroduction programs and conservation efforts followed.

However, concerned that oil spills would wipe out otter recovery chances, federal officials in 1987 enacted a ban on the mammals in southern waters south of Point Conception for their protection. They tried to establish a backup population on remote San Nicholas Island in the southern Channel Islands chain but the otters refused to stay. Many others ignored the imaginary line and had to be captured and returned to northern waters.

The Otter Project and the Santa Barbara-based Environmental Defense Center sued and recently managed to get the ban lifted. "Trying to tell a marine mammal to stay on one side of an imaginary line across the water was a dumb idea," said Steve Shimek, executive director of Monterey's The Otter Project. "Lifting the ban will not only protect sea otters from harm but, because of their critical role in the environment, it will also help restore our local ocean ecosystem." □

BY DON VACHINI

## Hottest Place On Earth

**D**eath Valley's title as the hottest place in the United States has recently been elevated to global status.

Indeed, a yearlong investigation by a team of World Meteorological Organization (WMO) scientists, the climate agency of the United Nations, resulted in disallowing a reading of 136.4 degrees claimed by the Libyan city of Al Aziziyah on September 13, 1922. The officially-substantiated 134-degree reading recorded at Greenland Ranch in Death Valley on July 10, 1913 is now the official world record.

Evoking much the same sort of civic pride as a World Series or Super Bowl championship, locals are enthusiastic and proud of the extremes making Death Valley some of the harshest on earth. "For those of us who survive here in the summer, it was no surprise that it's the hottest place in the world," said Charley Callaghan, a Death Valley National Park Ranger who personally recorded a 129-degree day a few seasons ago.

Among U.S. climatologists, the designation was a momentous event. The inquiry was set in motion by a blog item, written by Christopher Burt, a meteorologist with Weather Underground. In it, he cited several reasons to be suspicious of the original Libyan reading and brought them to the attention of the WMO, which appointed a committee of 13 climatologists to resolve the disputes.

For additional Death Valley National Park information, visit [www.death.valley.com/](http://www.death.valley.com/). □

## Pelican Rehab

Life has not been easy for the California brown pelican, even after making a remarkable comeback from the endangered list. While their numbers continue to boom in recent years, the species is suddenly experiencing a severe shortage of their natural food, creating additional hazards.

Fledgling pelicans are now altering their instinctive feeding patterns, according to Michelle Bellizi, executive director of International Bird Rescue Center (IBR). Due to extreme shortages of sardines and anchovies, many young birds have begun gravitating to harbors, piers and dumps where they are becoming conditioned to seek scraps and garbage in lieu of their natural prey. "Conflicts with man often create maladies ranging from malnutrition to injury. Over 40 percent of birds admitted suffer from fishing tackle-related injuries such as becoming entangled in fishing lines or nets."

With its goal to rescue, rehabilitate and release oiled, orphaned, sick, stressed and injured sea birds back into the wild, the IBR has come to the beleaguered *Pelecanis occidentalis*' aid, thanks to two full-time aquatic bird rescue centers in Fairfield and Los Angeles. Blessed with the expertise and capacity to deal with up to 5,000 birds per year and a pair of 100-foot long pelican aviaries, staff members administer the most effective nutritional diets, antibiotics and bird-friendly medical treatments. "A lot of time and compassionate care goes into feeding and nursing injuries," said Bellizi.

Rehabed birds are usually released in larger bays such as **Bodega, San Francisco, Monterey** and **Santa Cruz**. "We choose these spots because the fledglings can hook up with mature birds that are doing well and learn how to get by from the seasoned adults," she said.

Contact [www.bird-rescue.org](http://www.bird-rescue.org) for additional information or to contribute. □

## Lake Tahoe Research

**A**n annual report detailing the status of Lake Tahoe's health and clarity has researchers increasingly optimistic as water clarity in the state's largest natural lake has shown marked improvement in recent years. They are also rethinking some long-held assumptions.

To determine clarity, a 10-inch, white plate, known as a Secchi disc, is lowered into the water and the last depth from which it's visible is recorded. Indeed, over the past decade, lake clarity has improved since the all-time average low of 65.1 feet in 1997-98 to 78 feet in early 2013.

However, the past few years have also defied conventional wisdom, according to Geoffrey Schladow, director of Tahoe Environmental Research Center, a branch of **U. C. Davis**. "It appears forces that drive the lake are starting to change," he said. "Climate change is one of those forces and the role it's playing is evolving."

Researchers are currently re-evaluating some time-honored opinions. They were surprised that after the very heavy winter of 2010-2011, Tahoe's clarity improved by 4.5 feet from the previous reading. Usually, harsh winters that bring heavy run-off from snowmelt are generally believed to decrease clarity. "However, we are now seeing the opposite," said Schladow.

Researchers also pointed out that the 2007 Angora Fire on the lake's west shore that burned more than 3,000 acres and destroyed hundreds of homes also had little effect on the water's clarity, another surprise.

In its 2012 State of the Lake stability report released at the Tahoe Summit, the lake's energy needed for mixing layers of lake water was calculated. Scientists found that during the past 43 years, the length of time Tahoe waters are stratified during the summer into layers of different temperatures increased by almost 20 days and is likely the result of climate change. "During the summer, Tahoe, and every lake, gets warmer on top, while the bottom stays quite cold," explained Schladow. "But the ecosystem also requires deep water mixing in the winter — when the warm water upper levels cool and sink — to replenish oxygen at the deeper levels. We've been saying for a few years now that one of the consequences of climate change was that this mixing may take place less vigorously or not as frequently," he said. □

BY DON VACHINI

## IN THE FIELD

### New National Park In California

Golden State officials recently celebrated the addition of **Pinnacles National Monument** as the state's ninth and the nation's 59th national park.

Originally named a monument by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908, the 26,000-acre expanse of volcanic rock and chaparral, located east of **Soledad** in Central California, spans **San Benito** and **Monterey** counties. A popular gathering point for outdoor enthusiasts, it has been instrumental in the recovery of the California condor and its towering rock formations are a climber's paradise.

For additional information, check out [www.nps.gov/pinn/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/pinn/index.htm). □

### United Anglers Of California

Thirty years ago, a dedicated teacher and a small group of students began efforts to make an impossible dream a reality. Today, another focused teacher is taking a much larger group of students to not only continue that dream but take it to new heights.

In 1983, noted wildlife biology teacher Tom Furrer began the United Anglers program at Casa Grande High School in **Petaluma**. During the intervening three decades, Furrer and a succession of dedicated Casa Grande students have managed to develop the only licensed fish hatchery in the country operated by a public high school, clean up a polluted creek, restore salmon to the waterway and raise thousands of salmon from egg to release.

While Furrer retired in 2011, new program director and former student Dan Hubacker understands both the program and its founder's vision. While they receive plenty of support from the community, students maintain a lot of pride and a sense of ownership since they realize they are representing their program, according to Hubacker. "They run a business requiring a budget, communication,

product development and accountability. There is a real world connection," he adds.

In a program that started with raising catfish, the emphasis quickly turned to chinook salmon and students have been delighted to discover salmon runs in neighboring **Adobe Creek** the past few years. However, Hubacker and the United Anglers of Casa Grande sought to add more diversity to the agenda and, in a major change this past year, students began working in the hatchery with steelhead trout instead of salmon.

Hubacker feels the salmon were a good learning tool for the steelhead. Unlike salmon, which die after spawning, steelhead return to the ocean after spawning and can live up to 10 years.

Recently, approximately 40,000 steelhead were raised at their on-campus hatchery. With help from crews at the Department of Fish and Wildlife's Congressman Don Clausen Fish Hatchery at **Lake Sonoma**, these fish were transported into to **Dry Creek's** freshwater flows, a major tributary to the **Russian River**.

As part of a long-standing tradition, students kissed individual fish before being setting them free. "It's kind of both a beginning and an ending," said first-year United Angler Kerrienne McCarthy.

Closer to home, the expanded plan calls for stepping up the restoration of Adobe Creek, including more mature vegetation. In addition, the students are currently working with state agencies and environmental groups in an effort to restore habitat in the entire **Petaluma River** watershed.

"There is a crying need for restoration of the Petaluma Watershed. The long-range goal is the recovery of steelhead throughout the entire drainage."

On this distinguished Petaluma campus, the pursuit of the dream continues! □

### Protections For Clear Lake Hitch

The Clear Lake hitch, a fish endemic to Clear Lake in Lake County, is now

a candidate species under the auspices of the California Endangered Species Act (CESA).

During September 2012, the California Fish and Game Commission (CFGF) received a petition to list this landlocked species as threatened under the CESA. On March 6, 2013, they concluded that the petition, the petition evaluation report, a recommendation prepared by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and comments received at a publicly noticed meeting included sufficient scientific information to indicate that listing *Lavinia exilicauda chi* as threatened or endangered under CESA may be warranted. Thus, the CFGF designated Clear Lake hitch as a candidate species pursuant to Fish and Game Code (FGC) § 2074.2 and published notice of its action on March 22, 2013.

With the Commission's decision to proceed with candidacy, section 2.11 of the 2013-2014 *California Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations* is no longer valid. That regulation previously allowed the taking of hitch from Clear Lake and its tributaries by hand or hand-held dip net. As of now, anyone who takes hitch from the watershed without a permit may be cited for violations of CESA and subject to criminal prosecution.

Since CESA prohibits the take of listed or candidate species, anglers must duly avoid this species while fishing. However, recreational angling for other species on Clear Lake is still allowed as are fishing contests.

With targeted sport fishing or take of hitch prohibited, the FGC does provide CDFW the authority to permit harvest associated with research activities. Permits may be issued relating to scientific research, education or management purposes. The CDFW is currently conducting an in-depth status review to provide the CFGF with information to aid in their decision on the species listing status. The status review can be found at: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=59298>. □

BY DON VACHINI

## Wild Horse Rescuers

Ever since they were brought to America by Spanish settlers during the 1500s, horses have occupied a unique position in the nation's history and culture.

For centuries, mustang descendants roamed freely across the western United States. By the early 1970s, their numbers approached 60,000. Then, tasked with managing the long-term health and productivity of public land, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), began culling "excess" horses, relocating them to long-term holding pastures.

According to BLM spokesman Tom Gorey, of the 245 million acres in its jurisdiction, nearly 27 million acres are currently maintained as wild horse range. "Today, about 31,500 horses still run wild, living across 10 western states, mostly in Nevada. However, the land can only support about 26,500."

Approximately 301,000 horses have been removed from public lands over the past four decades. Although protected by the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act, a recent measure permitted their sale to the highest bidder. In some cases, they ended up in commercial slaughterhouses.

Without intervention, Gorey says the wild horse population grows about 20 percent a year. "We are in a bind, and don't have a quick fix to our holding situation."

In California, a pair of impassioned advocates have stepped forward.

While rounding up wild horses for the U.S. Forest Service in **Modoc County** in 1978, wrangler Dianne Nelson made a life-changing decision. She decided to rescue the band of 80 wild horses they'd just corralled that was destined to be destroyed. This selfless act led to the founding of the Wild Horse Sanctuary in **Shingletown**, east of **Redding**. For the past 35 years, this establishment has protected hundreds of wild horses from destruction.

"What she did was nothing short of heroic," said Fred Sater, who serves as the Sanctuary's spokesperson. "These animals are the living symbols of the

American West, embodying its wildness and freedom."

Some 300 wild horses now live on the ranch's approximately 5,000 acres, supported by donations and visitors. During the trail ride season, which runs from early May through mid-October, guests can view the wild horses on two and three-day rides.

Nelson and ranch volunteers lead the rides that follow trails created by the wild horses through a landscape of native grasses and trees that is inhabited by diverse wildlife. Wild horses can be observed living free within a setting that is backed by the volcanic slopes of **Lassen Peak** in the distance.

Fees for the trips benefit the Sanctuary, which is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of America's wild horses.

More information is available at [www.WildHorseSanctuary.org](http://www.WildHorseSanctuary.org), by calling (530) 474-5770 and by visiting [www.shastacascade.org](http://www.shastacascade.org) and [www.visitredding.com](http://www.visitredding.com).

**Sonoma Valley** wine-producer and rider Ellie Phipps-Price has recently joined a campaign to stop the federal government from rounding up wild horses. With a life-long love of horses, she came about her new passion to raise public awareness of the issues and a commitment to help change wild horse policy in 2009.

"These animals have a rightful place in the world, on the range. They're part of our heritage, not just a commodity," she says. "Just because something doesn't make you money doesn't mean it's not worth having."

In 2010, she rescued about 170 horses destined for slaughter from a Nevada pen and had them transported to the 2,000-acre Montgomery Creek Ranch west of **Willows**, which she purchased in 2009. This **Glenn County** spread, located in the foothills near Mendocino National Forest, has good water and abundant wildlife, plus fencing originally built for buffalo — and thus strong enough to hold horses. Currently, the herd includes some foals conceived before the stallions were gelded along with a few other rescue groups.

She mentions the ranch can handle

about 150 horses, most of which will live out their lives there. She is raising hay in an effort to develop a self-sustaining operation although her larger aim is to help shift federal policy on America's mustangs, prioritizing the goal of keeping them wild.

Current efforts include experiments with fertility control, studying the issues and coordinating with key players in the campaign to stop mustang roundups. She has also produced a 70-minute 3-D film slated for release this fall to spread the word about the state of the mustang. It features an informative, character-driven scene introducing viewers to the mustang's saga.

Indeed, both ladies appear to be "all in" to make the public aware of the wild mustang's plight. □

## Chinook Imprinting

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) is currently studying a new way of transporting hatchery salmon that are intended to repopulate the **Sacramento River** system.

About 100,000 Chinook salmon have been taken to San Francisco Bay, where they were released in water actually from the **Sacramento River**. The theory being tested is that the fish will develop a memory of the water's chemical makeup that will improve their ability to get from the bay to the river to spawn. DFW biologists have raised concerns that too many hatchery fish are straying and not returning to the river. The experiment could boost salmon populations and impact how hatcheries release their fish. "We're hoping that this is the way of the future," said Andrew Hughan, a DFW spokesman.

Salmon are known to develop smell-related memories on their way to the ocean that guide them on their return trip. The process is known as imprinting. □

BY DON VACHINI



## IN THE FIELD

### Highway Trees Aid In Creek Restoration

Hundreds of Redwood trees, cut to make way for a new freeway widening and interchange project, are being used to restore fish habitat in a pair of **Sonoma County** creeks.

Highway 101, aka the "Redwood Highway," courses north from San Diego through California, Oregon and Washington.

Six hundred and fifty trees have to be cut down as part of a highway expansion, many of which were planted as Redwood seedlings when the original two-laner was finished in 1956.

The felled trees are now being put to use in restoring fish habitat in local streams. The Sonoma County Water Agency is buying 200 logs at a cost of \$98,000 to put into **Dry Creek** to help provide shade and pockets of slow-moving water for endangered coho salmon plus chinook salmon and steelhead, both of which are threatened. "The trees will be placed into a mile of creek as part of a \$5 million habitat improvement project that the Water Agency is undertaking," Water Agency spokesman Brad Sherwood said. □

### Healthy Holiday Hikes Widely Available

Usually blessed with moderate, late-season weather, the **San Francisco Bay Area** offers numerous and varied options for short to moderate hikes. Indeed, these low-elevation strolls, which can be enjoyed by any age and level of fitness and are available from a wide scattering of easily accessible trailheads, are perfect for the month of November. The following are a few notable choices:

#### SAN MATEO COAST

The Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, [www.co.sanmateo.ca.us](http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us), a tidal reserve edged on the shore of **Moss**

**Beach**, is a lesser-known destination.

#### ALAMEDA COUNTY

**Little Yosemite Trail**, [www.baynature.org](http://www.baynature.org), is located in **Sunol Regional Wilderness**; **Stream Trail**, [www.ebparks.org/parks/redwood](http://www.ebparks.org/parks/redwood), is the centerpiece of **Redwood Regional Park** and **Cogswell Marsh**, [www.ebparks.org/parks/hayward](http://www.ebparks.org/parks/hayward), lies in the heart of an 800-acre wetland in **Hayward Regional Shoreline**.

#### CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

**Pickleweed Trail**, [www.ebparks.org/parks/martinez.htm](http://www.ebparks.org/parks/martinez.htm), crosses wetlands in **Martinez Regional Shoreline** with views of **Carquinez Strait**; **Mary Bowerman Trail**, [www.bayarea-hiker.com/eastbayhikes/mdsp/diablosummit.html](http://www.bayarea-hiker.com/eastbayhikes/mdsp/diablosummit.html), is in **Mount Diablo State Park**; and **Bay View Trail**, [www.ebparks.org/parks/pt\\_pinole](http://www.ebparks.org/parks/pt_pinole), in **Point Pinole Regional Shoreline** affords views of water and beach.

#### PENINSULA

**Coyote Point**, **Palo Alto Baylands** and **Borel Hill**, [www.tripadvisor.com](http://www.tripadvisor.com), which tops out on 2,572' **Russian Ridge**, are popular go-to sites.

#### MARIN COUNTY

From **Fort Cronkite**, the trail to **Rodeo Lagoon**, [www.bahiker.com/northbayhikes/rodeobeach.html](http://www.bahiker.com/northbayhikes/rodeobeach.html), offers views of **Rodeo Cove**; **Lagunitas Loop Trail**, [www.bahiker.com/northbayhikes/skyoaks.html](http://www.bahiker.com/northbayhikes/skyoaks.html), circles the lake and **Abbotts Lagoon**, [www.bahiker.com/northbayhikes/abbottslagoon.html](http://www.bahiker.com/northbayhikes/abbottslagoon.html), is a scenic water sitting in northern **Point Reyes National Seashore**.

#### SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY

From **Fort Funston**, enjoy the wide **Sunset Trail**, [www.bahiker.com/sfhikes/funston.html](http://www.bahiker.com/sfhikes/funston.html); the shoreline walk along **Golden Gate Promenade**, [www.presidio.gov/explore/trails/Pages/goldengatepromenade.aspx](http://www.presidio.gov/explore/trails/Pages/goldengatepromenade.aspx), with classic views across the bay and the **Lands End Trailhead**, [www.parksconservancy.org/visit/park-sites/lands-end.html](http://www.parksconservancy.org/visit/park-sites/lands-end.html), with views of the Golden Gate along the bluffs and cypress trees. □

### Pat Wray, G&F Columnist, Wins Journalism Awards

*California Game & Fish* columnist Pat Wray earned seven prestigious Excellence in Craft awards from the Outdoor Writers Association of America at OWAA's annual conference in Lake Placid, N.Y., Sept. 16, 2013. Three of the awards were for Wray's work appearing in *Game & Fish*.

Competing in magazine writing, Wray received second place in the conservation category, which recognizes work with an emphasis on successes or challenges within conservation; interesting new discoveries within nature; or a fascinating tale about a creature, plant or ecosystem. His second-place submission, "The Dangers Of What We Know," was published in the May 2012 issue.

Wray took third place in the gear and technical category, which recognizes excellence that is informative about gear; or instructional in how to use outdoor equipment in an entertaining yet easy-to-understand manner. That submission, "The Truth About Outdoor Survival," was published the October 2012 *Game & Fish*.

He took another third place in the hunting and shooting sports category, which recognizes excellence in communicating hunting for both large and small game, and competitive or recreational shooting. This includes archery, firearms and other methods. Recreational shooting stories can be human-interest stories or inspiring stories about a competition. That story, "Rocks," appeared in the February 2012 issue.

Wray is a freelance writer, photographer and book author. In addition to his work for *Game & Fish*, he is a contributor to *Bugle*, *The Corvallis Gazette-Times* and others.

For more information on OWAA, go to [www.owaa.org](http://www.owaa.org). □

BY DON VACHINI

## New State Record Kokanee

A much sought after culinary delight in several California lakes and reservoirs, kokanee salmon normally live a three-year life cycle, weigh less than a pound and top out near 14 inches. Thus, it was a huge surprise when an out-sized *Oncorhynchus nerka* caught in **Lake Tahoe** broke the existing state record that had stood for four decades.

On July 20, 2013, Bill Bush of Nevada City, California, was fishing with Captain Scott Carey of Tahoe Sportfishing during an afternoon charter. According to Carey, they were trolling in 120 feet of water between **Camp Richardson** and **Baldwin Beach** on the south side of the lake. As the water got shallower, they began raising their rigs (silver flashers with green/red Wedding rings tipped with corn). When the lures approached 70 feet, the big fish hit at approximately 2:10 p.m. "At first, we thought it was a mackinaw due to its size," he said.

As soon as the fish was hooked, Bush figured he was onto something as the fish darted rapidly and put a serious bow in his rod. "He played it perfectly," relayed Carey.

Not without a bit of drama, as they scrambled for a bigger net, it became tangled in the radio antennae. Quickly freed, it was used to scoop up the hook-jawed salmon as it neared the boat. "Once on the deck, we knew we had something very special," he said.

Cutting the trip short, a frantic search for a scale ensued, since land-locked sockeye salmon tend to lose weight rapidly when pulled from the water. While one nearby boat's scale bounced between 5.2 and 5.8, and another's read between 5.18 and 5.22, Carey prudently realized the fish needed to be weighed on a certified scale ASAP. Officially weighed at the Overland Meat Market in **South Tahoe**, the behemoth was 5 pounds, 2 ounces, which meant a new record! The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) was called to verify the species.

In addition to its weight, Bush's

salmon stretched an incredible 24.75 inches. "This is something we may never see again in our lifetime," said First Mate Scott Hoffman.

The fish was officially certified by the CDFW on July 29. Since the California /Nevada border splits the lake, the koke qualifies as a Silver State species standard as well.

The previous record was also caught at Lake Tahoe on August 1, 1973, when Dave Bournique of South Lake Tahoe caught a specimen that weighed 4 pounds, 13 ounces. □

## Christmas Shopping

Because outdoorsmen are such a varied group who are involved in myriad activities, finding a meaningful and useful gift can often be a daunting task. Besides not waiting until the last minute to shop, one of the most feasible hints is learning a bit about the person you are shopping for and then trying to personalize the present. Gifting ideas can be as varied as the individual's specific interests or needs.

For the frugal shopper, visiting outdoor shops, ordering from catalogs or surfing online sites can often pinpoint gifts, usually at bargain prices.

There are numerous tried and true ideas for the outdoorsmen, ranging from as low as \$20 to \$150. Some "stocking stuffer" choices include socks, assorted fishing tackle, ammunition, outdoor clothing, gloves, chapstick, travel gear and fishing licenses. In addition, outdoor-related magazine subscriptions or renewals of existing ones are valid ideas as are pre-paid gift cards to a favorite outdoor store or website.

To expand shopping options from the convenience of your home, the new wave of online innovations offer just about anything the outdoorsman needs. Browse popular sites like L.L. Bean ([www.llbean.com](http://www.llbean.com)), Coleman's ([www.coleman.com](http://www.coleman.com)), REI ([www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com)), The North Face ([www.thenorthface.com](http://www.thenorthface.com)) or DeLorme Maps, which reflect advanced cartographic technology ([www.delorme.com](http://www.delorme.com)).

There is always a selection of new

and notable "wild card" items hitting the market. Among those for 2013 are: Cabela's Guideboat Boa Boots ([www.cabela.com](http://www.cabela.com)), Revo's new lenses, which make it easier to see both structure and fish ([www.revo.com](http://www.revo.com)) and Fishpond's innovative and comfortable sling backpacks ([www.fishpondusa.com](http://www.fishpondusa.com)).

Those who relish both past and present hunting escapades will find plenty of entertaining and hair-raising episodes in book form on the Safari Press website ([www.safaripress.com](http://www.safaripress.com)) while anglers of all passions will enjoy perusing the vast selection of fishing books at [www.amatopublications.com](http://www.amatopublications.com). Video enthusiasts should check out the 65-minute DVD Hank Patterson Vol. 1 by Trout Jousters ([www.troutjousters.com](http://www.troutjousters.com)). □

## Youth Archery Clinics

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) plans to offer a pair of beginning archery clinics for young archers between 7-18 years of age during 2014.

According to Lesa Johnston, CDFW's co-ordinator for the California National Archery in the Schools Program, archery is a sport that motivates kids to spend time outdoors.

Tentatively scheduled during April, each of the two clinics includes a safety orientation, fundamental archery instruction, an introduction to various types of equipment and plenty of actual target practice.

Separate instruction will be provided and groups will be broken down into 8- to 12-year-olds and 13- to 17-year-olds. Participants must be accompanied to the event by a parent or guardian.

The CDFW co-sponsors the clinics with the California Bowmen Hunters and the State Archery Association. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Online registration is available via the CDFW website at [www.dfg.ca.gov/yo](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/yo). □

BY DON VACHINI

## Waterfowlers Hall of Fame

**U.S.** Republican Mike Thompson (CA-5) was recently inducted into the California Waterfowlers Hall of Fame (CWHOF).

Established in 2006 by the California Fish and Game Commission (CFG), the CWHOF recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to enhancing and conserving waterfowl and their habitats in the state. Thompson is the first sitting elected official to be inducted into the memorial.

"California is home to the greatest waterfowl habitat in our country. I am proud to be included among those who have worked long and hard to protect and preserve our great wetlands and diverse wildlife," said Thompson. "It is a tremendous honor to be inducted into the CWHOF."

According to CFGC President Mike Sutton, waterfowl have no greater champion in Congress today than Thompson. "During his service in the California State Legislature and his current tenure in Congress, no one has done more to promote waterfowl conservation in California."

The CFGC also recognized Thompson for his years of substantial contributions to waterfowl and land conservation during his time in Congress and the California State Senate. □

## Newly Discovered Legless Lizards

Scientists in California have recently discovered four new and separate species of legless lizards.

The discovery of these snake-like reptiles was made by James Parham of Cal State University-Fullerton, and University of California-Berkeley reptile and amphibian expert Theodore Papenfuss. Together, the pair has been scouring the state for legless lizards for 15 years.

Throughout the history of lizard evolution, several lizard lineages have

lost their legs, according to Parham. "Snakes are the best-known and most diverse of these lineages, but more than 200 other types of limbless lizards exist throughout the world."

Part of a group called Anniella, legless lizards are small creatures, about as thick as a pencil and rarely more than 8 inches long. Research has shown they don't move fast or far, spending their entire lives in an area of approximately 20 yards, living on bugs and larvae beneath loose, sandy soil or leaves.

Probably since they are so reclusive, scientists really don't know much about the species. To find these lizards, Parham and Papenfuss scattered about 2,000 pieces of cardboard and plywood throughout the state to create moist, cool areas, which appeal to the lizards. Then they returned months later to see if any lizards had shown up.

Until the discovery, scientists believed there was only one species of legless lizard in the West. Of the four newly identified species of Anniella, the **Southern California** legless lizard, was found under some leaves at the end of a runway at Los Angeles International Airport. The **Bakersfield** legless lizard was found in three vacant lots in that city's downtown. The **Southern Sierra** legless lizard was spotted in three dry canyons on the edge of the **Mohave Desert** and the **Temblor** legless lizard was found in the oil fields around Taft, a city in the southwestern edge of the **San Joaquin Valley**.

Parham mentions that they still have over 1,000 boards around the state, which they plan to continue checking in the future. "This is very much an evolving study," he said. "We may uncover even more species." □

## New Sevengill Shark World Record

On August 23, 2013, Jonny Mathews of **Stockton**, landed a massive, 322-pound Sevengill shark

(*Notorynchus cededianus*), which should set the new IGFA all tackle world record for the species.

Mathews was in a group of anglers aboard the *California Dawn*, captained by James Smith, fishing in deep water just off **Yellow Bluff** along **San Francisco Bay**. He was using a relatively light, 7-foot, 11-inch, medium-action, swimbait rod paired with 100-pound test, when the fish struck at 2:30 p.m.

While the shark repeatedly pulled the rod tip way under water, Captain Smith skillfully coached him through the ordeal, which lasted 29 minutes. "We were worried about the light rod breaking throughout the battle, but it held up," said Smith.

Once at the boat, it took six guys with two gaffs to hoist the shark into the boat. The next obstacle was getting the fish, which measured 9 feet, 6 inches and had a 54-inch girth, weighed on a certified scale since nearby meat and produce market scales were too small to handle the behemoth. Finally, at Van Gronigan's Produce in **Manteca**, the brute was forklifted onto their scales and its 322-pound weight was officially certified.

The principle large, benthic predator of the Pacific Ocean, it is the only shark to have seven gill slits and usually exists only at great depths. The current world record is a 208-pound, 15-ounce specimen held by Sue Tindale. It was caught at Ngunguru Beach, Northland, New Zealand on June 7, 2011. The previous California state record was a 276-pounder caught on October 17, 1996 in **Humboldt Bay** by Cliff Brewer. □

BY DON VACHINI

**Correction:** In the November issue of *California Game & Fish*, in the article "PLM Is A-OK," the box on page 26 erroneously lists Work Ranch as offering antelope hunts and bear hunts. It does not, but does offer deer, elk and turkey hunts. We apologize for the error. —*The Eds.*

## Lizards Fight Lyme Disease

Researchers recently discovered that the Western fence lizard has a distinct role in shielding people from Lyme disease.

According to Robert Lane, a U.C. Berkeley professor emeritus of medical entomology whose investigation of Lyme disease transmission in nature began three decades ago, the greatest risk of contracting the disease is from the bite of a nymph tick, which is very difficult to detect and remove due to its size (less than 1/20th of an inch). "Ticks in their first stage of life, as larvae, pick up the bacteria from their one and only blood meal, typically on a wood rat or tree squirrel, which are the natural reservoirs of Lyme disease infection."

In an incredibly simple system, Lane reveals the common lizard (aka blue-belly) helps clean Lyme bacteria out of ticks that transmit it to humans. "The lizard's blood contains a protein that kills the Lyme disease bacteria in the gut of an immature western black-legged tick, which then molts into a disease-free adult tick."

Lyme disease infection rates from western-black-legged tick nymphs drops to 1-2 percent among adults after they've drawn blood from a lizard, which is the nymphs preferred host for their one and only blood meal before becoming adults. "The little lizard indeed serves a protective function, reducing the likelihood that you or I would be bitten by an infected adult tick," he said.

The first isolation of Lyme disease bacteria in western North America came from a tick collected at the 5,300-acre U.C. Hopland Research and Extension Center east of Hopland in 1985. Lane still continues his Lyme disease investigation at the center. □

## Rice With Salmon?

While it is quite evident that Sacramento Valley farmers have utilized their fields to efficiently produce rice, they have also been successful in growing healthy ducks.

Research is now under way to determine if they can apply these tactics to salmon as well.

Studies began in 2011 on just five acres using 10,000 hatchery-born chinook salmon on farm property owned by Knaggs Ranch LLC. Last February, researchers from U.C. Davis, Cal Trout and the California Department of Water Resources released 50,000, 2-inch long juvenile salmon into a 20-acre ricefield north of Woodland. The goal is to find out whether a rice field flooded between harvests to degrade stubble and provide waterfowl habitat can stand in for wetlands that once carpeted the Central Valley and served as a massive nursery for young salmon.

At stake is not just the survival of Central Valley salmon, but also the future of rice growing in the Yolo Bypass and a water supply that serves 25 million Californians, according to Jacob Katz, a fishery biologist for non-profit Cal Trout, and the project leader. "This area is really a large lab experiment. We are really trying to demonstrate that you can have both fishery benefits and agriculture on the same parcel. All you need to do is get out here and work out the protocols," he said.

The Yolo Bypass, an expanse of farmland and natural habitat that stretches from Sacramento to Davis, was created a century ago to divert floods from the city of Sacramento. When the Sacramento River swells in wet winters, it flows over Fremont Weir, diverting most of the floodwaters into the 58,000-acre bypass, which is farmed the rest of the year.

For more than a decade, scientists have known that salmon grow faster and bigger when they are able to access the Yolo Bypass during floods.

The trouble is, the bypass doesn't flood often enough — or long enough — to play a role for salmon. And, if the bypass floods too long, it conflicts with the rice planting cycle.

Last years project not only scaled numbers up to 50,000 fish but added wild-born salmon to see if they grow and survive differently. Some fish are implanted with electronic tags to allow scientists to track their growth rates as they swim the flooded fields for 4-6 weeks. At the end of the study, the

salmon will be released back into the Sacramento River. □

## Apps For Birders

An estimated 55 million Americans are into bird-watching and many are discovering that smart-phones offer a whole new relationship with their avian friends.

For the more serious, plugged-in bird hobbyists, there are dozens of apps available, according to Chris Wood of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca, New York. This new generation of apps is allowing a greater interactivity and customization and can help serious birders plan trips in search of desired species. "Some of the first apps dealt with basic information available in printed field guides and transferred them to digital formats. Now, there is a movement toward much more exciting things."

Wood runs the eBird Project, a virtual database of current and historical bird sightings by citizen scientists. Vetted for accuracy by a network of ornithologists and updated frequently, it features BirdsEye ("the ultimate bird finder for the iPhone"), which is favored by experienced birders who travel to view birds. This app has the ability to calculate the probability of a species showing up at a specific date and location.

BirdsEye is also valuable to novices because it narrows the range of species known to be in a given locale. The National Audubon Society's app functions as a field guide, has a crowd sourcing feature and also links to eBird.

Another popular app is the Sibley eGuide to the Birds of North America, which features 813 bird species and beginner-friendly features that identify and compare birds by size and plumage.

The National Geographic Birds: Field Guide to North America was recently re-launched with up to 995 bird species. The new apps generally feature something the old printed guides lacked; the sound of bird song. Amazingly, bird dialects are clearly discernable in the recordings. The Audubon guide has eight hours of bird song recordings. □

BY DON VACHINI



## Columnist Don Vachini Earns Outdoor Award

California Game & Fish columnist Don Vachini, who compiles this magazine's "In The Field" department, was recently recognized by the Outdoor Writers Association of California (OWAC). The Petaluma-based veteran outdoor writer received an Excellence in Craft award in magazine writing, placing first in the Best Outdoor Medium category at the association's annual fall conference. Vachini's column covered a wide range of outdoor-related topics, and award-winning submissions included "How To Eat Crow," (Dec. 2012), "Return Of Falconry," (May 2012) and "Krill Seekers" (June 2012). Vachini's work earned similar awards in 1998 and 2003.

Congratulations, Don. □

—The Eds.

## Coastal Wetland Restoration Plan Unveiled

A 50-year plan for the restoration of coastal wetlands, one of the biggest efforts to save tidal marshes outside the Florida Everglades, was recently released by federal wildlife officials.

According to Cay Goude, an endangered species expert with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the \$1.24 billion plan encompasses a patchwork of tidal marshes in Northern and Central California and calls for projects along 500 miles of the state's 1,100-mile coastline. "The plan is the result of 15 years of research and provides recommendations meant to save 17 struggling species of plants and animals, including the endangered California clapper rail. It puts together in one document everything needed for their recovery."

After spending years reviewing and getting public comment, the plan was approved by the service. Funding will come from a mix of federal, state and private sources.

Tidal marshes, especially in dense, urban environments, help keep water flowing through submerged vegetation during tidal swings, sequester carbon dioxide in numerous plants and provide habitat for birds, animals and other sea life. Since the mid-1850's, 90 percent of tidal marshes in the state have been basically lost to development and contamination.

The mandate is not regulatory but does give government agencies and private conservation groups the science-based guidance needed to help focus their efforts. "This plan gives us promise that the rare species we're losing have a chance of coming back," said Jennifer Norris, a field supervisor for the federal agency. "That's reason to celebrate because there's still time."

The project marks a shift by the service to focus on large-scale ecosystem restoration that can benefit many species rather than targeting one at a time, according to Marc Holmes, a wetlands policy expert at The Bay Institute. "It's a huge change of perspective in how government does business. It's not about singling out actions for a particular species. The first objective should be to restore as much tidal marsh habitat as we possibly can."

The plan stipulates that about \$426 million of the total price tag would be needed for land acquisition for future projects by local governments or through the works of conservation groups.

However, the fish and wildlife service said it believes that estimate is high because some landowners will do their own conservation work, according to Sarah Swenty, a service spokeswoman. "It's not necessary for lands to be acquired in public ownership. We will work with willing landowners to help them manage for the species."

Most of the other cost would cover research and restoration. □

## Dragonflies: Master Predators

Dragonflies are rich in history, their ancient lineage dating to the Carboniferous period 300 million years ago. While they are often grouped with butterflies and ladybugs on the short list of insects people like, new research has indicated that they may well be the most brutally effective hunters in the animal kingdom.

When setting off to feed on other flying insects, dragonflies manage to snatch their targets in midair more than 95 percent of the time, an astounding success rate, according to Michael L. May, an emeritus professor of entomology at Rutgers University. "They'll tear up their prey, mash it into a blob and consume it on the spur without bothering to alight. It almost looks like a wad of snuff in the mouth before they swallow it."

In a string of recent papers, scientists have pinpointed key features of the dragonfly's brain, eyes and wings that allow it to hunt so unerringly. One research team has determined that their nervous system displays an almost human capacity for selective attention, able to focus on a single prey as it flies amid a cloud of similarly fluttering insects.

Dragonflies are magnificent aerialists, able to hover, dive, fly backward and upside down, pivot 360 degrees and reach speeds of 30 mph, lightning speed for an arthropod.

Their eyes are probably the keenest in the insect world, a pair of giant spheres composed of some 30,000 pixel-like facets that together take up pretty much the entire head. "They have a full field of vision, allowing them to see you when they're flying toward you and also when they're flying away," said May.

Not surprisingly, much dragonfly research is supported by the military, which views the insects as the archetypal precision drone. □

BY DON VACHINI

## San Joaquin River Hatchery

California's second-longest tributary, the San Joaquin River, was the site of one of the state's most populous chinook salmon fisheries. However, the completion of **Friant Dam** on the river in 1949 signaled the demise of the salmon on this watershed. While water filled massive **Millerton Lake** above the dam, the 60-mile stretch of river below was dewatered, ruining runs estimated at between 100,000-200,000 fish.

However, over six decades later, water is again flowing on the San Joaquin, rekindling hopes of returning at least a fraction of the famed salmon run. The San Joaquin River Restoration Program arose from a settlement in 2006 among the federal government, environmental groups and water users. The DFW and other state entities agreed to assist in implementation of the agreement pursuant to a memorandum of understanding between the state agencies and the settling parties.

Also, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) has released a draft environmental impact report (DEIR) for a conservation fish hatchery to assist with this restoration plan.

Conservative estimates are that the river should support an annual run of around 30,000 chinook. □

## Another Bighorn Herd Created

During 2013, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), along with volunteers from around the state, established a new herd of federally endangered **Sierra Nevada** bighorn sheep. According to Tom Stephenson, DFW Bighorn Recovery Program leader, this is the first reintroduction effort of a new herd of Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep since 1988.

Historically, Sierra bighorn were abundant throughout the Sierra

Nevada. However, disease spread by domestic sheep and unregulated commercial hunting are believed to have devastated their numbers significantly, and by the 1970s, only two small herds remained.

Recovery plans subsequently saved them from further loss. "Many endangered species remain on the brink of extinction with poor prospects for recovery after they receive federal protection," said Stephenson. "Through our conservation efforts, we have a unique opportunity to reach recovery goals for an alpine specialist that is native only to California."

Ten female and four male bighorn sheep were captured from two of the largest existing herds in the Sierra Nevada and reintroduced to the vacant herd unit of **Olancha Peak** at the southern end of the range in **Inyo County**. Six additional females were moved to two small northern herds, **Convict Creek** and Mount Gibbs, for augmentation of those herds.

Following this recent effort, there are now 10 herds of Sierra bighorn between Owens Lake and Mono Lake. Three additional herds are needed to meet recovery goals. The population currently numbers around 500 animals and is up considerably from a low of just over 100 animals.

A video news story is available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5KOMCxxTL6U>. □

## Youngest National Casting Champion

Learning to cast only nine months prior to the competition, nine-year-old, Northern California resident, Maxine McCormick, became the youngest fly-caster in more than 105 years of competition when she entered the recent National Casting Championships.

However, she didn't just compete at the four-day event hosted by the Oakland Casting Club, she dazzled, setting three new casting records for juniors aged 9 through 12. She scored 84 and 86 percent in the dry fly and

trout fly accuracy events and 88 feet in the angler's fly distance, setting new national fly-casting marks for juniors in the process. By the end of the competition she won a total of four medals.

McCormick began her incredible odyssey at the Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club located in San Francisco. While she received excellent instruction from champion casters Donna O'Sullivan, Steve Rajeff and Chris Korich, she seemed to take naturally to their combined advice. "I gave Maxine just a few pointers on how to aim at the targets and she started casting nice loops and scoring perfects in a matter of minutes," O'Sullivan mentioned.

All were amazed at how quickly she advanced to an elite caster. "Maxine is one of the most gifted fly-casters I've seen," said Korich. "She has the ability to focus like a laser when learning something new, yet minutes later, she's a joyful, imaginative kid, sharing a tree branch teepee she's just built or lining up her critter collection along the edge of the casting pool and teaching them how to fly cast."

Maxine continues to practice at local clubs, acting as sort of an ambassador, according to O'Sullivan. In addition to melting hearts and being the youngest National fly event competitor, Maxine's regular attendance at the Bay Area casting events is encouraging other new member participation, drawing attendance and interest from more youngsters and even driving veterans to train harder. As one club member recently noted, "It's just motivating to be around Maxine and witness her amazing progress week to week. It makes you want to come to the pools and participate more."

While her future appears bright on the National front, this young angler also enjoys plenty of time fishing with her dad, Glen, and mom, Simone, on the many rivers in the north state. At one particular fly-fishing camp she attended, instructors were quick to ask her parents, "Where in the world did this little girl learn to fly-cast?" □

BY DON VACHINI

## Otters Are Bouncing Back

Over 600 recent sightings of river otters throughout the San Francisco Bay Area have increased hopes that healthier habitat has fueled their comeback.

River otters are mammals that can survive both on land and in the water. For decades, they were prized for their warm and water-resistant pelts. Weighing up to 30 pounds, they live in burrows near waterways and eat fish and other prey. The species was nearly wiped out after decades of hunting, development and pollution. When populations declined severely during the mid-20th century, the state banned hunting the creatures in 1962.

Most of the sightings have been confirmed through photographs and videos taken by bystanders in areas previously wiped out. "We're getting more and more sightings from all over the Bay Area, said Megan Isodore, a researcher with the nonprofit River Otter Ecology Project. "The otters are clearly thriving more than they were."

While scientists agree it's too early to claim victory for the otters recovery, many are encouraged by the apparent comeback. According to Isodore, there is no historic population study to compare against current sightings. In addition to individual sightings, researchers and volunteers throughout the region are reporting otter families and groupings at more isolated locations in the North and East Bay.

The operating theory is that Bay watersheds have become better otter habitat due to decades of clean water laws enacted. Darren Fong, an aquatic ecologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, agrees that there has been an uptick in otter sightings in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in Marin County. Fong and his staff checked natural history logs dating back to the late 1980s to see if otters were being mentioned by volunteer observers. "There were very few mentions in the 80s and early 90s. Then, in the 2000s, they became more frequent."

Still, it is not clear whether there is

a boom in river otter populations or if the project's study is influencing more people to pay attention. Either way, experts say San Francisco Bay otters still face long term challenges from mercury and other industrial pollutants in the water that can cause long-term reproductive harm.

Monroe further ascertained that the otters, which need clean water and lots of fish, are a living testament to restoration work and environmental improvements. "We know that if you have otters, it's this important clue that other things are getting better." □

## Nine-Year-Old Boy Sets Climb Record

Nine year-old Tyler Armstrong, accompanied by his father, Kevin and a Tibetan sherpa, became the youngest person to reach the summit of the tallest peak in the Western and Southern hemispheres. The trio reached the summit of Argentina's 22,841-foot elevation Aconcagua Mountain on Christmas Eve 2013.

Only 30 percent of the 7,000 people who obtain permits to climb Aconcagua each year actually make the summit. The mountains sheer precipices and bitter cold temperatures have claimed over 100 lives. No one under 14 is usually allowed, so the family had to persuade an Argentine judge that Tyler could safely accomplish the feat, according to Nicolas Garcia, who handled the logistics of the trip. While he trained twice a day for a year and a half to prepare for the climb, he also held fundraisers to not only defray costs but raise money for CureDuchenne, which funds muscular dystrophy research.

Aconcagua's previous record-holder was Matthew Moniz of Boulder, Colorado, who was 10 when he scaled the peak in 2008. According to Garcia, there was a younger boy who reached the lower slopes of the mountain. An Inca boy was sacrificed about 500 years ago at 16,400 feet on Piramide, which is one of the Aconcagua's lower peaks. Scientific tests on the mummy, recovered in

1985, put his age around 7 years.

A Yorba Linda, California resident, Tyler had already climbed 19,341-foot Kilimanjaro in Tanzania at the age of 8. With Aconcagua conquered, he is determined to reach all "Seven Summits," the highest mountains on each of the seven continents. □

## Redwoods Aid Climate Change

Finally, some good news from environmental scientists studying climate change: as the earth gets warmer, ancient redwood trees are thriving.

The huge trees that line the California coast soak up carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels, keeping the potentially harmful greenhouse gas out of the atmosphere.

Despite the warming climate, redwood trees are growing faster than at anytime over the past century, according to a report recently issued by the Redwoods and Climate Change Initiative. California summers have warmed but rainfall has remained steady. The hotter climate also burns off fog that normally shrouds the world's tallest trees, providing more access to nourishing sunlight, according to the report.

The report's findings are a refreshing respite from the normally pessimistic field of climate science.

Emily Burns, director of science for Save the Redwoods League, believes these reports show redwoods should be protected because they help fight climate change. "They bolster our mission to protect redwoods which are responsible for pulling incomparable amounts of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and helps combat global warming.

This research, which looked at core samples from 16 two-and-a-half-acre forest plots along the California coast, is expected to last another 10 years. Parts of the study will focus on younger redwoods and other redwood forest plant and animal species. □

BY DON VACHINI

## Rim Fire Timber Sale Proposed

Beginning on August 17, 2013, the Rim Fire near Yosemite National Park devastated more than 400 square miles, charring parts of Yosemite and the Stanislaus National Forest. Accounting for 256, 895 acres, the fire became California's third-largest wild-fire since the 1930s.

The fire burned so hot in some areas that it changed the soil's chemistry and structure. According to experts, it will take at least two or more seasons for the dirt to recover and a decade or two to regenerate the forest. However, recovery began immediately after the blaze as ponderosa pine cones were scattering seeds, ferns were sprouting from firefighters' water and ants were emerging from deep underground.

After scientists assessed the burn area, estimated to have about \$70 million in damages, the U.S. Forest Service submitted a plan to harvest salvage timber for nearly 47 square miles of the Stanislaus National Forest that was scorched by the fire. The timber, about a million board feet, could be used for construction and other purposes if removed before fungus and beetles infect it, according to the Forest Service.

"Do you want to use wood that is already dead and will rot if you don't use it or do you want to go out into the forest and cut living trees for wood?" asks John Buckley, director of the Central Sierra Environmental Resources Center.

Revenues from the lumber sale could be used for replanting and fire recovery efforts in Tuolumne and Mariposa counties. Timber companies are already logging swaths of the burned wood, so the new plan, devised in December, would remove further habitat.

The proposal is opposed by some environmental groups, who say removing the dead trees will ruin the post-fire ecosystem that is essential to overall forest health and hurt numerous species, such as the rare black-backed woodpecker, that thrive in the unique environment.

A decision on the logging plan is expected soon. □

## Tracking Owls By Their Calls

The unique great gray owl of Yosemite is both a mystery and concern. During the last ice age 30, 000 years ago, a small population in and around what would become the glacially carved landscape of Yosemite was cut off and evolved on their own in a warmer, less snowy climate.

Today, fewer than 200 owls exist in this small pocket of the Sierra Nevada Range. The birds remain exceedingly shy and even the slightest disturbance by humans can drive them from their nests.

For researchers trying to study and protect them, this can be a large concern. "They will abandon their nests if disturbed," said Steve Thompson, Yosemite's branch chief of wildlife management. "It's an extremely low population, very vulnerable to natural and human-caused events. They don't have the ability to rebound the way more abundant species do. We're very protective of them."

Eschewing the traditional, heavy-handed trapping, banding and blasting of various calls, researchers are now drifting toward a more discreet, sophisticated technology used by spies and forensic scientists. They hope to lessen the human influence on this subspecies of owls, hoping for insights into their habitat-specific evolution.

"With a population this small, we want to err on the side of caution in terms of the methods we use to get data," said Joe Medley, a Ph.D. candidate in ecology at UC Davis who perfected computer voice recognition software to track the largest of North American owls.

Medley placed 40 data-compression digital audio recorders around middle elevation meadows typically favored by the owl, known as *Strix nebulosa Yosemiteensis*, hoping to identify them by their mating, feeding and territorial calls.

After collecting 50 terabytes of owl calls mixed with myriad other background sounds, he designed algorithms for an existing computer program that would search for the specific frequency and time intervals of the great gray's low-pitched hoot. The program is capable of discerning males and females from juveniles, and even identifying nesting fe-

males calling for food to help determine reproduction success. "What I was left with was owls and a host of other things that fell in the same bandwidth."

Because of their rarity, these owls are highly sought out by bird watchers, whose presence can deter mating and foraging for food. For this reason, researchers will not divulge exactly where in the park they are. □

## How To Improve Balance With Age

Older outdoor enthusiasts involved in a wide array of outdoor related activities are exposed to movements that rely on balance, much of which comes naturally. However, as one approaches middle-to-old-age, balance tends to decline for a number of reasons, including deteriorating eyesight and loss of muscle mass as well as osteoarthritis and inner ear problems. Poor balance can make walking and other routine activities difficult. For those active in the outdoors, it can also increase the risk of falling.

According to Carmen Terzic, M.D., Ph.D, a Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation specialist with the Mayo Clinic, exercises to improve balance are usually simple and don't require much time. Examples include going up and down stairs, moving from sitting to a standing position then back down again and standing on one foot, first using a chair or countertop to steady yourself, then progressing without assistance. "These exercises are not complicated, and if performed consistently every day, they can be very effective in retraining your brain to improve balance."

Before beginning any exercise program, particularly if you are dealing with other health problems, it is wise to contact your doctor.

For more tips on improving balance, visit [medicaledge@mayo.edu](mailto:medicaledge@mayo.edu). □

BY DON VACHINI

**Correction:** The April issue incorrectly credited the "Parting Line" story to Steven Paul Barlow. The piece, entitled "Telling Stories," was authored by Pat Wray. We regret the error. —The Eds.



## Rebalancing Wetland Habitat In California

Petaluma's Shollenberger Park, a saltwater wetland located between the Petaluma River and office buildings at the edge of the city limits, serves as an important stopover for migratory birds along the Pacific Flyway. It has recently benefited from a Ducks Unlimited project that helps the park regain its natural freshwater/saltwater balance.

Named for Richard Shollenberger, a popular Parks and Recreation director who died in 1974, the park is a popular destination for hikers and bird watchers intent on enjoying the varied wildlife in the marshy setting.

Jeff McCreary, director of conservation programs for DU, said that waterfowl make good use of these wetlands. He recently visited the park to check up on a pair of water-control structures the nonprofit organization constructed on the park.

"Water in the West is everything," he said. "The past year epitomizes the record drought. What we are concerned about from a conservation standpoint is, 'what does it mean to waterfowl?'"

While the park appears healthy and well populated with various bird species, McCreary fears the drought may have more of an impact in years to come. "It could create drier habitats, forcing waterfowl to migrate further north in search of wetlands like Shollenberger."

Over the past 100 years, many wetlands, particularly those along the San Pablo Bay, have been diked, drained and converted to fields or salt ponds. Last year, Ducks Unlimited and the Sonoma Land Trust announced a large grant to help fund the nearby Sears Point Project, which will create habitat for canvasbacks and mallards as well as 22 fish species, including Chinook salmon.

Meanwhile in Petaluma, local biologist Gerald Moore noticed a side channel along Shollenberger's main trail had dried up. "That had never happened before, and we were disturbed because we couldn't figure out what was going on," he said.

Further investigation around the creek revealed dried cattails and a choked channel, where rain and runoff couldn't flow. "Everything was out of balance, and the problem needed to be solved," Moore said.

Moore contacted DU because of its habitat conservation focus and asked for help. McCreary and an engineer visited the North Bay site and confirmed the diagnosis of a plugged channel. The solution proposed to the city officials was to remove the cattails and install new gates.

Since the city of Petaluma was strapped for cash, DU agreed to come to its assistance. The organization was working on a 1,700-acre wetlands restoration project along neighboring Highway 37 and was able to add Shollenberger to its list. Obtaining \$52,000 through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and \$25,000 from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service allowed two water-control weirs to be installed. One helps balance fresh water in the channel and salty water from the marshes on the other side of the trail. The other is along the southern end of the ponds. Phase two of the project was cattail cleanup and removal.

Thanks to the combined efforts of various agencies, Shollenberger Park should continue to provide a balanced influence on migratory waterfowl. □

## New Quail Forever, Pheasant Forever Chapters Are Created

The Golden State is home to a pair of new Quail Forever chapters, plus one Pheasants Forever chapter. The groups are dedicated to habitat improvements that benefit upland birds, waterfowl, deer and other wildlife, as well as being focused on getting today's youth outdoors.

San Diego County residents formed the San Diego chapter; Bakersfield residents formed the South Valley chapter; and residents from Plumas County formed the Indian Valley Pheasants

Forever chapter.

According to Dan Connelly, California and Nevada regional representative for Pheasant Forever and Quail Forever, individuals and communities are making upland wildlife and outdoor education a priority.

**Quail Forever and Pheasants Forever empower local chapters with the responsibility to determine how 100 percent of their locally raised conservation funds will be spent.**

"What's happening for quail and pheasants is very exciting if you care about the state's upland wildlife. Californians and Nevadans are benefiting through clean water and air, increased wildlife, open spaces and a more vibrant and engaged youth community."

Quail Forever and Pheasants Forever empower local chapters with the responsibility to determine how 100 percent of their locally raised conservation funds will be spent. This local control allows members to see the fruits of their chapter efforts in their own communities while belonging to a national organization with a voice on federal conservation policy in Washington, D.C. as well as state conservation issues.

Quail Forever was formed on August 10, 2005 by Pheasants Forever to address the loss of quail habitat and the subsequent quail population decline across the U.S. quail range. It uses the same model that has allowed Pheasants Forever's 600 chapters and 127,000 members to carry out more than 474,000 habitat projects across the country since 1982.

California is home to eight Pheasants Forever chapters and eight Quail Forever chapters, with nearly 2,000 members combined.

For additional information, contact Connelly at (702) 606-6775. □

BY DON VACHINI



**Hunter Ed Instructor Of The Year**

THE CALIFORNIA Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has named Livermore resident Lorrie Ambrosino as the 2013 Hunter Education Instructor of the Year. For more than 16 years, Ambrosino has taught the principles of conservation, ethics and firearms safety to hundreds of students, enabling them to obtain hunting licenses in California.

“California is fortunate to have Lorrie in the hunter education program, as she exemplifies our mission of ‘Passing on the Tradition Through Education,’” CDFW Hunter Education Program Manager Capt. Roy Griffith said.

In addition to the hundreds of hours of instructing for the CDFW, Ambrosino also serves as the vice-president of the Livermore-Pleasanton Rod & Gun Club and operates the club’s hunter education program.

**Pat Wray Earns Writing Award**

PAT WRAY, the author of our back page “Parting Line” column, won third place recently in the “Excellence In Craft” competition sponsored by the Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA). His column, “A Bear Hunt For The Ages — Or Aged,” appeared in our July-August issue last year. Wray, who lives in Corvallis, has also been honored in past years for other “Parting Line” columns in *Game & Fish* magazine. His entry was recognized in the Hunting Or Shooting Sports category for magazines.

**Yosemite River Protection**

IN A DECISION intended to protect the Merced River as it flows through Yosemite National Park, officials recently announced plans to cap visitors at current levels in the park’s most popular areas and to add campsites.

The number of visitors to Yosemite Valley will be limited to 18, 710 per day and 21,000 visitors per day during peak times. The park plans to ease congestion by adding shuttle buses to improve traffic flow.

Once capacity is reached, cars will be turned away and directed to other sections of the park. Advance warning signs will be posted as traffic nears capacity. Under the revised plan, the park will also add 174 more campsites, for a total of 640 sites, and increase parking for visitors who don’t stay overnight.

**USSA Opens New Office**

THE U. S. Sportsmen’s Alliance (USSA), a national organization dedicated to protecting and advancing the rights of hunters, anglers and trappers, has opened an office in Sacramento. The office will serve as a Western U. S. headquarters for USSA. “Expanding our operations is a natural progression for our organization as we plan more effectively protect the interests of sportsmen across the country,” said Nick Pinizotto, USSA president and CEO.

— DON VACHINI

**OCTOBER 19**

**UPLAND BIRD OPENING DAY**

The general hunting seasons open for quail in Zones Q-1 and Q-3, and statewide for chukar. Daily limit is 10 for quail and 6 for chukar.

[www.dfg.ca.gov/regulations](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/regulations)

**NOVEMBER 1**

**WILD TURKEY BANQUET**

The Lassen Longbeards Chapter of the NWTF hosts a Hunting Heritage Banquet at the Honey Lake Valley Grange in Susanville. Event Coordinator:

Christopher O’Brien, (530) 251-3851

**NOVEMBER 9**

**FALL TURKEY OPENER**

The fall season for wild turkeys opens statewide. The limit is one bird of either sex per day, with a season limit of two.

[www.dfg.ca.gov/regulations](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/regulations)

**NOVEMBER 9**

**PHEASANT SEASON BEGINS**

Pheasant hunting starts statewide. Hunters may harvest only two male birds for the first two days. Then the bag limit goes to three per day.

[www.dfg.ca.gov/regulations](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/regulations)

**DECEMBER 7**

**OPENING DAY FOR CROWS**

The 4 1/2-month crow season opens statewide with a limit of 24 birds per day.

[www.dfg.ca.gov/regulations](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/regulations)



**BY THE NUMBERS**

**11.6**

MILLION

U.S. sportsmen who hunt big game

**96**

percent of those who hunt in their own state

**4**

percent of those who hunt outside their state

\*Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey



**Waterfowl Breeding Survey**

THE CALIFORNIA Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has recently completed its 2014 waterfowl breeding population survey. Data indicate the total number of breeding ducks remains similar to 2013. The total number of ducks is estimated at 448,750 compared to 451,300 last year, which is 23 percent below the long-term average. CDFW attributes the decline to very low precipitation. A lower breeding population was expected in 2014, according to Melanie Weaver, CDFW's Waterfowl Program biologist. The CDFW will make a recommendation to the Fish and Game Commission regarding the upcoming waterfowl hunting regulations.

**More Reservoirs Proposed**

CALIFORNIA'S EXTENDED drought has sparked a new push by federal lawmakers to create or expand a handful of statewide reservoirs. Bills proposed in Congress would authorize a number of projects to bolster increasing water needs. Among the projects are raising the dam at Shasta Lake, creating a new reservoir along the upper San Joaquin River east of Fresno and damming a valley north of Sacramento. Other storage options include expanding the dams at the San Luis Reservoir and Los Vaqueros Reservoir.

**California Lands Top Spots**

THE GOLDEN State recently landed eight spots out of the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation's (RBFF) inaugural Take Me Fishing Top 100 list. Pleasure Cove Resort and Marina on Lake Berryessa in Napa placed number one on the list. The seven other places include Lake Chabot Regional Park in Castro Valley (7th), Lake Del Valle State Recreation Area in Livermore (11th), Moonlight State Beach in Encinitas (13th), Clear Lake State Park in Kelseyville (17th), Dockweiler State Beach in Playa del Ray (28th), Echo Park in Los Angeles (33rd) and Millerton Lake State Recreation Area in Friant (75th).

**Healing Power Of Animals**

THE LYON Ranch of Sonoma is one of the nation's most innovative animal assisted therapy organizations. Under the care of and compassion of founders Robert and Robin Lyon and in partnership with physicians, therapists and gerontologists, the ranch animals visit nursing homes, hospitals retirement communities and senior citizen centers throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. Their mission is to improve the emotional and physical health of elderly patients by using the remarkable healing power of animals. For more information, visit [www.lyonranch.org](http://www.lyonranch.org).

— DON VACHINI

**NOVEMBER 1**

**DEER SEASON OPENING**

General deer season opens Nov. 1 in California's Zone D-12. The season runs through Nov. 23. [wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov)

**NOVEMBER 2**

**DEER SEASON CLOSINGS**

General deer season closes Nov. 2 for multiple zones: D-3, D-4, D-5, D-6, D-7, D-17 and D-19. [wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov)

**NOVEMBER 11**

**FREE NATIONAL PARK DAY**

A Free entrance day at national parks throughout California is scheduled for Veterans Day. Includes entrance fees, commercial tours fees and more. [nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm](http://nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm)

**NOVEMBER 14**

**YOUTH HUNTER CAMPS**

Two-day California waterfowl camps on hunter education and conservation will be held for ages 11-17 at Bird Haven Ranch in Butte County. [calwaterfowl.org/camps-clinics](http://calwaterfowl.org/camps-clinics)

**NOVEMBER 16**

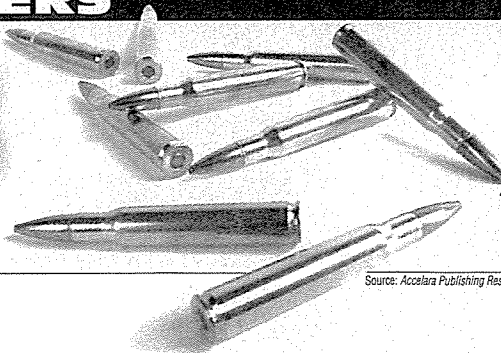
**FISHING CLINIC FOR KIDS**

Learn new fishing techniques Nov. 16 at Dana Point Wharf, Orange County. No reservations needed. [danawharf.com/kidsclub.html](http://danawharf.com/kidsclub.html)

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**33**

The number of years the average Game & Fish / Sportsman reader has hunted.



**33**

The number of days our average reader hunts each year (national average is 20.6).

Source: Accelerata Publishing Research survey of Game & Fish/Sportsman readers, and US Fish & Wildlife Service national survey.



**Safe Salmonid Passage**

THE SONOMA County Water Agency (SCWA) is erecting a dam across the Russian River near Forestville, enabling migrating salmonids to travel upriver safely and efficiently. Smaller fish often got trapped against the screens of the old seasonal dam, but the new \$12 million Wohler Bridge Dam will spread screens across a wider area to reduce water speed. While the California Department of Fish and Wildlife contributed \$1.2 million in grant funding toward construction and an additional \$250,000 for planning, the SCWA is paying for the remainder of the project.

**Steelhead Fishing Report**

ANGLERS FISHING in anadromous waters must have a nontransferable Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card issued by the Department of Fish and Wildlife in their possession. All wild steelhead (identified by having an intact adipose fin) caught must be released. Hatchery steelhead are missing the adipose fin. Using a ballpoint pen, anglers must record the month, day, location fished, number of steelhead caught and kept and number of steelhead caught and released. To fulfill obligations, mail the report card to the address printed on the card or submit data at [www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov) by Jan. 31.

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE GEAR?**

Vote online for a chance to win a \$500 gift card. [gafmag.com/fishing-gear-2015](http://gafmag.com/fishing-gear-2015)

**State Amphibian Named**

GOVERNOR BROWN recently signed Assembly Bill 2364 into law, officially declaring the California red-legged frog the official state amphibian of California. The red-legged frog lives in various aquatic habitats from sea level to more than 5,000 feet in elevation, occupying a variety of aquatic habitats in the coastal mountain ranges from southern Mendocino to northern Los Angeles counties plus a few isolated areas in the Sierra Nevada foothills. It is listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act.

**Drought And Bird Habitat**

PEAK MIGRATORY bird populations arrive in the Central Valley in December and January, but limited water delivery availability for wetlands enhancement has made habitat management more difficult. Birds may congregate on fewer, smaller wetland areas, which could increase likelihood of disease among the birds and could decrease recreation opportunities in some public lands.

—DON VACHINI



**DECEMBER 5**

**WHARF MARKS 100 YEARS**

The Santa Cruz Wharf is celebrating 100 years. Ceremony planned 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Dec. 5. [www.cityofsantacruz.com](http://www.cityofsantacruz.com)

**DECEMBER 6**

**BIGHORN SEASON OPENING**

Nelson bighorn sheep season opens in zones 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9. [www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**DECEMBER 14**

**FISHING CLINIC FOR KIDS**

Ask the experts and learn new fishing techniques Dec. 14 at Dana Point Wharf, Orange County, during this free fishing clinic. No reservations are needed. [www.danawharf.com/kidsclub.html](http://www.danawharf.com/kidsclub.html)

**DECEMBER 20**

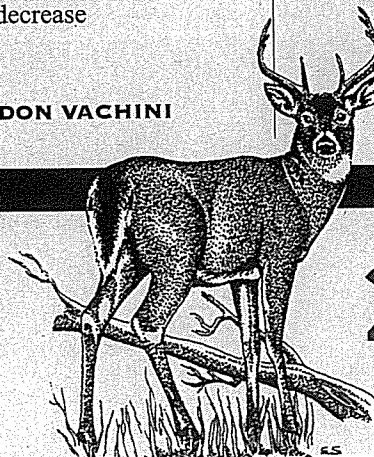
**ELK SEASON OPENING**

Opening of tule elk season, Fort Hunter Liggett Period 1 antlerless (apprentice hunt), Period 3 bull (apprentice hunt) and Period 3 bull. [www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**JANUARY 1**

**ELK SEASON CLOSING**

Closing of tule elk season, Fort Hunter Liggett Period 1 antlerless (apprentice hunt), Period 3 bull (apprentice hunt) and Period 3 bull. [www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)



**BY THE NUMBERS**

Game & Fish | Sportsman readers are 69% more likely to bow hunt than the average hunter.

**69**

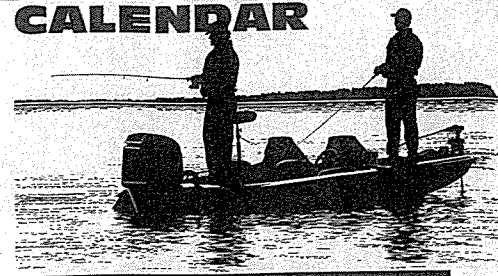
**2X**

How likely G&F | Sportsman readers are to hunt with a muzzleloader vs. average hunters.

**2.1**

Average number of deer our readers harvest each year.

Source: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service national survey, and Accelara Publishing Research survey of Game&Fish|Sportsman readers.



**Eating Crow**

NOW IN full-swing, California's crow season provides plenty of game, liberal daily limits and a generous season length. However, not many hunters have opted into the bird's culinary possibilities.

www.crowbusters.com provides a wealth of information on the Corvid family, in addition to game preparation and detailed recipes. Some popular choices include Crow Casserole, Crock Pot Crow, Crow in a Blanket, Pan Fried Crow, Crow Creole and Crow Kabobs.

**Muir's Journey**

DIAGNOSED WITH multiple sclerosis at age 15, Michael Muir refused to give in to his disability. Continuing to spend time in the outdoors with his horses, the great grandson of John Muir founded Access Adventure (www.access-adventure.org), which uses special horse-drawn, wheelchair-accessible vehicles with lifts to lead excursions for persons of all ages with disabilities. Muir is dedicated to helping disabled veterans struggling to reintegrate into society. Recently, he and his group embarked on a wagon journey from Southern California to Florida.

**Pot Effects On Salmon**

THE NATIONAL Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's fisheries division has identified illegal marijuana cultivation as one of the activities threatening coho salmon populations in pot-rich Northern California. Findings reveal staggering habitat destruction in the Emerald Triangle, which is polluting streams with pesticides, herbicides and sediment. NOAA's recommendations lay out plans to rehabilitate 40 populations of the threatened salmon in a wide geographic range, including about 10,000-miles streams and 13-million acres within Mendocino, Humboldt and Trinity counties.

**Wetlands Property Rules**

CDFW IS urging visitors to state ecological reserves to be mindful of site-specific rules and regulations. Trespassing on wildlife areas that are closed, such as Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, can be dangerous and can carry a fine. CDFW limits reserve access to BWER for health, safety and resource concerns. Public access is available through www.ballonafriends.org.

—DON VACHINI

**FEBRUARY 1**

**SHEEP SEASON CLOSINGS**

Nelson Bighorn Sheep hunting season closes in Zones 1,2,3,4,6,8 and 9.

wildlife.ca.gov

**FEBRUARY 1**

**HALIBUT DERBY**

Get ready for an exciting day of fishing in the Dana Wharf. A portion of ticket sales goes to derby prize money pot.

=danawharf.com

**FEBRUARY 14**

**FREE NATIONAL PARK DAY**

A Free entrance day at national parks is scheduled Feb. 14-16, Presidents Day weekend. Waivers include entrance fees, commercial tours fees, and transportation entrance fees.

=nps.gov

**FEBRUARY 15**

**SHEEP SEASON CLOSINGS**

Nelson Bighorn Sheep hunting season in Zone 5 closes.

wildlife.ca.gov

**FEBRUARY 20**

**HOME AND GARDEN SHOW**

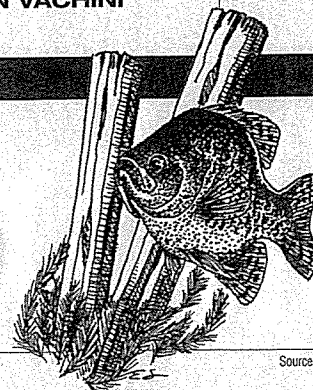
The Pomona Spring Home & Garden Show is planned Feb-20-22.

homeshowconsultants.com

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**9** OUT OF **10**  
Game & Fish / Sportsman readers fish.

**55%**  
of Game & Fish / Sportsman readers take children fishing.



**51**  
The average number of days Game & Fish / Sportsman anglers fish.

Source: Accelara Publishing Research survey of Game & Fish/Sportsman readers



**Top Whale Watching Sites**

DURING LATE March, gray whales begin their migrations between Mexico and Alaska. While the Point Reyes Lighthouse around Chimney Rock offers some of the best viewing in Point Reyes National Seashore, (415) 464-5100, volunteers help visitors spot whales at Bodega Head and Sonoma Coast State Beach, (707) 875-3483. Offering high vantage points, the Jenner Bluffs are available via pullouts along Highway 1, (707) 847-3286. Stillwater Cove Regional Park (three miles north of Fort Ross), (707) 847-3245 and Salt Point State Park (10 miles north of Fort Ross), (707) 847-3221 are less congested locales. [www.sonomacounty.com/sonoma-listings/whale-watching](http://www.sonomacounty.com/sonoma-listings/whale-watching).

**California Deer Association CEO**

THE CALIFORNIA Deer Association recently announced the hiring of Roman Porter as its first Chief Executive Officer. Porter has broad management experience and is well versed in the creation of legislation and regulations. "Roman's talent, experience and energy will enable us to provide better services to our members, increase the support given to California's deer herds and other wildlife and help CDA become the number one conservation organization in the state," said President Jerry Springer. Visit [www.caldeer.org](http://www.caldeer.org) for more.

**Stornetta Lands Protected**

PRESIDENT OBAMA recently made the Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands part of the 1,100-mile California Coastal National Monument. Using his executive authority under the 1906 Antiquities Act, he officially included the bluff-top ranchlands along the Mendocino coastline into the marine monument. The lands include the biologically-rich Garcia River, along with obsidian artifacts dating back 4,000 years.

**Condor Population On The Rise**

BEFORE BEING threatened with extinction, the California condor historically soared from British Columbia to Baja. Lately, as their populations continue to grow, they are gradually reclaiming some of their historic range. The condor remains sacred among Yurok Indian traditions. As the state's largest tribe, the Yuroks are actively pursuing efforts to return this majestic bird to the North Coast. Recently, they concluded an extensive evaluation of food supplies and habitat in Del Norte and Humboldt counties. This culminated in an agreement with state and federal agencies plus the Ventura Society to pursue reintroduction of the condor to its ancestral grounds.

-DON VACHINI

**MARCH 4**

**OUTDOORS SHOW**

The latest boats, fishing and hunting equipment will be showcased at the Ultimate Outdoor Experience March 4-8 at the Long Beach Convention Center, and again March 26-29 at Del Mar Fairgrounds in San Diego.

[www.fredhall.com](http://www.fredhall.com)

**MARCH 6**

**GOOSE OPENER**

The late white-fronted goose season opens in the Northeastern California Zone.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**MARCH 10**

**GOOSE CLOSURES**

The late white goose season and late white-fronted goose seasons close in the Northeastern California Zone.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**APRIL 18**

**FREE NATIONAL PARK DAY**

A Free entrance day at national parks is scheduled April 18-19 for National Park Week.

[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

**APRIL 19**

**DAY AT THE DOCKS**

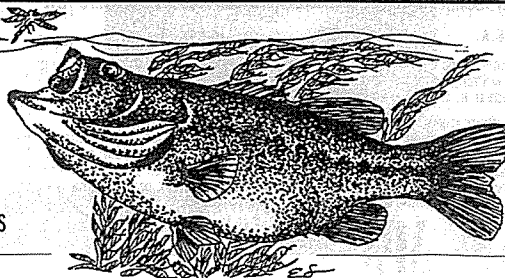
The Port of San Diego's Day At The Docks at Point Loma is the world's largest celebration of sportfishing, with boat rides, entertainment, vendors, seminars and more.

[www.sportfishing.org](http://www.sportfishing.org)

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**8 OUT OF  
10**

Game & Fish / Sportsman readers fish for bass



**43%**

Of Game & Fish / Sportsman readers fish with their spouse

Source: Accelerata Game & Fish Reader Survey 2010





**Turkey Hunting Information**

THE NATIONAL Wild Turkey Foundation (NWF) reported that California's wild turkey population has exploded over the past few decades. While most prime turkey haunts will be found on private property, National Forests, BLM lands and state wildlife areas offer free access. Potential spring turkey habitat can be found along the western Sierra Nevada, the Central Coast and the foothill country of San Diego, Sonoma and Mendocino counties. Hunters can contact the NWF's California Chapter at [nwf.org/huntguide](http://nwf.org/huntguide).

**Salmon Modifications Banned**

RECENT LEGISLATION banning the commercial production of genetically altered salmon is aimed at protecting California's native steelhead trout and salmon populations. Authored by Assemblyman Wes Chesbro and sponsored by the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, AB 504 extends the ban of spawning or cultivating "transgenic salmonids" from the Pacific Ocean to all waters of the state. While the bill also prohibits hatchery production and stocking of such fish, Chesbro believes the main threats to the state's native fisheries include interbreeding, competition for food and the introduction of disease and parasites.

**Day Hiker First Aid Kit**

WELL-PREPARED day hikers usually equip themselves with proper-fitting shoes, layered clothing and carry adequate water and a smartphone. However, according to Julie Anderson, an instructor with Wilderness Medical Associates International, many often opt out of a first-aid kit. She advises hikers should compose their own lightweight kits. "Start with bandages and pieces of sterile gauze in different sizes, a small tube of antibiotic gel and athletic tape to protect wounds or stabilize a sprained ankle," she advised. Sharp-pointed tweezers, pain relievers, latex-free gloves and sun block should round out the contents, which should only weigh around 8 ounces.

**Hall of Fame Induction**

VACAVILLE'S JOSEPH "Sep" Hendrickson was recently inducted into the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame. In addition to sanctioning sport-caught freshwater world record fish, the NFFHOF recognizes individuals for outstanding achievement in fishing, science, education, conservation, communication or technology. Enshrined as a "Legendary Communicator," Hendrickson is an avid angler, tackle innovator, outdoor writer, photographer and seminar speaker with a track record of introducing young people and adults to sport fishing.

— DON VACHINI

**APRIL 1**

**ABALONE OPENER**

The first day of recreational red abalone season begins. Check regulations for more information. [dfg.ca.gov/marine/oceansportregs.asp](http://dfg.ca.gov/marine/oceansportregs.asp)

**APRIL 4**

**GREEN TECHNOLOGY**

The New World Expo, exhibiting available green and sustainable technology, is being held April 4-5 at the Cal Expo in Sacramento. [sacramento365.com](http://sacramento365.com)

**APRIL 19**

**DAY AT THE DOCKS**

CDFW biologists and wardens will be available to answer questions at the kickoff to the 2015 San Diego-area sport fishing season. [dfg.ca.gov/marine/oceansportregs.asp](http://dfg.ca.gov/marine/oceansportregs.asp)

**APRIL 25**

**TROUT OPENER**

Opening of statewide stream trout season. Check regulations for closures and regulations. [dfg.ca.gov/regulations](http://dfg.ca.gov/regulations)

**APRIL 30**

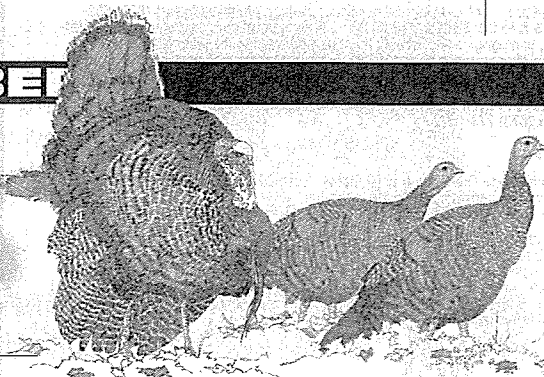
**CLAM SEASON WRAPS UP**

The last day of the recreational Pismo Clam season in Santa Cruz and Monterey counties is April 30. [dfg.ca.gov/marine/oceansportregs.asp](http://dfg.ca.gov/marine/oceansportregs.asp)

**BY THE NUMBER**

**66%**

of Game & Fish/Sportsman readers hunt turkeys



**10%**

of readers have used a hunting guide

Source: Accelerate Game & Fish Reader Survey 2010



## IGFA Expands Records

WHILE THE International Game Fish Association's men's and women's saltwater line and tippet class divisions have existed for more than 30 years, less than 5 percent of all freshwater record holders are female. Thus, in order to create consistency within its world records program, a decision was recently made by the IGFA's Board to separate freshwater line and tippet class records into both men's and women's categories. Hopefully, this creation of freshwater vacancies will increase program participation among female anglers. To peruse the new openings, visit the IGFA's online database at [www.igfa.org](http://www.igfa.org).

## Tahoe Highway Improved

THE FEDERAL Lands Access Program recently approved a memorandum of agreement to allocate \$12.5 million to improve the longest stretch of highway along Lake Tahoe's undeveloped shoreline. The FLAP project will include new bike paths, expanded off-highway parking, new scenic viewpoints, emergency pullouts, a park-n-ride lot, transit stops and safer guardrails along the 11-mile stretch from Incline Village to U. S. Highway 50. In addition to improving safety, the installation of more efficient storm-water collection filters are expected to help improve Tahoe's water clarity.

## Collars For Yosemite Bears

RANGERS AT Yosemite National Park believe a boost in technology will help them better track and understand the black bears that live throughout the park. Indeed, the park, which draws over 4 million visitors a year to its trails, waterfalls and granite peaks, is home to over 400 black bears. According to Park Ranger Scott Gediman, a bear management team has begun outfitting bears with sophisticated GPS tracking collars to better follow their in-park movements. While older collars used radio technology, which limited the tracking to Yosemite Valley, the new collars use GPS technology, which allows tracking bear movements to remote areas. The Yosemite Conservancy provided \$70,000 to purchase the new collars.

## New Coral Species

NOAA SCIENTISTS recently discovered a new species of deep-sea coral off Northern California's Sonoma County coast. Divers using small submersibles located coral from the genus *Leptogorgia* about 600 feet deep in underwater canyons close to the Gulf of Farallones and the Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries. Studying these life forms helps determine the ecological importance of deep-sea communities and the threats they face, according to Maria Brown, Farallones Sanctuary superintendent. "Deep-sea corals and sponges provide valuable refuge for fish and other marine life," Brown noted.

— DON VACHINI

### MAY 2

#### MEET OF CHAMPIONS

The state's top high school track and field athletes compete at American River College in Sacramento.

[www.sacramentomoc.com](http://www.sacramentomoc.com)

### MAY 10

#### TOUR OF CALIFORNIA

The weeklong Amgen Tour of California bicycle race (May 10-17) travels through various locales throughout the state.

[www.amgentourofcalifornia.com](http://www.amgentourofcalifornia.com)

### MAY 14

#### SALUTE TO AMERICAN GRAFFITI

The tenth annual celebration of this classic movie's filming is held in Petaluma.

[www.visitpetaluma.com](http://www.visitpetaluma.com)

### MAY 16

#### SANTA YNEZ ESTUARY TOUR

This popular tour is led by local naturalists from the Wildling Museum.

[www.wildlingmuseum.org](http://www.wildlingmuseum.org)

### MAY 31

#### EAGLE LAKE TROUT OPENER

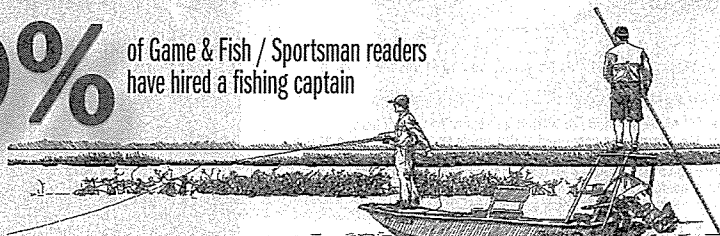
Fishing opens at this expansive lake a month later to allow for DFG egg-taking.

[www.dfg.ca.gov/regulations](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/regulations)

## BY THE NUMBERS

# 40%

of Game & Fish / Sportsman readers have hired a fishing captain



# 77%

of readers fish in rivers and streams

Source: Accelera Game & Fish Reader Survey 2010



**World Record Spotted Bass**

A NEVADA man may have caught a new world-record spotted bass in California's Bullards Bar Reservoir. Lou Ferrante was fishing a tournament in February when he reeled in a lunker spot that weighed in at 10.95 pounds on a certified scale. As of press time, this monster bass was awaiting verification as a record from DFW and IGFA. Ferrante reportedly caught the monster bass on a Yamamoto grub. The current record spotted bass is listed as a 10.48-pounder from California's New Melones Reservoir.

**Owens Valley Dust Control**

AN AGREEMENT between the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power could potentially save 25 billion gallons of water while controlling dust at Owens Lake. Situated between Death Valley National Park and the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the 45-square mile lake was drained dry in 1926. Since then, massive dust storms and poor air quality have plagued Owens Valley. Until recently, the LADWP used pumped water for dust mitigation in the lakebed. Current control measures center around the planting of native grasses. The agreement also establishes an Owens Lake Scientific Advisory Panel that will be staffed by the National Academy of Sciences and will study the effectiveness of waterless methods to control dust.

**New Coastal Trail Dedicated**

SONOMA COUNTY officials have dedicated a new, half-mile trail intended to extend access to the scenic coastline and eliminate the need for cyclists and pedestrians to risk travel on the narrow Highway 1. Built at a cost of \$425,000 and funded by Sonoma County Regional Parks, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Sonoma County Transportation Authority and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the newly completed Coastal Prairie Trail connects Bodega Bay Community Center to the Bodega Bay Dunes State Park. Campground. It is part of a planned 3 1/2-mile trail between Doran Beach and Salmon Creek Beach.

**Lahontan Cutthroat**

VOLUNTEERS ARE restoring native Lahontan cutthroat trout to an Eastern Sierra stream. The native cutthroat was all but eliminated from its native Sierra range by the introduction of non-native species. Silver Creek, a West Walker River tributary near Bridgeport, is the target water. This project is a collaborative effort among Trout Unlimited, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and additional conservation groups and volunteers.

—DON VACHINI

**JUNE 1**

**CRESCENT CITY MARKET**

The Crescent City Saturday Farmers Market opens June 1 this year. The market is located in the parking lot of the Del Norte County Fairgrounds.

[www.beachcalifornia.com/cty/del-norte-county-ca.html](http://www.beachcalifornia.com/cty/del-norte-county-ca.html)

**JUNE 6**

**WORLD OCEANS DAY**

Celebrate the ocean by visiting the Monterey Bay Aquarium June 6 and 7 for World Oceans Day.

[www.pacificgrove.org/events](http://www.pacificgrove.org/events)

**JUNE 19**

**LAKE TAHOE ADVENTURE  
SPORTS WEEK**

Challenge yourself June 19-28 with a variety of activities — from trail running, mountain biking, stand-up paddle-boarding and other kinds of outdoor things to try.

[www.tahoe.com/events/annual-events](http://www.tahoe.com/events/annual-events)

**JUNE 27**

**WOODIES ON THE WHARF**

Come see woodies parked on the pier at Santa Cruz during the 21st Annual Woodies on the Wharf event. The celebration of classic cars also includes music, vendors and more.

[www.seecalifornia.com/festivals/santa-cruz-woodies-wharf.html](http://www.seecalifornia.com/festivals/santa-cruz-woodies-wharf.html)

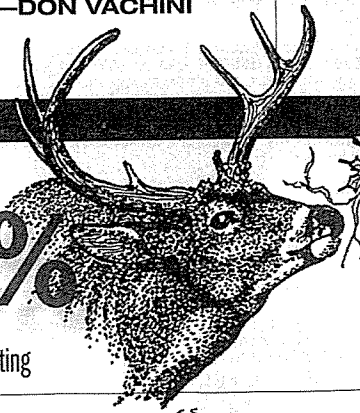
**BY THE NUMBERS**

**9** OUT OF **10**

Game & Fish / Sportsman readers hunt deer

**44%**

of readers use a laser rangefinder when hunting



**62%**

of readers harvest a deer annually

Source: Accelerate Game & Fish Reader Survey 2010



**Increase in Female Hunters**

STATISTICS FROM the U. S. Census Bureau reveal that the number of female hunters in the United States has climbed dramatically in recent years. Indeed, the number increased by nearly 50 percent from 2006 to 2011, the biggest jump in 20 years of available data.

Numerous organizations in California, including the federal Bureau of Land Management and the Department of Fish and Wildlife, are spending more time cultivating new hunters. There is a financial stake in getting more women hunting, according to Brad Burkholder, a senior environmental scientist at the DFW. The department reported \$24.4 million in revenues last year from big game hunting licenses from deer, bear and wild pig tags.

**Drought-Related Restoration**

THE CALIFORNIA Department of Fish and Wildlife recently completed the Lindsey Slough Restoration Project in Solano County's Calhoun Cut Ecological Reserve. The 965-acre plot is located at the northwest fringe of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. A tidal channel was excavated, a berm was breached, widened and deepened and a culvert, tide gate and rip rap were removed. The new channel meanders through tule marsh, mudflats and riparian vegetation and provides habitat for numerous fish species, including the threatened Delta smelt.

**Virtual Trekker Technology**

GOOGLE'S VIRTUAL technology wizards have made it possible to visit a bevy of California state parks using its popular Street View technology. The Google Trekker is a Street View camera, combining computer, laser and GPS and mounted on a backpack. After collecting images, it allows visitors to the site to "walk" the virtual trails covered by the camera's eye and allow a vision of the landscape.

**Rock Stars Make Historic Climb**

USING ONLY ropes as a safety measure, Kevin Jorgeson of Santa Rosa, California and partner, Tommy Caldwell of Estes Park, Colorado, recently completed the first free climb of El Capitan's Dawn Wall in Yosemite National Park.

The feat, which took 19 days and over 3,000-foot gain in elevation, is considered the most significant sustained rock climb in history. Conquering the porcelain-smooth monolith took years of planning. Beginning in 2007, they practiced specific pitches, including the extremely challenging pitch 15.

Even President Barack Obama joined the celebration, tweeting, "You remind us that anything is possible."

—DON VACHINI

**JULY 3**

**MAMMOTH CELEBRATES THE ARTS**

Check out artwork featured at this juried art show July 3-5. Food, drinks and family entertainment will be available. Located at Footloose Sports in Mammoth Lakes.

For more information:  
[www.visitmammoth.com](http://www.visitmammoth.com)

**JULY 11**

**LEMON LILY FESTIVAL**

The event includes nature walks and talks for all ages. Held at Idyllwild Nature Center July 11-12.

For more information:  
[www.lemonlilyfestival.com](http://www.lemonlilyfestival.com)

**JULY 25**

**COMMUNITY FESTIVAL**

The Cypress Community Festival includes a 5K-10K run/walk, chili cookoff and car show. Held at Oak Knoll Park in Cypress.

For more information:  
[www.cypressfestival.com](http://www.cypressfestival.com)

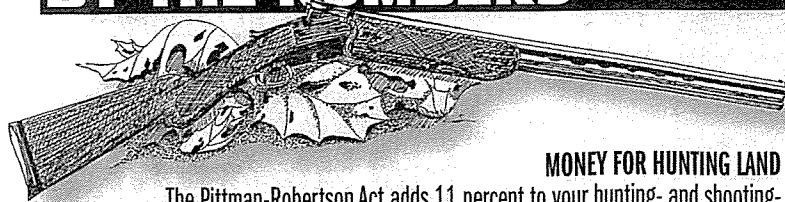
**AUGUST 1**

**SURFPERCH AND ABALONE**

Opening day of recreational surfperch and red abalone season. Please consult the regulations for additional information.

For more information:  
[www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/calendar.asp](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/calendar.asp)

**BY THE NUMBERS**



**MONEY FOR HUNTING LAND**

The Pittman-Robertson Act adds 11 percent to your hunting- and shooting-related purchases. The money is tagged for wildlife restoration in your state.

**\$5.6**

**BILLION**

Amount raised since the law went into effect in 1939

**\$10**

**BILLION**

Amount spent by hunters on gear and hunting trips each year

Source: [wsfrprograms.tws.gov](http://wsfrprograms.tws.gov)



**New Sonoma County Park**

OFFICIALLY KNOWN as the North Sonoma Mountain Regional Park and Open Space Preserve, Sonoma County's newest park recently opened to the public. The 820-acre site not only affords hikers, runners and equestrians stunning views of the Santa Rosa Plain and Sonoma Valley but also access to the Jack London State Historic Park in Glen Ellen. According to Caryl Hart, Sonoma County Regional Parks director, the opening culminates 12 years of property acquisition and planning by the Open Space District, the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and the Coastal Conservancy.

**Avoid Deer-Vehicle Collisions**

THE AUTOMOBILE Club of America provides a few tips that may be useful in avoiding deer/vehicle collisions when driving in wildlife corridors: Drivers should always be extra vigilant and alert at dawn and dusk, when deer seem to be more active. Use high beam headlights when there is no oncoming traffic. High beams tend to reflect off animals eyes. Scan the road and shoulders ahead of you. Spotting animals helps reaction time responses. If a collision is unavoidable, don't swerve. Firmly apply brakes and remain in your lane.

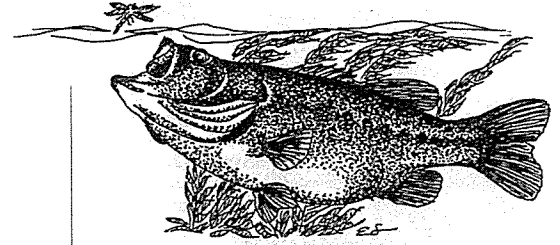
**Salton Sea Preservation**

LOCATED IN extreme southeastern California near Mecca, the 110-year-old Salton Sea, formed when the Colorado River flooded, has been dwindling at an alarming rate. However, federal, state and local agencies have not given up hope on this 350-square-mile briny water, which is home to migrating birds as well as tilapia. The passage of a recent water bond, as well as continuing efforts by the Audubon Society, the Salton Sea Authority, the Pacific Institute and the Natural Resources Agency, have slowed the sea's decline.

**Introduced Fish in California**

ACCORDING TO Invasive Species Specialist Group biologists, some of the more common alien species have become well established in the Golden State: The common carp has altered habitats for native fish and other aquatic species. Preying on indigenous invertebrates, the tiny freshwater mosquitofish was purposely introduced as a form of biological control of mosquito larva. Largemouth bass remain extremely popular for their appeal as a sport fish on both private and public waters. Though blamed for reducing native fish populations, brown trout are highly-prized for their fighting qualities.

—DON VACHINI



**SEPTEMBER 1**

**CLAM SEASON**

First day of recreational Pismo clam season is Sept. 1 in Santa Cruz and Monterey counties. Visit the CDFW website to view more information and to see regulations.

[www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov)

**SEPTEMBER 4**

**L.A. COUNTY FAIR**

The Los Angeles County Fair is held in Pomona Sept. 4-27. This popular event hosts a wide array of attractions plus an end of season concert. A detailed list of entertainment options at the fair is available on the event website.

[www.lacountyfair.com](http://www.lacountyfair.com)

**SEPTEMBER 13**

**AUTO SHOW**

The annual Antique Autos show, sponsored by the Santa Clara Valley Model-T Club, will be held in History Park in San Jose. At least 200 automobiles are expected to be included.

[www.scvmtfc.org](http://www.scvmtfc.org)

**OCTOBER 2**

**WINE AND FOOD**

The Newport Beach Wine and Food Festival is Oct. 2-4. The Launch Party is at Oak Grill and Aqua lounge, and the Daytime Festival is located at Newport Beach Civic Center.

[www.newportwineandfood.com](http://www.newportwineandfood.com)

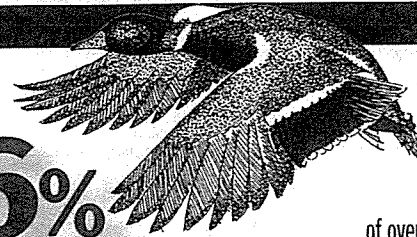
**BY THE NUMBERS**

**50/50**

Half of Game & Fish / Sportsman readers hunt private land, half hunt public land

**36%**

of overall hunters in the U.S. hunt private land



**84%**

of overall hunters in the U.S. hunt public land

Total exceeds 100% because some hunt both public and private. Source: Accelera Publishing Research survey of Game & Fish/Sportsman readers

**Red Fox Sighting**

THE SIERRA Nevada red fox remains one of the rarest mammals in North America. Recently, Yosemite National Park wildlife biologists on a backcountry trip to the far northern part of the park documented two sightings, the first confirmed in the park in nearly a century. The nearest verified occurrences have been a small population in the Sonora Pass area north of the park during 2010. Prior to that, the last verified sighting in that area was two decades ago.

**Owens River Comeback**

THE LAWSUIT over the Owens River Gorge was finally resolved after 24 years. In a historic settlement resolving litigation filed in 1991 by Mono County, Los Angeles has now agreed to permanently provide the 19-mile stretch of the Owens River between Crowley Lake and Pleasant Valley Reservoir with sufficient water to restore lost natural resources, including historic fish populations. The agreement requires setting volumes at historic seasonal patterns, permits Los Angeles to continue production of hydroelectric power and to maintain Crowley Lake for recreation and storage.

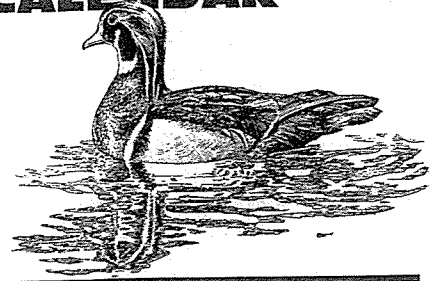
**Water Education Center**

CONSTRUCTION OF the Sonoma County Water Agency's new education center is nearing completion. The Agency's 33-year old, K-12 program provides classroom visits, field trips and experiments to help students better understand the Russian River watershed's supply and distribution system and to promote conservation. The modern facility will include two low-profile buildings, an amphitheater and drought-resistant landscaping.

**Three Spotted Bass Records**

BULLARDS BAR is recognized as California's top spotted bass producer. A trio of hefty specimens taken from this impoundment recently have added to its reputation. On Feb. 22, 2014, Keith Bryan caught a 10.7-pound specimen, which is the reigning International Game Fish Association All-Tackle world record. On Jan. 12, 2015, Timothy Little landed a 10.38-pound spot, beating out Brian Shishido's 10.25-pound state-record fish. However, on Feb. 21, 2015, another monstrous spot was landed, this one by Lou Ferrante of Sparks, Nev. Caught during a Great Basin Bass Club tournament out of Emerald Cove, it was verified by the DFW and weighed in at 10.95 pounds. If certified by IGFA, it will replace Bryan's world record.

—DON VACHINI



**OCTOBER 2**

**WINE AND FOOD FESTIVAL**

Newport Beach's Wine and Food Festival is Oct. 2-4. Cooking demos, live music, wine tastings and more.

[www.newportwineandfood.com](http://www.newportwineandfood.com)

**OCTOBER 3**

**LOBSTER SEASON**

The First day of recreational and commercial spiny lobster season is October 3. Check our regulations for additional information.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**OCTOBER 9**

**MOTORCYCLE EVENT**

Big Bike Weekend is held throughout the city of Redding Oct. 9-11. Vendors, entertainment, bike shows and more. Check the event schedule on the Big Bike Weekend website.

[www.bigbikeweekend.com](http://www.bigbikeweekend.com)

**OCTOBER 17**

**CALABASAS PUMPKIN FESTIVAL**

Hosted by the City of Calabasas Oct. 17-18 this family event showcases live bands, pumpkin painting and carving, reptile and bug shows and a costume parade.

[www.calabasaspumpkinfestival.com](http://www.calabasaspumpkinfestival.com)

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**78**

Percent of Game & Fish/Sportsman readers who hunt with a friend



**40**

Percent of readers who have taken children hunting with them

Source: Accelera Game & Fish Reader Survey 2010

**Bighorn Sheep Return**

FOR THE first time in a century, endangered Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep are back in their ancestral range.

Between 1914 and 1986, no bighorn roamed Yosemite. Statewide, their numbers hit a low of about 100, and they were placed on the federal endangered species list in 1999. Currently, about 600 exist statewide in areas critical to their survival.

During an ongoing relocation effort, dozens of bighorns have been captured then moved to Yosemite and Sequoia national parks, according to Tom Stephenson, California Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist. "We've got the sheep where we want them on a broad geographical basis, which is a huge milestone," he said.

**Wray Honored by Outdoor Writers Association**

GAME & FISH writer Pat Wray won two awards recently for his work on our back-page "Parting Lines" column. At the annual conference of the Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA) this summer, Wray took home a first-place award and a third-place finish for columns that were published in 2014. His May column, "The Best of Deliveries — A Bearskin Rug," was selected by judges as the best humor column of the year. Wray was also honored with OWAA's "Jade of Chiefs" award for his contributions to conservation.

**Algae Bloom Data**

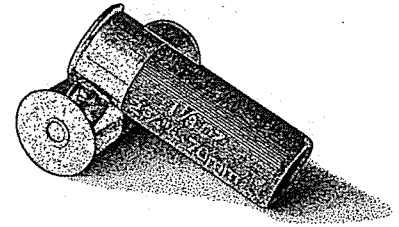
LAKE COUNTY water officials will attempt to access Envisat satellite images and data collected from 2002 to 2012 that could help them better track, predict and understand the potentially toxic blue-green algae blooms that plague Clear Lake. The \$3.6-million five-year multiagency research program, a joint effort of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U. S. Geological Survey, is aimed at protecting the public from the harmful cyanobacteria.

**Bacher Hall of Fame Inductee**

STOCKTON-BASED outdoor writer and newspaper editor Dan Bacher was recently inducted into the 2015 class of the California Outdoors Hall of Fame.

While Bacher is best known as the 30-year editor of the *Fish Sniffer*, a bi-weekly newspaper for anglers, he is also a founding member of both the California Inland Fisheries Foundation and Restore the Delta as well as serving on the board of directors for United anglers of California, the California Water Impact Network and Water for Fish. He is a long-time advocate for California's natural resources and fisheries.

— DON VACHINI



**NOVEMBER 7**

**DUNGENESS CRAB OPENS**

Nov. 7 marks the first day of recreational Dungeness crab season statewide. Consult your regulations for additional details.

[www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov)

**NOVEMBER 14**

**RUGGED MANIACS**

This 3-mile run, held in the Temecula Downs Event Center, features numerous obstacles including a water slide and tunnels. Register online.

[www.ruggedmaniac.com](http://www.ruggedmaniac.com)

**NOVEMBER 15**

**TRAIL RUNNING EVENTS**

The Golden Rattle 10k, 25k and 50k runs begin in Auburn's Overlook Park and course along the Middle Fork American River. Register online.

[www.one10trailseries.com](http://www.one10trailseries.com)

**NOVEMBER 20**

**MANDARIN FESTIVAL**

The Mandarin Festival returns to Auburn Nov. 20-22, offering vendors, entertainment and citrus-themed fun.

[www.mandarinfestival.com](http://www.mandarinfestival.com)

**NOVEMBER 30**

**RED ABALONE CLOSES**

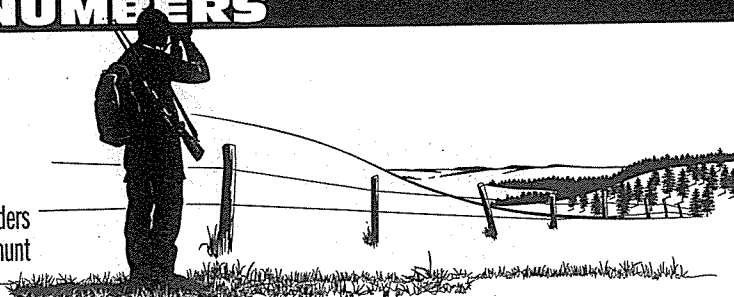
Nov. 30 is the last day of recreational red abalone season. Consult your regulations for additional details.

[www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov)

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**25%**

of Game & Fish/Sportsman readers travel more than 300 miles to hunt



**2** OUT OF **10**

readers have hunted with a pistol

Source: Accelerate Game & Fish Reader Survey 2010

**Wildlife Officer of the Year**

THE DEPARTMENT of Fish and Wildlife has announced Chris Stoots as its 2015 Wildlife Officer of the Year. A warden since 2008, Stoots has developed a reputation for remarkable investigative and forensic laboratory work to prosecute wildlife violators. In 2014, he was the lead investigator in a large-scale poaching case, which resulted in numerous felony convictions. CDFW Law Enforcement Chief David Bess said Stoots also has participated in multiple community presentations and that he enjoys interacting with outdoors enthusiasts at hunting and fishing trade shows.

**California Conservation Corps**

ESTABLISHED IN 1967, the California Conservation Corps continues its dual mission, conserving the state's natural resources and providing work and educational opportunities for young men and women. According to spokeswoman Susan Levitsky, corps members typically work year-long stints, earn minimum wage and volunteer 10-hours a week in addition to their average 40-hour week. Besides protecting and enhancing natural resources, the corps is called upon to help with flood, fire, earthquake and environmental emergencies.

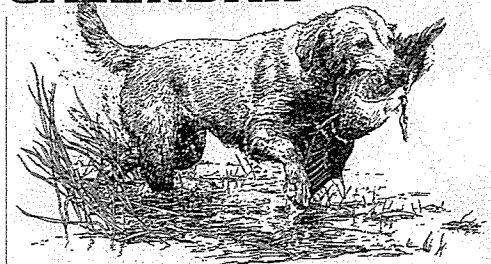
**Conserving Sturgeon in California**

THE CALIFORNIA Department of Fish and Wildlife is asking anglers to help conserve California's white sturgeon and green sturgeon populations, both of which are being impacted by the drought. White sturgeon is a substantial management concern and green sturgeon is a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act. Green sturgeon may not be fished for, removed from the water if caught, or kept. White sturgeon may only be kept if between 40 and 60 inches and caught by anglers in possession of Sturgeon Fishing Report Cards (including single-use tags) while using single barbless hooks in areas that are not closed.

**Becoming an Outdoors Woman**

SINCE 1994, becoming an Outdoors-Woman, California, has given women a supporting environment to gently usher them into the outdoors. Recently, the California Waterfowl Association has agreed to sponsor this popular organization, which offers workshops to help develop numerous outdoor skills. BOW will retain its own non-profit status while the CWA will take over coordinating and staffing future meetings. According to retiring BOW president, Susan Herrgesell, there will be a new Board of Directors and a new Coordinator.

— DON VACHINI



**NOVEMBER 30**

**RED ABALONE CLOSES**

Nov. 30 is the last day of recreational red abalone season. Consult your regulations for additional details.

[www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov)

**DECEMBER 5**

**GRAEAGLE FESTIVAL**

This annual event features horse-drawn wagon rides, carolers, tree lighting and refreshments. Additional event details are available online.

[www.graeagle.com/events.html](http://www.graeagle.com/events.html)

**DECEMBER 13**

**SACRAMENTO HOLIDAY RUN**

The Annual Fleet Feet Free Holiday Classic 5K run/walk in Sacramento is planned for Dec. 13. View more event details online.

[www.fleetfeetsacramento.com](http://www.fleetfeetsacramento.com)

**JANUARY 29**

**SOUTHWEST ARTS FESTIVAL**

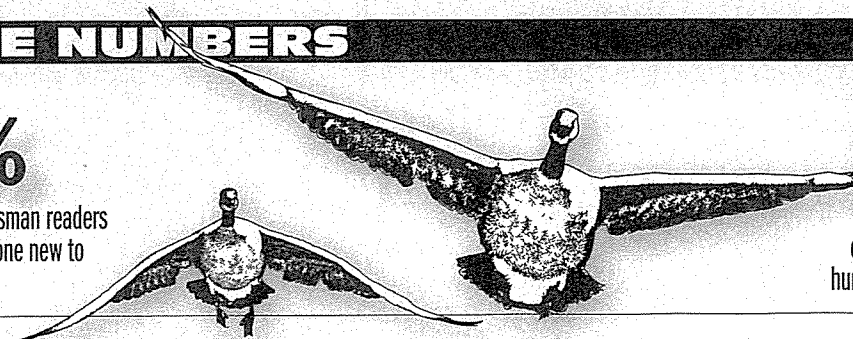
The Southwest Arts Festival Jan. 29-31 in Indio will feature artists displaying work in paint, glass blowing, pottery and more. Empire Polo Club.

[www.discoverindio.com](http://www.discoverindio.com)

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**21%**

of Game & Fish/Sportsman readers who introduced someone new to hunting last year.



**77%**

of readers who advised others about hunting, shooting or firearms last year.

Source: Accolera Game & Fish Reader Survey 2015



## Hatchery Operations Resume Following Whirling Disease Testing

RESULTS FROM comprehensive testing at Mt. Shasta Hatchery show the whirling disease parasite is confined to a smaller group of fish than originally assumed. As a result, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife will lift quarantine and resume operations at the Mt. Shasta Hatchery. Initial fears were that all of the approximately 1.1 million fish being raised at the Mt. Shasta Hatchery would have to be destroyed. The recent test results indicate that approximately 2,500 fish need to be destroyed to curb spread of the disease. "This is wonderful news," said Stafford Lehr, CDFW Fisheries Branch chief. "We have raised and nurtured these trout to provide fishing opportunity, and now we can resume planting fish for anglers from Mt. Shasta Hatchery."

## Bass Pro Shops Fishing Program

BASS PRO Shops has announced "Gone Fishing," a new program designed to introduce people of all ages to fishing as a gateway to discovering the outdoors. Focusing on urban youth, the national program encompasses a variety of sweeping activities, including in-store events, collaborating with Major League Baseball teams across the country, tapping into the star power of professional athletes and celebrities, partnering with local and national nonprofits and leveraging social media to raise awareness. "We hope to expand this by offering additional free, easy opportunities to introduce kids and teens to fishing," said Stan Lippelman, vice-president of marketing for Bass Pro Shops. For more information, visit [basspro.com/GoneFishing](http://basspro.com/GoneFishing).

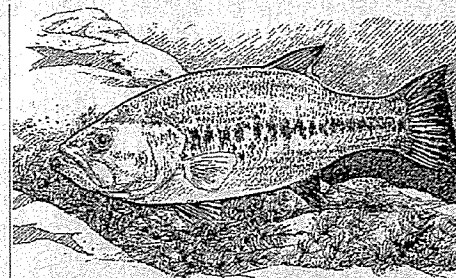
## Ferrets On Ballot

SECRETARY OF State Alex Padilla recently announced that an initiative to legalize ferret ownership in California has been cleared to begin collecting signatures to appear on the Nov. 8, 2016, ballot. Animal lovers have been lobbying for years to legalize ferret ownership in the state, but several attempts to restore it have all failed. Ferrets been prohibited since 1933. The new proposal would require all pet ferrets over six months old to get annual rabies vaccinations and all those sold in retail stores to be spayed or neutered.

## Bay Area Bald Eagles

A NESTING pair of bald eagles at Crystal Springs Reservoir has again made headlines. Two chicks recently left their nest and began learning to fly. The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission reported these juvenile eagles are now soaring above the vast Peninsula Watershed. The family first appeared at the reservoir, which is largely inaccessible to the public, in 2012. They appear to be thriving and, along with the recent fledglings, have become a symbol of the once-endangered predator's resurgence in the Bay Area and beyond.

—DON VACHINI



## CALIFORNIA CALENDAR

### JANUARY 29

#### SOUTHWEST ARTS FESTIVAL

The Southwest Arts Festival Jan. 29-31 in Indio will feature artists displaying work in paint, glass blowing, pottery and more. Empire Polo Club. [www.discoverindio.com](http://www.discoverindio.com)

### FEBRUARY 7

#### LATE WHITE GOOSE SEASON

The opener for the late white goose season in the Northeastern Zone is Feb. 7. The season ends March 10. [www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

### FEBRUARY 13

#### STEELHEAD FESTIVAL

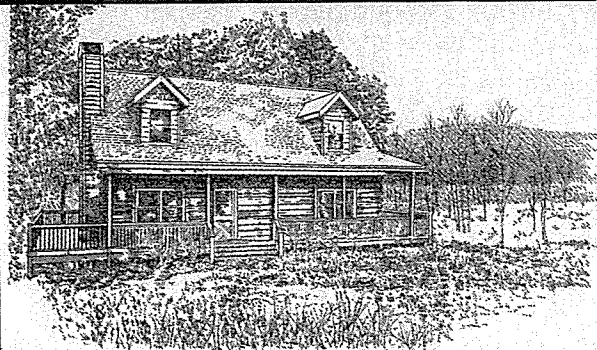
The Annual Lake Sonoma Wild Steelhead Festival is planned for Lake Sonoma Feb. 13. This free festival includes hatchery tours, a casting pond, live music and more. [www.lakesonoma.org](http://www.lakesonoma.org)

### FEBRUARY 20

#### ALL CANADA GOOSE SEASON

The all Canada goose season begins on the North Coast Zone Feb. 20. The season ends March 10. [www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

## BY THE NUMBERS



# 46%

of Game & Fish/Sportsman readers spent 1-9 days on overnight hunting trips last year.

# 5 OUT OF 10

readers spent 10-plus days on overnight hunting trips last year.

Source: Accelerate Game & Fish Reader Survey 2015

**A New California Wolf Pack**

A CALIFORNIA Department of Fish and Wildlife camera recently captured photos of the state's first gray wolf pack since 1924 (two adults and five pups) in southeastern Siskiyou County. They were named the "Shasta Pack" for nearby Mount Shasta. According to Karen Kovacs, of the CDFW, it was an amazing accomplishment for gray wolves to establish themselves in Northern California just 21 years after they were reintroduced in the Northern Rockies. Those wolves eventually migrated into Oregon and Washington before reaching California, where they are protected by federal and state endangered species acts.

**A Life Saver for Coho Salmon**

AN INJECTION of cold water from a Camp Meeker water storage tank has given approximately 3,400 imperiled coho salmon and steelhead trout a better chance of surviving in Dutch Bill Creek, a Russian River spawning tributary. Flowing 24/7 through a section of flexible pipe, the releases add more than 63,000-gallons a day to the creek and will continue until rains swell the creek. Basically recirculating the creek's water, the novel project was applauded for its simplicity by numerous state and federal agencies, according to Steve Moore, a state water board member. "The re-infused water possesses the same chemistry as the creek's," he noted.

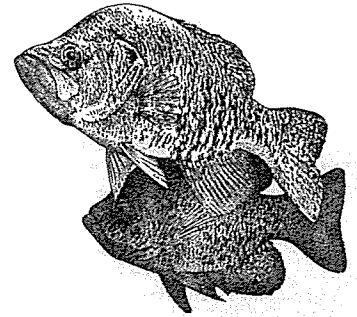
**Berryessa-Snow Mountain National Monument Established**

USING HIS executive authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906, President Barack Obama has designated the Berryessa-Snow Mountain National Monument. Stretching from Lake Berryessa in the south to Snow Mountain northwest of Mendocino National Forest, this 335,000-acre area includes the Cache Creek Wilderness, the Eel River Headwaters, the Knoxville Wildlife Area and Mount Konocti.

**Off-Road Park Celebrates 40 Years**

CALIFORNIA STATE Parks' first off-road recreation park, Hollister Hills State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA), recently celebrated its 40th anniversary. Hollister Hills SVRA opened in 1975. The park is a popular year-round recreation destination, providing opportunities for family-oriented OHV recreation within San Benito County. Hollister Hills offers recreation for motorcyclists, ATVs, picnickers, and campers in the Gabilan Mountains about an hour's drive from San Jose.

— DON VACHINI



**FEBRUARY 20**

**ALL CANADA GOOSE SEASON**

The all Canada goose season begins on the North Coast Zone Feb. 20. The season ends March 10. Check your regulations for more details.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**MARCH 5**

**SALAMANDER SATURDAY**

An annual celebration of the salamander takes place at Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center near Santa Cruz (Big Basin Redwoods SP) and includes a ranger-led hike and salamander search, crafts and more. Free event.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**MARCH 19**

**JUNIOR SPRING TURKEY**

Additional junior spring turkey special hunt dates are planned March 19-20. One bearded turkey per day, three per season combined.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**MARCH 26**

**GENERAL TURKEY OPENER**

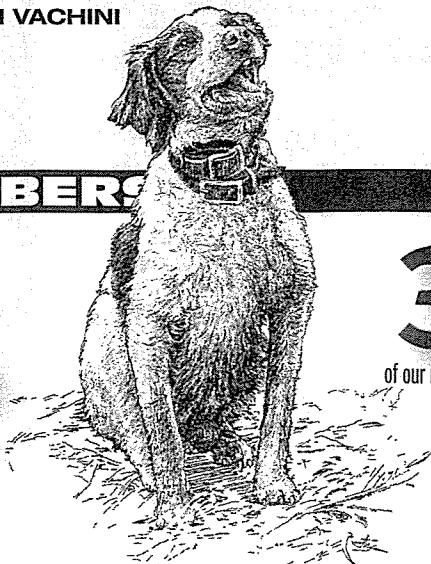
The opening day of general spring turkey season is March 26. Check your regulations for more information.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**53%**

of Game & Fish/Sportsman readers own a dog.



**30%**

of our readers own two or more dogs.

**60%**

of those who own dogs use them to hunt.

Source: Accelera Game & Fish Reader Survey 2015

## Fire Tower Cameras Installed

RESEARCHERS IN California and Nevada are helping federal land managers to detect wildfires in remote areas throughout both states. In conjunction with the Nevada Seismology Laboratory, the U. S. Forest Service and local agencies, the Bureau of Land Management has mounted four high-definition cameras on remote mountain peaks in eastern California and western Nevada. The cameras provide a 360-degree-panoramic view and feature infrared night vision and specialized software to track smoke.

## Endangered Species Return

A PAIR of endangered species have recently returned to the restored Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge in southern San Francisco Bay. According to Rachel Tertes, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologist, confirmed sightings of clapper rails and salt marsh harvest mice continue to occur in the 16,500-acre rehabilitated salt ponds. As part of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, excavators breached the former pond's walls more than nine years ago, allowing natural tidal flows to return. While the mosaic of managed habitat supports a suite of species, hopes are buoyed that other endangered creatures will be returning a century after they vanished because of salt harvesting.

## CA Duck & Goose Calling Champs

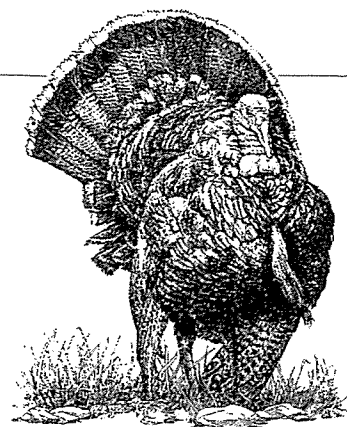
THE 2015 California Duck and Goose Calling Championships were recently held in Colusa. During the two-day contest, hosted by Kittles Outdoor Sports Company, callers competed to qualify for the world championships held in Stuttgart, Ark. Stuart Mattos won the CWA Pacific Flyway Regional and Tim Hudson claimed the state duck calling event. Both will represent California in the world event. Stepping up to intermediate and adult categories, Junior Division competitor, Colby Stillwell, won three of 11 events.

## Lake Tahoe Biking Guide

FINDING THE right biking trail around massive Lake Tahoe can be a daunting proposition. Ty Polastri, founder of the Lake Tahoe Bicycle Coalition, has developed a new, online guide complete with maps, trail ratings, photos and descriptions of the routes around this alpine lake.

The fully interactive, GPS-enabled site, [www.biketahoe.org](http://www.biketahoe.org), divides about 70 of the area's most popular rides into categories based on both rider ability and type of bicycle. Future additions will include video guides and a mobile app. The site went live with joint funding from the Nevada Commission of Tourism, El Dorado County Cultural and Community Development and the City of South Lake Tahoe.

— DON VACHINI



## CALIFORNIA CALENDAR

### MARCH 26

#### GENERAL TURKEY OPENER

The opening day of general spring turkey season is March 26. Check your regulations for more information.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

### APRIL 2

#### HALF MARATHON

The Golden Gate Headlands Half Marathon begins at 9 a.m. in Sausalito. The 13.1-mile course includes challenging hills with vistas of San Francisco Bay and the Golden Gate Bridge.

[www.marathonguide.com](http://www.marathonguide.com)

### APRIL 6

#### CROW SEASON CLOSES

Crow season wraps up April 6 throughout the state. Check the regulations for more details.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

### APRIL 30

#### GENERAL TROUT OPENER

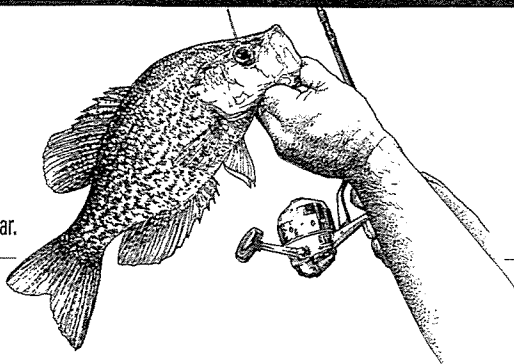
Anglers can look forward to more opportunities at the end of this month. April 30 marks the opening of the general trout season. Be sure to consult the regulations before hitting the water.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

## BY THE NUMBERS

# 88%

of our readers have advised others about fishing or fishing gear.

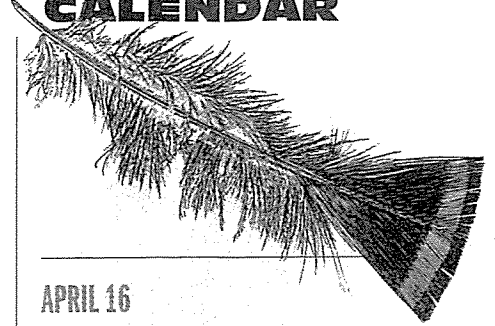


# 43%

of our readers have provided fishing advice to 5 or more people.

Source: Accatera Game & Fish Reader Survey 2015

**CALENDAR**



**Lunker Wohlford Largemouth**

A SOCAL lake known for producing some lunker bass has done it again. While the latest noteworthy catch may not be big enough to break the Wohlford record, which stands at more than 19 pounds, an angler reportedly landed a 16.3-pounder in the Escondido reservoir in February. The bass, caught by Greg Springer, of Vista, was the largest bucketmouth catch reported from the lake in about 15 years. The angler said he caught the fish from the bank while using a 3:16 Lure Company swimbait.

**Turtle Habitat In Petaluma**

HABITAT ENHANCEMENT is an important endeavor at Petaluma's Shollenberger Park. Recently, logs were installed in a channel creek, creating new sanctuary for the imperiled western pond turtle. Within a few days of placement, turtles started basking on the logs, according to Bob Dyer, a senior docent with the alliance. Partnered with the Madrone Audubon Society and the City of Petaluma, the PWA embarks on conservation-related studies and work in Shollenberger Park wetlands.

**Salmon Above Lake Shasta**

FEDERAL OFFICIALS have detailed a plan to provide emergency habitat for the Sacramento Valley's winter-run chinook salmon, critically impacted by a four-year drought. Under this plan, biologists will truck offspring raised at Livingston Stone National Fish Hatchery at the base of Shasta Dam to the cold waters of the McCloud River. The young fish would stay in the river until ready to migrate downstream, when floating traps would capture the fish. They would then be trucked below Lake Shasta and released into the Sacramento River to swim to sea.

**New Wildlife Officer Cadets**

THIRTY NEW law enforcement cadets recently graduated from the California Wildlife Officer Academy in Paradise. Following an additional three weeks of specialized training and an additional 15 weeks of field sessions with seasoned field training officers, these new officers will begin their careers patrolling and protecting wildlife resources. "These cadets have earned the right to begin protecting and ensuring the future of wildlife resources for the people of this great state," said David Bess, CDFW law enforcement chief. — **DON VACHINI**

**CORRECTION:** In our March issue, we incorrectly reported that Mount Konocti is in the new Berryessa-Snow Mountain National Monument. It is actually outside the boundary.

**APRIL 16**

**CAR SHOW AND CRUISE**

The Kool April Nites classic car events, including a cruise, car show, concerts and more, kick off April 16 across Redding. Learn more on the event website.

[www.koolaprilnites.com](http://www.koolaprilnites.com)

**APRIL 30**

**GENERAL TROUT OPENER**

April 30 marks the opening of the general trout season. Be sure to consult the state fishing regulations before hitting the water.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**MAY 1**

**SPRING TURKEY GENERAL SEASON CLOSING**

There's still some time left to bag a bird during the general turkey season. The general spring turkey season wraps up May 1. Check your regulations for more information.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**MAY 2**

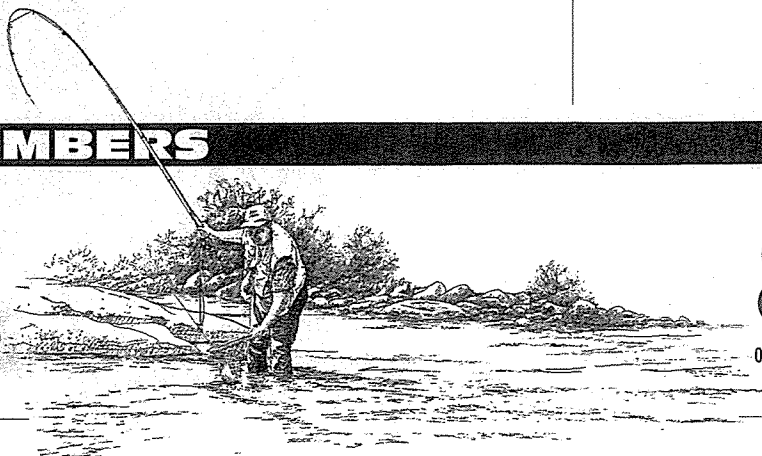
**MORE SPRING TURKEY**

May 2 is the opening of the spring turkey archery-only season. The Additional Junior season also opens May 2. Check your regulations for more information.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**42%**  
of our readers fish with a fly rod



**87%**  
of readers fish with a spinning rod

Source: Accelera Game & Fish Reader Survey 2015



**Desert Tortoise Release**

AS PART of an effort aimed at reinvigorating the threatened desert tortoise population on the western Mojave Desert, researchers have released another specimen on a California Marine Corps base. The female tortoise is the 35th one set free on the Marine base at Twentynine Palms. Biologists have been raising tortoises for nine years at a six-acre facility to help boost the population that was nearly decimated by a respiratory virus in the late 1980s. They cannot be released until their shells harden enough to better survive predator attacks. The release was attended by officials from the Marine Corps, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

**Anderson Marsh Film Wins Award**

THE ANDERSON Marsh State Historic Park and adjoining areas comprise the ancestral territory of the Koi Nation of Northern California. They are believed to have colonized the area at least 14,000 years ago and were prosperous traders of obsidian throughout northern portions of the state.

“A Walk Through Time: the Story of Anderson Marsh,” a 30-minute film depicting the cultural and historic significance of Anderson Marsh and southeastern Lake County, recently earned a 2015 Governor’s Historic Preservation Award. It is the collaboration among California State Parks, the Koi Nation of Northern California, the Advanced Laboratory of Visual Anthropology at Chico State University, archaeologists and other stakeholders.

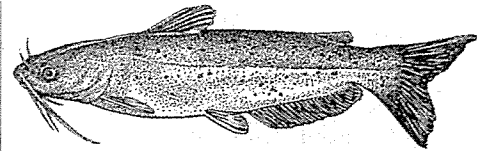
**Tule Lake Habitat Enhancement**

TO HELP alleviate a drastic decline in habitat quality at the Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Ducks Unlimited has partnered on a multiphase project to revitalize a portion of the 9,500-acre marsh. With assistance from multiple agencies, crews will improve water management capabilities to restore this nationally significant waterfowl nesting and staging wetland while increasing irrigation efficiency on leased agricultural lands inside the refuge.

**Invasive Fish On The Menu**

SCIENTISTS AT the University of Nevada at Reno have entered into a partnership with area conservation groups and a food pantry affiliated with a homeless shelter. According to Christine Ngai, lead researcher at UNR’s Aquatic Ecosystems Analysis Laboratory, invasive largemouth bass and bluegills removed from Lake Tahoe by electrofishing are vacuum packed and sent to the St. Vincent Dining Room in Reno. Operated by Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada, more than 500 men and women eat a daily meal at St. Vincent’s.

— DON VACHINI



**JUNE 15**

**SHASTA DISTRICT FAIR**

The Shasta District Fair, held in Anderson at the Shasta District Fairgrounds, kicks off June 15. For event details, visit the fairgrounds website.

[www.shastadistrictfair.com](http://www.shastadistrictfair.com)

**JUNE 16**

**EL DORADO COUNTY FAIR**

The El Dorado County Fair, held in Placerville, kicks off June 16 and will feature carnival rides, exhibits and livestock auctions. Visit the event website for more details.

[www.eldoradocountyfair.org](http://www.eldoradocountyfair.org)

**JUNE 19**

**RUNNING FOR LOVE**

The Run-in-the-Name-of-Love Marathon is planned for June 19 in Carmel-By-The-Sea. This 5K run and 2K walk features views of the Pacific Ocean, Point Lobos and Pebble Beach.

[www.runinthenameoflove.org](http://www.runinthenameoflove.org)

**JUNE 25**

**LAVENDER FESTIVAL**

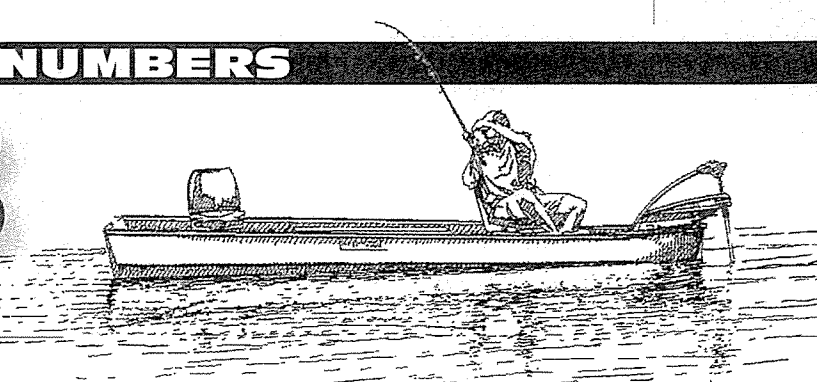
The Sonoma County Lavender Festival is planned June 25 and 26 in Kenwood. This event features live music, educational talks, craft making and lavender trivia.

[www.sonomacounty.com](http://www.sonomacounty.com)

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**38**

Average number of days our readers spend fishing each year.



**26%**

of our readers go fishing more than 45 days a year.

Source: Aceitera Game & Fish Reader Survey 2015

**CA Artist Wins Stamp Contest**

A PAINTING of a male ring-necked pheasant and a hunting dog has been chosen by a panel of judges as the winning entry in the 2015-2016 California Upland Game Bird Stamp Art Contest. The painting was created by Roberta "Roby" Baer of Redding, the first California artist to win the honor since the 2011-2012 contest. Sponsored by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the annual contest is held to determine the official design for the upcoming year's California Upland Game Bird Stamp. Artists submitted their own original depiction of a ring-necked pheasant. The setting and details were determined by the artists, but entries had to include at least one adult pheasant and be representative of the species' natural habitat in California if a background was included.

**California Condor Released**

A 35-YEAR-OLD condor, part of a captive breeding program that helped save North America's largest species of land bird, was recently set free at Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge in Kern County. In 1985, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service team captured the bird, known as AC-4, and he was part of the pair that produced the first egg and first chick from wild birds in captivity. He has sired 30 chicks that were released into the wild. This past year, biologists recorded 19 wild condor nests in central and Southern California, wildlife officials reported.

**Salmon Egg Injections**

IN A HISTORIC first for California, the Golden Gate Salmon Association and the Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists recently injected 20,000 fertilized salmon eggs into Feather River gravel. Under this small pilot project, wild salmon eggs are collected, fertilized, chilled and temporarily held in hatcheries. When river temperatures cool sufficiently, the incubating eggs are gently buried in suitable river gravel. The newly hatched salmon don't require feeding and physical infrastructure that hatchery fish need.

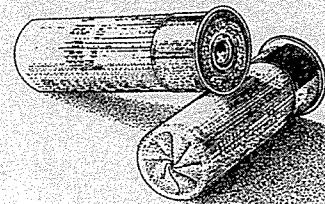
**Mudsnails Found in Yuba River**

THE CALIFORNIA Department of Fish and Wildlife has confirmed the presence of New Zealand mudsnails in the Yuba River in both Yuba and Nevada counties. The snails have been detected at the Sycamore Ranch Park and Campground and at locations on the lower Yuba River both above and below the Highway 20 bridge crossing. CDFW will implement public outreach and education efforts, including information cards, brochures and signage posted at parks, campgrounds, marinas, bait shops and boat launches along the Yuba River and at various access points and wildlife areas.

—DON VACHINI

**CALIFORNIA**

**CALENDAR**



**JUNE 25**

**LAVENDER FESTIVAL**

The Sonoma County Lavender Festival is planned June 25 and 26 in Kenwood. This event features lots of family-friendly entertainment options, including live music, educational talks, craft making and lavender trivia.

[www.sonomacounty.com](http://www.sonomacounty.com)

**JULY 4**

**FIREWORKS AT ROSE BOWL**

A celebration of all things red, white and blue, this event features a variety of fun activities in addition to fireworks. Rose Bowl, Pasadena.

[www.rosebowlstadium.com](http://www.rosebowlstadium.com)

**JULY 8**

**CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR**

The California State Fair is July 8-24. Enjoy the numerous activities and exhibits at Sacramento's Cal Expo. Learn more details and check out the schedule of events on the fair website.

[www.castatefair.org](http://www.castatefair.org)

**AUGUST 16**

**CARS IN CARMEL**

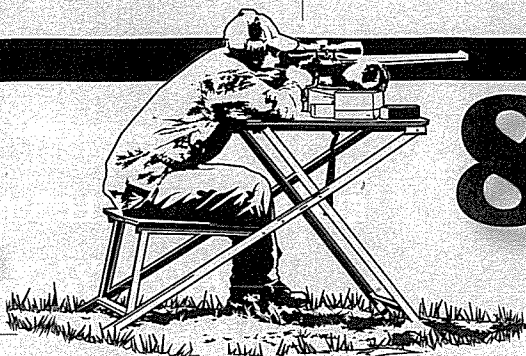
The Carmel-By-The-Sea Concours on the Avenue is planned for Aug. 16. This event features a variety of classic cars, including Porsches, Ferraris and more. Learn more by visiting the event website.

[www.carmelconcours.com](http://www.carmelconcours.com)

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**7.4**  
Average number of firearms owned by G&F/Sportsman readers

**42%**  
of readers own a muzzleloader



**88%**  
of readers own a shotgun

Source: Accutera Game & Fish Reader Survey 2015



**Forest Unlimited Plantings**

A SMALL group of Forest Unlimited volunteers planted over 1,300 redwood seedlings in the Coastal hills north of Cazadero in 2016. Hard to burn, drought-resistant and gathering water from fog precipitation, the native redwood sequesters three times more carbon above the ground than other trees. Data suggests that two mature redwoods remove about 1,600 tons of carbon dioxide from the earth's atmosphere.

**Dog-Friendly Hikes**

A MULTITUDE of dog-friendly hiking venues exist across the Golden State, with late summer a prime time to explore. Before bringing your pooch along on a hike, research your destination while considering your dog's needs in addition to your own. Carry a basic dog first-aid kit, compact plastic baggies, a leash, adequate water for both and make sure your dog is wearing a license tag with contact information should it become lost. For more information, call (877) 411-FIDO to speak to a dog-friendly trail expert.

**Trail Construction Under Way**

THE CALIFORNIA Department of Fish and Wildlife and the California Department of Water Resources began construction earlier this year on a new section of the San Joaquin River Parkway Trail. The public access project is being built on state of California property at San Joaquin Hatchery in Friant (Fresno County). The project, which is expected to be completed this fall, includes public parking and nearly one mile of trail. Providing education and recreation along the San Joaquin River, this section of trail will begin in the town of Friant and end at the Lost Lake Recreation Area. Access will be free to the public.

**Yamaha and Other Groups Rehabilitate OHV Area**

YAMAHA MOTOR Corp., USA, employees returned to the San Bernardino National Forest in May to volunteer their time in support of projects aiding the popular Summit OHV Staging Area. Working with members of the Southern California Mountains Foundation and the U.S. Forest Service, the effort represented the eighth year of Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative volunteer projects in one of the nation's busiest forests. More than 60 volunteers including Yamaha employees, their friends and family members, along with members of local Girl and Cub Scout troops, contributed more than 200 hours of volunteer service throughout the weekend. Activities included installing signs and kiosks, watering and planting native seedlings, and helping general restoration and rehabilitation of the staging area and surrounding trails.

— DON VACHINI

**SEPTEMBER 2**

**LA COUNTY FAIR**

The Annual Los Angeles County Fair will kick off Sept. 2 in Pomona. The fair runs through Sept. 25. A schedule of events and additional information can be found on the fair website.

[www.lacountyfair.com](http://www.lacountyfair.com)

**SEPTEMBER 11**

**AUTO SHOW**

The annual Antique Autos in History Park show, sponsored by the Santa Clara Valley Model-T Club and History San Jose, will be held in History Park in San Jose.

[www.scvmtfc.org](http://www.scvmtfc.org)

**SEPTEMBER 16**

**JAZZ FESTIVAL**

The Annual Monterey Jazz Fest will take place at the Monterey County Fairgrounds in Monterey Sept. 16-18. Check out the event website for additional details and ticket info.

[www.montereyjazzfestival.org](http://www.montereyjazzfestival.org)

**SEPTEMBER 24**

**ULTRA RACE OF CHAMPIONS**

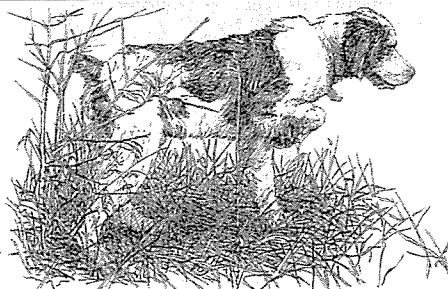
The Ultra Race of Champions, featuring 25k, 50k and 100k race options, will be held in Auburn. Boasting a challenging mixed terrain course, the race is open to all runners.

[www.ultraroc.com](http://www.ultraroc.com)

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**10.2%**

of Game & Fish/Sportsman readers own three or more dogs.



**1.8**

The average number of dogs owned by readers who have a dog.

Source: Accelera Game & Fish Reader Survey 2015



**Streamflow Projects Approved**

THE WILDLIFE Conservation Board recently approved the first projects to be funded through the Proposition 1 California Streamflow Enhancement Program. Located in more than 11 counties, 24 staff-recommended projects will benefit diverse areas across the state at a cost of \$21-million. Funded by the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014, this first-ever program will address environmental challenges as they relate to streamflow, aquatic and riparian species while enriching peripheral lands and animals as well, according to WCB Chairman Charleton H. Bonham.

**Banded Pintail's Long Journey**

HUNTING ON opening day of the 2015 duck season, Eric Heidman shot a drake pintail that flew over his decoys at California's Delevan National Wildlife Refuge. Splashing down a fair distance from his blind, his hunting partner's lab retrieved it. Only after it was returned did he discover the duck was banded, revealing an unusual origin: the Division of Avian Conservation in Japan. At least 14 years old, the pintail was banded in 2001 at the Saitama Duck refuge in Obayashi, more than 5,000 miles from Delevan. Heidman's pintail was among 16 ducks thus far banded in Japan that have been recovered in California.

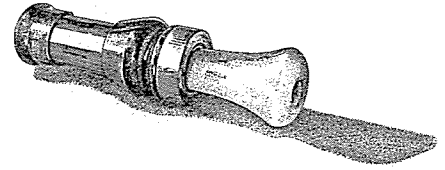
**Frank Milazzo Officer Of The Year**

A 27-YEAR veteran Fish and Wildlife Officer, Frank Milazzo was named the California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2016 Wildlife Officer of the Year. Over the past 16 years, Milazzo has worked closely with local law enforcement and the citizens of Mariposa County, building a solid reputation as a go-to resource for all fish and wildlife related issues. He received the 1993 Director's Achievement Award, was nominated for officer of the year in 1997 and was awarded the department's Medal of Valor in 2008 along with the Governor's Gold Medal.

**Guide To State Campgrounds**

FOR THOSE interested in planning camping trips, a free printed guide to campgrounds around the state is now available. "Camp-California! The Campers Guide to California" lists privately owned campgrounds, RV parks and resorts along with a few state and county park campgrounds. While not including national parks, the directory listings note amenities such as Wi-Fi, pools, dog-friendly beaches, local events and cabins. A downloadable app version is available, but the printed version is designed for use by road-trippers who end up in areas without cellphone access to online information. Visit [www.camp-california.com](http://www.camp-california.com) or call (530) 885-1624 for a copy.

— DON VACHINI



**SEPTEMBER 16**

**JAZZ FESTIVAL**

The Annual Monterey Jazz Fest will take place at the Monterey County Fairgrounds in Monterey Sept. 16-18. Check out the event website for additional details and ticket info.

[www.montereyjazzfestival.org](http://www.montereyjazzfestival.org)

**SEPTEMBER 24**

**ULTRA RACE OF CHAMPIONS**

The Ultra Race of Champions, featuring 25k, 50k and 100k race options, will be held in Auburn. Boasting a challenging mixed terrain course, the race is open to all runners.

[www.ultraroc.com](http://www.ultraroc.com)

**OCTOBER 7**

**CRESCENT CITY CAR SHOW**

The Annual Sea Cruise Car show will be held 4 to 6 pm. in downtown Crescent City and Beachfront Park Oct. 7-8. Music, food and other entertainment.

[www.delnorte.org](http://www.delnorte.org)

**OCTOBER 24**

**DUCK SEASON OPENER**

Oct. 24 marks the duck season opener for Southern California and Southern San Joaquin zones. Consult the regulations for additional details.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**55%**

of Game & Fish/Sportsman readers hunt at least 20 days a year.

**34%**

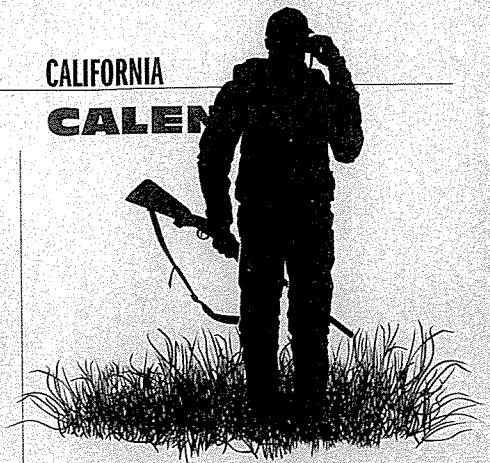
of readers hunt at least 30 days a year.



**28**

The average number of days readers spend annually on other hunting activities (planning, scouting, etc.).

Source: Audubon Game & Fish Reader Survey 2015



**Klamath River Dam Removals**

THE FEDERAL government plus the states of Oregon and California are going forward with a plan to remove four hydroelectric dams along the Klamath River, according to U. S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.

The move could restore the river for salmon that tribes rely on for subsistence and ceremony and help allocate more water for farmers and ranchers in the drought stricken Klamath Basin. Under the deal, a nonprofit corporation recently formed in California would take ownership of the dams from Portland-based PacifiCorp and assume liability for any damage from their removal.

**CDFW K-9 Program Expanded**

THE CALIFORNIA Department of Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement Division recently certified five new K-9s and their handlers. The five new teams include: Warden Aaron Galwey and K-9 "Rango" (Shasta County), Warden Brian Patrick and K-9 "Karma" (Sacramento County), Warden Timothy Bolla and K-9 "Luna" (Yolo County), Warden Nick Buckler and K-9 "Indy" (Lassen County), and Warden Brian Boyd and K-9 "Champ" (Shasta County). CDFW's K-9 program has functioned in its current capacity consistently since 2008 with 10 working teams in the field. These five new teams will strengthen the value of the program and assure its viability for years to come, CDFW reported.

**Columnist Pat Wray Honored**

GAME & FISH columnist Pat Wray, the longtime author of our back-page "Parting Line" column, was honored recently by the Outdoor Writers Association of America. One of Wray's columns from 2015, "The Existential Boottist," earned second place in the Magazine Humor category in OWAA's nationwide "Excellence In Craft" competition. It was the second straight award for Wray and Game & Fish in that category. The winners were announced in July at OWAA's annual conference in Billings, Montana.

**Non-lead Ammo Implementation**

AS OF July 1, 2016, non-lead shot is required when taking upland game birds with a shotgun in California, except for dove, quail, snipe and any game birds taken at licensed game bird clubs. In addition, non-lead shot will be required when using a shotgun to take resident small game mammals, furbearing mammals, nongame mammals, nongame birds and any wildlife for depredation purposes. Existing restrictions on the use of lead ammunition in the California condor range, when taking Nelson bighorn sheep and when hunting on all California Department of Fish and Wildlife areas and ecological reserves remain in effect. The next phase of the implementation goes into effect July 1, 2019, when hunters must use non-lead ammunition when taking any animal anywhere in the state for any purpose.

— DON VACHINI

**NOVEMBER 6**

**TRIATHALON**

A swim, bike and run triathlon in the coastal towns of Morro Bay and Cayucos is planned Nov. 6. Check the event website for additional details.

[www.morrobaytri.com](http://www.morrobaytri.com)

**NOVEMBER 12**

**PHEASANT SEASON**

The statewide pheasant season opener is Nov. 12. Be sure to consult the regulations for additional information.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**NOVEMBER 13**

**NORTH COAST GOOSE**

The North Coast Canada Goose season opener is planned for Nov. 13. Consult the regulations before heading afield.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**NOVEMBER 15**

**GENERAL TROUT CLOSURES**

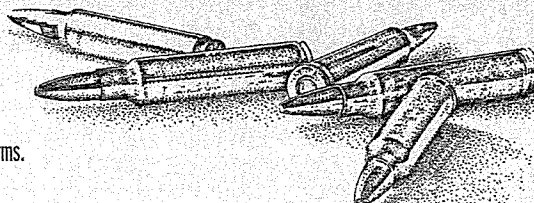
California anglers still have some time to get their trout-fishing in before season closes. Nov. 15 marks the end of general trout season. Check the regulations for more information.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**97%**

of Game & Fish/Sportsman readers hunt with firearms.

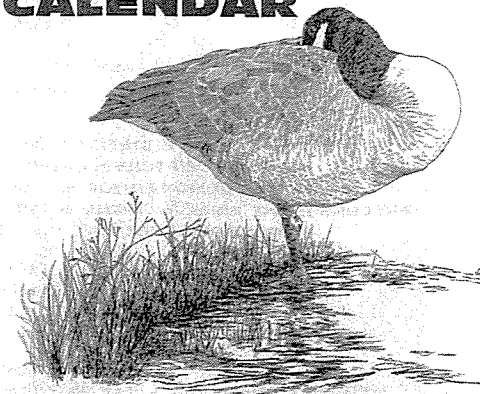


**75%**

of readers hunt with a bow or crossbow.

Source: Accelerate Game & Fish Reader Survey 2015

**CALENDAR**



**NOVEMBER 15**

**GENERAL TROUT CLOSURES**

Nov. 15 marks the end of California's general trout fishing season. Be sure to consult the regulations for more information.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**DECEMBER 21**

**GOOSE SEASON CLOSING**

Sacramento Valley Special Management Area white-fronted goose season closes Dec. 21. Consult the regulations before heading afield.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**JANUARY 1**

**RENEW FISHING LICENSES**

It's time for Golden State anglers to renew fishing licenses for the new year. California fishing licenses go into effect for all anglers over 16 years of age Jan. 1, 2017.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**JANUARY 31**

**REPORT CARDS DUE**

Abalone and steelhead report cards are due Jan. 31, 2017. Consult the fishing regulations for additional details.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**Hiking Website Launched**

THE GREATER Palm Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau has launched a hiking website, making it easier for visitors and locals to discover the diverse natural beauty of the Coachella Valley. The fully responsive HikinginGPS.com offers detailed information on more than 80 hikes including trail descriptions, trailhead directions, satellite maps and elevation profiles, allowing hikers to compare and choose trails that best suit their hiking preferences within the Greater Palm Springs area. The site benefits day hikers looking for a stroll through a palm oasis or long-distance hikers looking to climb Mt. San Jacinto.

**2016 Waterfowl Survey**

THE CALIFORNIA Department of Fish and Wildlife has completed its annual survey of waterfowl breeding pairs. Biologists found that after a three-year decline in mallard and total duck species, both have increased this year. Surveyed areas include wetland and agricultural areas in Northern California, throughout the Central Valley, the Suisun Marsh and some coastal valleys. The breeding population of mallards increased from 173, 865 to 263, 774 and total ducks increased from 315, 577 to 417, 791. "The late, abundant spring rains were a real boost to the habitat," noted Melanie Weaver, a CDFW waterfowl biologist who participated in the survey. The full survey report can be found on the wildlife department website.

**Additional Land for Sonoma County Regional Parks**

ACQUIRED BY the Sonoma Land Trust, an additional 162 acres of private property in the Mayacamas Mountains will allow Sonoma County Regional Park to expand its network of hiking trails and over night camping destinations. Bordering Hood Mountain Regional Park and Open Space Preserve and Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, the highly coveted parcel of wildlands includes the headwaters of Santa Rosa Creek, expansive oak woodlands and critical habitat for abundant flora and fauna. Once finalized, the project will identify new hiking trails and campsites while protecting a wildlife corridor stretching from the Snow Mountain National Monument.

**Pacific Pocket Mouse Recovery**

THE PACIFIC pocket mouse, federally listed as endangered, lives along the immediate coast of Southern California from Marina del Ray and El Segundo in Los Angeles County south to San Diego County. This nocturnal mammal, weighing between 5 and 8 grams, 2 inches long and exhibiting cheek pockets to temporarily store seeds, is present in less than 1,000 acres in its known locations. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is currently focusing on recovery efforts, which include establishing additional populations by means of release of captive-bred individuals.

— DON VACHINI

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**50%**

of readers shoot 200 rounds or more each year.



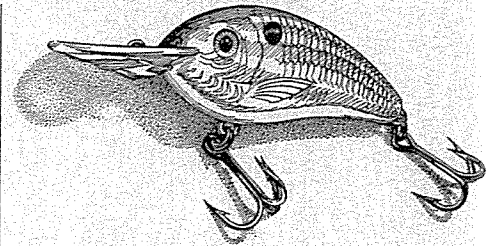
**250**

Average rounds of ammo used by G&F/Sportsman readers each year.

Source: Accelera Game & Fish Reader Survey 2015



**CALENDAR**



**JANUARY 31**

**REPORT CARDS DUE**

Abalone and steelhead report cards are due Jan. 31, 2017. Be sure to consult the regulations for additional information.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**FEBRUARY 4**

**SPECIAL YOUTH DAY HUNTS**

Youth hunts for duck and geese are planned Feb. 4-5 in the Southern San Joaquin, Southern California, Colorado River and Balance of the State zones.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**FEBRUARY 5**

**BIGHORN SHEEP CLOSING**

Feb. 5 marks Nelson Bighorn sheep season closure for Zones 1-4, 8 and 9. Consult the regulations for more.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**FEBRUARY 11**

**SONOMA STEELHEAD FESTIVAL**

The ninth annual Lake Sonoma Steelhead Festival will be held on the grounds of the Milt Brandt Visitors Center in Healdsburg Feb. 11. Food, wine, silent auction, music, fishing, tours and demonstrations. Free event.

[www.lakesonoma.org](http://www.lakesonoma.org)

**Sierra Nevada Geotourism Website**

THE SIERRA Business Council and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, in partnership with National Geographic, has unveiled a brand new Sierra Nevada Geotourism website and interactive web map. This new digital hub encourages travelers to venture off the beaten path and explore the history, culture and character of the Sierra Nevada, using an interactive web map that hosts approximately 2,000 destinations nominated by area residents. A "Trip Planner" feature helps visitors plan their full itinerary. [www.sierranevadageotourism.org](http://www.sierranevadageotourism.org).

**Ducks Unlimited Honorees in CA**

DUCKS UNLIMITED Advisory Senior Vice President of Conservation Doug Federighi was recently inducted into the California Waterfowler's Hall of Fame during a ceremony in Yountville. Established in 2006 by the California Fish and Game Commission, the CWHOF recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to enhancing and conserving waterfowl and their habitats in the state.

"I'm lucky enough to have spent 30 years committed to the Grassland Water District and the marshes and wetlands of the San Joaquin Valley," said Federighi, a driving force in bringing both state and national policy to the forefront with Ducks Unlimited.

**Invasive Species Art Contest**

THE STATEWIDE winners of "The Invader Files" Youth Art Contest for 2016 have been announced. Sponsored by the CDFW's Fish and Invasive Species Program, participants were asked to pick an invasive species that causes harm to native species or the environment in California and submit original illustrations of that invader. The overall winning poster was from Amelie Ingram, 10, a student at Fred T. Korematsu Elementary School in Davis. The contest's divisional winners were: Grades 2-4: Elsa Thornton, 10, Fort Washington Elementary, Fresno; Grades 5-8: Luke Jiang, 11, Homeschool, Rancho Cordova; Grades 9-12: Bey Westcott, 18, Granada High School, Livermore.

**CA Lakes Receive Kokanee Plants**

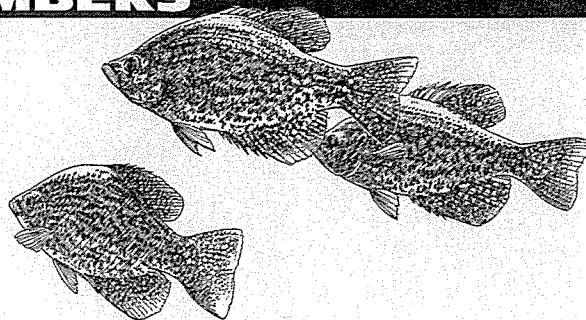
THE CDFW recently completed the release of 634, 430 kokanee salmon fingerlings into 13 lakes and reservoirs throughout the state. The CDFW worked closely with volunteers at the California Inland Fisheries Foundation, Inc. and Kokanee Power, Inc. during this operation, which also included careful planning and coordination with the American River Fish Hatchery, the San Joaquin River Fish Hatchery and the Silverado Fish Planting Base.

— DON VACHINI

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**87%**

of Game & Fish readers have been fishing for more than 30 years.



**93%**

of our readers consider themselves to be intermediate or advanced anglers.

Source: Accipiter Game & Fish Reader Survey 2015



**Owl Listed as Endangered Species**

THE NORTHERN Spotted Owl has recently been listed as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act. Labeled as “threatened” in 1990 under the Federal Species Act, their population has continued to decline. Currently, numbers are dropping at an annual rate of 3.8 percent. Five years ago, the rate was 2.8 percent. The state’s Fish and Game Commission voted to add the owl to the list, ending a process by the Environmental Protection Information Center.

**CA Shooter Claims Bronze**

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA shooter Kim Rhode won the bronze medal in Women’s Skeet Shooting at the 2016 Rio Olympics. Qualifying second in the preliminary round, Rhode finished one missed target away from the gold medal round. She was then forced to endure a hectic, sudden-death shoot-off for the bronze. The feat makes Rhode the first Olympian to capture medals in six consecutive summer Olympics.

**TeenNat Program**

THE TEENNAT Program of Sonoma County is designed to expose young teens to outdoor exploration and the possibility of professions in the natural sciences. Using the 3,100-acre Pepperwood Preserve, the summer internship provides participants an opportunity to learn about the many science-related occupations available.

According to Sandi Funke, education director for the non-profit, students meet three days a week over five weeks, attending seminars in conservation science, field work and contributing to a digital science database. Subsidized by community sponsors, the program is free to participants.

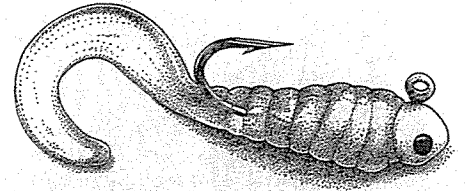
**Honey Lake Valley Conservation Project**

DUCKS UNLIMITED was recently awarded a conservation grant to conserve 3,456 acres of waterfowl habitat in Northern California’s Honey Lake Valley. Approximately \$2.26 million in partner funds will be paired with \$1 million in North American Wetlands Conservation grant funds to underwrite wetland restoration and enhancement activities in nine sites in the area. According to regional biologist, John Ranlett, this valley provides a major wetland linkage for several million waterfowl. The California Wildlife Conservation Board, Leavitt Lake Ranches and Wood Ranch properties, key partners on the grant, have already protected 1,700 acres of wet meadow, irrigated pasture and associated uplands habitats.

— DON VACHINI

**CALIFORNIA**

**CALENDAR**



**MARCH 6**

**TENNIS TOURNAMENT**

The BNP Paribas Open, the largest ATP and WTA pro tennis tournament, will take place March 6-19 at Indian Wells Tennis Garden.

[www.bnpparibasopen.com](http://www.bnpparibasopen.com)

**MARCH 24**

**CHEESE FESTIVAL**

The annual California Artisan Cheese Festival is held in Petaluma March 24-26. An opportunity to learn about hand crafted cheeses, wines, beer and artisan foods. Check out the event website for additional information.

[www.artisancheesefestival.com](http://www.artisancheesefestival.com)

**MARCH 25**

**GENERAL TURKEY**

The opening day of general turkey hunting season is March 25. Check the regulations for more information before heading afield.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**MARCH 26**

**NASCAR RACING**

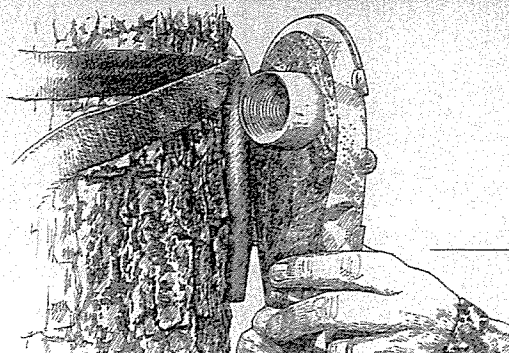
The annual Auto Club 400 NASCAR race will be held at Fontana’s Auto Club Speedway. Visit the speedway website for more.

[www.autoclubspeedway.com](http://www.autoclubspeedway.com)

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**50%**

of our readers own a trail camera.



**1 OUT OF 5**

readers own three or more trail cams.

Source: Accipiter Game & Fish Reader Survey 2015

**Potential World-Record Spotted Bass Caught in Northern California**

PRO ANGLER Cody Meyer, of Auburn, caught a potential world-record spotted bass in December of 2016 from Bullards Bar Reservoir. The spot reportedly weighed in at 10.8 pounds. The lunker bass was caught on a Strike King Ocho. The current IGFA spotted bass world record is a 10 pound, 6-ounce fish caught from the same reservoir in 2015. Larger catches have been reported, but not certified, from Bullards Bar.

**CA Foxes No Longer Endangered**

THREE SUB-SPECIES of foxes native to the Channel Islands off the Southern California coast have recently been removed from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's endangered species roster. In 2004, the USFWS partnered with the National Park Service, Nature Conservancy and the Catalina Conservancy to hatch an aggressive recovery plan. This included reintroducing bald eagles, vaccinating foxes and breeding them in captivity to increase numbers.

**Eel River Elk Habitat**

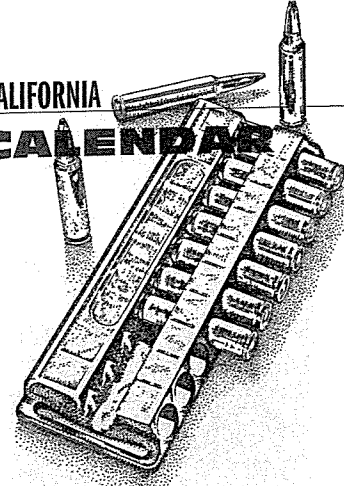
IN 2011, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and generous landowners placed conservation easements on land along Northern California's Eel River, intending to protect critical habitat for the tule elk. In May of 2016, a second phase nearly doubled the amount to a 15,620-acre block. The new easements lie close to the Yuki Wilderness, share the eastern border of the Sanhedrin Wilderness for five miles and border the Wild and Scenic Eel River for over four miles. These remote outposts will not only protect the country from development but also will encourage sustainable forestry and grazing. When completed, the RMEF hopes the project will form 65,000-acres of unbroken national forest, BLM grasslands and carefully tended private lands.

**Environmental Projects Funded**

AT ITS November quarterly meeting, the Wildlife Conservation Board approved approximately \$28 million in grants to help restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat throughout California, including the Salton Sea. Some of the 17 funded projects will benefit fish and wildlife — including some endangered species — while others will provide the public with access to important natural resources. Several projects will also demonstrate the importance of protecting working landscapes that integrate economic, social and environmental stewardship practices beneficial to the environment, landowners and the local community. The state funds for all these projects come from bond measures approved by voters to help preserve and protect California's natural resources. Learn more at [www.wcb.ca.gov](http://www.wcb.ca.gov).

— DON VACHINI

**CALIFORNIA CALENDAR**



**MARCH 25**

**GENERAL TURKEY OPENS**

The opening day of general turkey hunting season is March 25. Check the regulations for more information.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**APRIL 20**

**SEA OTTER CLASSIC**

The annual Sea Otter Classic, billed as the world's premier cycling festival, is April 20-23 in Monterey. Check out the event website for additional information.

[www.seaotterclassic.com](http://www.seaotterclassic.com)

**APRIL 29**

**BUTTER AND EGG DAYS**

The annual Butter and Egg Days Parade is planned April 29 in Petaluma. The event features food, entertainment and more.

[www.petalumadowntown.com](http://www.petalumadowntown.com)

**APRIL 29**

**GENERAL TROUT OPENS**

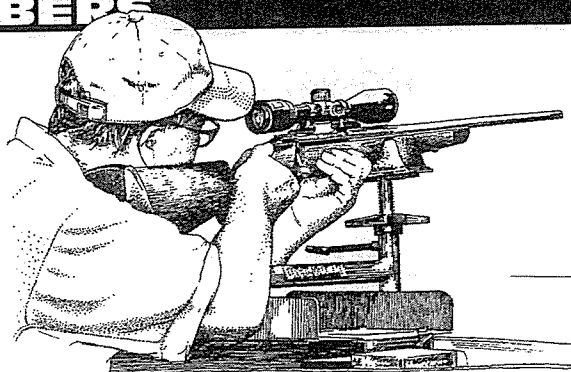
The general trout season opener is slated for April 29. Check the fishing regulations before hitting the water.

[www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov)

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**16%**

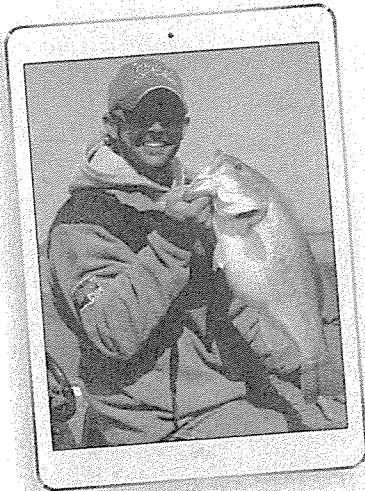
of readers participate in recreational shooting at least 30 times each year.



**5 OUT OF 6**

readers enjoy recreational shooting an average of 19 days a year.

Source: Accelera Game & Fish Reader Survey 2015



**Expanded 'Camera Corner' Online**

Starting next month, you'll find an enhanced version of our monthly "Camera Corner" department on our website. By moving that feature online, we'll be able to display more of your hunting and fishing photos, and your submissions will show up instantly. You'll be able to flip through all the photos from our state (and other states), or search by species, such as deer, bass or catfish. We'll be adding more features in coming months, but you can post your favorite photo now at [gameandfishmag.com/photos](http://gameandfishmag.com/photos).

**California Condor Hatched in Wild**

IN A milestone for the recovery of the California condor, a chick has hatched in the wild, survived and flown out of the nest at Pinnacles National Park for the first time since the 1890s. Although not the first chick to be born out of captivity, this female is the first to survive long enough to leave the nest and begin the path to adulthood. It is a major step for North America's largest bird as it continues a slow-but-steady path from near-extinction. Fledgling condors have left the nest in Big Sur, Arizona and Baja Mexico, but this is the first in Pinnacles in 120 years.

**Wildlife Passageways Expanded**

THE NONPROFIT Sonoma Land Trust, with funds from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, continues to expand wildlife passageways from one habitat to another. Building on existing work, the group will preserve a corridor wild animals can use to cross the valley from the Mayacamas Range on the east to the Sonoma Mountains on the west. The focus will be forming a linkage among the Blue Ridge-Berryessa Natural Area, a vast swath of mountain landscape that includes sections of Napa, Yolo, Solano, Marin and Lake counties.

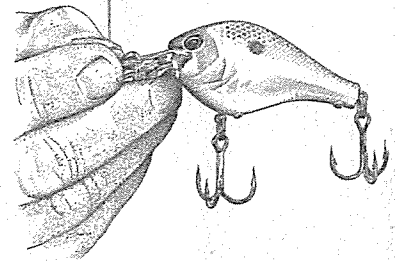
**San Diego Zoo Centennial**

FOUNDED IN 1916 by Dr. Harry Wegeforth, the San Diego Zoo recently celebrated its centennial anniversary. As part of the celebration, the San Diego History Center presented the "Lore Behind the Roar: 100 Years of the San Diego Zoo," the largest exhibition the center has ever produced.

— DON VACHINI

**CALIFORNIA**

**CALENDAR**



**APRIL 20**

**SEA OTTER CLASSIC**

The annual Sea Otter Classic, billed as the world's premier cycling festival, is April 20-23 in Monterey. Check out the event website for additional information.  
[www.seaotterclassic.com](http://www.seaotterclassic.com)

**APRIL 30**

**GENERAL TURKEY CLOSES**

The closing day of general turkey hunting season is April 30. Check the regulations for more information.  
[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**MAY 1**

**ARCHERY TURKEY OPENS**

Archery-only hunting season for turkeys is May 1-14. Consult your regulations before heading afield.  
[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**MAY 21**

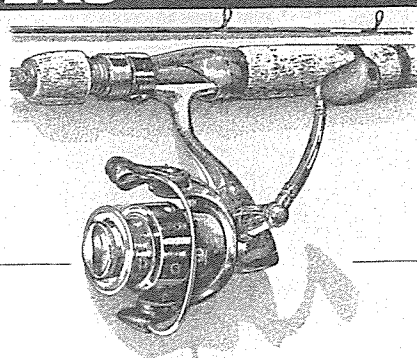
**BAY TO BREAKERS RUN**

The 12-K route begins near San Francisco Bay and ends at the Great Highway. Live entertainment, food and more. Learn more about this longtime San Francisco tradition on the event website.  
[www.baytobreakers.com](http://www.baytobreakers.com)

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**72%**

of G&F readers own 3 or more spinning reels.



**47%**

of readers own 3 or more baitcasting reels.

Source: Accolera Game & Fish Reader Survey 2015

## North Lake Tahoe Trail Projects

MAJOR PLACER County restoration projects are under way, culminating in additional outdoor recreation options for the North Lake Tahoe region. The Truckee River Trail restoration between 64-Acres Park and Squaw Valley Resort and the Squaw Valley Bike Trail rehabilitation will improve asphalt surfaces for smoother riding. Placer County is facilitating the permitting of the North Tahoe Shared-Use Trail connecting the Cedar Flat neighborhood and the North Tahoe Regional Park. Besides extending the multi-use trail network by 6 miles, new signage will provide information on navigable paddle routes, public beach and launch access, nearby hiking trails, historic sites, lodging and campgrounds.

## Sacramento Valley Preservation

RECENT WATER conveyance upgrades on Willow Creek Ranch improved wetland and rice lands management in the Sacramento Valley. Owned by Willow Creek Mutual Water Company, this organization provides water to approximately 7,050-acres of private wetlands east of Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and north of Delevan NWR. Dysfunctional interior levees were removed and new levees, canals, interconnected potholes and swales were constructed, improving habitat diversity.

## Rescued Redbands Released

THE CALIFORNIA Department of Fish and Wildlife's Northern Region Inland Fisheries Program and Heritage and Wild Trout Program staffs collaborated to re-introduce a small population of rescued trout to their native McCloud River. Between 2013-15, the agencies rescued more than 1,000 redband rainbows from the drought-ravaged river and housed them in nearby, drought-safe Mount Shasta Fish Hatchery. During 2016, both rescued adults and hatchery-origin juveniles were released into sections favorable for long-term survival.

## Wedge Cabins for State Parks

A STATE parks task force aims to modernize parks statewide to attract future generations of outdoor enthusiasts. Catching the eye of the Parks Forward Commission, architectural students at Cal Poly Pomona designed miniature, wedge-shaped cabins tailored to camping in state campgrounds. Offering a more refined camping experience, the cabins measure approximately 170 square feet in size, are outfitted with bunk or double beds and can accommodate between 4-6 people. Caryl Hart, of the Parks Forward Commission, believes wedge cabins will attract a younger, more diverse audience to camping in parks.

— DON VACHINI

## CALIFORNIA

## CALENDAR

MAY 21

### BAY TO BREAKERS RUN

The 12-K route begins near San Francisco Bay and ends at the Great Highway. Live entertainment, food and more. Learn more about this longtime San Francisco tradition on the event website.

[www.baytobreakers.com](http://www.baytobreakers.com)

JUNE 2

### BALLOONS AND WINE

Held at Lake Skinner Recreation Area June 2-4, the Temecula Valley Balloon and Wine Festival features food, entertainment wine tasting and hot air balloon rides.

[www.tvbwf.com](http://www.tvbwf.com)

JUNE 3

### SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN RUN

Held at San Bruno Mountain State Park, 10-K and 5-K runs take place over a scenic wooded course. Learn more online.

[www.urbancoyoteracing.com](http://www.urbancoyoteracing.com)

JUNE 3

### ARTICHOKE FESTIVAL

The Castroville Artichoke, Food and Wine Festival is planned at the Monterey County Fair and Events Center June 3-4. Music, arts and crafts, food, wine and beer tasting. Check out the event website for additional information.

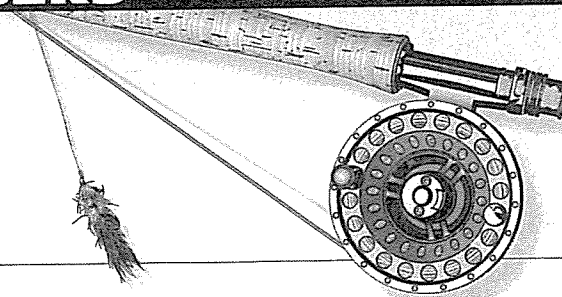
[www.artichokefestival.org](http://www.artichokefestival.org)



## BY THE NUMBERS

**42%**

of our readers fish with a fly rod.



**16%**

of our readers own 3 or more fly reels & rods.

Source: Accelera Game & Fish Reader Survey 2015



**American River Steelhead Release**

NEARLY A half million young steelhead recently started their journey to the ocean, thanks to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Staff at Nimbus Fish Hatchery nursed the young steelhead through several potentially devastating conditions, including drought-induced high water temperatures in the hatchery last summer and winter flood conditions that nearly cut off usable water supplies and carried dangerous levels of silt into the hatchery's normally clean water distribution system. All 420,000 young steelhead were released into the American River just upstream of the I Street Bridge in Sacramento.

**Trail Closures for Construction**

UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION of a new Salmon Conservation and Research Facility (SCARF) will trigger temporary, sporadic closures of a section of the San Joaquin River Parkway Trail at the recently constructed Friant Interactive Nature Site. The trail closures are expected to last until 2018. The SCARF will be built adjacent to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's San Joaquin Trout Hatchery, approximately 1 mile downstream of Friant Dam, near the town of Friant in Fresno County. The facility will work to repopulate spring-run Chinook salmon in the San Joaquin River in accordance with the Restoration Goal of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program.

**Brown Trout Plants**

THE BRIDGEPORT Fish Enhancement Foundation, an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, continues to provide financial support to the community in the form of fish stocking and habitat improvement. Using donations and fundraisers, the BFEF financed a late-2016 plant of 2,300 brown trout in the 1-pound range, spread between the West Walker River, Bridgeport Reservoir and the East Walker River. According to BFEF president Ray Robles, the diploid browns, purchased from the Desert Springs Trout Farm in central Oregon, can spawn when mature.

**California Trail Exhibit**

THE OAKLAND Zoo recently opened "California Trail," an exciting new exhibit that invites visitors to explore the state's natural past, present and future. The zoo also includes an interpretive look with dramatic vistas of San Francisco Bay, a California Interpretive Center, a camping area with platform tents for overnight experiences and a children's play and learn area. Guests can also get a bird's eye view of the "California Trail" from a gondola ride over the exhibits.

**CALIFORNIA CALENDAR**



**JULY 4**

**ROSE BOWL AMERICAFEST**

A celebration of all things red, white and blue, this event features a variety of fun activities in addition to fireworks. Rose Bowl, Pasadena.

[www.rosebowlstadium.com](http://www.rosebowlstadium.com)

**JULY 4**

**CRESCENT CITY FESTIVAL**

The annual parade, festival and fireworks show is planned in Crescent City July 4. This all-day event features food, games and more.

[www.delnorte.org](http://www.delnorte.org)

**JULY 8**

**CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR**

The California State Fair is July 8-24. Enjoy the numerous activities and exhibits at Sacramento's Cal Expo. Check out the event website for additional information.

[www.castatefair.org](http://www.castatefair.org)

**JULY 22**

**CYPRESS FESTIVAL**

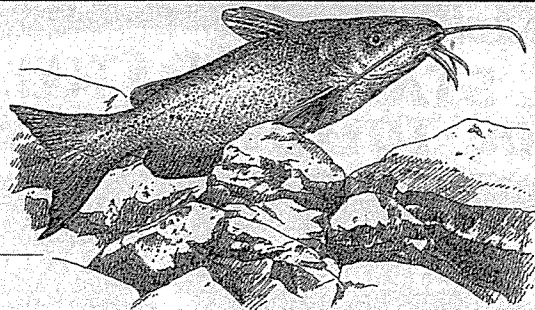
The 36th annual Cypress Community Festival is planned at Oak Knoll Park in Cypress July 22. Learn more on the event website.

[www.cypressfestival.com](http://www.cypressfestival.com)

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**4.6** MILLION  
Visitors came to [gafmag.com](http://gafmag.com)  
for catfish gear & tactics

Readers spent **254,760**  
minutes watching videos at [gafmag.com](http://gafmag.com)



**1.4** MILLION  
Visitors came to [gafmag.com](http://gafmag.com)  
for deer gear & tactics

Source: [gafmag.com](http://gafmag.com) website traffic for April 2016-April 2017

**Hot Creek Trout Stocking**

MONO COUNTY'S famed wild trout section of Hot Creek has declined substantially in both numbers and size in recent years. Drought-related low flows, lack of flushing flows to mobilize fine sediments to expose spawning gravel, increased aquatic vegetation and changes in water quality and chemistry are the suspected culprits. Biologists decided to stock rainbow and brown trout in an effort to restore the fishery. In December 2016, 3,000 subcatchable rainbows and 4,000 brown trout were planted. The DFW will release 8,000 rainbows and 4,000 browns annually for the next two years.

**Lassen National Park Trail**

LASSEN VOLCANIC National Park recently completed a \$ 2.5 million trail development project, enabling visitors to reach the top of Lassen Peak. Through recreation fee dollars, grants and donations, the park enlisted trail crews from the National Park Service and the California Conservation Corps. Crews transported about 2.4 million pounds of rock up the mountain and rebuilt the trail. The "Reach the Peak" trail features a four-foot wide upper section, turnout areas and a new register. As part of the project, the park launched new interpretive materials including trail brochures, wayside exhibits and crater loop routes to explore vistas in all directions.

**Wildlife Officer of the Year**

THE CALIFORNIA Department of Fish and Wildlife recently selected warden Nicole Kozicki as the 2017 Wildlife Officer of the Year. Representing the San Francisco Bay Area communities for 27 years, her main focus has been in the area of environmental crimes, which effect threatened and endangered species, such as the California tiger salamander and red-legged frog. According to David Bess, Chief of CDFW's Law Enforcement Division, she has an extraordinary capability and reputation for investigating cases that affect California's fish and wildlife and the habitat where these fish and wildlife live.

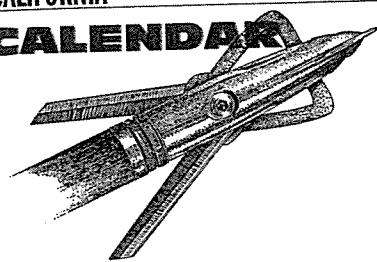
**Boy Scouts, Daisy Teaching Young Shooters**

A NEW partnership between the Boy Scouts of America and Daisy Outdoor Products will help youngsters learn about the shooting sports and gun safety. As the official airgun of the BSA, Daisy will make its inflatable range available to the Boy Scouts' 274 local councils across the country. Those ranges allow instructors to work individually with young people, who may be shooting for the first time. Safety rules and basic marksmanship are taught, including breath control, trigger pull, sight picture and more. The BSA is the largest youth organization in the country; Daisy is America's oldest maker of airguns.

— DON VACHINI

**CALIFORNIA**

**CALENDAR**



**AUGUST 15**

**CARS IN CARMEL**

The Carmel-By-The-Sea Concours on the Avenue is planned for Aug. 15. This event features a variety of classic cars, including Porsches, Ferraris and more.

[www.carmelconcours.com](http://www.carmelconcours.com)

**SEPTEMBER 1**

**BISHOP ARTS AND CRAFTS**

Held in Bishop City Park Sept. 1-4, the Labor Day Arts and Crafts Show combines food, fun and fine art in the shadow of the majestic Sierra Nevada Mountains.

[www.inyo.org](http://www.inyo.org)

**SEPTEMBER 3**

**BEAR VALLEY TRIATHALON**

Held in the north state's Bear Valley, this race is composed of a 600-yard swim, 10-mile bike ride and 3.25-mile run. Learn more online.

[www.onyourmarkevents.com](http://www.onyourmarkevents.com)

**SEPTEMBER 15**

**MONTEREY JAZZ FESTIVAL**

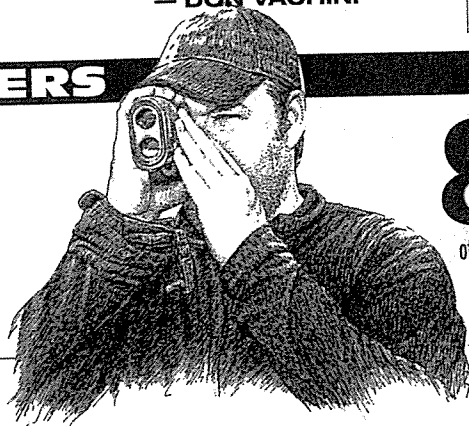
The 60th Annual Monterey Jazz Festival takes place at the Monterey County Fairgrounds in Monterey Sept. 15-17. This event boasts hundreds of artists performing on eight stages. Music, food and drinks, exhibitions and more.

[www.montereyjazzfestival.org](http://www.montereyjazzfestival.org)

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**87%**

of our readers own binoculars



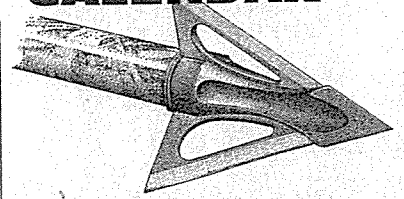
**83%**

of our readers own a scope

**44%**

of our readers own a rangefinder

Source: Accela Game & Fish Reader Survey



**Sonoma County Parks Celebrates Golden Anniversary**

THE SONOMA County Regional Park system is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Growing exponentially since its inception in 1967, the agency currently boasts more than 11,000 acres and includes 56 parks, trails and beaches. The county organization is celebrating this milestone year with a slew of expanded programs, according to Caryl Hart, the current county director. "Whether you are standing on the banks of the Russian River, looking over the Santa Rosa Plain from north Sonoma Mountain or in the middle of the redwood grove at Riverfront, parks connect us to what is essential, real and timeless," Hart said.

Learn more by visiting [www.sonomacountyparks.org](http://www.sonomacountyparks.org)

**World Record Spot Certified**

THE 11-PLUS-pound spotted bass caught by California angler Nick Dulleck is now a world record. Dulleck, who caught the record fish Feb. 12 on Bullards Bar Reservoir in Northern California, is now recognized as the all-tackle world record-holder by the International Game Fish Association. His catch weighed 11-pounds, 4-ounces and measured a whopping 24 1/4 inches long with a girth of 20 3/4 inches.

**Tenaya Lodge Dog Park**

TENAYA LODGE at Yosemite National Park has upgraded the experience for their canine guests by building an off-leash dog facility. The fenced park is located on a quarter-acre under the shade of towering sugar pines and incense cedars. It features soft mulch footing ideal for weathering the High Sierra's changing seasons and for protecting sensitive paws against granite as they romp between doggie activity stations. Wooden benches provide the perfect perch for human companions to watch over their pups at play.

**Wildlife Area Flooded for Ducks**

THE GRAY Lodge Wildlife Area north of Sacramento is one of the most important wetland areas in the Pacific Flyway. Owned and managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, this 19,189-acre site supports as many as 1 million ducks and 100,000 geese during the winter while welcoming more than 60,000 visitors annually. Thanks to Ducks Unlimited, a recently completed project improved the natural flow of water and efficiently increased water deliverances and conveyance capabilities. This enabled water to be released into several reconstructed ponds, transforming several hundred formerly dry acres into additional suitable wetland habitat.

— DON VACHINI

**SEPTEMBER 15**

**MONTEREY JAZZ FESTIVAL**

The 60th Annual Monterey Jazz Festival takes place at the Monterey County Fairgrounds in Monterey Sept. 15-17. This event boasts hundreds of artists performing on eight stages. Music, food and drinks, exhibitions and more. [www.montereyjazzfestival.org](http://www.montereyjazzfestival.org)

**SEPTEMBER 22**

**OKTOBERFEST BY THE BAY**

One of the nation's top Oktoberfest celebrations is Sept. 22-24 in San Francisco. Food, drinks, music and more. Pier 48. Learn more online. [www.oktoberfestbythebay.com](http://www.oktoberfestbythebay.com)

**OCTOBER 14**

**ART AND PUMPKINS**

The Half Moon Bay Art and Pumpkin Festival is planned Oct. 14-15. Giant pumpkin weigh-offs will be held at the "World Pumpkin Capital." [www.pumpkinfest.miramarevents.com](http://www.pumpkinfest.miramarevents.com)

**NOVEMBER 2**

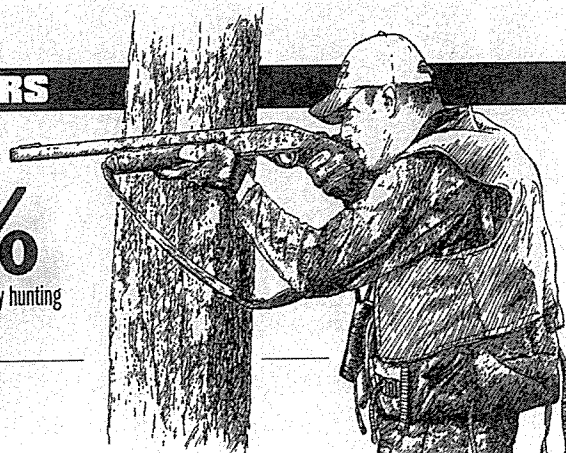
**FOOD AND WINE**

The Big Sur Food & Wine Festival is planned Nov. 2-4 in Big Sur. Get additional information on the event website. [www.bigsurfoodandwine.org](http://www.bigsurfoodandwine.org)

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**37%**

of Game&Fish readers who plan to buy hunting land want to purchase 50-199 acres.



**22%**

of those readers plan to purchase 11-49 acres.

**12%**

of that group want to buy 1-10 acres of land.

Source: Accelera Game & Fish Reader Survey 2016



**Red-Legged Frog Update**

THE CALIFORNIA red-legged frog population has vastly shrunk over the past two decades due to habitat loss, pollution and the rise of predatory bullfrogs. However, efforts continue to restore the species throughout the state, including transplanting eggs and tadpoles from nearby populations. Recently, the discovery of nine egg masses from a creek in the Santa Monica Mountains has researchers hopping for joy. These egg skeins reveal that after four years of effort, populations are showing signs of sustainability, according to Katy Delaney, a National Park Service ecologist with the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

**Yosemite Bears Online**

YOSEMITE NATIONAL Park rangers recently unveiled a website (Keep BearsWild.org), that enables wildlife enthusiasts around the world to follow the park's iconic black bears on their laptops or smartphones. The tracking tool, which pings the bears' steps from satellite, is designed to show where select bears, fitted with GPS collars, are located and where they are headed. According to Ryan Leahy, a National Park wildlife biologist, this technology is helping rangers learn even more about bears and how to protect them. The public website also helps raise awareness about the bear's habitat and how to protect them while in their natural habitat.

**Squaw Valley Ski App**

A NEW Squaw Valley-Alpine Meadows app makes navigating the ski season a lot easier. Created by SkiLynx, this app allows real-time group tracking for friends and family while showing their exact locations. Features include one-touch lift, trail and snow data for iPhone and Android devices as well as hiking maps, group features and performance-tracking of distances hiked, locations visited, pace and elevation gain. Users can also pre-purchase lift tickets directly from the mobile app. Learn more at [www.squawalpine.com](http://www.squawalpine.com).

**Photo of the Year**

WHILE SNAPPING several frames of a great blue heron on a half-day trip to Bodega Head along the Sonoma Coast, wildlife photographer Joshua Asel suddenly realized that he had captured a rare, predatory moment in life. One of his images revealed the heron with a snake in its beak, and inside the snake's mouth was a shrew. The stunning image was selected as California's Wildlife Photo of the Year for 2016 by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The annual competition highlights the diversity of the state's wildlife viewing experience and is sponsored by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

— DON VACHINI



**OCTOBER 21**

**GENERAL CHUKAR OPENS**

The general chukar season opener is planned for Oct. 21. Be sure to consult the regulations for more.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**NOVEMBER 2**

**BIG SUR FESTIVAL**

The Big Sur Food & Wine Festival is planned Nov. 2-4 in Big Sur. Learn more on the event website.

[www.bigsurfoodandwine.org](http://www.bigsurfoodandwine.org)

**NOVEMBER 11**

**GENERAL PHEASANT OPENS**

The general pheasant season opener is planned for Nov. 11. Check the regulations before heading afield.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**NOVEMBER 23**

**FOLSOM TURKEY TROT**

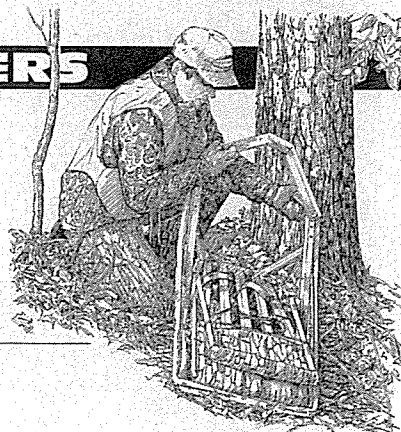
The Folsom Turkey Trot begins and ends at Folsom Lion's Park. Features 5K, 10K, family run and more. Register for the event online.

[www.folsomturkeytrot.com](http://www.folsomturkeytrot.com)

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**89%**

of Game&Fish readers own camouflage clothing.



**80%**

of our readers have tree stands or ladder stands.

**HALF**  
of all readers own ground blinds.

Source: Accelera Game & Fish Reader Survey 2015



**Pilot Peak Cutthroats Released**

A FAST-GROWING, long-living strain of trout native to the Truckee River Basin, the Lahontan cutthroat is noted for its large size. As part of a joint effort to bring a native, trophy sportfish to the Truckee system, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, along with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, recently began releasing catchable and sub-catchable-sized Pilot Peak strain Lahontan cutthroat into selected Truckee area waters. Stocked lakes include Boca, Donner, Echo, Fallen Leaf, Prosser, Stampede and Webber lakes. Annual plants will continue, with some exceptionally large trout expected to show beginning in two years.

**Tolay Park Expansion**

SONOMA COUNTY'S Tolay Lake Regional Park recently doubled in size with the gift of an adjoining 1,665-acre protected ranch from the Sonoma Land Trust. The expansive, grass-covered preserve, situated just northwest of Sonoma Raceway and bordering Highway 121, maintains a wildlife corridor that runs from Sonoma Mountain to San Pablo Bay. Currently under review for public use, the open space is used for guided tours, school events and is available to individuals on weekends only by special permit. Its master plan calls for the park to be open seven days a week, with 10 miles of hiking trails and 22 miles of multi-use trails for equestrians and bikers.

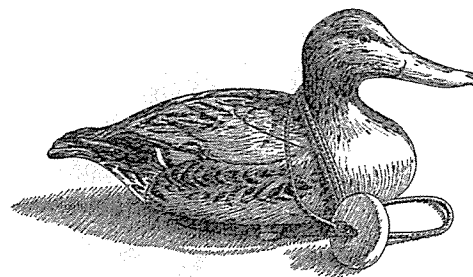
**Historic Ascent Without Ropes**

AN ELITE climber, Alex Honnold recently became the first to scale the 3,000-foot granite wall of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park without a safety harness or ropes. He accomplished the historic feat in just under four hours. Indoor rock climbing since he was 11 years old, the Northern California resident began training with protective gear for this historic climb more than two years ago. Honnold rehearsed and memorized each handhold and body position until he felt comfortable to attempt the "free solo" climb.

**Migratory Bird Treaty Anniversary**

THIS YEAR marks the 100-year anniversary of the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act between the United States and Canada. Designed specifically to help birds, this piece of legislation addressed the biggest, most immediate threat at the time: overharvesting. The pact's accomplishments include helping populations rebound to the millions and raising over \$14 billion for 30 million-acres of wetland conservation. Certain species continue to struggle from habitat loss. Today's legislation remains focused on current threats facing birds and how to overcome these issues.

— DON VACHINI



**NOVEMBER 23**

**FOLSOM TURKEY TROT**

The Folsom Turkey Trot begins and ends at Folsom Lions Park. Features 5K, 10K, family run and more. Register for the event online. [folsomturkeytrot.com](http://folsomturkeytrot.com)

**DECEMBER 1**

**POMONA HARVEST FESTIVAL**

The 45th Annual Harvest Festival takes place in Pomona Dec. 1-3. The festival features arts and crafts, specialty foods, entertainment and a kid's zone. Event details online. [harvestfestival.com](http://harvestfestival.com)

**DECEMBER 24**

**GENERAL PHEASANT CLOSES**

The general pheasant season that began Nov. 11 closes Dec. 24. Check the regulations before heading afield. [wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov)

**JANUARY 31**

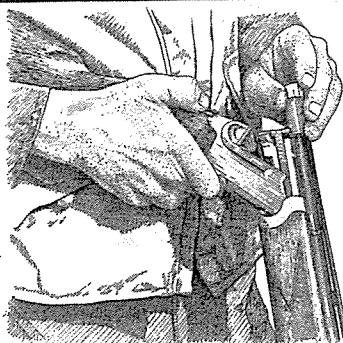
**REPORT CARDS DUE**

Jan. 31 is the last day for the return of abalone, steelhead, north coast salmon and sturgeon report cards. Consult the fishing regulations for additional details and online reporting information. [wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov)

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**68%**

of our readers own a pump shotgun



**46%**

of readers own an autoloader

**32%**

own an over-under or side-by-side shotgun

Source: Accellera Game & Fish Reader Survey 2018

### Steelhead Celebration

CELEBRATING THE return of the steelhead in the Russian River watershed, the annual Lake Sonoma Steelhead Festival will take place on Feb. 10 at the Milt Brandt Visitor Center and Warm Springs-Don Clausen Fish Hatchery east of Healdsburg. Geared heavily toward children, the event promotes understanding of the critical role natural resource agencies and conservation partners play in the stewardship of the Russian River fisheries. Features include interactive exhibits, displays, booths and activities courtesy of state and federal agencies plus non-profit conservation groups. The festival is hosted by the Friends of Lake Sonoma, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Sonoma County Water Agency and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Learn more at [www.lakesonoma.org](http://www.lakesonoma.org).

### Los Banos Birding Trail Opens

DURING FEBRUARY 2016, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife opened a new birding trail, located in the Los Banos Wildlife Area. The pathway will reopen annually on the third weekend in February and remain open through mid-June. The Wildlife Conservation Board provided funding for the 2.5-miles of paths that wind through multiple habitat types. Birders can expect to see numerous species of ducks, geese, wading birds and song birds. Each area contains interpretive signs that feature bird illustrations donated by artist John Muir Laws.

### Bay Area Water Trail

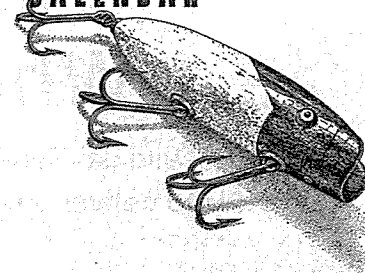
THE SAN FRANCISCO Bay Area Water Trail was begun in 2005 with a long-range vision of creating non-motorized boating access to the vast, interlocking puzzle of tidal waters in the Bay Area. Its intent is to create a network of launch and landing sites to inspire people in human-powered crafts to enjoy the historic, scenic, cultural and environmental richness of the San Francisco Bay area through multiple day and single-day trips. Future plans include kayaking campgrounds for overnight opportunities. Visit [www.sfbaywatertrail.org](http://www.sfbaywatertrail.org) to learn more.

### Bodega Bay Salmon Release

APPROXIMATELY 250,000 Chinook salmon smolts were recently released into Bodega Bay, providing a potential bright spot for the North Coast fishing fleet. Trucked directly to Sonoma County from the state-run Mokelumne River Hatchery, they are part of a continuing effort to augment the declining salmon stocks hit hard by previous season's drought. The tagged juveniles will be housed in custom-made net pens at Spud Point Marina for a few hours before being released into the outgoing tide.

—DON VACHINI

## CALIFORNIA CALENDAR



### JANUARY 31

#### REPORT CARDS DUE

Jan. 31 is the last day for the return of abalone, steelhead, north coast salmon and sturgeon report cards. Consult the fishing regulations for additional details and online reporting information. [www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

### FEBRUARY 6

#### GOOSE SEASON OPENER

The white geese opener for the Northeastern Zone is Feb. 6. Be sure to consult the regulations for additional details before hunting. [www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

### FEBRUARY 10

#### BAY BREEZE RUN

The Bay Breeze Half Marathon Run is planned Feb. 10. Beginning and ending at San Leandro Marina Park, the route has vistas of the San Francisco Bay. Includes 10K and 5K. [www.brazenracing.com](http://www.brazenracing.com)

### FEBRUARY 24

#### L.A. TRAVEL SHOW

Discover leading travel destinations Feb. 24-25 at the Los Angeles Travel & Adventure Show. Los Angeles Convention Center. [www.travelshows.com](http://www.travelshows.com)

## BY THE NUMBERS

Whatever your fishing tool — spin, fly or bait caster — now's the time to get it wet! See you on the water. — Editors

26%

of our readers fish with a fly rod

45.6%

own more than 5 spinning reels



1 in 5

own a fly rod

Source: Game & Fish reader survey by Accelera Research, 2015

### Instructors of the Year

THE CALIFORNIA Department of Fish and Wildlife named Sonoma County husband and wife Tom and Sharon Henderson as 2017 Hunter Education Instructors of the Year. This is the first time the honor has been awarded to two instructors. "The Hendersons are an amazing team who have dedicated so much to the Hunter Education Program. It would have been impossible not to recognize them both," said Lt. Bart Bundesen, who coordinates California's Hunter Education Program on the North Coast. The Hendersons teach an average of 25 classes a year at the Rancho Adobe Fire Department in Cotati. In 2016 alone, they taught 633 students. Those students and their parents offer frequent accolades about the instructors.

### Invasive New Zealand Mudsnails Found in Carmel River

THE CALIFORNIA Department of Fish and Wildlife has confirmed the presence of New Zealand mudsnails in Monterey County's Carmel River. The highly invasive, nonnative snails have been detected by the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District at multiple locations in the lower river. No mudsnails were found in locations upriver from Red Rock to the base of Los Padres Dam. CDFW urges visitors and those in the community to "clean, drain and dry" all recreational and fishing gear in order to prevent the further spread of the snails. It is illegal to import, possess or transport the mudsnails without a permit, and offenders can be cited.

### California Duck Survey Results

THE CALIFORNIA Department of Fish and Wildlife recently completed its annual waterfowl breeding population survey. The breeding population of mallards decreased from 263, 774 to 198, 392 (a decrease of 25 percent) and total ducks decreased from 417,791 to 396, 529 (a decrease of 19 percent). Given the abundant precipitation, low duck observations could be attributed to winter flooding of nesting habitat and the late flooding of the Sacramento Valley. Surveyed areas include wetland and agricultural areas in northeastern California, throughout the Sacramento Valley, the Suisun Marsh and some coastal valleys.

### Tule Elk Population Study

THE ROCKY Mountain Elk Foundation and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife are studying the population patterns of resident tule elk in both Lake and Colusa counties. Using helicopters and net guns, biologists captured 46 elk and fitted them with GPS tracking collars. This will provide deeper insight into herd movements, social interactions and depredation impacts on surrounding ranches. The new information will help biologists set more accurate tag quotas and allow for better overall management of the herd.

— DON VACHINI

## CALIFORNIA CALENDAR



### FEBRUARY 24

#### LA TRAVEL SHOW

Discover leading travel destinations Feb. 24-25 at the Los Angeles Travel & Adventure Show. Los Angeles Convention Center. Learn more online. [travelshows.com](http://travelshows.com)

### MARCH 10

#### GOOSE SEASON CLOSING

White goose season for the Northeastern Zone ends March 10. Be sure to consult the regulations for additional details before hunting. [wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov)

### MARCH 17

#### ST PATRICK'S DAY EVENTS

San Francisco's St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival is planned March 17. The festival includes arts and crafts, food and more. [sresproductions.com](http://sresproductions.com)

### MARCH 31

#### GENERAL TURKEY

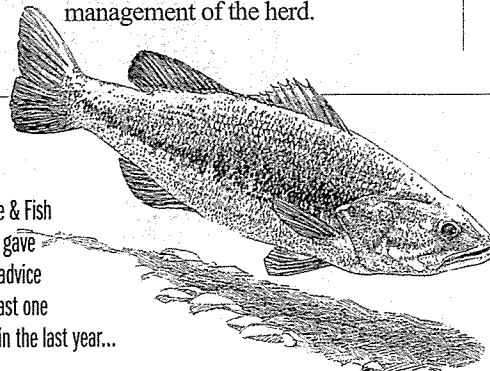
The opening day of general turkey hunting season is March 31. Check the regulations for exceptions, limits and more information. [wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov)

## BY THE NUMBERS

Fishermen, by nature, like to keep secrets about baits, locations and lure colors. But G&F readers aren't shy about their skills.

— Editors

**45%** of Game & Fish readers gave fishing advice to at least one person in the last year...



**22.4%** advised more than 5 people in the last year.

**7 in 8** teach an average of 10 other people on fishing topics.

Source: Game & Fish reader survey by Acclerata Research, 2015

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### Morro Bay Joins the Whale Trail

AN ONLINE database spanning California to British Columbia, the Whale Trail allows visitors to access the exact coordinates on locations to view whales from shore as well as information on varied species that thrive there. Recently, Morro Bay officially joined this site. The best local vantage point is Morro Strand State Beach where it is possible to spot humpback whales, blue whales, dolphins and killer whales from mid-April through mid-December. Visit [www.morrobay.org](http://www.morrobay.org) for additional info.

### Bass Lake Tugboat Tours

BASS LAKE, a family friendly getaway in the Sierra National Forest south of Yosemite National Park, recently expanded its recreational boat offerings to include a newly acquired 1959 Skagit Tugboat. During their heyday, these vessels were used to tow equipment and pull log barges but now this this tugboat will haul humans visiting this lake. The boat, based in Miller's Landing Resort, conducts 2 hour-long sunset tours on which shoreline features are pointed out and refreshments are enjoyed. The tug's electric engine creates no noise so the sights can be taken in peacefully.

### Ducks Unlimited Project

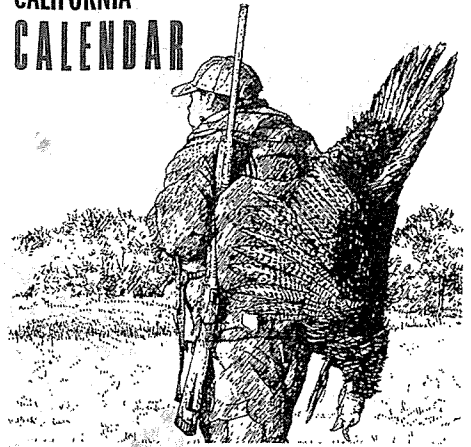
DUCK'S UNLIMITED recently completed the first phase of a project intended to benefit a multitude of waterfowl and other wildlife species in and around San Francisco Bay. The San Francisco Bay Creosote Removal and Pacific Herring Habitat Restoration Project removed creosote-covered wood pilings that once held up piers and warehouses in Richmond but subsequently poisoned fish as they decayed. With the demolition phase of the project complete, the restoration phase is scheduled to commence in 2018. This phase will consist of fabricating and placing artificial oyster reefs, planting eelgrass and other habitat restoration activities.

### California Angling Third in Nation

A RECENT survey conducted by the American Sportfishing Association found that California ranked in the top three in the nation as a recreational angling hot spot. The state was given that ranking because it has 2.7 million anglers. Texas, with its 3.1 million anglers, claimed first in the rankings while Florida came in second with 2.73 million. According to the collected data, angling in California generated \$2.31 billion in sales, which also landed the state in third place nationally. Florida led with \$4.06 billion in sales and New York followed with \$2.41 billion.

— DON VACHINI

### CALIFORNIA CALENDAR



#### MARCH 31

##### GENERAL TURKEY

The opening day of general turkey hunting season is March 31. Check the regulations.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

#### APRIL 1

##### PARADE AND CELEBRATION

The San Francisco Easter Parade and Spring Celebration is planned April 1. The event features kid's games, bounce house, petting zoo, Easter bonnet contest and a parade on Union Street.

[www.events12.com/sanfrancisco](http://www.events12.com/sanfrancisco)

#### APRIL 1

##### EASTER AT THE ZOO

Big Bunny's Spring Fling includes music, crafts, rabbit petting, entertainment and treats at the Los Angeles Zoo.

[www.events12.com/losangeles](http://www.events12.com/losangeles)

#### APRIL 21

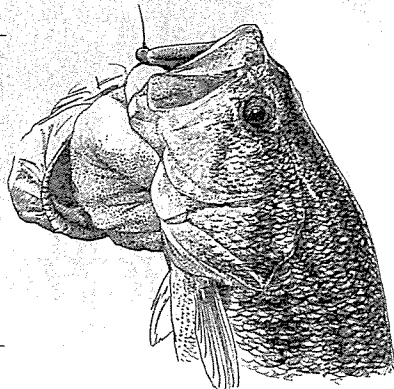
##### WHOLE EARTH AND WATERSHED FESTIVAL

The Whole Earth and Watershed Festival is planned April 21 in Redding. Activities include exhibitors, artists, live music, food and craft beer along with opportunities to learn about healthy living and restoring a healthy planet.

[www.wholeearthandwatershedfestival.org](http://www.wholeearthandwatershedfestival.org)

### BY THE NUMBERS

**78%** of Game & Fish readers regularly spool up with monofilament



**5 OUT OF 10** readers use fluorocarbon

**52.6%** use braid

Source: Game & Fish reader survey by Accelara Research, 2015



## IN THE FIELD

### Heritage Trout Challenge

SINCE ITS creation, California's Heritage Trout Program has brought awareness of the state's native trout and welcomed more than 300 anglers who have successfully completed the California Heritage Trout Challenge. More than a dozen anglers have achieved "Master Angler" recognition, signifying they have caught all 11 recognized forms of native trout in California. To qualify for the challenge, anglers must catch six different forms of the native trout in their historic range. This includes coastal, Lahontan and Paiute cutthroat and eight subspecies of rainbow trout — coastal, Eagle Lake, Kern River, California golden, Little Kern golden, McCloud River redband, Goose Lake redband and Warner Lakes redband. For more information, contact Jeff Weaver who heads the program, online at [wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Inland\\_Fisheries/Wild-Trout](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Inland_Fisheries/Wild-Trout).

### CDFW Instructors of the Year

THE CALIFORNIA Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) recently named Sonoma County husband and wife, Tom and Sharon Henderson, as 2017 Hunter Education Instructors of the Year, the first time the honor has been awarded to two instructors. The Hendersons teach an average of 25 classes a year at the Rancho Adobe Fire Department in Cotati, in addition to mentoring many new instructors. "They are an incredible asset to new hunters and the CDFW," says Lt. Bart Bundesen, who coordinates California's Hunter Education Program on the North Coast. "It would have been impossible not to recognize them both."

### Tahoe's New Bike Program

LIMEBIKE, A pilot program of cutting-edge, lime-green "smart" bicycles, was launched in July 2017 in South Lake Tahoe. Each bike features a solar panel in the basket that charges a battery that controls the locking system, 3G WiFi and GPS. Download the smart phone app, scan the bike's bar code and take a ride. The cost is \$1 for 30 minutes. The app locates the nearest bike if one isn't within the user's sight. Visit online at [LimeBike.com](http://LimeBike.com) for more information.

### Death Valley Resort Renaissance

FURNACE CREEK Resort, built in the 1930s to showcase Death Valley, is undergoing a multi-million-dollar renaissance and name change. Taking place in three phases, the renovation includes accommodations, public facilities, accessibility, landscaping and energy conservation. The property will re-emerge as The Oasis at Death Valley. For more information, visit [OasisAtDeathValley.com](http://OasisAtDeathValley.com).

—DON VACHINI

## BY THE NUMBERS

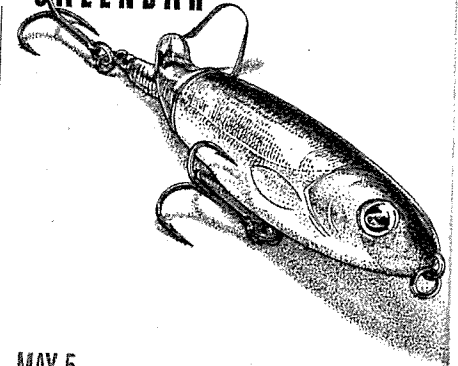
**\$46** billion is the amount U.S. anglers spend annually on fishing trips, equipment, licenses, lodging and other associated items.



**29.5** million anglers devote 373 million days a year to freshwater fishing.

**8.3** million anglers fish saltwater annually and 1.8 million fish the Great Lakes.

## CALIFORNIA CALENDAR



MAY 5

### LINCOLN PACE RACE

The Lincoln Pace Race held in Lincoln benefits Placer County Schools and Alzheimers Association. The event features 5K/10K/Kids runs, a salsa contest, beer tasting and music.

[VisitPlacer.com](http://VisitPlacer.com)

MAY 13

### MOTHER'S DAY TRIATHALON

The 7th Annual Mother's Day Triathlon and Duathlon for Women Only, held at Granite Beach in Folsom Lake, features swim, bike and run, plus three Relay Team Divisions and a Mother's Light Wave regardless of age.

[active.com/granite-bay-ca-races](http://active.com/granite-bay-ca-races)

MAY 19-20

### CALIFORNIA STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

The California Strawberry Festival, held at the Strawberry Meadows of College Park in Oxnard, is a two-day event that showcases strawberry products, live music, pie-eating contests, arts/crafts and a mini-train.

[CAStrawberryFestival.org](http://CAStrawberryFestival.org)

MAY 25-27

### CALIFORNIA ROOTS FESTIVAL

California Roots Festival in Monterey, a three-day event held at the Monterey Bay County Fairgrounds, is one of the largest Reggae Festivals in the state.

[MusicFestivalWizard.com/festivals](http://MusicFestivalWizard.com/festivals)

## Cannabis Restoration Projects

FOUR PROJECTS were selected to receive funding for habitat restoration within California's northern coastal watersheds most impacted by unregulated cannabis cultivation. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife announced the awards, totaling \$1.3 million.

"These grants mark an important step forward in our efforts to address the extensive damage to habitat and toxic chemicals threatening a host of wild species," DFW Director Charlton H. Bonham said. General information about the Grant Program can be found online at [Wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Cannabis-Restoration-Grant](http://Wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Cannabis-Restoration-Grant).

## Sacramento Valley DU Project

DUCKS UNLIMITED was recently awarded a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant to conserve 3,635 acres of wetlands and associated upland habitat in the Sacramento Valley. The improvements will benefit a variety of wintering, migrating and breeding waterfowl, shorebirds and other water birds. DU will collaborate with a group of federal, state, local and private partners — aka the Butte and Colusa Basins Wetlands Project. Approximately \$3.8 million in partner funds and \$1 million in NAWCA grant funds will deliver the restoration and enhancement work.

## Bears Head to Nevada

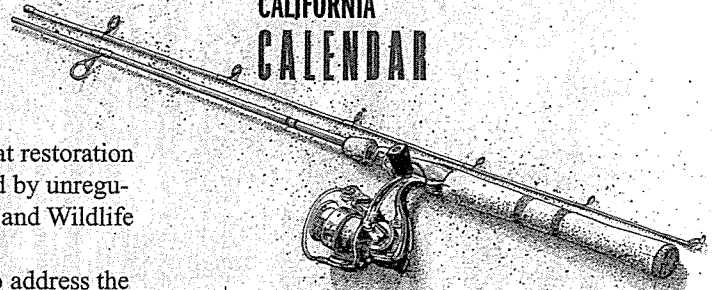
ACCORDING TO a recent study, black bears are making their way east from the Sierra Nevada Mountains where they stretch north and south of Lake Tahoe along the California border. Recent generations have moved hundreds of miles to their original sites, according to Jon Beckmann, a conservation scientist for the Wildlife Conservation Society in Bozeman, Montana, who co-authored the new study.

## California's Top Adventure Destinations

THE AUTOMOBILE Association of America's *Via* magazine listed the 100 Best Adventures in the West in its fall 2017 issue. California landed 23 destinations in the top 50 (rankings shown here): 1 – Yosemite National Park; 3 – Muir Woods National Monument; 7 – Mount Shasta; 16 – The Willits Skunk Train; 17 – Lake Tahoe; 18 – US Highway 1 (from Bodega Bay to Fort Bragg); 19 – The California Railroad Museum in Sacramento; 24 – Catalina Island; 26 – The 17-Mile Drive; 31 – Napa Valley Wine Tours; 32 – Santa Rosa's Russian River Brewing Company; 38 – Golden Gate Park in San Francisco; 39 – Lava Beds National Monument; 41 – Mount Diablo State Park; and 42 – Death Valley National Monument.

— DON VACHINI

## CALIFORNIA CALENDAR



### JUNE 3

#### BIG BASIN 50K AND MARATHON

Held in Los Gatos, this event along scenic routes begins at Saratoga Gap along Skyline Boulevard and ends at Waddell Beach along the Pacific Ocean.

[CoastalTrailRuns.com/BigBasin50](http://CoastalTrailRuns.com/BigBasin50).

### JUNE 15-17

#### MAMMOTH LAKES MOTOCROSS/FISHING DERBY

Combine the 50th Annual Mammoth Motocross — the oldest continuous-running motocross in the USA — with the Fred Hall Father's Day Fishing Derby. Held in Mammoth Lakes.

[MammothMotocross.com](http://MammothMotocross.com)

[VisitMammoth.com](http://VisitMammoth.com).

### JUNE 23-24

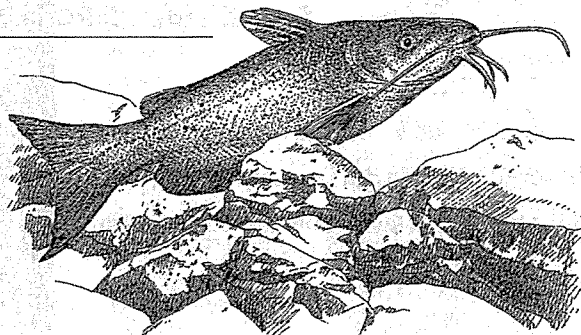
#### COASTAL TRAIL BIRD WALK

Mendocino County's Coastal Trail Bird Walk is held in Fort Bragg. Meet near the restroom at the foot of Elm Street. Bring water and comfortable walking shoes. Binoculars available.

[Mendocino.com/EventFestival](http://Mendocino.com/EventFestival).

## BY THE NUMBERS

**84%** of Game&Fish readers fish lakes or reservoirs



**2 in 5** G&F freshwater fishermen caught catfish in the last year

**25%** of G&F readers caught saltwater fish in the last year

Source: US Fish & Wildlife Service 2016 national survey.

## Regulators Plan Salton Sea Rescue

CALIFORNIA REGULATORS recently approved a 10-year, \$400-million plan to slow the shrinking of the Salton Sea. A vital migratory stop for birds and a buffer against swirling dust, the state's largest lake was created in 1905. The lake also supplies water for farming, which provides the US with much of its winter vegetables. The plan would create a smaller but more sustainable lake and involves building ponds on the northern and southern ends of the lake. The future lake would cover 29,800 acres of its current 48,300 acres.

## CWA Waterfowl Hunts Lift Outdoor Recreation

THE CALIFORNIA Waterfowl Association's (CWA) Hunt Program gives all hunters the opportunity to experience some exceptional outdoor recreation opportunities, ranging from the Klamath Basin to the southern San Joaquin Valley. In addition to providing hunts to the general public via an application-based lottery system, CWA also offers first-come-first-served specialty hunts for families, youth and women. In 2013, it also founded the Veteran Hunt Program that provides waterfowl, dove and turkey hunts for servicemen and women. Visit [CalWaterFowl.org](http://CalWaterFowl.org) for more details.

## California Elk on Rebound

RECENTLY RELEASED California elk population figures reveal steady increases in the herds, growing from 3,500 to 13,000 animals over four decades. Each of the state's 22 isolated herds were managed individually, but the draft Statewide Elk Conservation and Management Plan seeks to coordinate these efforts. The goal is to improve elk's genetic diversity and grazing lands with an eye toward boosting herds by at least another 10 percent. "We had no comprehensive statewide plan for elk herds," said Joe Hobbs, a senior environmental scientist for the CDFW.

## Salmon Habitat Partnership Created

CALIFORNIA TROUT and Trout Unlimited have signed an agreement to serve as founders of the new Central Valley Salmon Habitat Partnership. The deal is a collaboration between resource agencies, conservation groups, fishing advocates and water suppliers to help reverse the decline of Central Valley salmon and steelhead. This action follows adoption of the new Central Valley Flood Protection Plan, which integrates reducing flood risks and restoring ecosystem health by expanding floodplains, floodways and flood bypasses to provide myriad benefits for migrating salmonids.

— DON VACHINI

## CALIFORNIA CALENDAR



JULY 4

### 3RD ANNUAL FAMILY BARN DANCE

Held in Topanga on the wooded grounds of the Theatricum Botanicum. The All-American hoe-down features fiddlers, dancing, games, relay races and pie-eating contests.

[theatricum.com](http://theatricum.com)

JULY 7

### GOLDEN GATE TRAIL RUN

Beginning in Sausalito, this race features vistas of the Pacific Coast, the Golden Gate Bridge and the Marin Headlands. Individual races cover 31 miles, 26.2 miles, 18 miles, 13.1 miles and 5 miles.

[CoastalTrailRuns.com](http://CoastalTrailRuns.com)

AUGUST 2-5

### DEL NORTE COUNTY FAIR

Celebrating 125 years of fun, and known as the "Best Little Fair" in the state, the event is held at the Del Norte Fairgrounds in Crescent City.

[DNfair.org](http://DNfair.org)

AUGUST 23-24

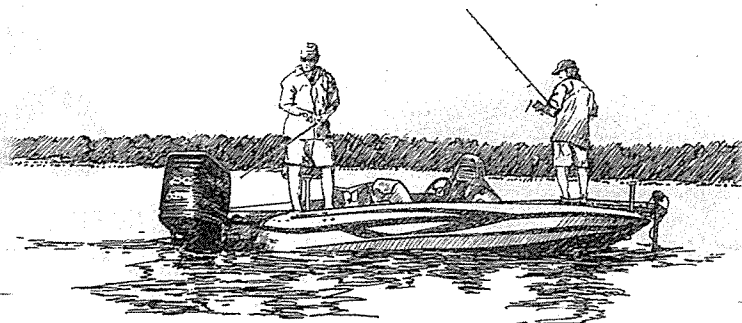
### 20TH ANNUAL BODEGA SEAFOOD, ART AND WINE FESTIVAL

Held in Bodega, this two-day event combines delicious food, wine and spectacular entertainment.

[SonomaCounty.com/blog](http://SonomaCounty.com/blog)

## BY THE NUMBERS

**65%** of Game & Fish anglers fish for largemouth bass.



**lin4**  
G&F readers own  
bass boats, john boats  
or canoes and kayaks.

Source: Game & Fish reader survey by Kocellia Research, 2015



## Drones over California

IN ADDITION to knowing how to pilot a personal drone, operators of drones in California must also become familiar with certain safety-oriented responsibilities. The first basic rule is no flying more than 400 feet in altitude, which creates a buffer between the drone and manned aircraft. Drones also are not allowed within 5 miles of an airport and should not fly at night. Solid smartphone applications for drone pilots include B4UFLY, which helps determine whether there are any restrictions or requirements in effect where you want to fly; and UAV Forecast, which checks the weather. For additional information, search "drone rules" online at [from-whereidrone.com](http://from-whereidrone.com).

## DU Grants Enhance Waterfowl

DUCKS UNLIMITED and partners Biggs-West Gridley Water District were recently awarded more than \$58 million to improve water-delivery systems on Gray Lodge Wildlife Area and Sutter National Wildlife Refuge. The proposed work on these high-priority landscapes for waterfowl will create 13,000 acre feet of water conveyance capacity, which will help ensure reliable delivery of water supplies to the wildlife areas.

## Yellowstone Kelly Trail Opens

THE 4.5-mile Paradise Memorial Trailway was recently renamed the Yellowstone Kelly Heritage Trail, paying tribute to the proud tradition of the community of Paradise through a series of monuments depicting families, individuals and events that shaped this community from 1850 through 1950. One of Paradise's early citizens, Luther Sage Kelly, aka Yellowstone Kelly, was a famous trapper, miner and scout at the turn of the century, as well as a trusted confidant of Theodore Roosevelt. Located in the Sierra Nevada foothills, this trail will connect the pathway to Stirling and Chico.

## Burney Launches New App

THE BURNEY Basin, tucked between Mount Shasta and Mount Lassen, is an outdoor Mecca, highly noted for both hunting and fishing destinations. The Burney Chamber of Commerce recently created a new interactive website — [burneychamber.com](http://burneychamber.com) — which highlights the recreational opportunities in the Intermountain area of Northern California. It provides visitors with resources and information for recreation, hiking, boating, hunting and fishing. Visitors to the website will be able to access a mobile interactive guide application that can be used without internet access. The Chamber will also offer customizable vacation packages that will unlock special deals for lodging, dining, fitness and recreation.

—DON VACHINI

## CALIFORNIA CALENDAR



### SEPTEMBER 1-2

#### HIGHLAND GAMES

The 153rd Scottish Highland Gathering and Games. A celebration of Scottish culture, competition and entertainment held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton.

[thescottishgames.com](http://thescottishgames.com).

### SEPTEMBER 1-15

#### DOVE HUNTING

Season opener for mourning and white-winged dove hunting.

[wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov).

### SEPTEMBER 8-12

#### HALF MARATHON IN THE HILLS

Annual Lagoon Valley Trail Half-Marathon. Held outside of Vacaville, this race is for all runners' levels and showcases beautiful views amid rolling hills. 30k, 10k, 5k and half-mile races all begin at Lagoon Valley Regional Park.

[luckyrabbitevents.com](http://luckyrabbitevents.com).

### SEPTEMBER 9

#### QUAIL HUNTING

Season opener for Mountain Quail, Zone Q1.

[wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov).

# WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

*Game & Fish readers are hardcore sportsmen, and don't all sportsmen have an opinion? You bet. We want to hear your thoughts on our fishing and hunting stories, our gear coverage and how the magazine is laid out. Is there something we're missing? Can we do a better job? We know you have an opinion. Let's hear it...*

#### CONTACT US

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TEXT: 404-934-8928

MAIL: Bob Borgwat / GAME & FISH

3330 Chastain Meadows Pkwy,

Ste 200, Kennesaw, GA 30144





## Sea Lion Populations Increase

ACCORDING TO a study released by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the population of California sea lions has tripled in the past 40 years to more than 250,000 animals. Pointing to a recently released study, biologists said strict environmental laws to protect marine mammals have worked so well, California sea lions have become the first marine mammal that lives along the entire West Coast to recover to its natural carrying capacity. The NOAA findings revealed the sea lion populations have jumped from an estimated 88,924 in 1975 to 257,606 in 2014.

## Coho Salmon Released In Marin

BIOLOGISTS FROM the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the National Park Service recently released nearly 200 adult coho salmon in Marin County's Redwood Creek. The effort is intended to boost the declining numbers of the salmon in the small coastal stream at Muir Beach and prevent its extinction. The adults stocked were collected as juveniles from the creek in 2015 and reared to adulthood at the Warm Springs Fish Hatchery near Healdsburg. The Redwood Creek Coho Restoration Project is part of a broader effort to restore and sustain coho runs along the central and Northern California coast.

## DFW Grants Target Salmon Resources

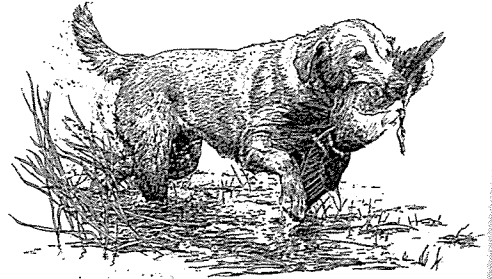
THE CALIFORNIA Department of Fish and Wildlife has announced the selection of 38 projects that will receive grants, totaling \$14.4 million, distributed through the CDFW's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program. Nearly \$500,000 is allocated for timber-legacy restoration projects, and approximately \$13.9 million is slated for anadromous restoration projects. FRGP monies come from a combination of state sources and the federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund. "It remains important as ever to support the work of our state's restoration leaders through projects like these," said CDFW director Charlton Bonham.

## Wild Cats Tour Displays 20 Endangered Species

THE WILD Cat Education and Conservation Fund campus, located in Western Sonoma County near the town of Occidental, allows viewing of 20 endangered wildcats. Founded in 1993, the fund supports small, grass-roots organizations that work directly in the field to conserve wild feline species. Campus residents include a snow leopard, African leopard, cougar, lynx, cheetah and ocelot. The organization's goal is to educate the public about the decreasing population of wild-cat species worldwide. Tours are available by reservation at (707) 874-3176.

—DON VACHINI

## CALIFORNIA CALENDAR



### OCTOBER 1

#### DEER SEASON CLOSURES

General deer season closure: Zone B-4, C-4. Check regulations.

[dfg.ca.gov](http://dfg.ca.gov).

### OCTOBER 14

#### DEER SEASON OPENERS

Opening day of general deer season: Zones D-11, D-13, D-5 and D-17. Check regulations.

[dfg.ca.gov](http://dfg.ca.gov).

### OCTOBER 21

#### WATERFOWL SEASON OPENER

Waterfowl season opener for the balance of the state zone, Colorado River zone, Southern California zone and the Southern San Joaquin Valley zone. Check regulations.

[wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Waterfowl](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Waterfowl).

### OCTOBER 29

#### ARCHERY SEASON CLOSES

Closing day of archery deer season, D-12 zone. Check regulations.

[dfg.ca.gov](http://dfg.ca.gov).

# WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

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#### CONTACT US

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TEXT: 404-934-8928

MAIL: Bob Borgwat / GAME & FISH

3330 Chastain Meadows Pkwy.,

Ste. 200, Kennesaw, GA 30144



## State Legislature Honors Ducks Unlimited

THE CALIFORNIA State Senate and Assembly recently presented Ducks Unlimited (DU) with dual resolutions celebrating its 80th anniversary and its conservation work by staff and volunteers in the state. Western Region director of operations Mark Biddlecomb, chairman of the board Paul Bonderson Jr., state chairman Jan Young, director of development Anne Hansen, and director of public policy Gary Link accepted the resolutions on behalf of DU. "It is an honor for Ducks Unlimited to be recognized by the senators and assembly members, which is a well-deserved acknowledgement of DU and California working together on our wetlands," Bonderson said.

## Ocean-Released Salmon Appear to Lift Return Rate

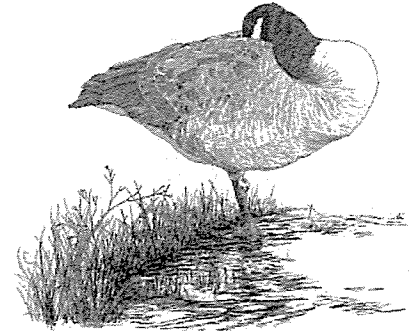
THE ESTIMATED 2017 ocean recoveries of 2-year-old, nose-tagged, hatchery salmon smolts directly released in the ocean results in a greater number of returning adults, according to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Fisheries technicians in 2015 at the Mokelumne River Hatchery ocean-released 6,560,000 smolts; 14,137 were recovered in 2017, marking a return rate of 0.2155 percent. That still sounds like a small return of adult salmon from among almost 7 million smolts, but consider these return rates for hatcheries that practice in-river release of smolts. According to CDFW data, the Feather River Hatchery released 9,064,000 and 10,752 were recovered for a 0.1186 percent return rate; the Nimbus Hatchery released 4,160,000 smolts with a 0.0598 percent recovery; the Coleman National Fish Hatchery on Battle Creek released 12,136,000 smolts with a return rate of 0.0183 percent. Salmon smolts released in rivers must swim as much as 100 miles or more to get to the sea.

## CDFW's R-3 Program

ASIDE FROM its main budget support from the state, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is seeking to implement strategies for other revenue-raising sources. Embarking on what it calls its "R3 Program," CDFW aims to recruit new outdoor enthusiasts to boost license revenue, retain existing license holders, and re-activate those whose licenses have expired. Available now, the public's purchase of the CDFW Warden Stamp benefits the department's Law Enforcement Division. According to the CDFW, purchase of this \$5 decal (which can be displayed on vehicles and other items) helps procure vital equipment and protective gear, and supports training for wildlife officers and the K-9 Program. The Warden Stamp Program was initiated in 2010 to address the need for better equipment and training for the state's wildlife officers and to provide funding for special law enforcement programs. For more information, go to [wildlife.ca.gov/warden-stamp](http://wildlife.ca.gov/warden-stamp).

— DON VACHINI

## CALIFORNIA CALENDAR



### NOVEMBER 7

#### CANADA GOOSE HUNTING SEASON

Opening day, North Coast Zone.

[wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Waterfowl](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Waterfowl).

### NOVEMBER 9

#### REEL ROCK 13 FILM TOUR

An oasis for climbing aficionados. Adventure and climbing films. The Rio Theater, Santa Cruz.

[reelrocktour.com](http://reelrocktour.com)

### NOVEMBER 11

#### PHEASANT HUNTING SEASON

General statewide pheasant season opener.

[wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Upland-Game-Birds](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Upland-Game-Birds).

### NOVEMBER 11

#### DOVE HUNTING SEASON

Opening day statewide of the second half of dove season. No limits on the take of Eurasian doves.

[wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Upland-Game-Birds](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Upland-Game-Birds).

### NOVEMBER 11

#### FALL WILD TURKEY HUNTS

Fall wild turkey season opener with daily bag of one bird, either sex, two birds per season.

[wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Upland-Game-Birds](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Upland-Game-Birds).

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## Paiute Cutthroat Trout Reintroduced

THE CALIFORNIA Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service recently returned Paiute cutthroat to its original habitat after a 71-year absence. In 1994, the agencies combined resources and developed a Paiute restoration plan. Eventually, that plan, between 2013 and 2015, directed the agencies to treat 11 miles of Silver King Creek and three of its tributaries to remove all non-native fishes from the trout's ancestral waters. In 2017, agency staff retrieved 86 pure-strain descendants from a refuge creek in Inyo County's White Mountain Wilderness. A mule team hauled them to Silver King Creek above Llewellyn Falls. Learn more about this rare species of trout at [wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Fishes/Paiute-Cutthroat-Trout](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Fishes/Paiute-Cutthroat-Trout).

## Scarred Habitat Rebounds in Sonoma County Parks

HEALING AND restoration are under way on 2,600 acres of land operated by Sonoma County Regional Parks, as the regrowth of grasses and wildflowers follow the devastating wildfires of October 2018. SCRIP is a network 56 parks with trails, covering thousands of acres of unique landscapes. Visitors can take advantage of guided hikes, family activities, school field trips, senior outings and bilingual programs. For more information, visit the SCRIP website at [sonomacountyparks.org](http://sonomacountyparks.org).

## Improvements to Restore Access to Bridalveil Fall

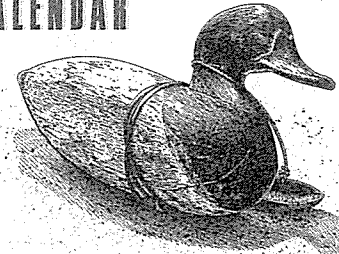
YOSEMITE NATIONAL Park officials are putting the final touches on plans for a \$13 million restoration of public access to Bridalveil Fall, a breathtaking waterfall in Yosemite Valley. Besides a larger parking lot, the new plan will feature modern flush toilets, interpretive signs, wider hiking trails, wooden boardwalks and more accessible features designed in the classic granite-and-pine national park style of the 1930s. The improvements are funded in part by the nonprofit Yosemite Conservancy and a grant authorized by the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2020.

## Lake Tahoe Clarity Efforts

AS PART of an effort to restore Lake Tahoe's water clarity, the Tahoe Resource Conservation District in California recently announced the acquisition of Johnson Meadow. This 206-acre area once served as a natural water filter that helped reduce the amount of fine sediment flowing in Lake Tahoe. The \$8.3 million acquisition will restore and preserve wildlife habitat and open space, create public access to portions of the upper Truckee River floodplain, and prevent additional environmental degradation from grazing.

—DON VACHINI

## CALIFORNIA CALENDAR



### DECEMBER 24-25

#### CHRISTMAS ON ICE

Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink.  
Open Christmas Eve, 10 am to 9 pm;  
Christmas Day, 12 pm to 9 pm.  
[godowntownsac.com](http://godowntownsac.com)

### DECEMBER 30

#### BRAZEN NEW YEARS' EVE HALF MARATHON

5K, 10K and half-marathon runs  
on the trails at Lake Chabot in Castro Valley.  
[brazenracing.com](http://brazenracing.com)

### JANUARY 18-21

#### MORRO BAY WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL

See, photograph and learn about birds of the Pacific Flyway.  
[morrobaybirdfestival.org](http://morrobaybirdfestival.org)

### JANUARY 31

#### STATE FISHERIES REPORT CARDS

Steelhead, sturgeon and abalone Report Cards  
to be reported to the California Department of  
Fish and Wildlife.  
[wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov)

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## Steelhead Festival Observes Russian River Fishery

THE 11TH annual Lake Sonoma Steelhead Festival, honoring the return of the steelhead in the Russian River, takes place 10 am to 4 pm, Feb. 9. Featuring more than 50 exhibitors, interactive projects, hatchery tours and stream tours, the popular event at the Milt Brandt Visitor Center and Warm Springs-Don Clausen Fish Hatchery, east of Healdsburg, is heavily geared toward children and promotes the critical role natural resource agencies and conservation groups play in the stewardship of the Russian River. Learn more at [lakesonoma.org](http://lakesonoma.org).

## Data Reveals Fishing Participation Up

THE RECREATIONAL Boating and Fishing Foundation recently revealed participation in fishing has increased for the second year in a row. The Outdoor Recreation Participation Report and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's historical fishing license sales data both show fishing participation increased 4 percent; fishing license sales rose 1.3 percent; and female participation in fishing increased 3.1 percent.

The 2018 Special Report is available for download at [takemefishing.org](http://takemefishing.org).

## Partnership to Purchase Klamath Salmon Sanctuary

IN PARTNERSHIP with the Yurok Tribe, the non-profit Western Rivers Conservancy and US Bankcorp Community Development Corporation raised \$16.25 million to purchase the lower 25 miles of Blue Creek in the Klamath River watershed to create a sanctuary for salmon.

"The Yurok Tribe has been reunited with its ancestral lands, and WRC has finally ensured that Blue Creek, the lifeline of the Klamath River, will always be a source of cold, clean water and a refuge for fish and wildlife that depend on it," says WRC president Sue Doroff.

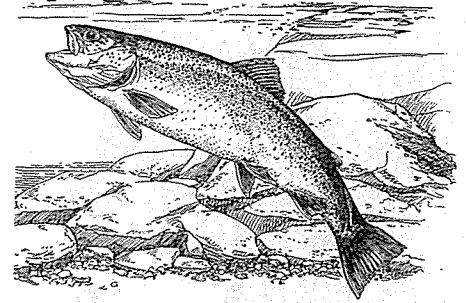
## Scholarships Awarded for Fisheries Field Work

AS PART of its Bittner Memorial Scholarship Program, California Fly Fishers Unlimited, awarded this year's scholarship to Pete Moniz, a UCD graduate student, who is studying the effectiveness of restoration projects on juvenile rearing habitat for salmon and steelhead on the Yuba, American, Mokelumne, Stanislaus, Merced and San Joaquin Rivers.

The Bittner program also awarded \$2,000 to purchase telemetry equipment to tag and radio track trout in the Little Truckee River between Boca and Stampede Reservoirs near Truckee; and 5,750 to provide pack stock and packer services for state fisheries crews to complete a multiyear assessment of the golden trout. Based in Sacramento, CFFU has made generous grants totaling \$22,900 since 1993.

— DON VACHINI

## CALIFORNIA CALENDAR



### FEBRUARY 3

#### SAN FRANCISCO HALF-MARATHON

The Kaiser Permanente event includes a 5K run. Both runs begin and end in Golden Gate Park. [getfitkpsf.com](http://getfitkpsf.com)

### FEBRUARY 10

#### HOLLYWOOD SIGN TRAIL RUN

The 12K and 6K trail-runs pass through historic Griffith Park. [marathons.ahotu.com](http://marathons.ahotu.com)

### FEBRUARY 14

#### VALENTINE'S DAY WINE TRAIN

Take a three-hour ride through wine country, while enjoying lunch and libations. [winetrain.com](http://winetrain.com).

### FEBRUARY 22-24

#### PLEASANTON FLY-FISHING SHOW

Casting demonstrations, films, classes, celebrity speakers and fly tying at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. [rvboatfishinghuntingoutdoors.com](http://rvboatfishinghuntingoutdoors.com)

### FEBRUARY 23-24

#### CLAM CHOWDER COOK-OFF & FESTIVAL

Enjoy clam-chowder recipes prepared by custom chefs along the Boardwalk in Santa Cruz. [beachboardwalk.com](http://beachboardwalk.com)

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## SF Casting Club Turns 85

SAN FRANCISCO'S world-renowned Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club recently celebrated its 85th birthday. Formed in 1933, the Anglers Lodge and Casting Pools situated in Golden Gate Park still serve as its headquarters. Growing to more than 1,200 members, the second-oldest club of its kind in the United States provides a comfort zone for fishing enthusiasts to share their interest in casting, rod designs, fly-tying, swapping fishing stories and helping anglers hone their skills. Free lessons are available at the Anglers Ponds, accommodating all levels of casters.

In addition to an active membership events calendar, the GGACC hosts an assortment of national and international casting tournaments at its well-groomed fly-casting pond complex at Stow Lake within Golden Gate Park. One of its students, 12-year-old Maxine McCormick, recently won the World Championship of Fly Casting, besting 69 of the world's best fly casters.

For more information, visit [ggacc.org](http://ggacc.org).

## Top Wildflower Destinations

MARCH AND April are peak months for viewing wildflowers and California parks are top contenders for sightings:

- Antelope Valley California Poppy Preserve — 70 miles north of Los Angeles in the Mojave Desert grasslands. Prime season, which runs from February to mid-May.
- Anzo-Borrego Desert State Park — two hours drive from Palm Springs and San Diego. Peak in early March.
- Death Valley National Park — in Death Valley, southeast of Big Pine. Peak period begins in February. The visitor center conducts ranger-led walks.
- Joshua Tree National Park — at the intersection of the Colorado and Mojave Deserts, northeast of Indio. Color lasts from March into May.

Check the individual parks' websites for bloom alerts and current conditions.

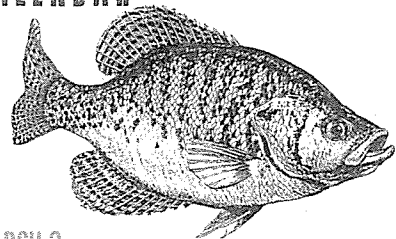
## Grant Funds San Joaquin Valley Wetlands

A PARTNERSHIP between the Grassland Water District, California Wildlife Conservation Board, California Department of Water Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited and local private landowners recently was awarded a \$1 million North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant to conserve wetlands within the northern San Joaquin Valley.

The conservation project — officially titled, "San Joaquin Wetlands Conservation III" — will restore 1,340 acres of floodplain wetlands on San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge and enhance 2,207 acres of wetland and upland habitats in the Grasslands Ecological Area.

— DON VACHINI

## CALIFORNIA CALENDAR



### MARCH 2

#### AWESOME 80S RUN

10k and 5k runs for five year-age groups. Awards to top three male and female runners in each class. [awesome80srun.com](http://awesome80srun.com)

### MARCH 10

#### GOOSE HUNTING CLOSURES

Northeastern Zone Goose Season closure for white geese and white-fronted geese; Special Goose Management Area late-season closure. [wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov)

### MARCH 15-17

#### ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

Three-day event at the Dublin Civic Center. Irish entertainment, an outdoor festival, parade and the Shamrock 5K Fun Run and Walk. [dulin.ca.gov](http://dulin.ca.gov)

### MARCH 22-24

#### 13TH ARTISAN CHEESE FESTIVAL

World-class cheeses, chef demonstrations, farm tours and more. Sonoma County Fairgrounds in Santa Rosa. [sonomacounty.com](http://sonomacounty.com)

### MARCH 30-31

#### ULTIMATE OUTDOOR RECREATION EXPO

Dog-jumping competitions, hands-on workshops and super sales on gear. Orange County Fair and Event Center in Costa Mesa. [10times.com](http://10times.com)

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## American Rivers Restores West Carson Channel

A 1-MILE section of stream channel in the West Carson River in Hope Valley has recently been restored. Located in Alpine County south of Lake Tahoe, the valley with its meandering river is very popular with fly-fishermen.

Historically, Hope Valley has a record of heavy use and abuse, dating back to when it was a wagon-train stopover along the Mormon Emigrant Trail. More recently, it was grazed as a summer pasture, damaging both meadow and river.

According to the group's website, the project will reduce erosion, improve floodplain connectivity and enhance aquatic and meadow habitat for birds, fish and other wildlife. For more information, visit [friendsofhopevalley.org](http://friendsofhopevalley.org) and [alpinewatershedgroup.org](http://alpinewatershedgroup.org).

## Jenner Headlands Preserve Opens Coastline Woods And Trails

OFFERING SOME of the most stunning vistas to be found north of the Golden Gate, the Jenner Headlands Preserve was recently opened to the public.

At 5,630 acres, the property offers nearly 14 miles of trails across varied terrain, including mixed conifer forest, coastal prairie and oak woodlands. Located just north of the Russian River mouth, it spans more than 2.5 miles of the coast, offers sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean stretching south to Point Reyes National Park and includes 2,204-foot Pole Mountain, the highest peak in Sonoma County. Its trail system is also part of the California Coastal Trail, an envisioned 1,200-mile pathway within sight of the Pacific Ocean.

## The Fly Shop Celebrates 40 Years

THE FLY Shop, located in Redding, recently celebrated its 40th anniversary. Not only one of the busiest independent fly retailers in the world, it also operates a full guide service with schools and fishing camps for families and children, publishes a 164-page catalog and runs a reputable international travel service that serves more than 2,000 fly-fishermen per year.

Mike Michalak and his partner Brad Jackson opened the shop in April, 1978.

"The Fly Shop has always been about people," Michalak says. "Since the beginning, I've worked to surround myself with the most talented staff, the best products and the finest angling travel destinations in fly-fishing. Along the way, most of our customers became our friends. And after 40 years, our reputation says it all."

Mike Harris has been Michalak's right-hand man since 1979; and Pat Pendergast, who manages the travel department, has been at the shop for 22 years. For more information, visit [theflyshop.com](http://theflyshop.com).

—DON VACHINI

## CALIFORNIA CALENDAR



### APRIL 6

**AMERICAN RIVER ENDURANCE RUN**  
50-Mile endurance run crosses the Sierra Nevada Foothills between Folsom and Auburn.  
[runningintheusa.com](http://runningintheusa.com)

### APRIL 7

**ARTICHOKE HALF MARATHON**  
Starts/finishes in Pescadero, taking runners along the scenic Pacific coast. All finishers receive a real artichoke.  
[halfmarathon.net](http://halfmarathon.net)

### APRIL 11-14

**SEA OTTER BIKE RACE**  
Four-day festival at Weathertech Raceway at Laguna Seca hosts the largest mountain biking event in the USA.  
[seaotterclassic.com](http://seaotterclassic.com)

### APRIL 27

**GENERAL TROUT SEASON OPENS**  
Consult CDFW regulations for district-specific season dates as well as daily bag and possession limits.  
[wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov)

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## Tracking DFW Trout Plants

THE CALIFORNIA Department of Fish and Wildlife is making it easier for anglers to gain insight as to where and when fish plants occur. Through new web feature called the "Fish Truck Tracker," waters stocked with catchable-sized trout will be listed by DFW hatcheries. The planting schedule is updated in real time directly by hatchery staff as fish are actually released into the water. The site also provides an Annual Provisional Stocking Document that contains planned fish stocks for the current calendar year by DFW Region, County, Water Name, Species of Fish, Fish Size at Release, Release Program, Historical Months for Stocking Specified Waters and the Last Date the Specified Water was Stocked. A "Map it" link is also provided. To access the information, go to [nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FishPlants](http://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FishPlants).

## Forest Service Plan

THE U. S. Forest Service has partnered with Blue Forest Conservation and the World Resources Institute to pilot the Forest Resilience Bond (FRB), a private financing mechanism that will seek capital to fund forest restoration. The inaugural FRB will be launched in the Tahoe National Forest with Blue Forest raising private investor funds for the Yuba Project in the North Yuba River watershed. Planned strategies include ecologically driven forest thinning, meadow restoration, prescribed burns and invasive plant management to mitigate fire risk.

## DFW Master Angler

THIRTEEN-YEAR old Ethan Mayes of San Diego is the first person to earn the title of Master Ocean Angler from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) California Fishing Passport (CFP) program by catching at least 50 different species of saltwater game fish. An eighth-grade honor roll student, Mayes landed a black-and-yellow rockfish from the Coast Guard Pier in Monterey on August 13, 2018 to record his 50th ocean game fish species. To learn more about the passport program visit [wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov).

## Youth Tag Fee Reductions Take Effect

RECENT LEGISLATION signed by Governor Brown will reduce the fee required to obtain an apprentice (youth) antelope, elk, bear and bighorn sheep tag to \$20 for a person who is a resident of the state and who possesses a junior hunting license. Currently, antelope tags are \$154.18; elk \$459.25; bear \$46.70 and bighorn sheep \$440.90. Providing a substantial cost reduction for many apprentice big game tags will make hunting more affordable and accessible to youth, contributing to the recruitment of new hunters. The changes will take effect on July 1, 2019.

- DON VACHINI

## CALIFORNIA CALENDAR

MAY 5

### SPRING TURKEY CLOSURE

End of the California general season for wild turkeys.

[wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov)

MAY 6

### ARCHERY SEASON OPENER

Opening day of California's archery-only turkey season.

[wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov)

MAY 18-19

### BIG BEAR LAKE

#### ULTIMATE BIG TROUT DERBY

Holloway's Marina, 398 Edgemoor Road, Big Bear Lake, CA 92315.

[Bigbearfishingassociation.org](http://Bigbearfishingassociation.org)

MAY 22

### WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

10 a.m. in the first floor auditorium of the CA Natural Resources Agency.

[Wcb.ca.gov](http://Wcb.ca.gov)

MAY 25

### EAGLE LAKE TROUT FISHING

Eagle Lake Trout season opener.

[www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov)

MAY 31

### FINALIZE BIG-GAME APPLICATIONS

Applications for California's deer, elk, pronghorn and bighorn sheep tag drawings are due June 2.

[wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov)

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## KLAMATH RIVER DAM REMOVALS

FOUR DAMS on the upper Klamath River, blocking salmon and steelhead runs for nearly a century, are finally scheduled for removal. An agreement to remove the dams, owned and operated by Portland-based PacifiCorps, was reached in 2010 but failed to gain approval from Congress and expired in 2015. The states of Oregon and California, plus a number of recreational and commercial fishing groups, local agencies, irrigators and the Karuk and Yurok tribes, have again agreed on a process for removing the John C. Boyle Dam in Oregon and California's Copco No. 1, Copco No. 2 and Iron Gate Dams located northeast of Yreka. Final design of the project is scheduled for late-2020 and actual removals will be performed between 2021 and 2022. The dam removal and restoration project, currently the largest in U. S. history, is expected to improve water quality, revive fisheries, create local jobs, and boost tourism and recreation.

## CDFW WATERSHED GRANTS

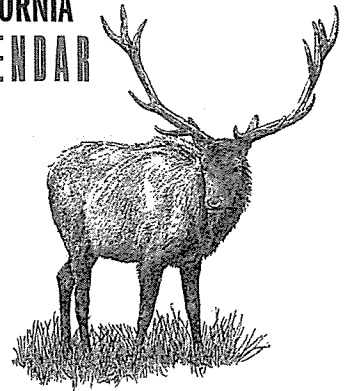
UNDER ITS Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 Restoration Grant Programs, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) recently selected 24 projects to receive \$27.8 million in awards. Of this total, \$23.9 million was awarded through the Watershed Restoration Grant Program to statewide projects outside of the Delta and \$3.9 million was awarded through the Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program to projects directly benefitting the Delta. General information about CDFW's Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Program can be found at [www.wildlife.ca.gov/grants](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/grants).

## CALIFORNIA WATERFOWL ASSOCIATION

RECENT MARSHLAND acquisitions have bolstered ongoing California Waterfowl Association (CWA) goals to provide key habitat and increase waterfowl populations in the Golden State. CWA created the Butte Sink Hunting, Conservation and Education Center in 2018 to go along with already established Quimby Island in the California Delta, Butte Sink Island Ranch in the Butte Sink, Grizzly Ranch and Denverton in the Suisun Marsh and Goose Lake in the Tulare Basin. Goals are to continue to increase the number of hunters and inspire marshland conservation. "Over the next 5 years, we'll seek additional opportunities to improve habitat and provide more public access to the marsh, where people can enjoy all it has to offer and become invested in its future," said Jake Masserli, Chief Operating Officer of CWA. Visit [www.calwaterfowl.org](http://www.calwaterfowl.org) or call (916) 648-1406 for more information.

— DON VACHINI

## CALIFORNIA CALENDAR



### JUNE 1

**STOCKTON'S KIDS CATFISH DERBY**  
Over 2,000 pounds of catfish are stocked for this annual event at Oak Grove Regional Park. [www.sjpark.com](http://www.sjpark.com).

### JUNE 2

**DRAWING DEADLINE**  
Deadline to apply for big game drawings for elk, antelope, bighorn sheep and premium deer hunts. [www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov).

### JUNE 4

**FISHING DERBY**  
Kids Fishing Derby at Cerritos Regional Park Lake, from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. [www.seecalifornia.com](http://www.seecalifornia.com).

### JUNE 8-9

**TROUT DERBY**  
Annual Big Bear Lake Fishin' for 50k Trout Derby [www.bigbear.com](http://www.bigbear.com)

### JUNE 14-16

**MONO BASIN BIRD CHAUTAUQUA**  
Held in Lee Vining, this popular event offers field trips, workshops and presentations with renowned bird guides and naturalists. Also has live music and food. [www.birdchautauqua.org](http://www.birdchautauqua.org).

# WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

*Game & Fish readers are hardcore sportsmen, and don't all sportsmen have an opinion? You bet. We want to hear your thoughts on our fishing and hunting stories, our gear coverage and how the magazine is laid out. Is there something we're missing? Can we do a better job? We know you have an opinion. Let's hear it...*

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## DU CREOSOTE REMOVAL

AS PART of the ongoing San Francisco Bay Creosote Piling Removal and Pacific Herring Habitat Restoration Project, Ducks Unlimited (DU) recently created important new habitat for Pacific Flyway waterfowl and other wildlife. DU and partners, which include the California State Coastal Conservancy, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the City of Richmond, placed 200 oyster reef elements on a 4-acre submerged area of the former Red Rocks Warehouse-Point San Pablo site in Richmond. The reefs will create a unique living shoreline for flora and fauna alike.

## MORE WATER FOR FISH

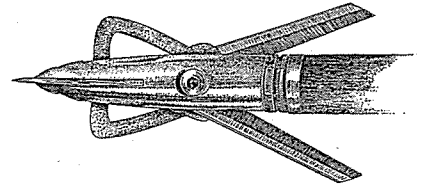
THE UNITED States Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) recently announced a series of agreements to resolve decades long water conflicts in the Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, San Francisco Bay area, central coast and southern California. Since late 2018, public water agencies from nearly every region of the state have engaged in accentuated discussions with the Central Valley Project, the State Water Project and the public water agencies they serve, to voluntarily resolve conflicts over proposed amendments to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan Update and to revise sharing formulas under the 1986 Coordinated Operations Agreement. If accepted by the State Water Resources Control Board, the proposed amendments will create water supply reliability plus fish and wildlife habitat improvements for at-risk aquatic species in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Rivers and the Delta. Habitat restoration projects could launch sometime in early 2020.

## CALIFORNIA ELK MANAGEMENT PLAN

THE CALIFORNIA Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) recently released the Statewide Elk Conservation and Management Plan. Building on the success of efforts to reestablish elk in suitable historic ranges and management practices that have resulted in robust elk populations throughout the state, the plan is designed to help guide state wildlife managers' efforts to maintain healthy elk herds. Three subspecies of elk exist in California: Roosevelt, Rocky Mountain and Tule and the 22 Elk Management Units (EMU) statewide collectively comprise the distribution of all 3 species within their respective ranges. The plan not only addresses historic and current geographic range, habitat conditions and trends but herd characteristics and harvest data. It also includes objectives for providing public educational and recreational opportunities, habitat enhancement and restoration and minimization of conflicts on private property.

—DON VACHINI

## CALIFORNIA CALENDAR



### JULY 4

#### HUNTING SEASON BEGINS

Archery deer season opener. Check regulations before going afield.

[wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov)

### AUGUST 4

#### IDEAL OPPORTUNITY TO INTRODUCE CHILDREN TO HUNTING

Beginning of the tree squirrel season.

[wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov)

### AUGUST 11

#### BAG A BEAR

Black bear general season begins.

[wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov)

### AUGUST 18

#### GEAR UP

Elk general season opener. Check regulations before going afield.

[wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov)

### AUGUST 18

#### THE CROWN JEWEL OF NORTH AMERICAN SHEEP

Desert bighorn sheep season begins.

[wildlife.ca.gov/regulations](http://wildlife.ca.gov/regulations)

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