



"To Share With Others"



Outdoor Writers Association of California

Oct 2015
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cher.com

River Halibut, Kathie Morgan

David caught a 20-1/2 inch striper as soon as we started to fish. A good sign. Oh, did I mention that the wind was still blowing on the Napa River, just like we left it two weeks earlier? Or should that be something you just take for granted, like ice in Alaska?

How far down the river did we dare to go, with all that wind and chop? We would take it a step at a time and see. A five-and-a-half-foot tide exchange was in the cards, starting with a low of minus 0.24 at 6 that morning and peaking around noon at just over 5 feet. We entered one of our favorite ponds and found a bicycle angler casting into a cut. A friendly sort, he hollered to us that he had seen jumpers right where we had our lines out.

I never know what to think. Might those jumpers still be there, just below the surface, awaiting my well-placed cast? Or are they jumping off some other point and into someone else's boat? We fished through the loop and returned to Bicycle Point. "Nothing," hollered David to the angler's implied question.

"I saw some otters go through here right after you did," yelled the angler. "They might have put the fish down." Boy howdy! Just then David hooked up. I wound in quickly and reached for the net. Prematurely. That fish went around and around and around the boat. David saw color first. The wrong color – brown. We've caught our share of bat rays in the river, and they are always a disappointment.

Just then the fish went sideways and we both saw a flash of bright white. Halibut!

Now we've caught anadromous fish like steelhead and sturgeon in the river, but we never expected a halibut that far

upstream. Hydrologists cite California's ongoing drought as just one of the reasons for what they call "saltwater intrusion." Less fresh water (rainwater, say) flowing downriver inevitably leads to more salt water surging upstream with the tide.

Salt water, they say, contains more minerals than does fresh water. This comparative density increases its pressure relative to that of fresh water.

You can imagine this, your fresh water skating along merrily over the top of the river while the sinister salt water pushes down beneath, creating a second river, a saltwater river that feels for all



the world like home to a halibut.

David's flat-tie measured 28 inches, weighed 9 pounds, 11 ounces, and fell for a mud-colored Berkley Powerbait swimbait. She had nothing in her stomach, and the eggs in her small ovary were immature.

Delicious she was, and she fed ourselves and several of our neighbors.

We have seen plenty of wildlife on the Napa – coyotes, raccoons, otters, a fox. Plenty of birds – sanderlings, herons, and my beloved white pelicans. No beavers, but that day we came upon a beaver lodge. That may help you to pinpoint our exact location that day, just out from the beaver lodge.

Find it, and I'll be looking for you on the banks.

this Issue

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Ron Wilson | Pg 2 |
| Peter Schroeder | Pg 3 |
| Cal Wildlife Photo cont. | Pg 4 |
| Volunteers needed | Pg. 4 |
| Big Bear | Pg 4 |
| Visit Calaveras | Pg 5 |
| Yuba Sutter, Barbara S. | Pg.5 |
| Richmond conference | Pg. 6 |
| Eastern Sierra | Pg 6 |
| Junior hunters | Pg 8 |

Diane Strachan

I am following up from a fun conversation you and I had (Yvonne) awhile back on the successful new Stewardship Travel program in San Luis Obispo County. (I was paying my dues I think...)

<http://www.winecoastcountry.com/the-winecoastcountry-stewardship-traveler/> - New trends in outdoor travel

I had just given a presentation to the Bay Area Travel Writers Association when we talked. Here is a great article that President Ginny Prior wrote for the Mercury News:

http://www.mercurynews.com/my-town/ci_28488229/happy-wanderer-central-coast-includes-stewardship-vacations

You and I were guessing that it might be fun and valuable to share info in some form at the November OWAC. I have also done a couple radio shows with member Tom Wilmer on the topic.

Let me know if you might be interested so we can get it on our calendars. Maybe spring is better at this point...

See my bio attached. Also - I was one of the first women that John Reginato recruited to join OWAC - ha! too many years ago!!

Standing by, Diane Strachan
Stewardship Travel Director
SLO County Business Improvement Dist

Grandson's Birthday Present Was A Waterfowl Hunt In Canada

By Ron Wilson

After having been on a waterfowl hunting trip to Canada I just had to arrange one for my grandson so he could experience something he loves!

Mike Monschein of Oakdale, Brett Boetto of Waterford, Jim Fernandes of Oakdale, Don Wilson and son Derick of Waterford and I recently spent 5 days hunting in Canada with Take Em Outfitters.

Waterfowl Guide Bart Higgs picked us up at the Gold Eagle Lodge in Saskatchewan's North Battlefords at 4 a.m. and we headed to an area Bart had picked out for our first days hunt.

The blinds were set up and decoys put out well before daylight and we could hear geese and ducks cruising around. This year something new was added in the morning's darkness the highball call of hen mallards. Last year they never made a highball sound.

Daylight came and the ducks started coming into the spread of decoys and dieing. The honkers started decoying into the spread feet down also in the spitting rain. Nothing like getting a flock of honkers within 15 yards feet down and yelling TAKE 'Em and watching it rain huge birds. Don't get me wrong I like to shoot and rain ducks also but honkers in close just gets me more excited!

The shooting was hot and heavy until 11 a.m. when we quit shooting for the day after downing 48 honkers and a pile of mallards and sprig.

The next day the honkers, snows and ducks co-operated and by 11 a.m. we had limits of ducks and geese and 20 snows. It was Derick's birthday and he celebrated his day by killing his first snow goose and first blue goose. My grandson had a smile from ear to ear making the money I spent well worth-

while. The hole group was smiling and taking pictures of our harvest.

Wednesday was a slow day as we



knocked down 15 honkers and 48 ducks by 10 a.m. The boys wanted to go visit Calgary so we called it

an early day.

Thursday we were to set up for snows and when we got to the area the birds were still there roosting and they left the area not to return. The group figured it was a busted hunting day as the snows do the same to us in California. Jump them in the morning and they never return until dark. We scratched a

few ducks and several honkers and left by 10 a.m. so we could have an afternoon duck hunt.

That evening we

set up on a pond putting out a half dozen duck decoy floaters and setting up duck and geese decoys in the field near the pond we were hunting. Once we got the robo duck set up in the right spot we killed all our ducks so they fell

on land, except one which my grandson



splashed in the water.

They don't hunt ducks in the water there but there is duck hunting to be had in the ponds in Canada as good as any-

place I have hunted. If you are an avid duck hunting, have the guides set you up close to the water and you can kill a limit of ducks and some geese also. Friday waterfowl guide Bart Higgs set us up in an area mainly for honkers. At first light it looked bad, no honkers flying and the ducks were not looking at the spread. The sun started coming up and I asked my son to move the robo duck so the sun's rays bounced off the wings and the ducks started decoying to the spread.

Our group likes action and we like to shoot period. We watched and listened for honkers and when we could not see or hear them the ducks got shot! We had one group of honker come in and knocked down 9.

By 10 a.m. we had 48 ducks and 20 honkers and called it a day as the honkers quit flying and it was time for us to hit the road back to California!

This year there was a lot less honkers, specks and snows in the area. I don't know if it was the weather, lack of geese hatched or they had just not come down from the north yet!

I got to spend a great week of waterfowling with friends and family. If you love waterfowling by yourself with friends or

family I recommend that you get some cash and spend it! I have never seen a coffin wallet yet at any of the funerals I have attended so you might as well spend it before you go!

Three of the group flew home while 3 drove. I got to see a wolf, deer and elf in Canada as we drove toward the boarder.

The next morning after leaving Helena, Montana we got to see deer, antelope and a couple herd of elk about 100 miles out from Idaho. The scenery and wildlife is something you can't from a plane.

For more information about waterfowl hunting in Canada call Ron Lara at Western Wildlife Adventures, L.L.C. 1--1277 or 1-408-891-4928.

OWAC Members attend SCIJ Conference in Spanish Pyrenees

Peter Schroeder

Most Americans think skiing in Europe means the Alps. But few know that the Pyrenees on the Spanish-French border hold more than 30 ski resorts.

Last March, two OWAC members--Risa Wyatt and I--skied at Baqueira-Beret, Spain's largest ski resort, in the northern Pyrenees at the annual conference of the Ski Confederation of International Journalists (SCIJ). We joined several hundred other SCIJ journalists from 37 countries in a weeklong series of events that included downhill and cross-country skiing by day, and seminars related to the issues facing journalists worldwide at night.

Compared with Europe's better-known ski resorts, Baqueira-Beret offers distinct differences. It's in the Catalonian Pyrenees where the Catalonian culture and language have been making a proud resurgence since the death of Franco in 1975. During the 36 years of Franco's rule--a period locals call "The Dictatorship"--the Catalan culture and language were crushed and not allowed to be taught in schools.

Today, as a response to this suppression of their culture, you'll find no signage in English, French, German, or even Spanish at the ski area or surrounding villages, because the locals want to preserve their traditions and not take on an international flavor. All postings are in Catalan or the local dialect, although staffs in the larger hotels, restaurants, and ski-rental shops speak English. Chairlift names, with titles such as Blanhblar or Costarjas, are neither pronounceable nor memorable, with the possible exception of the double-diamond-plus run, Escornacrabes (which translates as "where goats fall"). The World Atlas shows a neat line dividing France from Spain, but nothing could be further from reality. Catalonia is in the process of trying to gain its independence from Spain. To its east sits Andorra, already its own country, and to the west is the Basque region, which although technically part of Spain, is nevertheless autonomous. Few people even speak Spanish, which is considered their third language.

None of these complications, however, detracts from the magnificent skiing, which includes almost 100 miles of trails, 3,500 vertical feet, spectacular views of 8,000- to 10,000-foot peaks, and limitless off-piste skiing. From each of the three peaks that define the resort, one can look down on snowfields that seem to go on forever and imagine Mammoth, Breckenridge, and several Colorado resorts fitting easily within the area's boundaries.



Evenings were devoted to seminars and panel discussions on topics such as countries that restrict freedom of the press and the plight of journalists in prison. One panel, composed of French broadcast and print journalists from both Christian and Muslim backgrounds, reviewed the unfolding of events of the Charlie Hebdo massacre and their efforts to separate facts from rumors by verifying the thousands of tweets and blogs that streamed hourly throughout Paris.

Of course--this being Europe--evenings also allowed time to join the lively nightclub scene where sangria flowed endlessly and delicious tapas dishes catered to every appetite.

SCIJ often holds its annual conference at lesser-known ski resorts in countries such as Turkey, Morocco, and Argentina. The 2016 meeting will take place at Kopaonik, the largest ski area in Serbia. The Serbian organizers, recognizing that their country had been in recent times been known as the "bad boy" of Europe, promised that next year we would meet the "new, reformed Serbia."

As the conference drew to a close, we discussed OWAC with several local tourism representatives who, although they recognized we are not an organization of skiers, were enthusiastic about the prospects of hosting us. Only two percent of their visitors are from the US, a high-priority market they would be anxious to develop with us.

OWAC members interested in learning more about SCIJ, composed of 2,000 members from 46 countries who work in broadcast, print, and digital media are directed to www.scij.info or SCIJ US Team Captain Risa Wyatt at words@risawyatt.com. Information about Baqueira-Beret is found at

<http://www.baqueira.es>. **3**

California Wildlife Photo Contest Announces July-August Winners

Sacramento, CA – California Watchable Wildlife and Outdoor California are pleased to announce the July-August winners in the 2015 California Wildlife Photo of the Year contest!

Four images were chosen from entries submitted in July and August, 2015. These images will be published in the September-October, 2015 issue of Outdoor California. First place was awarded to Philip Robertson, Lincoln, CA, for his colorful image of an American Rubyspot Damselfly photographed in the Auburn Ravine. Honorable Mention, California Watchable Wildlife Viewing Site, goes to An Tran, Newark, CA, for her incredible image of an Anna's Hummingbird mother feeding her young photographed in the Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve. Honorable Mention, Sierra Nevada Conservancy goes to Gary Kunkel, Visalia, CA for his stunning image of a Pileated Woodpecker at Sequoia National Park. Honorable Mention, California Coastal Conservancy goes to Doris Sharrock, Vallejo, CA, for her playful image of Northern River Otters at American Canyon Wetlands.

These images and those of other entries may be seen on California Watchable Wildlife's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/CaWatchableWild-](http://www.facebook.com/CaWatchableWildlife)

WE NEED YOU

We have some great events coming up to promote and raise the funds needed for our

Casting for Recovery SoCal Retreats
Volunteers Needed for Upcoming Events:

Bass Pro October Breast Cancer Awareness Month
October 10 & 11, 17 & 18, 24 & 25, 31

Fly Fishing Faire in Bishop
October 16, 17, 18

Any days and times are appreciated.

Thank you!

Contact me for more info or if you are able to volunteer

Bonnie Anderson
cfrsocal@sbcglobal.net
310-995-6601

dlife.

Many of the previous Photo Contest entries now grace the wildlife viewing site profiles on the CAWatchableWildlife.org website, where you will find all the information you need to find California's premier wildlife viewing areas, which are marked by the iconic brown binocular signs.

For more than twenty years, California Watchable Wildlife has celebrated the state's wildlife and diverse habitats by acknowledging and elevating the value of wildlife viewing to benefit individuals, families, communities, and industries while fostering awareness and support for conservation and protection of wildlife and habitats.

State and Federal agency and non-governmental partners include U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Visit Yuba-Sutter, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, California State Coastal Conservancy, California State Parks, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, USDA Forest Service, Sacramento County Parks and California Roundtable on Recreation Parks & Tourism. For more information, visit CaWatchableWildlife.org or email Outreach@CaWatchableWildlife.org.

FLASHLIGHT SAFARIS ADD EXTRA NIGHTS

Big Bear Alpine Zoo Adds Friday Nights to Satisfy Demand of its Flashlight Safaris.

Big Bear Lake, Calif. September 28, 2015–Big Bear Alpine Zoo's Flashlight Safaris have grown in popularity prompting zoo officials to include five Friday evenings to this year's program. Big Bear guests now have the opportunity to get up close to Big Bear Alpine Zoo's nocturnal animals every Friday and Saturday in October, except Saturday, October 31. According to Big Bear Alpine Zoo Curator Bob Cisneros, the extra nights were added to satisfy the demand of the zoo's Flashlight Safaris.

"Last year the Flashlight Safaris really caught on. Some nights we had

about 100 or so people show up," said Cisneros. "We're hopeful the new dates will help spread things out."

As dusk sets in this October, certain animals' nocturnal instincts take over at Big Bear Alpine Zoo, which provides an engaging exhibition for people to learn about these fascinating creatures of the night. Flashlight Safari tours start Friday, October 2 and Saturday, October 3 and continue every Friday and Saturday through October 30, 2015 (There is no Flashlight Safari on Saturday, October 31). Some of the animals that come alive after dark include mountain lions, snow leopards, bobcats, foxes, raccoons, skunks, beavers, grizzly and black bears, owls, coyotes and wolves.

The Flashlight Safaris begin in the education center where guests learn about the biological makeup and heightened senses of nocturnal and crepuscular animals such as the rods in their eyes that enable them to capture light when it's dark or the color of their fur that blends with nighttime lighting creating a natural camouflage. From there the curator or other park staff lead the tour group through the zoo with flashlights to point out various nocturnal behaviors. The zoo has over 160 animals on display. More than half of the animals are nocturnal or crepuscular, which means guests are in for a show.

"The activity level of some of our animals after dark can get really high strung," added Curator Bob Cisneros. "It definitely makes for a great show!"

Flashlight Safaris are held at Big Bear Alpine Zoo, located at 43285 Goldmine Drive in Big Bear Lake, every Friday and Saturday starting October 2 to October 30, 2015 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Patrons have up to 7 p.m. to join the tour. Doors close promptly at 7 p.m. Admission is \$12 for adults and \$9 for seniors and children ages 3-10, children under 3 are free. Guests are encouraged to bring flashlights and wear warm clothes. To learn more about the Big Bear Alpine Zoo or further information about Flashlight Safari Tours visit www.BigBearAlpineZoo.org or call 909-584-1299.

TIME TO VISIT Calaveras

October is filled with fun fall events for the whole family, from crowd pleasing contests to Halloween festivities.

Check out our calendar of events for all the details and plan your visit today!

WEST POINT LUMBERJACK DAY
Oct 3, West Point

Join the fun at the 41st Annual Lumberjack Day. Calaveras' timber industry history is celebrated with a parade, car show, lumberjack competitions, plus food and vendors.

www.lumberjackday.org

CALAVERAS GRAPE STOMP and GOLD RUSH STREET FAIR

Oct 3, Murphys

Check out the exciting grape stomping competition, grab deals on local wines and find amazing prizes from ski passes to gourmet dinners at the annual silent auction. Savor one of Murphys' signature events.

www.calaveraswines.org

FREE BENEFIT CONCERT IN COPPER TOWN SQUARE

Oct 10, Copperopolis

Enjoy the Copper Flea Market and from 3:30 - 6:30pm a free concert by local band Eden Lane, to benefit the Butte Fire Disaster Relief Fund.

More information here

HALLOWEEN AT THE CAVERN AND THE GREAT ZIP PUMPKIN SMASH!

Weekends, Vallecito

Each weekend in October, Moaning Cavern will have a pumpkin patch and a small kid-friendly hay maze to explore during their hours, 10am-4pm.

Halloween day is packed with events, notably the Great Zip Pumpkin Smash. From the zip lines at speeds up to 40mph, guests lob pumpkins into a target! Target winners get a free zip line and a donation to Butte Fire relief.

More information here

Like us on Facebook Follow us on Twitter View our videos on YouTube Green

Taste of Yuba-Sutter Counties

by Barbara L. Steinberg

Food & Travel Magazine Fall 2015

Plan your taste of Yuba-Sutter during autumn when harvests and seasonal festivals are abundant. Highways and country roads link Yuba and Sutter counties to history-rich communities. A short drive from Sacramento, Gold Rush-era towns and multi-generational farmlands overlap in a most delicious way. From the Central Valley -- California's agricultural heartland -- to Sierra Nevada foothills, Yuba and Sutter's proverbial plate overflows with both farm-to-fork and cultural and outdoor recreation delights!

Stop by Visit Yuba-Sutter's visitor center for regional maps and brochures including the North Yuba Grown farm trail map, a guiding light to farm stands, wineries, and locavore shops north of Marysville. Soil, topography and climate inspire hand-crafted wines from Renaissance, Lucero and Clos Saron -- Cabernet, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir -- and olive oils from Apollo and Athena's Grove do the region proud. A feast for your senses, explore local art and seasonal fare at Yuba Harvest. The crème de la crème of tasty must-dos, the North Yuba Harvest Festival features more than 50 vendors.

Along Highway 99 in Sutter County, the striped awning above Stephen's Farm-house beckons. Farm-fresh pies and cookies, jellies and jams, pickled veggies of all kinds, and seasonal produce and walnuts will tempt the most discerning palate. Your favorite pooch will love the homemade Snicker Poodles.

Find the "Great Pumpkin" of your dreams at Bishop's Pumpkin Farm in Wheatland. Old-fashioned hayrides and u-pick pumpkins, a historic carousel and fresh-baked cookies are just the beginning. Nearby, Salle Orchards offers more tastes of Yuba-Sutter year-round. Autumn means persimmons, pomegranates, pumpkins and 27 varieties of apples.

Drive, hike or bike the Sutter Buttes, the world's smallest mountain range. Ancient volcanic soils and cool breezes breathe life into Cordi Winery's grapes and award-winning wines. Bring a picnic and enjoy the view. Continue on scenic back roads to Sutter and the Sutter Buttes Natural & Artisan Foods. Bring an appetite for olive oils, infused vinegars, gourmet mustards, and dipping sauces. Among many award-winning products, their Blood-Orange Brownie Kit brought home Sofi gold at the 2015 New York Fancy Food Show. You can bring it home, too! In late November, look for Moody's Middle Mountain Mandarins self-serve farm stand.

Lose yourself at the Sikh Festival, possibly the largest cultural event in California. The first Sunday in November, it's a cacophony of color and aromas. Each November, harvested rice fields attract migrating wildlife. Along with thousands of tundra swans, nature enthusiasts arrive to celebrate at the annual California Swan Festival. Guided tours include Gray Lodge Wildlife Refuge and Sutter Buttes. An unparalleled experience, the Buttes' privately owned lands are accessible only through Middle Mountain Interpretive Hikes.

Birding and hiking is a hungry business. Yelp reviewers love AJ's Sandwiches, an easy stroll from Swan Festival H.Q. Chow down on gourmet burgers and specialty sandwiches with a side of pesto frips! Where, oh where to taste more? In Yuba City and Marysville, The Cookie Tree and The Candy Box are sweets central. GPS yourself to New Earth Market, Oregon House Grocery & Deli, and The Crave. Among scrumptious treats you'll find J•Heier Farms blackberry jams, Sunsweet prunes, North Yuba Bread, and POM pomegranate to satiate locavore retail therapy. Breakfast, lunch and dinner, Dancing Tomato Caffé's daily



mantra is

Yuba, Barbara, cont.

farm-to-table.

With so many tasty options, make Yuba-Sutter a play and stay getaway. Many tasting rooms, country stores, and farms are seasonal or open weekends only. Always call ahead for days and

Fall Conference in Richmond

Meade Fischer

It was a bit last minute, but the registration for the fall conference is on our web page. Like many of you, I once thought, "what's in Richmond." Once I visited the area and spoke with Beth Jevens, I saw the town in a new light. There is plenty to do there. After all, it's right on the bay, which means lots of good fishing and boating, which are offered for the activity day.

Unlike our last two, Richmond is easy to reach. Many of you live near the center of the state, meaning it's a short drive. Those who live far away, there are two major airports near by, SF and Oakland.

I for one am anxious to see what I can write about in Richmond, and I'm looking forward to seeing old friends and perhaps making new ones.

On another note, thank you to those of you who send me articles. This is the most interesting and readable issue in months.

Naturally, I'd love feedback from our members. Is there something no one is interested in reading, and are there posts that you'd like to see more of? Sound off. My email is info@meadefischer.com

One more item on conferences: we still need a site for the spring of 2016, so any ideas would be greatly appreciated.

Keep writing; there's so much to do in our beautiful state.

EASTERN SIERRA

Beginning next week, each Thursday through Thanksgiving Day, CaliforniaFallColor.com will issue this "California Fall Color Report." Additionally, media may receive the best high resolution photos of the week, taken by California's best amateur photographers. Just reply to this email and we'll add you to that list.

This report is based on submissions from more than 70 "color spotters" throughout California. They include amateur and professional photographers, nature lovers and naturalists, hikers and outdoorsmen and women, destination representatives and "leaf peepers."

California's Fall Color first appears just below 10,000' in the Eastern Sierra. It descends 500 to 1,000 feet, each week, making California's show the longest in the nation. Because the color drops through so many elevations and life zones, it is also the most varied. And, because it descends by elevation rather than by latitude (as occurs in New England and elsewhere), if you miss the color at one location, it's peaking lower down. That means travelers can dependably plan trips to see fall color.

Here's what's now showing:
SUMMARY

The highest elevations in the Eastern Sierra are now showing patchy color (10 – 50% changed) among quaking aspen. Colors vary from deep green to lime green, to yellow and orange. A few groves at the highest elevations will be "Near Peak" (50 – 75%), next week.

Some groves of aspen have lost half their leaves due to black leaf spot fungus that formed following late spring rains. However, most groves were unaffected and remain lushly green. Wind, rain and snow at the first part of this week knocked leaves off aspen in Bishop Creek Canyon, though lots of color remains to develop.

High Sierra willows have peaked orange-yellow and grasses are golden. The appearance of color is on schedule for California, not early, despite

drought. Though, some areas are drier than usual and may see shorter displays of color. Travelers are urged to not delay their trips to see the show, because of this possibility.

A dusting of snow at Lassen Volcanic National Park has covered the color, though early dustings like this are usually short lived.

**A detailed report follows.
Inyo County**

Plenty of color is showing at elevations above 8,500' in the Eastern Sierra's Bishop Creek Canyon, though a dusting of snow, light rain and wind early this week, set the show back a week, reports color spotter Jared Smith.

The light storm knocked aspen leaves that had already turned from their branches, though "thankfully most of the color has yet to peak," says Jared, and there's "some great stuff to look forward to."

Below 8,500', the show is just starting with lots of deep green, some lime and a few small patches of yellow. Jared says it will still be a week to two before the lower elevations are approaching peak.

Patchy (10 - 50%) - Weir Pond (9650ft) - The road is still open all the way to Weir Pond and the color is looking quite good on the hillside above the pond. The aspen surrounding the pond are still lime green so things will likely look much more impressive next week.

Patchy (10 - 50%) - Sabrina Campground (9000ft) - The aspen along the road are still brilliant yellow, orange and a touch of red, but some of the trees in were stripped of their color by the wind. The campground itself is still mostly green with just a few hints of yellow.

Patchy (10 - 50%) - Parchers Resort (9260ft) - Quite a bit of yellow is blanketing the hillsides around the resort, but some of the scrub aspen here was stripped by the wind. Plenty of green still around and we're looking forward to more change before the next report.

Patchy (10 - 50%) - Willow Campground (9000ft) - The canyon walls

above the campground are looking pretty impressive but the lower lying aspen within the campground have only touches of color and lime green hues. The granite wall across from the beaver pond just below the campground has some gorgeous color.

Patchy (10 - 50%) - Table Mountain Camp (8900ft) - Some color is showing above the campground and a few aspen along the stream have started to turn but we've still got a ways to go.

Patchy (10 - 50%) - Surveyors Meadow (8975ft) - This area is probably the furthest along but hasn't changed much since Sunday...in fact its actually displaying a bit less color thanks to the wind. It will be interesting to see how the cooler weather will affect the transformation.

Patchy (10 - 50%) - Lake Sabrina (9150ft) - Some great color on the east side of the lake with some color starting to develop near the back of the lake as well. I'm predicting some very nice color here by next weekend if not before.

Patchy (10 - 50%) - North Lake (9255ft) - Some gorgeous yellow, orange and red is showing along the road as you approach North Lake. Not much going on around the lake itself though. Look for this area to go off next week.

Patchy (10 - 50%) - Stiny Loop above Mt. Glen Camp (8600ft) - Some yellow along the stream but mostly green hues dominating at present. Just Starting (0 - 10%) - Mist Falls and the groves above Bishop Creek Lodge (8350ft) - One yellow tree and the rest is all green. This tends to pop later in the season, probably around the first week of October if I had to guess.

Just Starting (0 - 10%) - Aspendell (8400ft) - Very few signs of color here right now.

Patchy (10 - 50%) - Groves above Cardinal Village (8550ft) - There is a lot of color still above Cardinal Village but some of the aspen are unfortunately naked already from the wind. Tons of green still around so we've got plenty of color yet to develop in this area.

Just Starting (0 - 10%) - Four Jef-

fries (8000ft) - Nothing but a few yellow branches showing right now.

Patchy - (10 - 50%) - Intake II (8000ft) - The aspen surrounding the lake are still hosting their summer shade of green although the scrub aspen growing up the mountainside are showing some yellow...at least the ones who still have their leaves are.

Just Starting - (0 - 10%) - Big Trees Campground (7800ft) - Nothing but green here right now.

Mono County

Mammoth Lakes color spotter Josh Wray drove his 4 x 4 into Laurel Canyon and "stumbled upon the beautiful colors that are filling mountainsides and valleys..." with bright "orange and yellow are flowing down from higher elevations and meeting up with the lush dark green pine and aspen of the valley floor."

Patchy (10 - 50%) - Laurel Canyon - Deep green pines offer contrast to multicolored aspen with orange-yellow willows and bright yellow rabbitbrush accenting the scene. The contrast of red rocks, fiery skies and blazing color will only get better in the coming weeks. Getting off road to scenes like this is why you visit Mammoth Lakes.

Patchy (10 - 50%) - Twin Lakes - Bright green is starting to turn yellow surrounding Twin Lakes in Mammoth Lakes.

Patchy (10 - 50%) - Lake George - Orange is now present, which was a fast transition from last week's developing color. Josh recommends driving to the Mammoth Lakes Basin up Old Mammoth Road until it connects with Hwy 203. Changing aspen are visible starting at Snowcreek Golf Course all the way to the Lakes Basin.

Mono County color spotter Alicia Vennos reports that color is developing quickly. She forecasts that near peak will happen next week at highest elevations and peak will descend for the following month. Here's her report:

Patchy (10 - 50%) - Rock Creek Road/Hilton Creek Road - Colors towards the top of Rock Creek Road are starting to really go off. The lower ele-

vations are still lime green to yellow in patches, but the higher end of Rock Creek Road and the trail to Hilton Creek are moving towards peak fairly quickly. Make plans within the next 10 days AT THE MOST to see this area in all its brilliance.

Patchy (10 - 50%) - Virginia Lakes/Green Creek Road/Bridgeport - Many aspen groves just off US 395 near Bridgeport, are turning golden, orange and red... but many are still completely green. Some have shed their leaves (likely the result of black leaf spot, as reported earlier). This wide range seems to follow the same pattern each year which means there should be color to see at one section or another within the next two and even three weeks. Conway Summit is still lime green for the most part, but sections of Virginia Lakes Road are golden, as are some of the groves along Green Creek Road, which is well-maintained and graded. Summer's Meadow is also still at the lime green stages

Patchy (10 - 50%) - Lundy Canyon - The popular waterfall viewpoint is still lime green and only slightly yellow, as are the aspens that line the Lundy Canyon Road and surround the west side of Lundy Lake. However some aspens along the dirt road extension to the beaver ponds are yellow. It will be two weeks before the color is really spectacular, there.

Patchy (10 - 50%) - Lee Vining Canyon - 10-50%. Colors are just starting to ramp up in the Lee Vining Canyon area but we are a couple of weeks away from peak in this area. The Log Cabin Road, however, tends to go off more quickly -- plan for the next week to 10 days.

Just Starting (0 - 10%) - June Lake Loop - The Loop is usually one of the last places to turn and will be showing off her colors in approximately two weeks, all things being equal!

Just Starting (0 - 10%) - Convict Lake - The gorgeous aspens at the west end of the lake are still green.

12th Year of Free Big Game Hunts for Juniors Hunters

2015 Sharing the Tradition Hunts Deer and Hog Hunts for Juniors
Fifteen lucky junior hunters will be selected in a free, random drawing for either one of five guided antlerless deer hunts or one of 10 guided hog hunts at the famous Tejon Ranch for the 2015 season. This year the California Deer Association (CDA) will hold its 12th Annual "Sharing the Tradition" junior hunt drawing. According to CDA Director Jerry Springer, "These hunts are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for juniors to experience a free guided hunt on the famous Tejon Ranch and to receive great hunting products."

The 15 junior hunters will be drawn at random for a free one-on-one guided antlerless deer hunt or one-on-one guided hog hunt on the 270,000-acre Tejon Ranch, located in Southern California. These are no ordinary hunts, thanks to the generous sponsorships of Tejon Ranch, Barnes Bullets LLC, Alpen Optics, Hunter's Specialties and Birchwood Casey. First-class lodging on the ranch is included and each junior hunter will receive ammunition from Barnes Bullets, a pair of high-quality binoculars from Alpen Optics, plus hunting and shooting equipment from Hunter's Specialties and Birchwood Casey.

To date, 197 junior hunters have participated in these hunts with a 98% success rate on deer and 90% success rate on hogs.

The deadline to apply for this year's drawing is **October 24, 2015**. Hunts will take place during the week of December 14th. Entry forms can be found on the CDA website at caldeer.org/california-deer-associations-2015-junior-hunt-drawing/ or requested by emailing Jerry Springer at Jerry@WesternHunter.com.

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Crosslake, Minn. (September 14, 2015) – Anglers call it pattern fishing; a set of variables that come together to form consistently successful fishing. In terms of fish location—that most important of all fishing factors—no dynamic is more important than depth. Less investigated, yet almost equally influential on fish position, is water temperature.
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Statement by Dr. John W. Fitzpatrick on the USFWS decision not to list the Greater Sage-Grouse for protection under the Endangered Species Act

Today the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced its decision not to grant Endangered Species Act protection to the Greater Sage-Grouse. The U.S. Department of the Interior also finalized the range-wide strategy (in the form of several Environmental Impact Statements) for sage-grouse habitat on Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service lands in 10 western states. These decisions come after about a decade of cooperative conservation work and unprecedented coalitions among state and federal agencies, conservationists, energy companies, and private ranchers. States have invested more than \$200 million in sage-gro
More info at
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Plano, IL (September 10, 2015) – War historians trace the origin of the term "bunker" to World War I, when first used by German forces to describe bomb-proof shelters above and below ground. By the beginning of World War II in 1939, 'bunker' had entered the military lexicon of both Allied and Axis powers to describe various command and control centers and weapons storage facilities.

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