



July 2017

News from Watsonville Wetlands Watch

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Presentation: Predator or Prey - What's for Dinner?



Jack Rabbit by Efren Adalem

Join us on **Wednesday, July 19th**, for a very special outdoor evening event where biologist and wildlife expert **Bruce Elliott** will talk about local wildlife today and in the recent past, viewing them through the daily and seasonal cycles. He will concentrate on the animals found in south Santa Cruz and northern Monterey counties, covering the various animal groups, their predation and relationships, and how they use the night time hours to feed and prey.

This talk is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the outdoor classroom, overlooking the beautiful wetlands behind the Fitz Wetlands Educational Resource Center. Please dress accordingly. [Click for map/directions.](#)

Admission is free but you must reserve a seat online by [clicking here.](#)

For information, email wetlandscordinator@gmail.com.

Another Stellar Year of Stewards



The Wetland Stewards at their end of year camping trip to South Lake Tahoe

June marks the end of the school year and the graduation of another twelve incredible young people from our Wetland Stewards Program! Our stewards spent the year gaining wetland ecology knowledge, restoring habitat and teaching elementary and middle school students how to protect and appreciate our wetlands.



Dulce Garcia



Maria Perez

Four of the twelve stewards graduated from Pajaro Valley High School this year and will go on to study at the University of California Davis, University of California Berkeley, California State University Los Angeles and San Francisco State University.

This year, thanks to the generosity of several of our stalwart supporters, we were very fortunate to offer four scholarships to past and present senior Wetland Stewards.

The Haifley Family Scholarship went to Nuria Garcia (Class of

2016), Freedom Lions Club scholarships went to Dulce Garcia and Maria Perez and the Hofmeister scholarship went to Maria Perez.

Congratulations to all!

Tour - Shorebirds Walk



Whimbrel (left) and Godwit - Photo by Efren Adalem

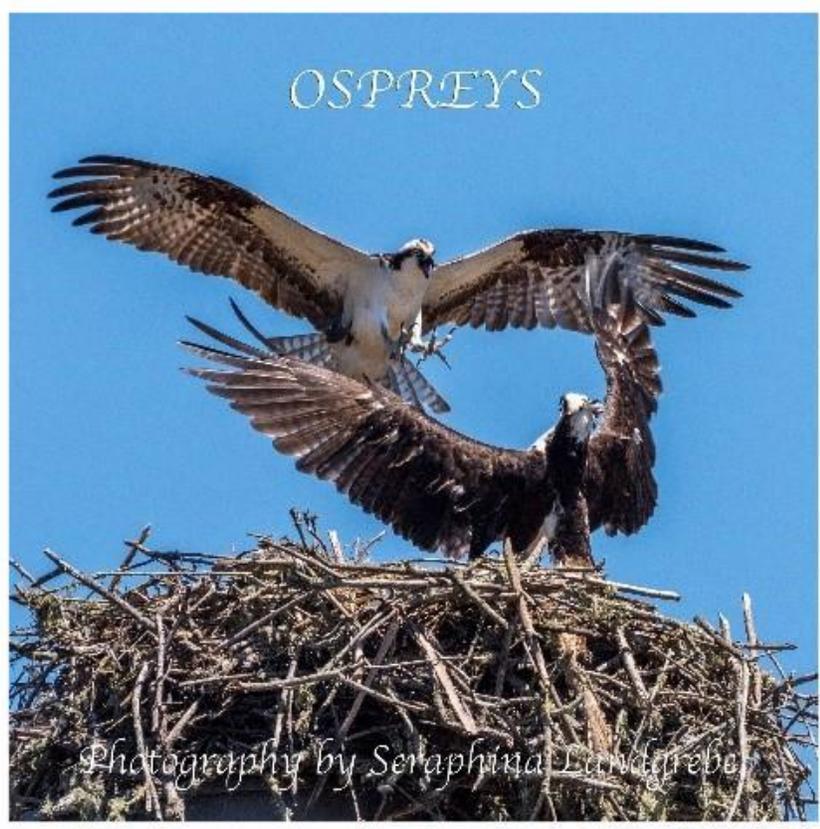
On **Saturday, August 19th**, join local birding expert **Bob Ramer** on a walk exploring the shorebirds on the last mile of Watsonville Slough at Pajaro Dunes. This will be the start of fall migration and we will expect to see many species of water birds, both migrant and resident.

This tour, hosted by the Watsonville Wetlands Watch, is from 8 to 11 a.m. Expect to walk about 2 miles on flat ground. Meet at the Fitz Wetlands Educational Resource Center, at the top of the Pajaro Valley High School campus, by 7:45 a.m. to carpool to the walk site. [Click for map/directions](#).

The tour is free, but you must [register here](#).

For information, email wetlandscordinator@gmail.com.

Spectacular Osprey Photo Journal on Display at the WERC



Osprey by Seraphina Landgrebe

Master photographer, Seraphina Landgrebe, spent five months last year documenting the life of a pair of Ospreys at Harkins Slough. The result is a spectacular photo journal book filled with the remarkable images she captured of the Osprey's life. Seraphina generously donated her beautiful book to Watsonville Wetlands Watch where it is on display at the Fitz Wetlands Educational Resource Center (WERC) for all to enjoy.

Seraphina chose to photograph the lives of the Osprey family because of a growing fascination of their nesting activities. The book tells a story of the trials and challenges of rearing a young chick as the Osprey are attacked by Bald Eagles, other Osprey, and harassed by humans. She states: *"It was a magical experience to photograph and document nature in action. I created this book to illustrate the beauty of nature and the grace of Ospreys. Only through photography can one see the detailed beauty of their wings and feathers."*

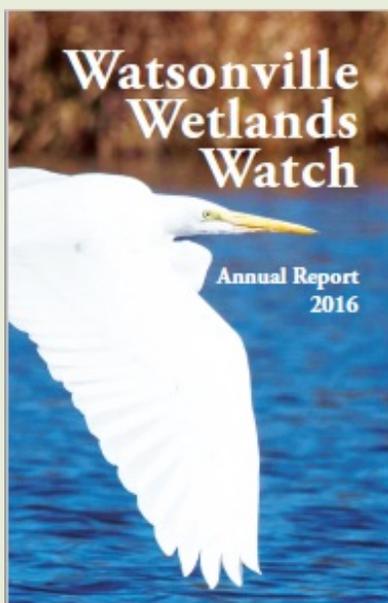
Seraphina enjoys sharing her work and teaching others how to photograph birds. Anyone interested in a bird photo class can contact her at 831-462-0718 and visit her website at www.seraphina.com. Visit her Facebook page at Seraphina Landgrebe for more recent Osprey images.



Dad delivers cleaned fish to mom and young Osprey

Watsonville Wetlands Watch wishes to thank Seraphina for the generous donation of this beautiful book to our organization and invites everyone to come to the WERC to enjoy it.

The 2016 Annual Report is Here



We're excited to release the 2016 Annual Report because, not only does it have a new look, but it is packed full of important information for you, our loyal supporters.

You'll be amazed to see all of WWW's accomplishments over the past year and you'll get an update on our financials including how we are funded and our expenditures.

So don't hesitate! Access the [pdf online](#) or stop by the WERC to pick-up a printed copy.

Saturday Community Restoration



Volunteers making a difference helping to restore our wetlands

On **Saturday, July 22nd**, we invite you to help restore wetland habitat as part of our fourth Saturday Community Restoration events. We will work from 9 a.m. to noon, and we always make time for birding or a short hike around the wetlands. We supply the gloves, tools, and yummy snacks.

Meet at our Fitz Wetlands Educational Resource Center ([map/directions](#)).

For questions, please contact Mary Paul at mary@watsonvillewetlandswatch.org or 831-566-4938.

**Climate Change -
Now is the Time to Act**



Mallard with Chicks on Struve Slough - photo courtesy of Efren Adalem

A changing climate puts our community, wildlife, and water resources at risk in many profound ways. At Watsonville Wetlands Watch we believe now is the time to act and that local solutions are fundamental to addressing this global challenge. Many of our projects offer real solutions to climate change and have been a part of our organization's focus for many years. We are also launching new initiatives to develop and pilot strategies that address climate change and sea level rise and make a greener and more resilient Watsonville and Pajaro Valley community.

We were recently honored to have Gary Griggs, UCSC Distinguished Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences and Director of the Institute of Marine Sciences, present a lecture on the topic of climate change at the WERC.

Gary states: "Global climate is changing and has been driven in large part over the past century by the increasing emission of greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels: coal, oil, and natural gas. A warming climate will likely affect the Monterey Bay region with higher temperatures, more frequent and longer droughts, more concentrated winter rainfall and runoff, as well as a variety of biological impacts. We need to continue our efforts and leadership in California on developing renewable energy sources, reducing carbon emissions and planning for a different future. We are the first generation to feel the effects of climate change and might be the last to have a chance to make an impact on reducing it."

Will you join us in making an impact on reducing the effects of climate change?

By supporting the Watsonville Wetlands Watch you become part of a growing community of environmental advocates who contribute to the well-being of our local environment and the entire planet.

**[Donate online at
watsonvillewetlandswatch.org](http://watsonvillewetlandswatch.org)**

Thank you!

Watsonville Wetlands Watch advocates for wetland issues, educates elementary, middle, and high school students, restores degraded habitats, preserves what remains whole, and teaches appreciation for the unique beauty and life of the Pajaro Valley wetlands. In cooperation with numerous other agencies, we support studies of and planning for these sites.

Watsonville Wetlands Watch is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, federal tax i.d. #77-0519882.