



# Land of the West Wind

Volume 19 Issue 1

March 2019

## SRCD Water Manager's Update

Greetings from the SRCD Water Managers. Here are some updates on our projects and programs taking place in the next few months.

- The 2019 work permit has been mailed and is available on the SRCD website. Don't wait too long to get your maintenance activities approved for 2019. There is still time to take advantage of spring low tides.
- The SRCD pumping program is available to aid in draining efforts. If pumping is something you would like to explore, there is more information available on the SRCD website at <http://suisunrcd.org/programs/portablepumps>.
- Diversion restrictions for spring salmon are ending and smelt restrictions are starting up: Smelt closure affects additional intake diversion gates beginning April 1, 2018
- Water Diversion reports are due June 30th. Information about the new requirement found on page seven.
- PAI cost share is available, and applications will go under review on a monthly basis as they are received.

Water quality at the moment is excellent, making it the perfect time to flush of water onto the duck clubs in order to pull salts out of the soil early. (More details about salinities on page 5)

If you have any questions or want to talk water schedules, please contact your Water Manager. SRCD would also like to extend the invitation for any club that wishes to schedule a meeting this spring in order to look at your yearly schedule.

## What is a Wingbee?

*By Marina Guzman and Orlando Rocha California Department of Fish and Wildlife*

When the waterfowl season ends, most hunters spend their time cleaning decoys, storing away calls, decoy bags, and extra shells. Some prepare their harvested meat by sending it to a butcher, while others begin grilling and hosting barbeques.

While most move on to other interests such as fishing, spring turkey, etc., waterfowl biologists across the country are still compiling waterfowl parts from an annual survey that you or someone you may know participated in. Have you ever heard of your hunting buddies talk about collecting wings or sending wings to a Wingbee? If you hunt migratory birds long enough, you will most likely end up being asked to participate. For some, it can be a hassle to collect a wing or tail feather from every bird harvested but the information gained is very valuable to biologists. The data from the wing surveys are important pieces of information used in population models and help managers set and evaluate hunting seasons.

A branch of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) selects hunters to participate in this survey based on the answers they provided during their Harvest Information Program registration (HIP) process. Waterfowl hunters across the country are re-

quired to get a HIP stamp when hunting in each state; HIP keeps track of all registered migratory game hunters and selects a portion of those hunters to participate in a written diary survey (Migratory Bird Hunter Survey). The written survey will ask hunters to keep track of their season by recording the number of times they hunted, bag number for each hunt, the date and general location of each hunt. This information will give activity estimates like days hunted per year, season bag per hunter, and how often an area is hunted a season.



## Land of the West Wind

Quarterly newsletter of the Suisun Resource  
Conservation District

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Phelan McKinney *Biologist/Water Manager*

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**SRCD's public meetings are  
held at 2 PM on the second  
Wednesday of each month at the  
Solano County Supervisors Chambers  
675 Texas Street  
Fairfield, CA 94533**

SRCD represents private landowners of the Suisun Marsh at the Federal, State, and local levels. Its historic goal has been to achieve a water supply of adequate quality so that preferred wetland habitat values will be retained through appropriate management practices. Through cooperation with landowners and various agencies, SRCD seeks to develop new programs aimed at protecting and improving the Suisun Marsh for future generations.

## Being Ready for a Spill

*By Tim Edmunds, SRCD Water Manager*

With onsite fuel storage and equipment such as tractors, excavators and even diesel-powered pumps being stored on your property, there is potential for a spill. We all hope that it never happens, but we must be prepared for this situation to become a reality. A couple of years ago the SRCD sent out a spill response template for clubs to adopt. Hopefully, each club has adopted this template and has a plan in place in case a spill occurs. One major component of a spill response plan is to have all spill kits and cleanup supplies on hand and accessible where spills can take place; trucks, equipment, pumps, and fuel storage areas, etc.

Here are some of the items to have onsite as a part of your spill kit: fuel containment, a spill kit, kitty litter, absorbent boom, and drain traps.



All fuel storage areas should have containment in case of spills or leaks. There should also be some containment under diesel pumps. It is a good idea to ensure that all hazardous substances are properly labeled and that a secondary containment receptacle is close to hand whenever storing 55 gallons or more. Routine checks in the hazardous substance storage area are crucial as they can discover potential issues before they turn from an annoyance to a significant problem. In Suisun Marsh, where factors like power outages and floods are common occurrences, check your storage often. Being prepared for a spill is the best defense against an accident becoming a real problem. Make sure you have a plan in place and all the supplies on hand to deal with a spill.



## CWA Youth Camps and Suisun Events

*By Taylor Byers, Summer Camp Coordinator*

Throughout the year, California Waterfowl Association's Hunting and Education Program offers a number of events at our Grizzly Ranch property, located in the Suisun Marsh. Our programs vary from youth camps ages 10-17, beginner duck weekends ages 18 and up, and even our fun shoots for the beginning and experienced shooters ages 8 and up! Completion of California Hunter Education is also offered at several of our events.

The list **on the right** contains all of CWA's Hunting and Education Programs located at Grizzly Ranch through January of 2020. For more information on and registration for our events, please visit our website [www.calwaterfowl.org](http://www.calwaterfowl.org) and find the Camps and Clinics page under the Events tab!

### 2019 Grizzly Ranch Youth and Hunting Events

Camp Sprig Level 1:

June 9-13, June 23-27, July 14-18

Camp Sprig Level 2:

June 16-20, July 7-11

Camp Sprig Level 3: July 21-24

Camp Sprig Family: July 26-28

Fun Shoot: June 15

Veteran Fun Shoot: July 20

Fun Shoot: August 25

Camp Sprig: September 7-8

Adult Waterfowl 101 + Hunt: September 14, November 1-2

Adult Waterfowl 101 + Hunt: September 21, November 15-16

Duck Camp: October 25-27, December 6-8, January 17-19

Family Hunt Program: November 22-23, December 20-21, December 27-28, January 3-4



CWA also offers courses and events specifically for women interested in hunting and heritage with their becoming an outdoorswoman program.

Women's participation in hunting and fishing in America is growing rapidly, fueled in large part by their desire for healthy, free-range meat and outdoor activities that can include the whole family. Women's participation still lags behind men's, but California Waterfowl's ***Becoming an Outdoors-Woman*** program helps address that deficit with a wide variety of events for novice outdoorswomen in supportive environments, as well as events for women of all experience levels.

You can reach Becoming and Outdoors-Woman Coordinator Sarahbeth Gonsalves at: (559)-972-3441 or [sgonsalves@calwaterfowl.org](mailto:sgonsalves@calwaterfowl.org).

## Silver Linings in the Dark Clouds

By: Jeff Taylor, SRCD Water Manager

2019 has started off with multiple wet and cold storms that dropped snow down to elevations that rarely see anything but rain. The continuing downpour of rain events and the threats of flood warnings, gusting winds, high storm surge, and river runoff have been the main headline for the end of January and most of February.

Needless to say, winter finally showed up at the end of duck season! The snow packs are reaching above average levels and the reservoirs are filling up to the brim. When released, they will add even more water to a swelling river system as it passes by Suisun Marsh on its way to the ocean.



The exterior levees of Suisun Marsh have been getting tested on each high tide. Overall, the Marsh has weathered the storms reasonably well. As each property owner in Suisun starts looking ahead to necessary maintenance and management, the high precipitation marking the beginning of the year has one tremendous benefit that all of us in the Marsh look forward to.

The water quality outlook for the 2019 season is looking outstanding! Salinity conditions are about as fresh as the Marsh can anticipate as we move into the spring. Aside

from struggling to drain the managed wetlands during the continuing rain, the conditions open up each Club to have greater flexibility and a longer water management period for 2019. This extended management period leads to developing some quality habitat and food sources for the upcoming year. *The chart on the right displays the upper salinity tolerances for some of the common marsh plants.*

SRCD is optimistic that water conditions will continue to be fresh (barring a complete stop to the rain) well into the summer months. Clubs looking to improve on their habitat should contact their Water Manager to discuss water management techniques, the use of the portable pumps for leach cycles/drain downs, and working around the tides to capitalize on a second consecutive fresh year in the Marsh.

### Salinities Snapshot!

11, March 2019

In electrical conductivity, (mS/cm)  
taken at mid-level tides

**Beldon's Landing, Montezuma Slough - 0.423**

**National Steel, Montezuma Slough- 0.266**

**Godfather II on Suisun Slough - 0.481**

**Cygnus III, on Cordelia Slough - 0.653**

To get more information on salinity readings in the marsh, check out the DWR stations, which can be found on the Hydrology page of SRCD website:

<https://suisunrcd.org/hydrology/#currenttidelevels>



### Diversion Reporting for the 2018 Water Year Due July 1st.

An additional requirement has been added and reporting now requires an upload of an external file detailing the amount of water diverted monthly.

Remember to keep your water management logs and ledgers close to hand when filling out your reports.

To do your diversion reporting go to [www.rms.waterboards.ca.gov](http://www.rms.waterboards.ca.gov) and then login with your water rights ID and password. Your water managers are happy to help answer any questions you might have.

Water quality outlook for the 2019 season is looking outstanding!



## Upper Bounds of Salinity Tolerance for Marsh



|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Fat Hen</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Fat Hen</b> can tolerate salinity of between 13-49 parts per thousand total dissolved solids (ppt TDS) or 20-77 milliSiemens/cm (mS/cm) (DWR 2001), but optimum is between 30 mS/cm and 45 mS/cm (SRCD 1998).</li> </ul> |
| <b>Lamb's Quarters</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Lambs Quarters</b> tolerates salinities up to 62 mS/cm (SRCD 1998)</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Brass Button</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Brass Button</b> tolerates salinities from 9-30 ppt TDS (14-48 mS/cm) (DWR 2001).</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Swamp Timothy</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Swamp Timothy</b> is uncommon in Suisun Marsh, growing under the freshest conditions (up to 5 mS/cm salinity)</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Smartweed</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Smartweed</b> Soil salinities where smartweed is found generally do not exceed 5 mS/cm (DWR 2001).</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Sago Pondweed</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Sago Pondweed</b> can tolerate water salinities of 912 ppt TDS (14.0-18.7 mS/cm) (DWR 2001).</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Watergrass</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Watergrass</b> can grow in soils with salinities between 4-6 mS/cm</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Wigeongrass</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Wigeongrass</b> can survive extremely high water salinities (up to 390 mS/cm)</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Pickleweed</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Pickleweed</b> grows in soils between 31-67 ppt TDS (48-105 mS/cm) salinity</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Alkali Bulrush</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Alkali Bulrush</b> can tolerate salinity up to 42 mS/cm (SRCD 1998).</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Sea Purslane</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Sea Purslane</b> tolerates high salinities up to 100 mS/cm (SRCD 1998).</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Cattails</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Cattail</b> up to 15 mS/cm salinity</li> </ul>   |

## In Memoriam: James Ramsey Bancroft (November 13, 1919- November 15, 2018)



James Ramsey Bancroft, a former member of the Suisun Resource Conservation Board of Directors and a SRCD Emeritus Director passed away two days after his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mr. Bancroft was instrumental in forming the Suisun Conservation Fund in 1963, was a major proponent of the passage of the 1977 Suisun Marsh Preservation Act that conserved the wetlands of Suisun Marsh and was instrumental in the donation of the #424 Lower Joice Island, Dean Witter Harry Sorensen Marshlands Project to SRCD in 2000.

After ending his waterfowl hunting career at Lower Joice Island, Mr. Bancroft continued his passion of preserving the Suisun Marsh waterfowl hunting heritage and wetland habitat preservation through the development and long-time financial support of the Phragmites and noxious weed control program. Mr. Bancroft established partnerships with SRCD, Ducks Unlimited, and private foundations to support over 20 years of cost share funding to reduce Suisun Marsh landowner treatment costs and promote the control and eradication of nonnative invasive weeds degrading the wetland habitats.

Born in Ponca City, Oklahoma, Bancroft and his three younger brothers moved to Redlands, California in 1931. At age 16, he attended a local college in Southern California for two years and enrolled at UC Berkeley from which he graduated in 1940 at 20 years old with a degree in Economics with honors as a Montegale Scholar, Magna Cum Laude, and Phi Beta Kappa. One year later, he received his MBA at UC Berkeley and passed his CPA exam. He worked as an account and joined the Navy in 1942 serving as a Lieutenant Senior Grade supply officer on the USS Oakland in the South Pacific. He returned to the Bay Area and married Jane Oberfell in 1944. He attended Hastings College of Law and graduated as a Mhoon Scholar in 1949.

He was a founder of the Spice Islands Company and personally represented Mr. Dean Witter. He founded the law firm that became Bancroft, Avery, & McAlister in 1950 where he worked for 40 years. He was active in real estate, oil and gas, and venture capital, and he was attorney and advisor for jazz pianist Dave Brubeck. He was executive and board member of several companies, and he founded Bancroft Vineyard on Howell Mountain east of St. Helena in 1982 that is now managed by Beringer. He was active in the arts and charitable causes, serving on several nonprofit boards and establishing the Bancroft-Clair Foundation in the mid-1990s.

Bancroft was an avid hunter and member of the Joice Island and Sorensen Ranch duck clubs for more than 40 years, went on three safaris to Africa, and hunted Alaskan brown bear on Kenai Peninsula. He was a member of the Bohemian Club for 58 years and member of the Pacific Union Club for 38 years. He is survived by his three children, their spouses and six grandchildren.

### Wing Bee Continued (from Page 1)

The second part of the survey is the Migratory Parts Collection Survey (Wing Survey). The Parts Collection Survey is the actual collection of hunter-harvested wings. The wing survey takes a sub-sample of hunters who completed the hunter diary survey and asks these hunters to send duck wings or tail feathers from geese for each harvested species, along with a few details of the birds' location. Once the majority of wings arrive at the hatchery, USFWS will designate a week in late February for state and federal agencies to examine each wing in detail. During this week, personnel from each state along the Pacific Flyway will send biologists to assist in the survey. The biologists will then determine the species, sex, and age composition of each wing. Hunters that participated in the survey will later receive a summary from the survey giving details of each bird that was harvested (sex, age, species, etc).

In the 2018-19 season, 27,000 individual waterfowl parts were collected and examined at Coleman National Fish Hatchery in Anderson, California. Nationwide, the USFWS receives about 90,000 duck wings, 20,000 goose tails and wing tips, 10,000 dove wings and 8,000 woodcock wings from the four Flyways (Pacific, Central Mississippi, Atlantic). If you were selected to participate in the survey, your willingness to participate is much appreciated and we are grateful for the time you spent collecting wings for this crucial part of managing populations of migrating waterfowl. This information is so important to keeping us out in the field hunting. If you would like to know more about this please visit USFWS web-page on Parts Collection Surveys. (<https://www.fws.gov/birds/surveys-and-data/harvest-surveys/parts-collection-surveys.php>)

# Suisun Resource Conservation District Annual Landowner Workshop

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 24th, 2019

**TIME:** 8:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

**SIGN IN:** Coffee and Snacks at 8 am, Presentations start at 8:30

**PLACE:** FP Smith Equipment  
3190 Ramsey Road, Fairfield  
*Special Thanks to Pete Smith for the use of his facilities*

**COST:** \$10.00 PER PERSON (includes Coffee & Snacks and Buffet Lunch)

**RSVP:** By Friday, April 19th, 2019

## Possible topics to be covered:

- USACE LOP, BCDC Permits, & Incidental Take Permit Training
- 2019 PAI Cost-Share Programs
- Managed Wetland Assessment Results
- Water Managers' Program
- SRCD 5-Year Strategic Plan
- Suisun Marsh Fire Protection and Marsh Burning - Chief Ron Glantz, Suisun Marsh Protection District
- Hill Slough Tidal Restoration Project – Sarah Estrella, CDFW
- Bradmoor and Arnold Slough Tidal Restoration Project – Caitlin Roddy and Elaine Jeu, DWR
- Tule Red Tidal Restoration Project– Rob Capriola, Westervelt Ecological Services
- Wings Landing Tidal Restoration Project – Forest Halford, Nat. Res. Group, Inc.
- Salinity Control Gate Operations, DWR
- Brood Ponds, Pressley Program, Phragmites – Brian Olson, CDFW
- Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse – Katie Smith, WRA, UC Davis

## Diversion Monitoring Continues

The Suisun Resource Conservation District and Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) have been monitoring diversion intakes in the Marsh since November 1st. We completed the Winter Salmon restrictions in January. Landowner compliance during this monitoring period was perfect, and we hope that continues into the Spring Salmon and Smelt monitoring periods.

We are currently monitoring for Spring Salmon restrictions that began mid-February and run through the end of March. During that time, diversions along salmon smolts' migration path must be completely closed.

Delta Smelt restriction monitoring will begin April 1st and will run through the end of May. Diversions located within Smelt habitat have to reduce intakes to 20%. Diversion can be increased to 35% capacity if certain requirements are met. We have had good landowner cooperation the past few years during all three monitoring periods and expect that to continue throughout this year. Landowner notifications will be mailed out when we know the results of the DFW survey for the Marsh.

*Land Of The West Wind*  
SRCD Newsletter

2544 Grizzly Island Road  
Suisun CA 94585

Address Correction Requested



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-----CUT AND MAIL THIS PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT-----

I would like to RSVP for the SRCD Annual Landowner Workshop April 24th, 2019.

**\*\*Please remit to: SRCD @ 2544 Grizzly Island Rd. Suisun, CA. 94585**

Enclosed is a check for how many lunch(es) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Club #: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Club # \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Club # \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_