



# CUAA Newsletter

SUMMER 2020

## Message from the board

This past quarter has been one of the most active periods for our CUAA members and the Board that I can remember in my 30+ years with the organization. On behalf of our Board and our Committees, I would like to thank all our members who stepped forward in a time of need and lived out our motto of "lending a helping hand". Current Humboldt Wildlife students will benefit in countless ways from your generosity and caring. It was gratifying for me personally, to realize the potential of our alumni organization and the willingness of you, the members, to come forward in a very short time span. Refer to Fundraising Committee Chair Scott Frazer's report for details on the optics project.

The Wildlife Department would also like to pass on their thanks for the rapid response to their request for optics. I think we may have surprised them a bit with the horsepower that this small organization was able to muster to complete the task. This success is a testament to the Wildlife Alumni "family". I reached out personally to our larger donors to thank them for their support. The message I heard was consistent. They all recounted how important the Wildlife Program at HSU was in preparing them for their lives and careers, and also the camaraderie and support that they experienced while there. They felt it was very important to give forward to the next generation of professionals. The Board and Committees continue to work toward growing the organization, increasing student support, and facilitating membership connections. COVID 19 has definitely affected our social and fellowship opportunities. We had to cancel a Sacramento area members gathering, and will be holding a "virtual" annual meeting for the first time ever. I look forward to the day when we can gather in person, share a beverage or a story, and celebrate our actions to support the Department. Once we determine the best method for a virtual meeting, we will announce it on our website and social media, so stay tuned and connected!

In this edition of our newsletter, we "track" one of the founding members of CUAA, Dick Laursen '57. I can think of no other single alumni who has done more for CUAA over his lifetime. For many years he was the historian, treasurer, and glue that kept the organization going during lean times. He was recently the center of video in support of the effort to create the Middle Fork Feather River (MFFR) Wilderness. Dick's efforts and documentation also helped get the MFFR designated as a wild and scenic river. You can see the video at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=pA96clqyJXI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pA96clqyJXI).

Finally, Membership Committee Chair Doug Padley is developing a list of Wildlife alumni, professors, staff, etc. Sadly, this list includes those who have passed before us. We hope to include announcements or memorials in our newsletters as we become aware of deaths. Doug has included Bill Burgen '56 this month, and I am sad to report the loss of my friend and alumni Tom Stone '60, a long time DFW senior biologist and wild turkey expert. If you know of any alumni that have passed on, please reach out to Doug or I and we will update our records.

As we continue to grow in strength and membership, I humbly urge you to reach out to other HSU Wildlife Alumni you know, and let them know we are here, and encourage them to join. I am finding that many wildlife alumni do not realize we exist, but once they become aware, they are very supportive. Again, many thanks to you the members for making us what we are.

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Board Chairman

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of  
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## Fundraising

We wish to sincerely thank the many donors that helped us raise >\$10,000 to purchase new optics for HSU wildlife students! This fundraising effort was in direct response to a letter we received from HSU Wildlife Dept. Chairman, Dr. Dan Barton requesting our support for students who (due to COVID-19) will be taking their Fall 2020 classes online. In less than a month, donations met over half the projected need and allowed CUAA to order 100 pairs binoculars, that will be available for the start of the Fall term. So even during “virtual learning” these students will now have the research tools to get outside and develop their wildlife observation skills in their hometown. In addition, these binoculars will be loaned to the students for the entirety of their education at HSU so they will never be without a quality pair of binoculars.

On Saturday July 25, CUAA Fundraising Committee Chair Scott Frazer and CUAA Treasurer Will Goldenberg visited the local sporting goods store Pacific Outfitters along with Dr. Dan Barton to collect the first shipment of 50 pairs of Vortex 8 x 32 binoculars (with lifetime warranty). Pacific Outfitters in Eureka, arranged the sale at a discount price and helped load the shipment for delivery to students. According to Jonathan Jones (Pacific Outfitters- Buyer and Wildlife Alum), “It’s super fun for me to stay active in the community and working on unique buying projects like this to help facilitate learning at a program that I graduated from and really enjoyed”.



Scott Frazer and Dr. Dan Barton

We received donations of all sizes from across the country, but 3 of these deserve special mention. We recognize Institute for Wildlife Studies (IWS) directed by wildlife alum Dave Garcelon for an extremely generous donation that truly shows their commitment to the HSU wildlife program. The Jonathan and Rosemarie Ives Family Fund also made a substantial contribution to our fundraising goals. And lastly we wish to thank CUAA member Jane Hicks who provided critical funding in a very timely fashion. We are so grateful to all of our donors and are confident that these binoculars will go to good use for many years

If you would like to help push us over the finish line, please consider making an unrestricted donation to the CUAA Optics/Equipment fund, so that we will not need to return donations that may arrive after the binocular need is met, but can apply your donation to much needed equipment and resources for students. Donations for this student optics fund can be made on our website: [www.CUAAHumboldt.org](http://www.CUAAHumboldt.org)

Scott Frazer  
Fundraising Committee Chair

## Membership

CUAA started with about 150 Charter Members. Our membership has fluctuated between 15-20 and 200 members. Currently we have 54 dues paying members. This is a recent high number, but we can do better. The Membership Committee is working hard to gather contact information on more than 3100 alumni. Currently we have an email list of about 750. This fall we will be sending renewal notices to the dues paying members and in November we will initiate a membership drive. Wherever possible the business of the Association is being conducted online and via phone contacts.

### 2021 Membership Meeting

In 2021 the membership meeting will be held online for the first time. At this time we are working on identifying an appropriate platform and we will notify members and alumni as the meeting time approaches.

### Calling all volunteers!

The work of CUAA is conducted by volunteers. The Board of Directors, committee members and others donate their time to make good things happen. The time commitment can vary from a few hours to as much as you would like to put in. Please consider joining The Board of Directors, one of the committees, or a special posts. We have needs for people in the following areas:

**Treasurer**  
**Secretary**  
**Executive Officer**  
**Newsletter Editor**

**Committees-**  
**Membership**  
**Social Media**  
**Fundraising**

### Annual Membership Dues

\$15- Early Professional Member (1-3 years post graduation)

\$25- Professional Member

\$500- Lifetime membership

Honorary Member: Any person who has given a significant amount of time and energy in service to the Association may become a lifetime Honorary Member upon an affirmative vote by the membership; and any person donating real estate, royalties, and other such gifts or cash shall be recognized by the association and may become an Honorary Member upon an affirmative vote by the membership.



Honorary Members are Richard Laursen, Richard Ridenhour, Fred Galbreath and Stan Harris (deceased).

Doug Padley  
 Fundraising Committee Chair

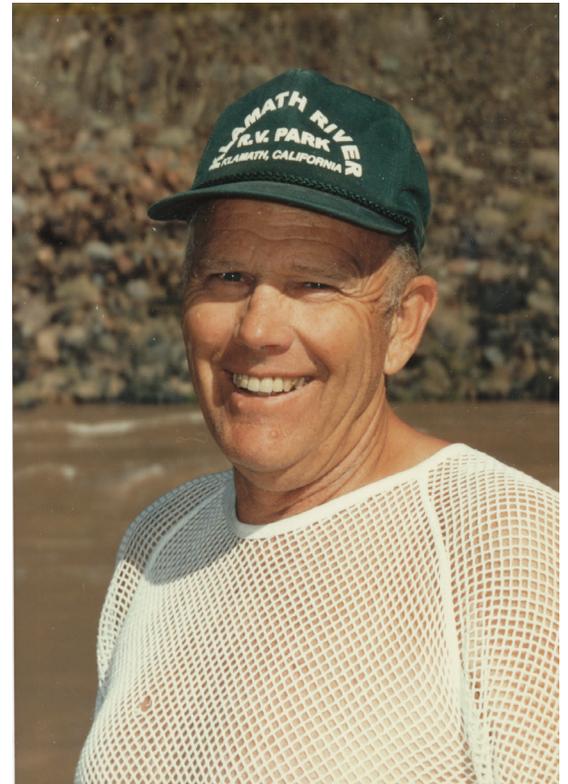
## “Tracking Wildlifers”

Have you ever wondered what your classmates have been up to since graduation? Probably a lot! Graduates of HSU’s Wildlife program have spread around the world and are putting their passion and expertise to good use. In this column, we track down HSU wildlifers to find out how they used their education to lead a wild life.

### DICK LAURSEN (class of '57)

I was born in 1929 and grew up in the Santa Rosa area except for five years (age 8 through 12) with my Step-dad and Mother on a mining claim on the Middle Fork Feather River 35 miles east of Oroville, California. This mining claim was primitive living, being 1 and ½ miles from the unfinished Forest Service road into the river canyon, and six miles from the Brush Creek store. Our car had been trashed by vandals and we walked these miles for several years. This was during the great depression and many people eked out a living wherever they could. There was no school, so my Mom sent me out to Santa Rosa to live with my Grandparents so I could go to school in the fall of 1941 and the start of WWII.

I missed WWII, but was drafted into the Army in December 1950, four months after the start of the Korean War and arrived in Korea in August of 1951. I had never considered going to college, but on arriving home in 1952, I had no job so enrolled in Santa Rosa Junior College. After two years at SRJC I came to Humboldt State University, graduating in 1957 with a B.S. degree in Fisheries Management. Thus, my association with natural resources was fully fledged, and my interest in our natural world has continued ever since. Today, I would classify myself as an Ecologist.



Dick Laursen and wife Carol

While at HSU, I became involved with the usual school activities such as basketball, a play, wrote a column (Fin and Fur) one year for the Lumberjack and was very active in Conservation Unlimited and was president one year. In those early years, only two studies in natural resources was available, Fisheries Management or Game Management, and although we had two titles, we were one integrated group, the “Wildlifers”. Most students wore creased pants and dresses in those days and we were sometimes also called the “denim” crowd.

I went to work for the State and worked in four different departments, Fish and Wildlife (Game Warden), Parks and Recreation (Recreation Planner) estimating possible recreation use at various sites along the State Water Project from Oroville to Los Angeles, a three year stint with the Governor’s office managing grant monies to cities and counties provided to help them do their General Plans, and last to the newly created Coastal Commission in Eureka. I retired from State service when I became age 50 in 1979.

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Continued from page 4- It was during the game warden days that I got involved with the Western Section of the Wildlife Society and became president in 1973. There was always a good group of HSU alumni attending and we would get together at breakfast and hash out topics of interest. We discussed providing scholarships and interest-free loans. We decided on providing interest-free loans, and that forming a CU Alumni Association would be a good way to go. Since I had brought up idea of interest-free loans and pushed hard for a CUA, I was chosen to set it up. I set to it and prepared Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, a bank account, stationary, a motto, etc, etc. I was president 1967-68 and held the Treasurer position for the next 33 years, also writing and mailing out a Newsletter three or four times a year. In 1993, I delivered the membership list, bank book and all the past records to Brian Barton. New officers, ideas and energy has done well for CUA.

Carol and I moved to Eskaton Village Carmichael, in January 2007, a senior center here in Sacramento where we now reside. Since being here I became a Board Member to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center located in the American River Parkway. A heart issue caused me to resign last year. The Center provides professionally led outdoor natural resource lasses to young (8 -14) students. In 2019, over 19,000 young people got one full day of information and instruction about natural resources and how our lives depend on them. A very important and worthwhile day in their lives.

I recently joined up with a group located in Quincy called, Friends of Plumas Wilderness, who have been active in that area working to get more protection around the Middle Fork Feather River. I suggested the creation of a Middle Fork Feather River Canyon National Monument. We made an 18 minute movie titled, Visions of the Lost Sierra, (It can be seen on line) and are currently gathering data to support the National Monument proposal.

Dick Laursen  
August 2020

## In Memoriam

### **William N. Burgen (1929-2018)**

William was born in Auburn, California and grew up on the Applegate Fruit Ranch. In 1951 he was drafted into the Army and served Korea as a forward artillery observer. Following his discharge from the military he married Imogen Schlossin in January 1953.

William received his B.S. degree in Wildlife Management in January 1956 and in April began his career with the National Park Service. He started his career at Lake Mead National Recreation Area in April 1956. Other assignments included: The Blue Ridge Parkway, Yellowstone National Park, Death Valley National Monument, Chief Ranger at Shenandoah National Park, Superintendent Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area, Albright Training Academy at the Grand Canyon, and Assistant Superintendent of Yosemite National Park from 1977 to 1984. William retired from the National Park Service in 1984. In retirement William and Imogen lived in Applegate, California before moving to Luray, Virginia in 2010. While attending Humboldt State he was a proud member of CU.

### **Stay In touch!**

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