

Western Society of Naturalists

~ 2006 ~

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87TH ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 9-12, 2006 IN REDMOND, WASHINGTON

Meeting Information

This year's annual meeting of the Western Society of Naturalists will be held November 9-12 at the Marriott Town Center hotel in Redmond, Washington. The meeting will begin on the evening of Thursday (November 9) with a Student Workshop and Mixer, which continue to be very popular events. On Nov. 10 and 11, a symposium will be held each morning, followed by contributed paper sessions in the afternoon. A plenary speaker is planned for Sunday morning (Nov. 12), followed by contributed paper sessions in both the morning and afternoon. Once again, a Contributed Poster Session will be scheduled. As we approach the conference, we will provide more details on the schedule, including the ever-popular Attitude Adjustment Hour, the Presidential Banquet, and the WSN Auction.

All workshops, symposia, and contributed paper and poster sessions will be held in the meeting rooms of the Redmond Marriott Town Center hotel. For driving directions and general information about the hotel, visit http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/seamc?WT_Ref=mi_left. As we prepare for this year's meeting, we will post additional information on the WSN website.

Local chair Phil Levin has arranged a room rate of \$109/night, and this rate is the same regardless of single, double, triple, or quadruple occupancy.

These rates will apply until October 9.

The model we used last year, paying for meeting rooms separately and not relying on a large room commitment for members, was very successful. This structure allowed the society to estimate costs of the meeting more accurately and set registration fees accordingly. We will use this model again this year, and the good news is that we will not increase registration fees for 2006, having built up a reserve from the Monterey-Seaside meeting. However, this model means that again the society has set aside a much lower number of rooms for

WSN members. Consequently, we again strongly advise you to **make your hotel reservations as early as possible and well before the meeting, or you may be unable to find accommodations at the Redmond Marriott Town Center. The rates are guaranteed until October 9, but if rooms fill up, you may not be able to obtain one at the negotiated rate before that date.**

When you make your reservation, simply click on this Marriott hotels icon



or use the link <http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/seamc?groupCode=wsnwsna&app=resvlink>

This should ensure that the discounted rates will be displayed. To make reservations by phone, call 1-800-228-9290 or call the Redmond Marriott Town Center directly at 1-425-498-4000

Call for Papers/Posters

We will open the WSN website for online submission of abstracts for contributed papers and posters beginning September 1, 2006. **Abstracts will be accepted by e-mail through October 9, 2006** and posted subsequently on the WSN website along with a meeting schedule. If you would like to submit an abstract for a contributed paper or poster and do not have web access, please send your abstract (200 word maximum) along with the names, organizational affiliations, and mailing addresses of all authors to the WSN Secretariat by the October 9 deadline. Please indicate clearly the name of the presenting author.

Special note: At the Monterey-Seaside meeting, we were barely able to accommodate the many contributed papers. We strongly encourage this participation, but we also need to make adjustments so that as many people as possible can give oral presentations. At the WSN business meeting, a motion was made and passed that contributed papers should be 15 minutes long in total – 12 minutes for the presentation and 3 minutes for questions – instead of the traditional 20 minutes WSN has used for many years. We will be using this framework in Redmond as a test of this model, so please plan according in the development of contributed papers.

WSN Auction

Again, the WSN Student Committee is seeking items to include in this year's auction. Money raised from the auction is used to fund student travel. The auction will be held immediately following the Presidential Banquet. Previously donated items have included books or monographs, art work, embarrassing collectibles obtained from prominent WSN members, wine, and other spirits. WSN is a non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible. If you have items that you would like to donate or have questions of the WSN student committee in general, please e-mail Ben Pister of the WSN student committee (bpister@biomail.ucsd.edu).

RECAP OF THE 86TH ANNUAL MEETING IN MONTEREY BAY, CALIFORNIA

The 86th meeting of the Western Society of Naturalists was held November 17 – 20, 2005 at the Embassy Suites Hotel Monterey Bay, in Seaside, CA. The meeting was attended by over 500 members and was regarded as one of the best meetings ever held by WSN. Highlights of the meeting included a presentation of the inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award to and a plenary speech from Joseph Connell, University of California Santa Barbara, a presentation by WSN Naturalist of the Year Jim Watanabe, Stanford University, the AAH, and the banquet and Presidential Address delivered by outgoing President Mark Carr, University of California Santa Cruz, whose presentation had members rocking with laughter. The WSN Auction presided over by Rafe Sagarin, and donations by members raised over \$4,000 for student travel. The prized “tequila and trophy”, won by the University of California, Santa Barbara last year, was again bid on heavily and eventually won by

Hopkins Marine Station for \$1,300. The student committee raised another \$1,500 in sales of t-shirts and other merchandise. The contributed papers and posters were again filled with many excellent presentations. All in all, it was a great meeting.

Elections, Nominations, and Other Society Business

A number of elections were made at the 2005 business meeting:

- Larry Allen of California State University, Northridge, was nominated and unanimously elected as President-Elect.
- The program committee (made up by Mike Graham, Ted Grosholz/Jay Stachowicz, and Phil Levin) recommended meeting locations for 2007 (Santa Barbara, Hunter Lenihan as local chair) and 2008 (Vancouver, B.C., Chris Harley as local chair), and these locations were approved by the membership.
- The current Secretariat (Todd Anderson, Matt Edwards, and Kevin Hovel of San Diego State University) was elected to another three-year term.

In addition,

- Lara Ferry-Graham provided a treasury report on the society's finances.
- Ben Pister provided a report on the student committee. Ben thanked the students working at the registration desk and the student committee for their efforts, and the committee is starting a listserv for communication among students. Chris Stallings will be stepping down as committee member; Joe Tzyburczy was nominated as a new committee member and approved unanimously.
- Jarrett Byrnes was acknowledged for his offer to work on improving the WSN website interface; after modifications, Michael O'Donnell will serve as webmaster once the site has been modified.

Travel Awards

Twenty-five travel awards were given to students who presented papers at the Monterey-Seaside meeting. Although we are not able to fund all students who have applied, and these awards cannot cover the majority of their expenses, students are encouraged to apply for these awards in order to attend future meetings. All members are encouraged to contribute to the travel fund when they pay their annual dues. Details on applying for student travel awards are available on the WSN website.

Student Paper Awards

From the student papers presented at the 86th Annual Meeting, awards for Best Student Paper were given in three categories: 1) Ecology and Conservation (Mia Tegner Award), 2) Genetics and Population Biology 3) Physiology and Organismal Biology. WSN also presented a Best Student Poster Award. The Best Student Paper/Poster Award Committee was chaired by Matt Bracken and Gage Dayton, who did an excellent job of organizing the judging and helping to evaluate the presentations; many thanks for their efforts! We also thank The American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists, Southern & Baja California, Mexico District, who provided the first-ever Best Student Paper in Fishery Biology at WSN.

As always, there were numerous outstanding papers that deserved awards, but this year was particularly difficult for the judges with the number of papers and posters of excellent quality. Here are the winners and those receiving honorable mention in each category:

Best Student Papers

Ecology and Conservation (Mia Tegner Award)

Winner: Phillip Fenberg, University of California, San Diego: “The effects of size-selective harvesting on a sex changing limpet”

Honorable Mention: Christopher Stallings, Oregon State University: “Fishing out diversity: non-targeted predators reduce recruitment of coral-reef fishes”

Genetics and Population Biology

Winner: Rebecca Studebaker, Humboldt State University: “Use of rocky intertidal areas by juvenile black rockfish”

Honorable Mention: Morgan Bond, University of California, Santa Cruz: “Estuaries as steelhead nursery habitat”

Physiology and Organismal Biology

Winner: Felipe Barreto, University of North Carolina, Wilmington: “Strong color pattern based assortative mating despite widespread genomic identity between members of a marine species flock”

Honorable Mention: Rebecca Vega Thurber, Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford University: Potentiation of genotoxins via inhibition of efflux transporters *in vivo*

Best Student Poster

Winner: Ryan Ellingson, California State University, Los Angeles: “Speciation and transarctic migration in an estuarine gastropod: evolutionary history of the sea slug genus *Alderia*”

Honorable Mention: Amber Szoboszlai, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories: “Fluid dynamics of intertidal macroalgal canopies: flow modification and macroalgal recruitment”

American Institute of Fisheries Research Biologists, Southern & Baja California, Mexico District Best Student Paper in Fishery Biology

Winner: Clare Wormald, University of Rhode Island: “Testing assumptions of mark and recapture theory: an example with a tropical snapper”

MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

Hi Everyone! The 2005 Monterey/Seaside Meeting was a tremendous success. Thank you to everyone who attended and made it the meeting that it was. As usual, our student members were the shining stars of the meeting. In terms of those who worked with me specifically, the SDSU students working at the registration desk under the guidance and organization of Carey Galst did an amazing job receiving such a large turnout. The Student Committee members hosted an informative and well-attended workshop and mixer. They also produced a wonderful array of merchandise this year and made great headway towards rebuilding their coffers for funding future student workshops and symposia. A special thanks goes to the staff of the Embassy Suites, who were incredibly accommodating and made the meeting run smoothly.

Financially speaking, the 2005 meeting was also a huge success. We tried a new model in paying for meeting rooms. The past several years we have not met the guest room requirement at the hotel. The society members must reserve a certain number of guest rooms, and for this we get the meeting rooms where the sessions are held for free. If we fail to meet this guest room requirement, we face large penalties. This year we decided a wiser model was to simply pay for our meeting rooms outright, thereby needing far fewer guest rooms to be occupied by our members. This increased our estimated meeting costs slightly but these costs were far less than the penalties faced in previous years. With such great attendance we were able to pay our final bill and have been able to save some money for helping us to buffer against unforeseen costs at future meetings. We will try this model again next year in Seattle (Redmond). Along those lines over \$1500 in profit was raised by t-shirt and merchandise sales to fund Student Committee Workshops and Mixers, and over \$4000 was raised for the Dave Montgomery Endowment for Student Travel by the auction and by donations from members. We paid out 90% of the auction money in Student Travel Awards, retaining 10% to allow for re-growth of the account according to our new guidelines. Students, don't forget to apply for student travel awards! The rules for these awards are posted on the WSN website.

A note about meeting costs - as most of you know, we work very hard to keep the meeting costs as low as possible. We did hear complaints about the cost of the meeting. We want you to know that we don't try to make the meeting a money making venture; we hope only to remain in the black from year to year. This allows us to keep costs as low as possible and pass those savings on to you. Unfortunately, the prices charged by the hotels do increase from year to year. We have to pass those expenses on to you in the form of your conference registration. I am concerned when I hear that this cost might be too high, especially for student members to bear. I wanted to make sure that we were not increasing out of pace with other meetings that have similar cost structures. I think you can see from the following table of registration rates charged in 2005 that we are still the best deal around:

	<u>Regular Member</u>	<u>Student Member</u>
WSN	\$80	\$50
Benthics	\$195	\$140
SICB	\$225	\$70 (Post doc \$150)
ASIH/AES	\$305	\$205
PSA	rates not posted	
AGU/ASLO	\$340	\$200
ESA	\$260	\$125
SCB	\$240	\$80

We apologize that the organization of the meeting was not such that we could sell AAH tickets at the registration desk. It is unfortunate that AAH tickets could not be made available to everyone that wanted one. We have to give the hotel a set number of attendees at some point, as determined by the hotel; this date was before the start of the meeting this year. In the past few years, on-site registration has not been very high. This

means that when we set that AAH number higher, we have not sold enough tickets on-site to make up the difference. This becomes problematic for us financially since we already heavily subsidize the AAH to keep it as affordable as possible. I encourage you to register early for the Seattle meeting to ensure you can attend everything you want to and at the lowest possible cost (remember, rates go up when you register late!).

Thanks again to everyone who turned out this year and made the meeting a huge success. I am truly proud to be your Treasurer at a time when I can witness the entire membership working together to re-build our accounts, especially for the students.

Lara Ferry-Graham

STATE OF THE SOCIETY AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

The membership in WSN stands at over 550 current members. Please continue to help promote the society by encouraging your colleagues and students to join WSN as we continue to re-build the society and grow the membership. **Because the society now operates almost exclusively by e-mail**, it is very important that you contact us with changes to your e-mail address and other contact information so that we can update our database. Please note again that you now have TWO ways to make a donation in support of the society: 1) a donation to the Student Travel/Dave Montgomery Endowment Fund and 2) a donation to help support the day-to-day costs of running the society. Thank you for supporting WSN and we hope to see you at the upcoming meeting in Redmond, Washington this November!