

Western Society of Naturalists

~ 2007 ~

President

Larry Allen

Department of Biology
California State University, Northridge
Northridge, CA 91330
larry.allen@csun.edu

President-Elect

Kathy Ann Miller

University and Jepson Herbaria
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, CA 94720
kathyannmiller@berkeley.edu

Website

www.wsn-online.org

Secretariat

Todd Anderson

Matthew Edwards

Kevin Hovel

Department of Biology
San Diego State University
San Diego, CA 92182
secretariat@wsn-online.org

Treasurer

Lara Ferry-Graham

Moss Landing Marine Labs
8272 Moss Landing Road
Moss Landing, CA 95039
lfgraham@mlml.calstate.edu

Member-at-Large

Hunter Lenihan

Bren School of Environmental
Science and Management
University of California, Santa
Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA
lenihan@bren.ucsb.edu

88TH ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 8-11, 2007 IN VENTURA, CALIFORNIA

Meeting Information

This year's annual meeting of the Western Society of Naturalists will be held November 8-11 at the Marriott Ventura Beach hotel in Ventura, California. The meeting will begin on the evening of Thursday (November 8) with a Student Workshop and Mixer, which continue to be very popular events. On Nov. 9 and 10, a symposium will be held each morning, followed by contributed paper sessions in the afternoon. A plenary speaker is planned for Sunday morning (Nov. 11), 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 Marriott Ventura Beach hotel. For driving directions and general information about the hotel, visit <http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/OXRVB>. As we prepare for this year's meeting, we will post additional information on the WSN website.

Local chair Hunter Lenihan has arranged a room rate of \$119/night for single and/or double occupancy, and \$139/night for triple or quadruple occupancy. **These rates will apply until October 5.** See links below for registering at these rates.

Our recent strategy of covering meeting rooms separately and not relying on a large room commitment for members has been very successful. This structure allows the society to estimate costs of the meeting more accurately and set registration fees accordingly. This model, however, 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 Marriott Ventura Beach. **The rates are guaranteed until October 5**, but if rooms fill up, you may not be able to obtain one at the negotiated rate after that date.

When you make your reservation, simply click on one of these Marriott hotels icons

Single – Doubles rates (\$119/night)



Triple – Quad rates (\$139/night)



This should ensure that the discounted rates will be displayed. To make reservations by phone, call the Marriott Ventura Beach directly at 1- 800 228-9290 your code is “wsnwsnb” for Single/Double rates and “wsnwsna” for Triple/Quad rates.

Call for Papers/Posters

We will open the WSN website for online submission of abstracts for contributed papers and posters beginning September 1, 2007. **Abstracts will be accepted through October 8, 2007** 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 email your abstract (200 word maximum) along with the names, organizational affiliations, and mailing addresses of all authors to the WSN Secretariat by the October 8 deadline. Please indicate clearly the name of the presenting author.

Special note: To accommodate as many speakers as possible without increasing the number of concurrent sessions, WSN annual meetings now use a 15 minute format for oral presentations (12 minutes for the presentation and 3 minutes for questions). Please plan accordingly 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 Laura Carney of the WSN student committee (lcarney@sciences.sdsu.edu).

RECAP OF THE 87TH ANNUAL MEETING IN REDMOND, WASHINGTON

The 87th meeting of the Western Society of Naturalists was held November 9 – 12, 2006 at the Marriott Town Center hotel in Redmond, WA. The meeting was attended by nearly 450 members and was regarded as a very high turnout in the Pacific Northwest. Highlights of the meeting included a presentation of the inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award to Robert Paine of the University of Washington, an award and presentation by WSN Naturalist of the Year Brian Bingham of Western Washington University, the AAH with hand-picked kegs of beer by local-chair Phil Levin, and the banquet and Presidential Address delivered by outgoing President Ralph Larson. The WSN Auction was presided over by Rafe Sagarin, and donations by members raised over \$6,240 for student travel. The prized “tequila and trophy”, won by the Hopkins Marine Station last

year, was again bid on heavily and eventually won by CSU Long Beach for an astounding \$3,400! The student committee raised another \$1,130 in sales of t-shirts and other merchandise. The contributed papers and posters were again filled with many excellent presentations.

Elections, Nominations, and Other Society Business

A number of elections were made at the 2006 business meeting:

- Kathy Ann Miller, UC Berkeley, was nominated and unanimously elected as President-Elect.
- The program committee (made up by Mike Graham, Phil Levin, and Hunter Lenihan recommended Monterey, CA as the meeting location for 2009, which was approved by the membership. The 2007 meeting will be in Ventura, CA (Hunter Lenihan as local chair), and the 2008 meeting will be in Vancouver, B.C. (Chris Harley as local chair), and this location was approved by the membership.

In addition,

- Lara Ferry-Graham provided a treasury report on the society's finances.
- Ben Pister provided a report on the student committee.
- Jarrett Byrnes was acknowledged for improving the WSN website interface and Michael O'Donnell was acknowledged as its webmaster.

Travel Awards

Forty-one travel awards were given to students who presented papers at the Redmond 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 87th 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 Sara Gilman and Bonnie Becker, who did an excellent job of organizing the judging and helping to evaluate the presentations; many thanks for their efforts!

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: Gerick Bergsma, University of California, Santa Barbara: "Mutualistic Tube-Dwelling Amphipods Protect Corals from Predators."

Honorable Mention: Ben Grupe, University of Oregon: "Predator-Mediated Flight Response in Sea Urchins Results in Terrestrial Predation by Oystercatchers and Raccoons"

Genetics and Population Biology

Winner: Jameal Samhourri, University of California, Los Angeles: “The Relative Importance of Density-Dependent Birth and Death Rates in Stabilizing Coral Reef Fish Metapopulations”

Honorable Mention: Jon Walsh, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories: A Review of the Systematics of Western North Pacific Angel Sharks, Genus *Squatina*, with Redescriptions of *Squatina formosa*, *S. japonica*, and *S. nebulosa* (Chondrichthyes: Squatiniformes: Squatinidae)

Physiology and Organismal Biology

Winner: Emily Floyd, San Diego State University and the University of California, Davis: “Short-Term Exposure of Larval Fathead Minnows (*Pimephales promelas*) to a Pyrethroid Insecticide: Implications for Growth, Behavior, and Predation Risk”

Honorable Mention: Stephanie Talmage, California State University, Northridge: “Variation in Abundance and Carbon Allocation for *Sargassum mangarevense* across Gradients in Herbivory and Hydrodynamic Exposure in Moorea, French Polynesia”

Best Student Poster

Winner: Vincent Moriarty, Northeastern University: “The Effect of Light and Enhanced Heterotrophic Feeding on the Coral/Algal Relationship in Two Species of Coral (*Porites lobata* and *Montipora hispida*)”

Honorable Mention: Sean Vogt, California State University, Fullerton: “Spatial and Temporal Variation in Delta-13C and Delta-15N Values of Macro-Algae in Southern California Waters”

MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

Hi Everyone! The 2006 Redmond Meeting was fabulous. Thank you to everyone who attended and made it the meeting that it was. Financially speaking, we did very well indeed! With such great attendance we were able to pay our final bill (hooray!) and have been able to save some money again this year for helping us to buffer against unforeseen costs at future meetings.

See the newsletter for reports of earnings by the Student Committee via merchandise sales, and by the Auction for the Dave Montgomery Endowment for Student Travel. The students in general worked very hard to bring in these monies and we all owe them our thanks. I am also proud to recognize Dr. Paul Dayton for kicking off the Naturalist of the Year Endowment with a \$700 donation. This will be used to help fund the award for future years and help to ensure its perpetuity. Thank you Paul!

This will be my last year in office as Treasurer and I have been very honored to serve you all, especially at a time when I got to witness our entire membership rally to rebuild our coffers. Thank you for allowing me to play a role in a strong and vibrant society such as this one.

-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 Ventura, California this November!