

Western Society of Naturalists

~ 2009 ~

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90TH ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 12-15, 2009 IN MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA

Meeting Information

This year's annual meeting of the Western Society of Naturalists will be held November 12-15 at the Embassy Suites Monterey Bay in Seaside, California. The meeting will begin on the evening of Thursday (November 12) with a Student Workshop and Mixer, which continue to be very popular events. On Nov. 13 and 14, a symposium will be held each morning, followed by contributed paper sessions in the afternoon. A plenary speaker is planned for Sunday morning (Nov. 15), 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 Embassy Suites Monterey Bay - Seaside. For driving directions and general information about the hotel, visit <http://www.embassymonterey.com/home.aspx>. As we prepare for this year's meeting, we will post additional information on the WSN website.

Local chair Mike Graham has arranged a room rate of \$139/night for single occupancy, \$149/night for double occupancy, \$159/night for triple occupancy, and \$169/night for triple or quadruple occupancy. **These rates will apply until Tuesday, October 13, 2009.** As usual, we 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 Embassy Suites Monterey Bay - Seaside. Regular room rates are much higher so book your room before they are all taken.

Monterey hotels are expensive, but we have negotiated the most reasonable rate possible for a hotel with enough space for our meeting. The Embassy Suites Monterey hotel offers a great combination of location, accommodations, and price. We urge all members to stay in the Embassy Suites so that the society can fulfill its room commitment to the hotel, which will allow us to remain financially solvent.

To make your reservation, you can call the hotel directly (831-393-1115) or the Reservation Center (1-800-559-4308). Be sure to tell them you are reserving a room for the Western Society of Naturalists meeting so you can get the special room rates.

Or, you can register online:

<http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/MRYESES-WSN-20091112/index.jhtml>

Group Name:	Western Society of Naturalists
Group Code:	WSN
Hotel Name:	Embassy Suites Monterey Bay - Seaside
Hotel Address:	1441 Canyon Del Rey Seaside, California 93955
Phone Number:	831-241-9133

Pre-arrivals/Stay-overs:

For any member who may wish to arrive early or depart later than the official dates mentioned above, reservations are subject to space and rate availability, and will be handled on an individual basis.

Call for Papers/Posters

We will open the WSN website for online submission of abstracts for contributed papers and posters beginning September 1, 2009. **Abstracts will be accepted through October 9, 2009** and posted subsequently on the WSN website along with a meeting schedule.

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 Kerry Nickols of the WSN student committee (kjnickols@ucdavis.edu).

RECAP OF THE 89TH ANNUAL MEETING IN VENTURA, CALIFORNIA

The 89th meeting of the Western Society of Naturalists was held November 6 – 9, 2008 at the Marriott Pinnacle Downtown Hotel in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The meeting was attended by over 370 members and was a great turnout for an international meeting. Highlights of the meeting included a presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award to Vicki and John Pearse of UC Santa Cruz, an award and presentation by WSN Naturalists of the Year Terrie Klinger of Univ. of Washington, two thought-provoking symposia sponsored by the Student committee and the President, the Presidential Address delivered by outgoing President Kathy Ann Miller, and banquet. The WSN Auction was presided over by Rafe Sagarin, and donations by members raised \$5,400 for student travel. The prized “tequila and trophy” (well at least the tequila, Larry Allen forgot to bring the trophy!), won by CSU Northridge last year, was again bid on heavily and eventually won by SDSU. The student committee raised another \$2,523 in sales of t-shirts and other merchandise. The contributed paper and poster sessions were again filled with many excellent presentations.

Elections, Nominations, and Other Society Business

A number of decisions were made at the 2008 business meeting:

- Phil Levin, of Northwest Fisheries Science Center, was nominated and unanimously elected as President-Elect.
- Continuing as WSN treasurer is Andrew Brooks of UC Santa Barbara.
- Gwen Goodmanlowe, Chris Lowe, Bruno Pernet from CSU Long Beach are the current Secretariats.

Additionally,

- Jarrett Byrnes provided a report on the student committee.

Travel Awards

Travel awards totaling \$4,850 were given to students who presented papers at the Vancouver meeting. Although we are not able to fund all students who apply, and these awards cannot cover the majority of their expenses, students are encouraged to apply for these awards to support their attendance at the upcoming meeting. 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 and poster awards

From the student papers presented at the 89th 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 Bonnie Becker and Rebecca Vega Thurber, 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 due to the huge 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: Mark Albins “Effects of the invasive indo-pacific lionfish (*Pterois volitans*) on Bahamian coral-reef fishes: predation and competition”

Honorable Mention: Rebecca Gooding “Multiple climate variables increase the growth of a keystone predator, the seastar *Pisaster ochraceus*”

Genetics and Population Biology

Winner: Brian Cheng “Biotic resistance by an exploited native species: consequences for predator loss”

Honorable Mention: Lisa Fong “Experimental confirmation of facilitative interactions of California mussels (*Mytilus californianus*) on rocky shores, Barkley Sound, British Columbia”

Honorable Mention: Eliza Moore “Relative influence of habitat complexity and edges on seagrass epifaunal communities”

Physiology and Organismal Biology

Winner: Christina Geierman “Trends in feeding of the acorn barnacle *Balanus glandula* over growth”

Honorable Mention: Kerry Nickols “The coastal boundary layer: lowering the speed limit for nearshore dispersers”

Best Student Poster

Winner: Levi Lewis “Fishes positively affect seagrass performance by mediating negative effects of grazing and fouling invertebrates”

Honorable Mention: Evelyne Kuo “Do regional differences in tidal regimes leave an evolutionary signature on the thermal tolerance of intertidal snails?”

Honorable Mention: Selena McMillan “Trophic associations between *Macrocystis pyrifera*, *Chlorostoma brunnea* and marine fungi”

STATE OF THE SOCIETY AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

There are over 650 current members of WSN. Please continue to help promote the society by encouraging your colleagues and students to join so we can continue to 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.

Shop at Amazon.com and support WSN!

In association with Amazon.com, we have added a shopping feature to the WSN website. Clicking the "Shop" link or searching Amazon from the WSN website will allow WSN to collect a portion (4-8% depending on sales volume) of all purchases. We have also created a special WSN bookstore featuring books selected by winners of the Naturalist of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Awards (see the books Paul Dayton thinks all naturalists should read) as well as lists of books written by or enjoyed by WSN members. Add a bookmark to www.wsn-online.org and use it for all your Amazon shopping; that one extra click will send a steady stream of revenue to the society.

Thank you for supporting WSN and we hope to see you at the upcoming meeting in Monterey, California this November!