

WESTERN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS

~ 2018 ~

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99TH ANNUAL MEETING NOVEMBER 8 – 11, 2018 IN TACOMA, WASHINGTON

MEETING INFORMATION

WSN announces the **99th Annual Meeting of the Western Society of Naturalists!** The annual meeting will be held November 8-11, 2018 at the **Hotel Murano, 1320 Broadway, Tacoma, WA**. Our local host will be **Bonnie Becker** from the University of Washington, Tacoma. The hotel is in the heart of Tacoma, a revitalized port city known for its museums, breweries, and eclectic mix of restaurants, theatres, and other attractions. Nearby destinations include Mt. Rainier National Park and the shorelines of Puget Sound.

The meeting will begin on Thursday afternoon, Nov. 8th, with a student organized workshop and student mixer. On Friday, Nov. 9th, we will feature the Student Symposium in the morning, followed by contributed paper sessions. The Attitude Adjustment Hour (AAH) will be held Friday evening, with enhanced opportunities for students to interact with faculty and each other. On the morning of Saturday Nov. 10th, there will be plenary talks organized by **President Ginny Eckert**, followed by contributed paper sessions. Saturday night will feature a WSN dinner, the Presidential address, and entertainment sponsored by the student committee. On Sunday, Nov. 11th, we will start the morning with a breakfast and the Poster Session, and wrap up Sunday afternoon following a **special plenary speaker**. As we approach the conference, we will provide more specific details regarding the schedule on the WSN website.

All workshops, symposia, and contributed paper and poster sessions will be held in the meeting rooms of the Hotel Murano. For more information on the hotel, including directions, visit: <https://hotelmuranotacoma.com/>

We urge all members to stay in the Hotel Murano so that the Society can fulfill its room commitment, which will allow us to remain financially solvent. 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 Hotel Murano. In recent years, the reserved block of rooms has sold very quickly and we anticipate that the meeting will be well attended. The special WSN reservations link for the Hotel Murano is currently live at:
<https://gc.synxis.com/rez.aspx?Hotel=76784&Chain=21650&arrive=11/8/2018&depart=11/12/2018&adult=1&child=0&group=WNatural>

The WSN website can be found at <http://www.wsn-online.org/>. Later in the summer, the webpage will have links to online registration and abstract submission for the meeting through Cvent. In addition, we maintain a **WSN Twitter account** (Twitter Handle: @WSN_Secretariat), and a **WSN Facebook page** (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Western-Society-of-Naturalists/263186863792393>), where you can find information about the Society and our annual meeting, and connect with your colleagues. If you have an opportunity that would be appropriate for distribution via the WSN social media accounts (fellowships, small grants, student opportunities, etc.), please send them to Grace McKenney (gracem15@uw.edu) or to the student committee via the WSN Facebook page.

CALL FOR PAPERS/POSTERS

We will open the WSN website for online submission of abstracts for contributed papers and posters beginning August 27, 2018. **Abstracts will be accepted through October 1, 2018** and posted subsequently on the WSN website along with a meeting schedule. Given that the abstract deadline is less than 6 weeks before the meeting, **please be aware that WSN is unable to accept any late abstracts (sorry, no exceptions).**

The size of the annual meeting continues to grow. Although this is welcome and exciting, it has become difficult to accommodate the increase in the number of oral presentations. To alleviate the strain, an additional talk format was introduced at the 2017 meeting: 5 minute talks with slides that auto-advance every 15 seconds. This format was quite successful, and we will include it as an option for the upcoming meeting as well. Remember, though, that both the 5 minute and 15 minute slots are intended for the presentation of findings from mature projects that are in their later stages or are completed. **If you only have preliminary data, please consider a poster or waiting to present at a later WSN meeting.** WSN asks that major advisors continue to review and approve all student abstracts, talks, and posters to assure the appropriateness and high quality of the work presented.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR WSN AWARDS

WSN invites nominations for the **Naturalist of the Year Award** and the **Lifetime Achievement Award**. For details regarding these awards, past winners, and how to nominate candidates, please follow these links:

Naturalist of the Year Award (<http://www.wsn-online.org/about-wsn/naturalist-of-the-year/>)

Lifetime Achievement Award (<http://www.wsn-online.org/about-wsn/lifetime-achievement-award/>)

Please submit your nominations no later than July 1, 2018 (happy Canada Day).

WSN STUDENT SYMPOSIUM: Call for submissions

The 2018 WSN Student Committee is soliciting stories about times when your science didn't end up the way you expected. Maybe your experiment failed (bad/lost data, uncooperative weather or study organisms, etc), what you thought was important turned out to be not very meaningful, or a reviewer didn't like your work. Did you set out to test one hypothesis and

discovered something else completely unrelated leading to new insights or even a new career? What did you do about it? Did you learn something new and unexpected about nature or were you able to identify flaws that you fixed and eventually turned into success?

We want to hear your experiences! From the contributed stories, we will invite a select few individuals to speak at the 2018 WSN Student Symposium, *Learning from the Unexpected*. If you would like to contribute, please fill out this survey before **June 15**. Also, please encourage those you know who have learned from the unexpected to fill out the survey:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScCJjFY9WROVkfXfM8Ik4SzmB_fSzXgyj1Wp6n0Jop4OrrAdQ/viewform

WSN 2018 Logo and Art Competition

Calling all artists! As WSN 2018 approaches, we once again are in need of a fantastic logo to use in promoting and branding this year's conference. Do you want to see your favourite organism on conference gear this year? You can make this dream a reality by creating and submitting your logo to our annual logo contest. The winner will have their design plastered on all of our merchandise this November in Tacoma and will get free merch to take home. Email your submission to Amelia Hesketh (hesketh@zoology.ubc.ca). Contest closes on **June 30**.

WSN 2018 Silent Auction Donations

As usual, the WSN Student Committee is seeking items to include in this year's silent auction and limited live auction. Money raised from these events is used to fund student travel. Previously donated items have included books, artwork, clothing, items of historical interest from prominent WSN members, unique outings/experiences, 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, please e-mail Sam Starko, Gala and Auction coordinator (samuel.starko@gmail.com). If you have other questions for the WSN student committee in general, please e-mail June Shrestha, Chair of the Student Committee (jshrestha@mlml.calstate.edu).

WSN 2019 - Join the Student Committee!

Are you interested in joining the Student Committee in 2019 or beyond? We will be starting an application process to select future student committee members to increase representation from diverse universities and backgrounds. To join, you must be a current student, serve for two years, and have attended at least one previous WSN meeting. More details will be released this summer. Stay tuned!

RECAP OF THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING IN PASADENA

The 98th meeting of the Western Society of Naturalists was held November 16–19, 2017 at the Hilton Pasadena Hotel in Pasadena, California. The meeting was a success, with approximately **549 registered attendees!** In total, there were **202 contributed papers and 144 posters**. The presentations highlighted a broad range of top-notch science. A huge thank you is due to our local host, **Casey terHorst**, of CSU Northridge.

The successful **Student Workshop**, “Demystifying Public Perceptions of Science” kicked off the meeting on Thursday night, providing tools to bridge psychological research with science communication. The **Student Symposium** on Friday morning, “Towards Conservation Through Socio-ecological Collaboration” featured four invited speakers who provided links between ecological research, conservation, and anthropogenic practices.

Also on Friday morning, the Rafe Sagarin Fellowship was awarded (see below). The **Naturalist of the Year** award was presented to **Jeff Goddard** (UC Santa Barbara) who shared insights gleaned from over 50 years of intertidal exploration along the Pacific coast.

The Secretariat also continued a recently added component of the annual meeting by sponsoring **Special Topics Sessions** of contributed talks, which this year focused on **New Techniques in Behavior and Camouflage Research; Omics in a Changing Ocean; Quantitative Ecology**; and **Evaluating Marine Protected Areas**.

To help celebrate the Society moving into its second century, the traditional **AAH** was held on Friday evening. Adding considerably to the AAH experience was a scavenger hunt organized by the student committee, which very successfully promoted mixing between students and faculty.

On Saturday morning, **Jenn Caselle** presided over the **Presidential Symposium**, which addressed “New Approaches to Classic Questions in Ecology and Evolution.” Four invited plenary speakers presented their perspectives.

To continue encouraging broader attendance – particularly among students – at this year’s Saturday night dinner, we once again went with a buffet-style meal. After dinner, **Jenn Caselle** presented her Presidential Address, featuring creative repurposing of non-science equipment for scientific purposes. The WSN Auction was organized by **Kristen Elsmore** was presided over by auctioneers **Sarah Gravem** and **Ben Ruttenberg**, who helped raise money to support WSN students. Thanks, and bragging rights go to the Cascadia Consortium (led by **Aaron Galloway** from the University of Oregon) for their winning bid on the prized “tequila and trophy” at **\$1,250**. Overall, the silent and live auction and donations by members raised a total of **\$6,321 for student travel**. Following the live auction, entertainment continued with WSN Olympics organized by the Student Committee. Congratulations to the UBC team, which took home the coveted Giant Z-spar Decorator Crab trophy. The evening then transitioned into music and dancing, featuring **DJ Taters (Mateo Robbins)**.

The **poster session** was held on Sunday morning along with a **WSN brunch**. This scheduling contributed to a fantastic poster session with lots of lively discussion. On Sunday afternoon, **Mary Power** (UC Berkeley) brought the meeting to a close with an excellent plenary address on “Floods, drought, food chain lengths and river-to-ocean exports from algal-based river food webs.”

Big Thanks! Thanks again to our local host, **Casey terHorst**, for all of his assistance. Special thanks go to the 2017 WSN Student Committee (**Robert Dunn, Breckie McCollum, Mallory Rice, Kristen Elsmore, Aaron Ninokawa, and June Shrestha**) for their critical contributions organizing the workshop, student symposium, merchandise, gala, and auction. We are also grateful to the many student volunteers who assisted during the meeting, as well as **Jason Sadowski, Gabriel Ng, and Katie Dubois** for their many hours spent before the meeting on websites, registration, and abstracts. The efforts and enthusiasm of all of these students made the Pasadena meeting a memorable success!

ELECTIONS, NOMINATIONS, AND OTHER SOCIETY BUSINESS

A number of decisions were made at the 2016 business meeting. Highlights included:

- **Brian Tissot** (Humboldt State University) was nominated and unanimously elected President-Elect.

- A new Secretariat, consisting of **Chris Harley**, **Patrick Martone**, and **Mary O'Connor** (University of British Columbia), was nominated and unanimously approved. So brace yourselves for Canadian politeness.
- **The 100th Annual Meeting** is tentatively planned for Ensenada, Mexico in November 2019. Dr. **Rodrigo Beas-Luna** at the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California has offered to be the local host. This will be the first WSN in Mexico in many, many years.
- The new chair of the WSN Student Committee is **June Shrestha** (MLML), who continues her service this year. June and another continuing member, **Aaron Ninokawa**, are joined on the Student Committee this year by **Erin Dillon** (UCSB), **Amelia Hesketh** (UBC), **Grace McKenney** (UW), and **Sam Starko** (UBC).
- Three important changes / additions to the **WSN Constitution** were approved. 1) Text was added to Article 1 (Statement of Purpose) to specifically acknowledge the society's aim "to reflect and promote the diversity of its membership, and foster a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community irrespective of such factors including, but not limited to, race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, ethnicity, ability, religion, language, nationality, age/career stage, or institution" (unanimously approved). 2) A new Article was introduced, establishing a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee to aid in developing and maintaining a Meeting Code of Conduct, and ensuring that "diversity, equity, and inclusion are incorporated throughout the annual meeting including programming, leadership, and speakers" (unanimously approved with one abstention). 3) A second new Article calls for maintaining a meeting Code of Conduct to formalize WSN's commitment to "creating an environment in which all attendees can participate without harassment, discrimination, or violence of any type" (unanimously approved). The amendments were sponsored by **Kerry Nickols**, **Annaliese Hettinger**, **Priya Shukla**, **Pat Krug**, **Allison Barner**, and **Jarrett Byrnes**, and benefitted from extensive input from the WSN membership. The full text of the amended Constitution is available on the WSN website.

STUDENT PAPER AND POSTER AWARDS

From the student papers presented at the 98th Annual Meeting, awards for Best Student Paper were given in five categories: (1) Observational Ecology, (2) Organismal and Population Biology, (3) Community and Ecosystem Ecology, (4) Applied Ecology and Conservation Biology, and (5) Best Undergraduate Paper. The category of Observational Ecology was established in 2015 as a new annual best paper award presented in memory of Rafe Sagarin (<http://www.wsn-online.org/sagarin-award/>). For posters, WSN presented a Best Student Poster Award, and a Best Undergraduate Student Poster Award.

Many thanks to **Tonya Huff**, **Christine Whitcraft**, and **Kerry Nickols**, for chairing the Best Student Paper and Poster Awards Committee, and for doing an outstanding job of organizing the judging, helping to evaluate the presentations, and tallying up the scores of 93 presentations and 88 posters! Special thanks also to the >80 members who volunteered to serve as judges. As always, it was a challenging task to select winners from the huge number of excellent papers and posters. Here are the winners and those receiving honorable mention in each category:

BEST STUDENT PAPERS

OBSERVATIONAL ECOLOGY (Rafe Sagarin Award)

Winner:

- Brenton T. Spies (UCLA) “Status, habitat impacts, and metapopulation management of the endangered tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*)”

Honorable Mention:

- Melissa Ward (UC Davis / SDSU) “A synthesis of carbon services in California seagrass beds”

ORGANISMAL/POPULATION BIOLOGY

Winner:

- Jordan A. Hollarsmith (UC Davis) “Local adaptation in giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) to temperature and pH”

Honorable Mention:

- Racine E. Rangel (CSU Long Beach) “Variation in metabolic rate and a test of differential sensitivity to temperature in the woolly sculpin (*Clinocottus analis*)”

COMMUNITY/ECOSYSTEM ECOLOGY

Winner:

- Crystal Ng (Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford University) “Grazing impacts on juvenile giant kelp”

Honorable Mention:

- Cody Clements (Georgia Institute of Technology) “Spatial and temporal limits of coral-macroalgal competition: macroalgal density, proximity, and contact duration matter”

APPLIED ECOLOGY/CONSERVATION BIOLOGY (Mia Tegner Award)

Winner:

- Alexandra Davis (Oregon State University) “Distribution and abundance of native marine species and an invasive predator on coral reefs off Eleuthera, the Bahamas”

Honorable Mention:

- Tanya L. Rogers (Northeastern University Marine Science Center) “Temperature-dependency of intraguild predation between native and invasive crabs”

BEST UNDERGRADUATE TALK

Winner:

- Marilla R. Lippert (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo) “Comparative effects of chemical and physical sunscreens on fertilization of the purple sea urchin, *Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*”

BEST GRADUATE STUDENT POSTER

Winner:

- Serena A. Caplins (UC Davis) “Attempts at phenotyping plasticity for larval type in a sea slug”

Honorable Mention:

- Victoria Wood (CSU Fullerton) “The effect of sedimentation on oysters adjacent to eelgrass meadows”

BEST UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT POSTER

Winner:

- Olivia M. Schaefer (University of British Columbia) “Can mussels defend themselves from endoliths?”

Honorable Mention:

- Roshni Katrak-Adefowora (Occidental College) “Training improves accuracy of citizen scientist wildlife identifications from camera trap photos”
- Holly S. Suther (CSU Fullerton) “The impact of atmospheric river events on *Ostrea lurida* and *Crassostrea gigas* densities in Southern California estuaries”

TRAVEL AWARDS

Travel awards totaling **\$6,321** were given to 43 students who presented at the 2017 meeting. Payments of WSN Student Travel Awards are made two to three months following the annual meeting via PayPal. Students are encouraged to apply for these awards in order to attend future meetings, although we regret that we are not able to cover the majority of a student’s expenses or fund all who apply. Preference in making awards is given to those students presenting a talk/poster and those who are in the last year of their degree. The size of awards depends on distance traveled and the amount of funds collected at the auction. All members are encouraged to contribute to the travel fund when they register online for the annual meeting. Details regarding how to apply for student travel awards are available on the WSN website.

RAFE SAGARIN FUND FOR INNOVATIVE ECOLOGY

A new fund was established in 2016 in Rafe Sagarin’s name to support research fellowships for early-career scientists conducting creative research in ecology. Congratulations to **Beth Lenz** (University of Hawai’i at Manoa), who received the award for 2017 for “Examining the Potential for Successful Reproduction in Hawaiian Reef-Building Corals as the Ocean Warms”. In addition to the winner, there were two Honorable Mentions awarded: **Reyn Yoshioka** (Oregon Institute for Marine Biology; “Disease as a Creator: Roles of Eelgrass Wasting Disease in Producing Trophic Resources in Seagrass Ecosystems”) and **Robin Elahi, Hillary Hayford, and Will King** (Hopkins Marine Station and Friday Harbor Laboratories; “Biogeography of Body Size Change: Testing the Temporal Temperature-Size Rule Along a Latitudinal Gradient”). Check the WSN website later this summer for 2018 application information.

Proposals were reviewed in 2017 by a Selection Committee consisting of **Moose O’Donnell (chair), Danielle Zacherl, and Ben Miner. Kim Selkoe** was nominated and approved to serve as the newest member of the Selection Committee, replacing outgoing member Danielle Zacherl.

Donations are needed to support future fellowship awards. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation. All donations (large or small) are welcomed! For more information about the fund (including instructions on how to submit a research proposal or how to donate to the fund), please visit the website for the **Rafe Sagarin Fund for Innovative Ecology** at: <http://www.rafeinnovativeecologyfund.org/>

We hope that this fund will build on Rafe's legacy by supporting WSN students and post-docs who are addressing ecological and/or societal questions through observational approaches applied in novel and creative ways.

STATE OF THE SOCIETY AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

The membership in WSN remains strong and the Society continues to flourish. The Society operates exclusively by e-mail, so please contact the Secretariat with changes to your e-mail address and other contact information so that we can update our database. If you would like to join this list, please also email us.

Please note that when you renew your membership, you now have THREE ways to make a donation in support of the Society: (1) a donation to the Student Travel/Dave Montgomery Endowment Fund, (2) a donation to the general fund to help support the day-to-day costs of running the Society, and (3) a donation to the Rafe Sagarin Fund for Innovative Ecology.

Thank you for supporting WSN and we hope to see you at the upcoming meeting in November in Tacoma, Washington!

IN MEMORIAM – DR. SUSAN WILLIAMS

In April 2018, we lost one of the pillars of west coast marine science. Susan Williams was driving from Bodega Bay to UC Davis' main campus to teach when she was struck head-on by a pickup truck that crossed over into her lane. To so many of us, Susan was an inspiration, a mentor, a colleague, and a friend. She is deeply missed.

For more information on Susan's life and contributions to science and conservation, see:

<https://leopoldleadership.stanford.edu/fellows/news/memorial-susan-williams-restoring-life-sea>

<https://www.ucdavis.edu/news/in-memorial-susan-williams-bodega-marine-lab/>



Logo credit: Andrea Dingeldein

