

Western Society of Naturalists

~ 2012 ~

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93ND ANNUAL MEETING NOVEMBER 8-11, 2012 IN SEASIDE, CALIFORNIA

MEETING INFORMATION

This year's annual meeting of the Western Society of Naturalists will be held November 8-11 at the **Embassy Suites Monterey Bay - Seaside, CA**. The meeting will begin on the evening of Thursday (Nov. 8) with a Student Workshop and Mixer. On Nov. 9 and 10, there will be a morning symposium followed by contributed paper sessions. The poster session will take place on the evening of Friday, Nov. 9, followed by the ever-popular Attitude Adjustment Hour (AAH). The evening of Saturday, Nov. 10 will feature the Presidential Banquet, WSN Auction, and student committee-sponsored dance. Contributed paper sessions are planned for all day on Sunday, Nov. 11. As we approach the conference, we will provide more details on the schedule.

All workshops, symposia, and contributed paper and poster sessions will be held in the meeting rooms of the Embassy Suites. For driving directions and general hotel information, visit http://embassysuites1.hilton.com/en_US/es/hotel/MRYESES-Embassy-Suites-Monterey-Bay-Seaside-California/index.do. The hotel offers a variety of services for WSN attendees, including complimentary shuttle service to and from the Monterey Airport (MRY) (**or** free parking at the hotel), and complimentary wireless connection in the hotel rooms. We have arranged for room rates of \$143/night for single occupancy, \$153/night for double occupancy, \$163/night for triple occupancy, and \$173/night for quadruple occupancy. **These rates will apply until Monday, October 15, 2012.** 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. We urge all members to stay in the Embassy Suites so that the Society can fulfill its room commitment, which will allow us to remain financially solvent. The special discounted rate applies for three days before and after the meeting as well, if you wish to arrive early or depart later.

We will send a special WSN reservations link and phone number in an upcoming email.

CALL FOR PAPERS/POSTERS

We will open the WSN website for online submission of abstracts for contributed papers and posters beginning August 1, 2012. **Abstracts will be accepted through October 1, 2012** and posted subsequently on the WSN website along with a meeting schedule. If you have problems submitting your abstract online, please contact the secretariat.

WSN BUSINESS

As usual, 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 Seth Miller of the WSN student committee (shmillier@ucdavis.edu).

RECAP OF THE 92ND ANNUAL MEETING IN VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON

The 92st meeting of the Western Society of Naturalists was held November 10 – 13, 2011 at the Hilton in Vancouver, WA. The meeting was a huge success, being attended by approximately 387 members (259 students, 128 regular), which was a great turnout for our Pacific Northwest meetings. Symposia and contributed paper and poster sessions were filled with many excellent presentations. Other highlights of the meeting included presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award to Jim Estes of the U.S. Geological Survey and UC Santa Cruz, and presentation of the Naturalist of the Year award to Megan Dethier of the University of Washington Friday Harbor Laboratories. In addition, much fun was had by all at the AAH and at the Presidential Banquet, where outgoing President Fiorenza Micheli delivered an entertaining and inspiring address. The WSN Auction was presided over by Phil Levin (in the role of ventriloquist) and his dummy Mark Carr (who lost his voice earlier at the meeting), along with their companion Stormy the Sheep. The entertainment involved a hilarious slide show presented to the WSN community of Phil and Mark's fictitious trip around the world in search of auction items. Several well-dressed assistants aided the performance. The auction and donations by members raised \$5,676 for student travel. Thanks go to the Friday Harbor Lab for bidding on and winning the prized "tequila and trophy" at \$2,000.

We would also like to thank Brian Tissot for doing a great job as local chair, and Moose O'Donnell and Jarrett Byrnes for their tireless work on the WSN webpage.

ELECTIONS, NOMINATIONS, AND OTHER SOCIETY BUSINESS

A number of decisions were made at the 2012 business meeting. Unapproved minutes of that meeting will soon be posted on the WSN website, but highlights included:

- Michael Graham of Moss Landing Marine Laboratories was nominated and unanimously elected as President-Elect.
- There is a new Secretariat starting this year, including Michael Graham, Scott Hamilton, and Diana Steller from Moss Landing Marine Laboratories and Corey Garza from CSU Monterey Bay. All are long-time and active members of the society.
- Attendees voted to fold membership dues into the total registration costs so that attendees will pay one all-inclusive registration/dues fee for future meetings. Members not attending the annual meeting will still have the option to solely pay dues online.

- Attendees voted to continue a local outreach plan to pair the annual WSN meeting with local high school groups to encourage participation of budding young scientists. Three high school teachers and 9 students attended the meeting in Vancouver, WA. The secretariat and future local chairs will help to organize the outreach program.
- Four new students were elected to serve on the student committee.
- Best Student Paper awards will have new categories starting at the 2012 WSN meeting. The society will still provide 4 awards for student papers. There will be an award for best paper by: 1) a PhD student, 2) a Master's student, 3) an undergraduate student, and 4) the Mia Tegner Conservation Award. Attendees at the executive meeting also voted to change the rules so that as long as a student is first author on a submitted paper, they will be eligible for an award.

TRAVEL AWARDS

Travel awards totaling \$6,000 were given to students who presented papers at the 2011 Vancouver, WA meeting. Although we are not able to fund all students who apply, or 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 AND POSTER AWARDS

From the student papers presented at the 92nd Annual Meeting, awards for Best Student Paper were given in three categories: 1) Organismal and Population Biology, 2) Community and Ecosystem Ecology, and 3) Applied Ecology. WSN also presented a Best Student Poster Award. Many, many thanks to Christine Whitcraft and Tonya Huff 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 102 presentations and 36 posters in record time! Many thanks also to all of those who volunteered to serve as judges, for their efforts.

As always, there were numerous outstanding papers that deserved awards, but this year was 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 POSTERS

Winner (two posters tied for first)

- Blair, Emily (CSU Long Beach), "Evaluating restoration planting regimens in a newly restored Southern California salt marsh"
- Sloan, Leah (Humboldt State University), "The bane of bullfrogs: population structure of western pond turtles (*Emy marmorata*) in lentic habitats along the Trinity River"

BEST STUDENT PAPERS

ORGANISMAL/POPULATION BIOLOGY

Winners:

- Wheeler, Sarah (San Diego State University and UC Davis), "Biological and oceanographic drivers of variation in recent settlement of copper rockfish"

Honorable Mention in Organismal/Population Biology:

- Fox, Michael (Moss Landing Marine Laboratories), "Investing in potential: mechanisms for recovery from biomass loss in *Macrocystis pyrifera*"

COMMUNITY/ECOSYSTEM ECOLOGY

Winner

- Lasley-Rasher, Rachel (Georgia Institute of Technology), "Predation risk suppresses mating success and offspring production in a coastal marine copepod"

Honorable Mention in Community/Ecosystem Ecology (one):

- Treblico, Rowan (Simon Fraser University), "Sizing up fishing impacts on the reef of Haida Gwaii: theoretical baselines and conservation reference points"

APPLIED ECOLOGY/CONSERVATION BIOLOGY (Mia Tegner Award)

Winner

- Davidson, Timothy (Portland State University), "Seawater temperature mediates the biological erosion and plastic pollution of a non-native burrowing crustacean"

Honorable Mention

- Sogin, Emilia (Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology and University of Hawaii), "Using metabolomics techniques to investigate metabolic implications of diversity in coral-*Symbiodinium* unions"

STATE OF THE SOCIETY AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

The membership in WSN stands at over 650 current members. Please continue to help promote the Society by encouraging your colleagues and students to join WSN as we 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. You can update your email address yourself at the Society's website: <http://www.wsn-online.org/maillinglist.shtml>.

Please note again that when you renew your membership you 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 the general fund to help support the day-to-day costs of running the Society.

Also, note that there is a third way that you can help support the Society at no cost to yourself! Moose O'Donnell has set up a link to Amazon from the WSN webpage. We'd like to encourage you all to use this as your regular link to Amazon, because for each purchase made through this link a significant amount of money (4% of the purchase price) returns to WSN. This money goes towards helping keep WSN the low cost, student-friendly society that it has long been! To bookmark the site, just drag the "Powered by Amazon" box on the WSN homepage to your bookmarks and use it for all your Amazon purchases.

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

