

WESTERN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS

~ 2013 ~

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94TH ANNUAL MEETING NOVEMBER 7-10, 2013 IN OXNARD, CALIFORNIA

MEETING INFORMATION

This year's annual meeting of the Western Society of Naturalists will be held November 7-10 at the **Embassy Suites Mandalay Beach Hotel & Resort in Oxnard, CA**. This year, we are debuting a new model for the meeting schedule. The meeting will begin on the evening of Thursday (Nov. 7th) with a Student Workshop and the Student Mixer. On the morning of Friday Nov. 8th, we will feature the Student Symposium followed by contributed paper sessions. That evening we will have the Poster Session. On Saturday Nov. 9th, there will be a morning Presidential Symposium followed by contributed papers. Talks on Saturday will be followed by the ever-popular Attitude Adjustment Hour (AAH). On Sunday Nov. 10th, we will start the morning with a special invited plenary speaker, followed by contributed talks into the afternoon. Then, early in the evening on Sunday, we will feature the Presidential Banquet, WSN Auction, and student committee-sponsored dance to close the 94th annual meeting. 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://embassysuites3.hilton.com/en/hotels/california/embassy-suites-mandalay-beach-hotel-and-resort-OXNCAES/index.html>. The hotel offers a variety of services for WSN attendees, including complimentary wireless connection in the hotel rooms, a complimentary cooked-to-order breakfast, and the nightly Manager's Reception. We have arranged for room rates of \$169/night for a standard King room and \$189/night for rooms with two queen beds and a pool view. Upgrades are also available for ocean view rooms. **These rates will apply until Tuesday, October 1, 2013.** 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, 2013. **Abstracts will be accepted through October 1, 2013** 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 Max Castorani of the WSN student committee (mcastorani@ucdavis.edu).

RECAP OF THE 93RD ANNUAL MEETING IN SEASIDE, CALIFORNIA

The 93rd meeting of the Western Society of Naturalists was held November 8 – 11, 2012 at the Embassy Suites Monterey-Seaside. The meeting was a huge success, being attended by approximately 585 members, which may have set a new WSN attendance record. The meeting started with a highly successful student workshop hosted by MARINE, entitled "Networking with confidence!" The excellent Friday student symposia had a theme of, "Integrating data and theory to advance marine science". California Sea Grant sponsored a stimulating Presidential Symposium titled, "Integrating approaches effectively in marine ecology". In total, there were 225 contributed papers and 105 posters, which were filled with many excellent presentations. Other highlights of the meeting included presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award to Richard Strathman of Friday Harbor Labs (University of Washington), and presentation of the Naturalist of the Year award to Mark Carr and Pete Raimondi at UC Santa Cruz. In addition, much fun was had by all at the AAH and at the Presidential Banquet, where outgoing President Todd Anderson delivered an entertaining and inspiring address, complete with a marine biology-themed rap song by colleague Jeremy Long. The WSN Auction was presided over by our famous auctioneer, Rafe Sagarin, who helped to raise funding for WSN students. Several well-dressed assistants aided the performance. The auction and donations by members raised \$6,100 for student travel. Thanks go to CSU Monterey Bay for bidding on and winning the prized "tequila and trophy" at \$2,220.

We would also like to thank Corey Garza for doing a superb job as local chair, and Moose O'Donnell and Jarrett Byrnes for aiding the new Secretariat in transitioning our online presence to a new WSN webpage (<http://www.westsocnat.com>), with a new online registration system through Cvent. In addition, we now have a new **WSN Facebook page** (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Western-Society-of-Naturalists/263186863792393>), where you can find information about the society, our annual meeting, and connect with your colleagues.

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:

- Steven Morgan of Bodega Marine Laboratory was nominated and unanimously elected as President-Elect.
- Attendees continued to voice support for folding membership dues into the total registration costs so that attendees will pay one all-inclusive registration/dues fee for. Members not attending the annual meeting still have the option to pay only pay dues.
- 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 12 students attended the meeting in Seaside, CA. In addition, participation by the Ocean Discovery Institute was supported at the Monterey meeting and 2 high school students presented posters. The secretariat and future local chairs will help to organize the outreach program.
- Four new students were elected to serve on the student committee. The chair of the Student Committee is Max Castorani (Bodega Marine Lab). Additional student members include: Lynn Lee (Simon Frasier), Jessica Abbott (UC Davis), Will Fennie (MLML), and Suzanne Christensen (MLML).

TRAVEL AWARDS

Travel awards totaling \$6,100 were given to students who presented papers at the 2012 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 93rd 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 153 presentations and 85 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:

- Olson, Angeleen (Simon Frasier University), "Do marine protected areas alter isotopic niche widths?"

Honorable Mention:

- Koenigs, Craig (University of Central Oklahoma), "Trophic relationships in the kelp forest canopy"

BEST STUDENT PAPERS

ORGANISMAL/POPULATION BIOLOGY

Winner:

- Bay, Rachael (Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford University), “Genetic adaptation across a temperature gradient: patterns of natural selection in *Acropora surculosa* on a backreef”

Honorable Mention in Organismal/Population Biology:

- Jurgens, Laura (Bodega Marine Laboratory, UC Davis), “Mass mortality of purple urchins over a 100 km swath of North-Central California coastline”

COMMUNITY/ECOSYSTEM ECOLOGY

Winner:

- Gravem, Sarah (Bodega Marine Laboratory, UC Davis), “The indirect cascading effects of seastar predators on tidepool algae are mediated by behavioral traits of individual snails”

Honorable Mention in Community/Ecosystem Ecology (one):

- Putnam, Hollie (Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, University of Hawaii), “Climate change and parental effects in spawning corals”

APPLIED ECOLOGY/CONSERVATION BIOLOGY (Mia Tegner Award)

Winner

- Compton, Violet (San Diego State University), “Behavioral consequences of sublethal pesticide exposure for a common estuarine fish species, *Fundulus parvipinnis*”

Honorable Mention

- Groesbeck, Amy (Simon Fraser University), “Ancient shellfish cultivation in British Columbia: an experimental look at first nations’ clam gardens”

STATE OF THE SOCIETY AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

The membership in WSN stands at over 600 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.westsocnat.com>.

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 (6% 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 Oxnard, California this November!



LET'S CROSS-POLLINATE!

The Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation's (CERF) biennial conference will be held in San Diego 3-7 November. That's right! The CERF conference abuts our next WSN conference, and both are located in southern California. Having these two excellent conferences co-located in time and space (nearly) is an opportunity we'd be remiss not to capitalize on, therefore leadership from both groups are actively engaged in finding creative ways to support both conferences; for example, we're exploring (1) perhaps – if possible - a registration 'cost break' for attendees who wish to attend both conferences, (2) an online bulletin board to facilitate transportation from CERF to WSN, (3) updating our respective newsletters so we can track developments of both conferences. **Stay tuned as we advance these efforts, and let us know if you have additional ideas.**

For those not familiar with CERF, we encourage you to visit the Federation's website: <http://www.erf.org/>. CERF has a long tradition of excellence in science of estuaries and coasts. CERF conferences are very well attended, often over 1200 attendees.

CERF 2013—*Toward Resilient Coasts and Estuaries, Science for Sustainable Solutions*—(<http://www.sgmeet.com/cerf2013/>) while maintaining its tradition of broad and topical estuarine and coastal science, will also be organized around four main plenary themes that are followed by a series of invited sessions on the plenary topic. The four plenary themes, one per day on each of the four days, are:

1. "*Managing Nutrients in a Changing World*" will be convened by Martha Sutula, Jim Hagy, and Suzanne Bricker. It will be introduced through two keynote speakers in a plenary session: Ephraim King (previously at EPA) will speak about the challenges in using science to inform water quality goals and Dan Conley (Lund University) will speak about successes in water quality goals.
2. "*Responding to Sea Level Rise*" will be convened by Gary Griggs with others from the policy world. It will be introduced through keynote speakers in a plenary session and further explored through a series of special sessions
3. "*Marine Acidification in Estuaries*" will be convened by Jan Newton, Libby Jewett and Skyli McAfee. It will be introduced by keynote speakers in a plenary session that include Dick Feeley (NOAA), who will set the stage talking about trends and current scientific understanding; Sam Dupont (University of Gothenburg), who will address what is known about biological responses; Alan Barton (Whiskey Creek Shellfish Hatchery), who will talk about hatcheries and their science needs; and a member of the Washington Blue Ribbon Panel.
4. "*Anthropogenic Facilitation of Species Invasions*" will be convened by Jeff Crooks and Jim Eckman. The plenary session will feature Greg Ruiz (Smithsonian) addressing the status of invasion science in marine/estuarine systems, and a second speaker addressing risk assessment & management challenges associated with invasions.

Consider taking advantage of this auspicious opportunity and attend both conferences!