

Western Society of Naturalists

~ 2010 ~

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91ST ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 11-14, 2010 IN SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

MEETING INFORMATION

This year's annual meeting of the Western Society of Naturalists will be held November 11-14 at the Courtyard by Marriott (San Diego Airport/Liberty Station) in San Diego, CA. The meeting will begin on the evening of Thursday (Nov. 11) with a Student Workshop and Mixer, which continue to be very popular events. On Nov. 12 and 13, a symposium will be held each morning, followed by contributed paper sessions in the afternoon. A poster session will be scheduled for the evening of Nov. 12. Contributed paper sessions are planned for Sunday (Nov. 14) in both the morning and afternoon. As we approach the conference, we will provide more details on the schedule, including the ever-popular Attitude Adjustment Hour, Presidential Banquet, and WSN Auction.

All workshops, symposia, and contributed paper and poster sessions will be held in the meeting rooms of the Courtyard by Marriott. For driving directions and general hotel information, visit <http://www.marriott.com/sanal>. The hotel offers a variety of services, including complimentary shuttle service to and from the San Diego Airport, and complimentary wireless in the hotel. Local chair Matt Edwards has arranged a room rate of \$139/night for single and/or double occupancy. **These rates will apply until Friday, October 1, 2010.** 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 Courtyard by Marriott. Regular room rates are much higher (\$219 King and \$229 Queen) so book your room before they are all taken! We urge all members to stay in the Courtyard by Marriott so that the society can fulfill its room commitment, which will allow us to remain financially solvent.

You can make room reservations via the web at
<http://cwp.marriott.com/sanal/westernsocietynaturalists/>

Alternatively, you can do it via telephone at 619-221-1900, or 800-321-2211. Ask for the “Western Society of Naturalist” group rate (group code “WSN”). The special discounted rate applies for three days before and after the meeting as well, if you wish to arrive early or depart later. If you wish to take advantage of these pre- or post-meeting special rates, you will need to reserve by telephone; the webpage above only allows reservations from 11-14 Nov.

CALL FOR PAPERS/POSTERS

We will open the WSN website for online submission of abstracts for contributed papers and posters beginning August 1, 2010. **Abstracts will be accepted through October 1, 2010** 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 or mail your abstract (200 word maximum) along with the names, organizational affiliations, and mailing addresses of all authors to the WSN Secretariat by the October 1 deadline. Please indicate clearly the name of the presenting author.

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 90TH ANNUAL MEETING IN SEASIDE, CALIFORNIA

The 90th meeting of the Western Society of Naturalists was held November 12 – 15, 2009 at the Embassy Suites in Seaside, CA. The meeting was attended by over 600 members, which was one of the highest turnouts in the past few years. Symposia and contributed paper and poster sessions were, as usual, filled with many excellent presentations. Other highlights of the meeting included presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award to Greg Caillet of Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, and presentation of the Naturalist of the Year award to Jenn Caselle of the Marine Science Institute, UC Santa Barbara. In addition, much fun was had by all at the AAH, which included wine donations secured by local chair Mike Graham, and at the Presidential Banquet, which included an inspiring address delivered by outgoing President Bob Carpenter. The WSN Auction was presided over by Rafe Sagarin and several very well-dressed assistants, and donations by members raised \$6,600 for student travel. The prized “tequila and trophy”, won by San Diego State in Vancouver in 2008, was again bid on heavily and eventually won by UC Davis’ Bodega Bay Marine Lab. The student committee raised another \$2,800 in sales of t-shirts and other merchandise.

ELECTIONS, NOMINATIONS, AND OTHER SOCIETY BUSINESS

A number of decisions were made at the 2009 business meeting. Unapproved minutes of that meeting will soon be posted on the WSN website, but highlights included:

- Fiorenza Micheli, of Hopkins Marine Station, was nominated and unanimously elected as President-Elect.

- Attendees voted unanimously in favor of printing and distributing only the program to meeting attendees, not the presentation abstracts. This will save an enormous amount of paper, and will save the society the costs of printing many thousands of pages of abstracts. Abstracts will be made available well ahead of the meeting for download as a pdf file from the WSN website, and in addition will be emailed to all members.
- Attendees voted to reduce student membership dues to \$5 each year.

TRAVEL AWARDS

Travel awards totaling \$6000 were given to students who presented papers at the Seaside 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 AND POSTER AWARDS

From the student papers presented at the 90th 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. The Best Student Paper/Poster Award Committee was chaired by Bonnie Becker, who was helped by Christine Whitcraft and Tonya Huff. Many, many thanks to them for doing an amazing job of organizing the judging, helping to evaluate the presentations, and tallying up the scores of over 170 presentations 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 particularly difficult for the judges due to the huge number of papers and posters of excellent quality. Listed below are the winners and those receiving honorable mention in each category:

BEST STUDENT POSTERS

Winner

- Heather Page (Univ. North Carolina, Wilmington), “Effect of ocean acidification on metabolism and growth of Olympia oyster *Ostrea lurida* larvae”

Honorable Mention

- Shira Y. Maezumi (Calif. State Univ. Long Beach), “Paleoclimate reconstruction in Huntington Beach wetlands”
- Andres Carrillo (Calif. State Univ. Fullerton), “Effects of delayed hatching on muscle and skeletal development and feeding rates in the California Grunion, *Leuresthes tenuis*”

BEST STUDENT PAPERS

ORGANISMAL/POPULATION BIOLOGY

Winner:

- Malin Pinsky (Stanford Univ.), “Genetic scales of larval dispersal in fish: are they compatible with self-recruitment?”

Honorable Mention in Organismal/Population Biology

- Alison Haupt (Stanford Univ.), “Dispersal at a snail’s pace: strong genetic structure in the fisheries gastropod *Megastraea undosa*”
- Melissa Pespeni (Stanford Univ.), “The purple sea urchin genome suggests local adaptation along a latitudinal gradient despite high gene flow”

COMMUNITY/ECOSYSTEM ECOLOGY

Winner

- Andrew Thurber (UC San Diego), “Macrofauna, microbes, and methane: interplay between infauna and biogeochemical cycling at deep-sea methane seeps”

Honorable Mention in Community/Ecosystem Ecology

- Kerry Nickols (UC Davis), “The coastal boundary layer: nearshore velocity attenuation as another contributor to passive physical retention of marine larval organisms”

APPLIED ECOLOGY

Winner

- Annaliese Hettinger (UC Davis), “Ocean acidification effects persist through the larval and juvenile phases of the Olympia oyster (*Ostrea lurida*)”

Honorable Mention in Applied Ecology

- Melissa Foley (UC Santa Cruz), “The importance of land-sea connectivity in the giant kelp forests of Big Sur, California”

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. We hope to see you at the upcoming meeting in San Diego, CA, in November!