

Western Society of Naturalists

~ 2011 ~

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92ND ANNUAL MEETING NOVEMBER 10-13, 2011 IN VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON

MEETING INFORMATION

This year's annual meeting of the Western Society of Naturalists will be held November 10-13 at the Hilton in **Vancouver, WA** (*not* Vancouver B.C). The meeting will begin on the evening of Thursday (Nov. 10) with a Student Workshop and Mixer. On Nov. 11 and 12, there will be a morning symposium followed by contributed paper sessions. The poster session will take place on the evening of Friday, Nov. 11, followed by the ever-popular Attitude Adjustment Hour (AAH). The evening of Saturday, Nov. 12 will feature the Presidential Banquet, WSN Auction, and student committee-sponsored dance. Contributed paper sessions are planned for all day on Sunday, Nov. 13. 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 Vancouver Hilton. For driving directions and general hotel information, visit http://www1.hilton.com/en_US/hi/hotel/PDXVAHH-Hilton-Vancouver-Washington-Washington/index.do. The hotel offers a variety of services for WSN attendees, including complimentary shuttle service to and from the Portland International Airport (PDX) (**or** free parking at the hotel), and complimentary wireless connection in the hotel rooms. We have arranged for room rates of \$129/night for single and/or double occupancy, \$149/night for triple occupancy, and \$169/night for quadruple occupancy. **These rates will apply until Friday, October 11, 2011.** 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 Hilton. We urge all members to stay in the Hilton Vancouver Washington 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, 2011. **Abstracts will be accepted through October 1, 2011** 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 91ST ANNUAL MEETING IN SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

The 91st meeting of the Western Society of Naturalists was held November 11 – 14, 2010 at the Courtyard Marriott in San Diego, CA. The meeting was a huge success, being attended by approximately 600 members, which again was one of the highest turnouts in the past few years. 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 Bruce Menge of Oregon State University, and presentation of the Naturalist of the Year award to Shara Fisler of Ocean Discovery Institute. In addition, much fun was had by all at the AAH and at the Presidential Banquet, where outgoing President Phil Levin and collaborators delivered an extraordinary musical (we think) address. The WSN Auction was again presided over by Rafe Sagarin and several well-dressed assistants. The auction and donations by members raised \$6,100 for student travel, while the student committee raised another \$2,900 in sales of t-shirts and other merchandise. Thanks go to CSU Northridge for once again bidding on and winning the prized "tequila and trophy".

We would also like to thank Matt Edwards 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 2010 business meeting. Unapproved minutes of that meeting will soon be posted on the WSN website, but highlights included:

- Todd Anderson of San Diego State University was nominated and unanimously elected as President-Elect.
- Attendees liked the new grid system in the WSN program, which reduced the program page numbers even further (and will save the Society the costs of printing many thousands of pages of abstracts). Abstracts will once again 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 approve a local outreach plan to pair the annual WSN meeting with local high school groups to encourage budding young scientists.

TRAVEL AWARDS

Travel awards totaling \$6150 were given to students who presented papers at the 2010 San Diego 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 91st 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 164 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. Here are the winners and those receiving honorable mention in each category:

BEST STUDENT POSTERS

Winner

- Megan Mach (University of British Columbia), "Trading green backs for green crabs: potential impact of European green crab invasion on shellfish harvest in Puget Sound"

Honorable Mention (two):

- Max Castorani (UC Davis, Bodega Marine Lab), "Antagonistic ecosystem engineers and alternative community states in intertidal mudflats: an empirical test of scale-dependence"
- Christopher Kehrier (CSU, Fullerton), "Extra-ocular muscles as a possible source of heat for cranial endothermy in lamnid sharks"

BEST STUDENT PAPERS

ORGANISMAL/POPULATION BIOLOGY

Winners (two):

- Kristen Marhaver (UCSD, Scripps Institute of Oceanography) "Distance-dependent mortality of juvenile corals is microbe-mediated, species-specific and may drive behavioral evolution of larvae"
- Kerry Nickols (UC Davis), "Nearshore velocity gradients lower the speed limit for coastal dispersers"

Honorable Mention in Organismal/Population Biology:

- Elizabeth Wells (UC Davis & Tiburon Lab) "Rapid and differential learning for an invasive crab predator on two non-native snails"

COMMUNITY/ECOSYSTEM ECOLOGY

Winner

- Kristy Kroeker (Stanford U, Hopkins Marine Station), "Quantifying the variation in biological responses to ocean acidification"

Honorable Mention in Community/Ecosystem Ecology (one):

- Emily Darling (Simon Fraser University), "All stressed out? Synergies, resilience and co-tolerance on east African coral reefs"

APPLIED ECOLOGY/CONSERVATION BIOLOGY

Winner

- Morgan Kelly (UC Davis, Bodega Marine Lab), "Limited potential for adaptation to climate change in the tidepool copepod *Tigriopus californicus*"

Honorable Mention

- Miriam Goldstein (UCSD, Scripps Institute of Oceanography), "Abundance and distribution of plastic microdebris in the north Pacific central gyre"

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 Vancouver Washington this November!

