

Western Society of Naturalists

President

Christine Whitcraft
CSU Long Beach
Long Beach, CA 90840
Christine.Whitcraft@csulb.edu

President-Elect

Bonnie Becker
UW Tacoma
Tacoma, WA 98402
bjbecker@uw.edu

Treasurer

Andrew Brooks
UC Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA 93106
brooks@msi.ucsb.edu

~ 2022 ~

Website

<http://www.wsn-online.org>

Secretariat

Nikki Adams
Kevin Johnson
Heather Liwanag
Ben Ruttenberg
Crow White
California Polytechnic State University,
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407
secretariat@wsn-online.org

Members-at-Large

Clare Steele, CSU Channel Islands
Sean Anderson, CSU Channel Islands

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee

Corey Garza, CSU Monterey Bay
Cheryl Barnes, UW/NOAA
Alex Davies, U. Alberta
Melodie Grubbs, MBNEP
Pat Krug, CSU Los Angeles
deic@wsn-online.org

Student Committee

Jessica Weidenfeld, San Diego State U.
Brandon Quintana, CSU Fullerton
Ilana Ayelen Rivera Larrea, Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada
Margaret Slein, U. British Columbia
Ben Walker, UC Santa Cruz
Billie Beckley, UC Santa Barbara

103RD ANNUAL MEETING NOVEMBER 10 – 13, 2022 OXNARD, CALIFORNIA

MEETING INFORMATION

We are pleased to announce our plan for the **103rd Annual Meeting of the Western Society of Naturalists** to be held in person from **Thursday November 10 – Sunday November 13, 2022**, at the **Embassy Suites Mandalay Beach Hotel & Resort** in **Oxnard, California**. Our local hosts will be **Clare Wormald Steele (CSUCI)** and **Sean Anderson (CSUCI)**.

As usual, Thursday afternoon will kick off with a student-organized workshop and student mixer. Friday will feature the Student Symposium in the morning, followed by contributed paper sessions, and then the Attitude Adjustment Hour (AAH) Friday evening. Saturday morning will start with plenary talks organized by **President Christine Whitcraft**, followed by contributed paper sessions. Saturday night will feature the WSN dinner, the Presidential address, and entertainment sponsored by the student committee. On Sunday, Nov. 14th, we will start the morning with a breakfast and the Poster Session, and wrap up Sunday afternoon following a special plenary speaker. As the date approaches, more scheduling details will be available on the [WSN website](#).

All events will be held in the meeting rooms of the hotel in Oxnard. We urge everyone to stay in the meeting hotel, and to **make your hotel reservations as early as possible, well before the meeting**. In recent years, the reserved block of rooms has sold very quickly, and we anticipate that this meeting will be well attended. To reserve your hotel room, [use this link](#) or call (800) 362-2779, and use the group code "WSN". NOTE: the default is Thurs-Mon; you CAN change your arrival and departure dates after clicking this link. The page also says that a resort fee will be added, but we negotiated a waiver of that fee and it should not be charged. For more information on the hotel, including directions, visit the [hotel website](#) (note that the hotel is

undergoing a renovation and rebranding from an Embassy Suites to the Zachari Dunes, so the website link may change over the next several months).

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** (<https://www.facebook.com/WesternSocietyOfNaturalists/>), 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 the details to the student committee via the WSN Facebook or Twitter pages.

CALL FOR PAPERS, POSTERS, AND SPECIAL SESSION TOPICS

Once again, the annual meeting will feature Special Sessions that will be of interest to WSN members. If you have a proposed topic for a Special Session, please email a title, short description, and list of potential speakers to the Secretariat by **July 10th, 2022**.

We will open the WSN website for online registration and the submission of abstracts for contributed papers and posters for the 2022 meeting beginning August 15, 2022. Registration for attendees will remain open up to and including the days that the meeting is held, although late registration fees may apply. **However, abstract submissions will only be accepted through Monday September 27th, 2022**, and as in past years, will be first come, first accepted. Late abstracts will not be accepted.

The size of the annual meeting often challenges the available meeting space, and we expect this year to be especially well-attended. To accommodate a large number of oral presentations, we will continue to include 5 minute lightning talks with slides that auto-advance and traditional 15 minute slots. Please be aware that both 5 minute and 15 minute slots are intended for the presentation of findings from projects that are in their later stages or are completed. We urge you to present a poster instead of an oral presentation if you only have preliminary data. WSN requires major advisors continue to review and approve all student abstracts, talks, and posters to assure the appropriateness and high quality of the work presented.

COVID-19

We anticipate that the COVID-19 restrictions will ease by November, but no one knows for sure – it is possible that conditions on the ground will necessitate a virtual meeting. Stay tuned.

See these organizations for more COVID- information

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>; <https://www.venturacountyrecovers.org/>

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

WSN maintains a strong commitment to foster a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community that embraces all races, ethnicities, nationalities, genders, sexual orientations, abilities, religions, languages, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds, and career stages. DEIC members include students, postdocs, faculty, and other professionals who serve 3-year terms. Thus, there will be some turnover in committee membership every year. Its current members are Corey Garza (Chair), Cheryl Barnes, Alexandra Davis, Melodie Grubbs, and Patrick Krug. If you are interested in joining the DEIC, please contact deic@wsn-online.org.

WSN also maintains a meeting [Code of Conduct](#), which formalizes WSN's commitment to creating an environment in which all attendees can participate without harassment, discrimination, or violence of any type.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR WSN AWARDS

WSN invites nominations for the **Naturalist of the Year Award** and the **Lifetime Achievement Award**. All members (including students!) are welcome to submit nominations, and we especially encourage members to consider nominating scientists who represent and enhance the diversity of our field. 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, 2022** (happy Canada Day).

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2024-2026 WSN SECRETARIAT

The current Secretariat will be serving from 2021 – 2023. To ease the transition to the next Secretariat (2024 – 2026), we are hoping to identify willing WSN members at one of our contributing institutions now to serve in this important role. This will allow the incoming Secretariat to take on an observer's role during the current Secretariat's final year, which should go a long way towards demystifying the process before they assume their active duties in 2024. The President (Christine Whitcraft) is formally charged with striking a nomination committee, but self-nominations are both welcome and encouraged! This is an opportunity for members to play a leading role in fostering the future of WSN. Nominations for the next Secretariat will be discussed at the 2022 business meeting in Oxnard.

WSN 2022 LOGO CONTEST

Submit an Original Entry for the **103rd Meeting** of the Western Society of Naturalists! Entries must be submitted to Ilana Ayelen Rivera Larrea (iriveralarrea@sandiego.edu) by June 18, 2022.

Designs should:

- Reflect the research and values of the Society
- Contain the words "Western Society of Naturalists," "2022," and "Oxnard, CA."
- Be **black and/or white**. Additionally, please suggest **3 shirt colors** for your design.
- **Not be overly intricate** – details do not print well to clothing.
- Be submitted at the intended **size/dimensions**.

For the t-shirt/hoodie, you may submit a **small front logo** and/or **larger image for the back** or a "**wrap-around design**." Other designs may also be considered, but we recommend keeping it simple. Please keep in mind a diversity of body types and what will be flattering to most.

Please look [here](#) for examples of past winning logos.

Submission:

- Email your design as an attachment to Ilana Ayelen Rivera Larrea (iriveralarrea@sandiego.edu)
- File type should be .jpg, .png, .tiff, .gif (can be drawn by hand, but must be cleaned up on a computer)
- File size should be less than 10MB
- Resolution should be at least 150ppi (pixels per inch)

- Deadline for submission is **June 18, 2022 18:00 PDT**. Late submissions will be given the lowest priority. Submissions will be voted on by the WSN student committee. The artist of the chosen design will be notified by July 1, 2022.

WSN 2022 SILENT AUCTION DONATION

As usual, the WSN Student Committee is seeking items to include in this year's silent and live auctions. Money raised from these events will be used to fund student travel. Previously donated items have included books, artwork, clothing, items of historical interest from prominent WSN members, unique outings or experiences, wine, and other spirits. If you have items that you would like to donate, please email Ilana Ben Walker, Auction and Gala Coordinator (benwalker@ucsc.edu). If you have any other questions for the WSN Student Committee in general, please email Jessica Weidenfeld (jweidenfeld@sdsu.edu) or Brandon Quintana (brandonquintana@csu.fullerton.edu).

WSN 2022: JOIN THE STUDENT COMMITTEE

We are once again looking for members of WSN who would like to join the WSN student committee for 2023 and 2024 to help our meetings continue to thrive. To be eligible for consideration, you must have attended at least one previous WSN meeting, be a current student, and be able to serve for two years. Applications will be accepted starting in August; please stay tuned for more details.

RECAP OF THE 2021 ONLINE ANNUAL MEETING

The 102nd meeting of the Western Society of Naturalists was held November 11-14, 2021. It was WSN's second all online annual meeting (at Whova.com). Despite the unusual circumstances, the meeting was a success, with **586 registered attendees**. In total, there were **168 contributed papers (121 5-minute talks and 47 15-minute talks) and 86 posters**. The presentations highlighted a broad range of top-notch science.

The Thursday night workshop, "Increasing the Impact of your Science" kicked off the meeting. The Student Symposium on Friday morning featured, "Underrepresented voices in the environmental justice movement." Also on Friday morning, the **Naturalist of the Year** award was presented by Jenn Caselle to **Paul Barber** and **Peggy Fong** for their incredible work developing and running The Diversity Project. Friday morning concluded with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Symposium, "Cutting the strings: beyond parachute science." Contributed papers and Affinity group mixers filled the rest of the day, and, to help celebrate the Society's 102nd meeting, an online **TRIVIA** and **AAH** was held on Friday evening. It was great to "see" you all!

On Saturday morning, **Steve Lonhart** presided over the **Presidential Symposium**, which explored "Several paths to public service." He also gave his Presidential Address on Saturday evening. Well done, President Steve! Thanks to **Ben Ruttenberg** and **Kerry Nickols** for being enthusiastic auctioneers at the WSN auction, also on Saturday evening.

Poster sessions and the Business Meeting were held Saturday afternoon, and Contributed papers were held Sunday morning, followed by an exciting Meeting Adjournment by the WSN Governance Committee.

Big Thanks to the Student Committee, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, and the continuing Treasurer (**Andy Brooks**) for their hard work with the meeting. We are also grateful to the many student volunteers who assisted during the meeting. Finally, a special extra big

thanks to **Cassandra Konecny**, who worked with the previous Secretariat (at UBC) and graciously continued to contribute to WSN by assisting the current Secretariat with the annual meeting. We could not have done it without you! The efforts and enthusiasm of all of these students and people made the meeting a memorable success!

ELECTIONS, NOMINATIONS, AND OTHER SOCIETY BUSINESS

Several decisions were made at the 2021 business meeting. Highlights included:

- **Bonnie Becker** (University of Washington) was nominated and unanimously elected President-Elect.
- **The 103rd Annual Meeting** was planned for Oxnard, California in November 2022. Drs. **Sean Anderson and Clare Wormald Steele** at the California State University Channel Islands have graciously volunteered to serve as local host.
- The new co-chairs of the WSN 2022 Student Committee are **Brandon Quintana** (CSU Fullerton) and **Jessica Weidenfeld** (SDSU). The other members of the hard-working student committee are **Ilana Ayelen Rivera Larrea** (Ensenada Center for Scientific Research and Higher Education, CICESE), **Margaret (Maggie) Slein** (Reed College), **Ben Walker** (UC Santa Cruz), and **Billie Beckley** (UC Santa Barbara).

STUDENT PAPER AND POSTER AWARDS

From the student papers presented at the 102nd Annual Meeting, awards for Best Student Paper were given in five categories: (1) 15-minute talk, (2) Applied Ecology, (3) Community and Ecosystem Ecology, (4) Observational Ecology, and (5) Organismal and Population Biology. The category of Observational Ecology was established in 2015 as a best paper award presented in memory of Rafe Sagarin (<http://www.wsn-online.org/sagarin-award/>). The Applied Ecology award is also called the Mia Tegner Award in her honor. For posters, WSN presented a Best Graduate Student Poster Award and a Best Undergraduate Student Poster Award.

Many thanks to the WSN judging committee (**Christine Whitcraft, Jayson Smith, Tonya Huff, Kerry Nickols, Alison Haupt**) for doing an outstanding job of organizing the judging, helping to evaluate the presentations, and tallying up the scores of so many oral presentations and posters! Also big thanks to all of the judges for their hard work and timely participation, which made this competition a success! It is always 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

15-MINUTE TALK

Winner: Anaí Novoa, “DO HOST POPULATIONS CONSISTENTLY DIFFER IN THEIR LEVELS OR TYPES OF PARASITISM THROUGHOUT THEIR GEOGRAPHIC RANGES?”

Honorable Mention: Sean Canfield, “LITTLE SHARKS IN A BIG WORLD: PHYLOGEOGRAPHY OF THE CALIFORNIA HORN SHARK”

Honorable Mention: Amanda Chiachi, “DETERMINING THE EFFECTS OF MARINE HEATWAVES ON RED ABALONE, *HALIOTIS RUFESCENS*, ACROSS MULTIPLE SIZE CLASSES”

APPLIED ECOLOGY/CONSERVATION BIOLOGY (Mia Tegner Award)

Winner: Isabelle Neylan, “LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF OCEAN ACIDIFICATION ON RED ABALONE (*HALIOTIS RUFESCENS*) GROWTH AND PERFORMANCE”

Honorable Mention: Amelia Caley (undergraduate), “EFFECTS OF DEPTH AND KELP RESOURCES ON URCHIN ROE QUALITY, MORPHOLOGY AND DIET”

COMMUNITY AND ECOSYSTEM ECOLOGY

Winner: Casey Sheridan, “EXPERIMENTAL MANIPULATION OF CRUSHED CONSPECIFICS RATHER THAN PREDATOR PRESENCE MODIFIES PURPLE SEA URCHIN GRAZING BEHAVIOR”

Honorable Mention: Ryan Jones, “RESOURCE PARTITIONING WITHOUT COMPETITION IN CORAL-REEF FISHES”

OBSERVATIONAL ECOLOGY (Rafe Sagarin Award)

Winner: Hannah Myers, “UNIQUE DISTRIBUTION AND ACOUSTIC RESIDENCY PATTERNS OF SYMPATRIC MAMMAL-EATING KILLER WHALE POPULATIONS IN THE GULF OF ALASKA”

Honorable Mention: Kiran Reed, “MODEL APEX PREDATOR (GIANT SEA BASS) MODIFIES BEHAVIOR OF MESOPREDATORY FISHES AROUND SANTA CATALINA ISLAND, CA”

ORGANISMAL AND POPULATION BIOLOGY

Winner: Gabriella Kalbach, “DOES HISTORY OF EXPOSURE TO AERIAL STRESS IMPACT INTERTIDAL MUSSELS’ RECOVERY PERIOD?”

Honorable Mention: Bryan Briones Ortiz, “EVIDENCE FOR GENETIC VARIATION UNDERLYING EELGRASS (*ZOSTERA MARINA*) LIFE HISTORY STRATEGY”

Honorable Mention: Alisha Saley, “INDEPENDENT EFFECTS OF CARBONATE CHEMISTRY AND SALINITY ON GROWTH OF ADULT MUSSELS”

BEST GRADUATE STUDENT POSTER

Winner: Juliana Cornett, “IMPACTS OF HYPOXIA ON THE PHYSIOLOGY OF JUVENILE ENGLISH SOLE, *PAROPHRYS VETULUS*”

Honorable Mention: Zoe Zilz, “REPORT OF A COPEPOD EGG PREDATOR INFESTING COMMERCIALY IMPORTANT YELLOW ROCK CRAB IN SANTA BARBARA, CA”

BEST UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT POSTER

Winner: Emily Vidusic, “A COMPARISON OF MULTIPLE METHODS TO MEASURE PURPLE SEA URCHIN POPULATION DENSITIES WITHIN THE MONTEREY PENINSULA INTERTIDAL”

Honorable Mention: Leeza-Marie Rodriguez, “EFFECTS OF A NON-INDIGENOUS BRYOZOAN ON THE RECRUITMENT OF THE NATIVE OLYMPIA OYSTER, *OSTREA LURIDA*”

Congratulations again to all of our winners!

TRAVEL AWARDS

The beginning 2021 balance of the Student Travel Fund was \$15,868 (includes \$4,763 from 2020 Live and Silent Auctions). The WSN Student Travel Fund received \$1,595 in 2021 donations from the membership. The 2021 WSN Live (\$746) and Silent Auction (\$1,779) raised \$2,526 for Student Travel. There were no Student Travel Fund expenses in 2021 because the meeting was online. The current balance in the WSN Student Travel Fund is \$19,989.

In past years, Student Travel Awards were given to nearly all student travel award applicants attending the meeting and not living locally relative to the meeting location, resulting in most awards being less than \$100. At the 2018 Tacoma meeting, the membership approved changes to the student travel award to provide fewer and larger awards. To meet this new objective, the Secretariat, Student Committee, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee are developing a new review system for evaluating student travel award applications.

Importantly, the deadline for Student Travel Award applications will be in the early fall, before the meeting registration and abstract submission window closes. Be on the lookout for emails from WSN for the Student Travel Award application! Thank you for bearing with us as we work to improve the student travel award process.

RAFE SAGARIN FUND FOR INNOVATIVE ECOLOGY

A 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 **Anai Novoa** (Scripps Institution of Oceanography), who received the award in April 2021 for "Investigating the interplay between parasitism and host biogeography: Do range expanding species have fewer parasites?" Proposals were reviewed in March 2021 by a Selection Committee consisting of **Ben Miner** (chair), **Carol Blanchette**, and **Kim Selkoe**.

The next opportunity for advanced undergraduates, graduate students and post-docs to apply for this award will be in December 2022. We will advertise the awards during the annual meeting and review applications in February 2022. **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.

THAT'S A WRAP!

Thank you for supporting WSN and we hope to see you at the meeting in Oxnard, California!



Logo credit: Andrea Dingeldein