

Western Society of Naturalists

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~ 2021 ~

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102ND ANNUAL MEETING NOVEMBER 11 – 14, 2021 MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA

MEETING INFORMATION

We are pleased to announce our plan for the **102nd Annual Meeting of the Western Society of Naturalists** to be held in person from **Friday November 11 – Monday November 14, 2021**, at the **Hyatt Regency Hotel and Spa in Monterey, California**. Our local hosts will be **Alison Haupt (CSUMB)** and **Amanda Kahn (MLML)**.

Hotel availability has changed allowing us to now host the meeting starting on **Thursday November 11** through **Sunday November 14**. 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. The Attitude Adjustment Hour (AAH) will be held Saturday evening. Sunday morning will start with plenary talks organized by **President Steve Lonhart**, followed by contributed paper sessions. Sunday night will feature the WSN dinner, the Presidential address, and entertainment sponsored by the student committee. More scheduling details will be available on the [WSN website](http://www.wsn-online.org) as the date approaches.

All events will be held in the meeting rooms of the Hyatt. 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 831-372-1234 (reservation code "G-WSN"). For more information on the hotel, including directions, visit the [Hyatt](#) hotel website.

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, 2021**.

We will open the WSN website for online registration and the submission of abstracts for contributed papers and posters for the 2021 meeting beginning August 15, 2021. 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, 2021**, 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 AND CURRENT TRAVEL GUIDELINES

We anticipate that the COVID restrictions will ease by November, but it is possible that conditions on the ground will necessitate a virtual meeting. WSN strongly encourages everyone planning to attend the 2021 WSN Meeting in person to have received their final COVID-19 vaccination at least two weeks prior to the start of the meeting and not attend if they develop any cold or flu-like symptoms, regardless of vaccination status. WSN recognizes that social and racial inequities exist in the availability of vaccines and that some WSN members may elect not to receive the vaccine. We will likely require proof of full vaccination or a negative COVID test result to attend the meeting, and we will follow CDC and State of California guidelines for gatherings at the time of the meeting. However, anyone attending the 2021 WSN Meeting in person should do so at their own personal risk. Please check the [WSN website](#) for updates in response to CDC guidance and please [contact the secretariat](#) with any questions or concerns.

See these organizations for more COVID- information
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
<https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/home-covid-response>

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

WSN maintains a strong commitment to reflect and promote the diversity of its membership, and foster a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community irrespective of such factors including, but not limited to, race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, ethnicity, ability, religion, language, nationality, age/career stage, or institution. In 2018, the WSN Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (DEIC) was officially formed. Its members are Corey Garza (Chair), Cheryl Barnes, Alexandra Davis, Mike Gil, and Crystal Ng.

DEIC members include students, postdocs, faculty, and other professional researchers and educators who serve 3 year terms. Thus, there will be some turnover in committee membership every year. If you are interested in joining the DEIC, please contact Corey Garza (cogarza@csumb.edu).

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. See the website for details.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR WSN AWARDS

WSN invites nominations for the **Naturalist of the Year Award** and the **Lifetime Achievement Award**. 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, 2021 (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 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 (Steve Lonhart) is formally charged with striking a nomination committee, but self-nominations are welcome. Nominations for the next Secretariat will be discussed at the 2021 business meeting in Monterey.

WSN 2021 LOGO CONTEST

Submit an Original Entry for the **102nd Meeting** of the Western Society of Naturalists! Entries must be submitted to Ben Walker (bejwalke@ucsc.edu) by June 1, 2021.

Designs should:

- Reflect the research and values of the Society
- Contain the words "Western Society of Naturalists," "2021," and "Monterey, 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 Ben Walker (bejwalke@ucsc.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 1, 2021 18:00 PDT**. Late submissions will be given lowest priority. Submissions will be voted on by the WSN student committee. The artist of the chosen design will be notified by July 1, 2021.

WSN 2021 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 e-mail Ilana Ayelen Rivera Larrea, Auction and Gala Coordinator (ilana@cicese.edu.mx). If you have any other questions for the WSN Student Committee in general, please e-mail Montana McLeod (montana.mcleod@oregonstate.edu) or Ric DeSantiago (rdesantiago@sdsu.edu).

WSN 2020: JOIN THE STUDENT COMMITTEE

We are once again looking for members of WSN who would like to join the WSN student committee for 2022 & 2023 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 2020 ONLINE ANNUAL MEETING

The 101st meeting of the Western Society of Naturalists was held November 5-8, 2020. It was **WSN's first all online annual meeting** (at Whova.com). Despite the unusual circumstances, the meeting was a success, with a whopping **1,039 registered attendees**. In total, there were **366 contributed papers and 70 posters**. The presentations highlighted a broad range of top-notch science.

The Thursday night workshop, "Who Tells Your Story: Designing an Effective Science Website" kicked off the meeting. The Student Symposium on Friday morning featured, "Collaborative Science: How Collaborations Have Made Waves." Also on Friday morning, the **Lifetime Achievement** award was presented to **George Somero**, whose research on physiological processes has helped us understand how marine organisms tolerate and adapt to environmental stress. Additionally, the **Naturalist of the Year** award was presented to **Rosemary Romero**. Finally, Friday morning concluded with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Symposium, "Beyond Broader Impacts: The Role of Diversity in Advancing Discovery and Innovation in Ocean Science." To help celebrate the Society's 101st meeting, an online **AAH** was held on Friday evening. It was great to "see" you all!

On Saturday morning, **Danielle Zacherl** presided over the **Presidential Symposium**, which addressed, "Blue is the New Green: A Key Role for Oceans in Solutions to Climate Change." She also gave her Presidential Address on Saturday evening. Thanks to **Mark Carr** for being the enthusiastic auctioneer at the WSN auction, also on Saturday evening. Overall, the silent and live auctions and donations by members raised a total of \$4,764 for student travel.

These funds will be awarded as WSN Student Travel funds to help offset travel costs associated with the upcoming 2021 WSN Annual Meeting to be held in Monterey, California. Three concurrent poster sessions were held Sunday morning. The meeting concluded Sunday afternoon with plenary speaker Jane Lubchenco presenting, “The Intersecting Worlds of Personal, Public, and Planetary Health.”

Big Thanks to the outgoing Secretariat, the 2020 Student Committee, and the continuing Treasurer (Andy Brooks) for their hard work putting on WSN’s first online meeting. We are also grateful to the many student volunteers who assisted during the meeting. The efforts and enthusiasm of all of these students made the meeting a memorable success!

ELECTIONS, NOMINATIONS, AND OTHER SOCIETY BUSINESS

A number of decisions were made at the 2020 business meeting. Highlights included:

- **Christine Whitcraft** (California State University, Long Beach) was nominated and unanimously elected President-Elect.
- **The 102st Annual Meeting** was planned for Monterey, California in November 2021. Dr. **Alison Haupt** at the California State University Monterey Bay has graciously volunteered to serve as local host.
- The new co-chairs of the WSN Student Committee are **Rick DeSantiago** (San Diego State University) and **Montana McLeod** (Oregon State University). 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), **Brandon Quintana** (CSU Fullerton), **Ben Walker** (UC Santa Cruz), and **Jessica Weidenfeld** (SDSU).

STUDENT PAPER AND POSTER AWARDS

From the student papers presented at the 101st 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 (**Jayson Smith, Kerry Nickols, Tonya Huff, Christine Whitcraft**) 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! As always, it was 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: Hannah Rempel, “ECOLOGICAL DRIVERS OF PARROTFISH CORALLIVORY ACROSS MULTIPLE SPATIAL SCALES IN THE GREATER CARIBBEAN”

Honorable Mention: Maya Greenhill, "RESOURCE PARTITIONING OF AN ECOSYSTEM ENGINEER INCREASES ALGAL DIVERSITY AND PRODUCTION"

APPLIED ECOLOGY/CONSERVATION BIOLOGY (Mia Tegner Award)

Winner: Kristen Elsmore, "ALONGSHORE CURRENT MODIFICATION BY GIANT KELP, MACROCYSTIS PYRIFERA"

Honorable Mention: Ryan Hesse, "THE SMALLEST PIECE OF THE BIGGEST FISH: EXPLORING THE WHALE SHARK EPIDERMAL VIROME"

COMMUNITY AND ECOSYSTEM ECOLOGY

Winner: Natalie Arnoldi, "USING MULTIPLE TROPHIC LEVELS TO ESTIMATE LARGE SCALE PATTERNS IN $\Delta^{13}C$ AND $\Delta^{15}N$ IN THE NORTH PACIFIC: A NOVEL ISOSCAPE APPROACH"

Honorable Mention: Brian Cohn, "EFFECTS OF AN EPIPHYTIC BRYOZOAN ON GROWTH AND PRIMARY PRODUCTION OF THE GIANT KELP MACROCYSTIS PYRIFERA"

OBSERVATIONAL ECOLOGY (Rafe Sagarin Award)

Winner: Reyn Yoshioka, "HOST WITH THE MOST: RHIZOCEPHALAN PARASITISM AND EPIBIOSIS IN DOCK SHRIMP"

Honorable Mention: Selina Cheng, "SPATIAL PATTERNS OF ADULT BLUE CRAB ABUNDANCE ACROSS A RESTORED SEAGRASS LANDSCAPE"

ORGANISMAL AND POPULATION BIOLOGY

Winner: Helen Killeen, "LARVAL FISH DEPTH PREFERENCES ALTER DISPERSAL PATTERNS AND INFORM CONSERVATION PLANNING"

Honorable Mention: Jessica Kennedy, "INTERTIDAL MUSSEL FREEZE TOLERANCE PLASTICITY"

BEST GRADUATE STUDENT POSTER

Winner: Elena Huynh, "DO PROPAGULE PRESSURE AND RESIDENT COMMUNITY FUNCTIONAL DIVERSITY AFFECT INVASION SUCCESS?"

Honorable Mention: Alizee Mauffrey, "SEAWEED FUNCTIONAL DIVERSITY REVISITED: CONFRONTING TRADITIONAL GROUPS WITH QUANTITATIVE TRAITS"

BEST UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT POSTER

Winner: Natasha Chaudhari, "BIOMECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF INDUCIBLE DEFENSES IN THE EASTERN OYSTER CRASSOSTREA VIRGINICA IN RESPONSE TO PREDATOR CUES"

Honorable Mention: William Ellis, "SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL TRENDS IN THE BODY SIZE OF AN INTERTIDAL SNAIL"

Congratulations again to all of our winners!

TRAVEL AWARDS

There were no travel awards this year because the entire meeting was online. However, we hope to provide travel awards for supporting attendees at an in-person meeting in November 2021. Payments of WSN Student Travel Awards will now be made one month before each year's annual meeting via PayPal. Students are encouraged to register early for the annual meeting and submit their application for these awards in order to be considered for funding. We regret that we are not able to cover most of a student's expenses nor fund all who apply. Preference in making awards is given to those students presenting a talk/poster and those who are in the last year of their degree. The size of awards depends on distance traveled and the amount of funds collected at the previous year's meeting. All members are encouraged to contribute to the travel fund when they register online for the annual meeting. Details regarding how to apply for student travel awards are available on the WSN website.

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 **Marina Luccioni** (Stanford University), who received the award in spring 2020 for "A Midsummer Night's Dreamfish: Relating traditional Hawaiian science with western scientific methods to investigate chemical ecology of the weke pueo, *Upeneus Taeniopterus*." Proposals were reviewed in January 2020 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 2021. We will advertise the awards during the annual meeting and then review applications in early 2022. For more information, visit <http://www.rafeinnovativeecologyfund.org/>

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.

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



Logo credit: Andrea Dingeldein