

# Western Society of Naturalists

~ 2019 ~

President

**Brian Tissot**  
Dept. of Biological  
Sciences  
Humboldt State  
University  
Arcata, CA 95521  
Tissot@humboldt.edu

President-Elect

**Danielle Zacherl**  
Dept. of Biological  
Science  
Cal. State University  
Fullerton  
Fullerton, CA 92834  
dzacherl@fullerton.edu

Website

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

Secretariat

**Chris Harley**  
**Patrick Martone**  
**Mary O'Connor**

Depts. of Botany and Zoology  
University of British Columbia

Vancouver, BC, Canada  
V6T1Z4

[secretariat@wsn-online.org](mailto:secretariat@wsn-online.org)

Treasurer

**Andrew Brooks**  
Dept. of Ecology,  
Evolution, and Marine  
Biology  
UC Santa Barbara  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106  
brooks@msi.ucsb.edu

Members-at-Large

**Rodrigo Beas and**  
**Julio Lorda**  
Universidad Autónoma  
de Baja California  
Ensenada, Mexico  
rbeas@uabc.edu.mx  
jlorda@uabc.edu.mx

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## 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 31 – NOVEMBER 3, 2019 ENSENADA, MEXICO

### MEETING INFORMATION

WSN is pleased to announce the **100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Western Society of Naturalists!** The annual meeting will be held October 31 – November 3, 2019, at the **Hotel Coral & Marina in Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico**. Our local hosts will be **Rodrigo Beas and Julio Lorda** from the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California. The oceanfront hotel is adjacent to the UABC campus and just a few kilometers from downtown Ensenada and its waterfront area and cultural center. Ensenada and the surrounding countryside features restaurants, parks, museums, beaches, and stunning landscapes.

The meeting begins on Thursday afternoon, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>, with a student organized workshop and student mixer. On Friday, Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, we will feature the Student Symposium in the morning, followed by contributed paper sessions. The Attitude Adjustment Hour (AAH) will be held Friday evening, with opportunities for students to interact with faculty and with each other. On the morning of Saturday Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>, there will be plenary talks organized by **President Brian Tissot**, followed by contributed paper sessions. Saturday night will feature a WSN dinner, the Presidential address, and entertainment sponsored by the student committee, with a Día de los Muertos theme. (For information on the cultural significance of Día de los Muertos, see the WSN website.) On Sunday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will start the morning with a breakfast and the Poster Session, and wrap up Sunday afternoon following a special plenary speaker. As we approach the conference, we will provide more specific details regarding the schedule on the WSN website.

All workshops, symposia, and contributed paper and poster sessions will be held in the meeting rooms of the Hotel Coral & Marina. For more information on the hotel, including directions, visit: <https://www.hotelcoral.com/>. We urge all members to stay in the Hotel Coral & Marina so that the Society can fulfill its room commitment, which will allow us to remain financially solvent. 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 meeting hotel. 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 you must call +52 (646) 1750000 or email [reservations@hotelcoral.com](mailto:reservations@hotelcoral.com) with the "WSN100th" reservation code. At this time, the hotel does not have an online reservation interface.

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** (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Western-Society-of-Naturalists/263186863792393>), 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 Erin Dillon ([erinmdillon@ucsb.edu](mailto:erinmdillon@ucsb.edu)) or to the student committee via the WSN Facebook page.

### **WSN IS NOW ON INSTAGRAM...**

... and we want to feature you! Want your work, field site, study organism, or recent publication to be featured on WSN's Instagram feed? Send a photo and a short blurb to [erinmdillon@ucsb.edu](mailto:erinmdillon@ucsb.edu). Material will be accepted at any time on a rolling basis. To see what others in the WSN community are up to, check out the society's Instagram profile @westernsocietyofnaturalists.

### **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 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019**.

We will open the WSN website for online registration and the submission of abstracts for contributed papers and posters for the 2019 meeting beginning August 1, 2019. 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 September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019** and posted subsequently on the WSN website along with a meeting schedule. Given that the abstract deadline is less than 6 weeks before the meeting, **please be aware that WSN is unable to accept any late abstracts (sorry, no exceptions)**.

The size of the annual meeting often challenges the available meeting space. Although high attendance is welcome and exciting, it has become difficult to accommodate the increase in the number of oral presentations. To alleviate the strain, an additional talk format was introduced at the 2017 meeting: 5 minute talks with slides that auto-advance every 15 seconds. This format was quite successful, and we will include it as an option for the upcoming meeting as well. Remember, though, that both the 5 minute and 15 minute slots are intended for the presentation of findings from mature projects that are in their later stages or are completed. **If you only have preliminary data, please consider a poster or waiting to present at a later WSN meeting.** WSN asks that major advisors continue to review and approve all student abstracts, talks, and posters to assure the appropriateness and high quality of the work presented.

## **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL REMINDER: PASSPORTS AND INSURANCE**

As this year's conference is occurring in Mexico, we remind all of our American, Canadian, and other international members that a valid passport is required for international travel. You may also wish to look into traveler's medical insurance, which may need to be secured well in advance of your trip.

## **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, Jennifer Burnaford, 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 at <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, 2019 (happy Canada Day).

## **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2021-2023 WSN SECRETARIAT**

The current Secretariat is serving from 2018 – 2020. To ease the transition to the next Secretariat (2021 – 2023), 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 2021. The President (Brian Tissot) is formally charged with striking a nomination committee, but self-nominations are welcome. Nominations for the next Secretariat will be discussed and voted on at the 2019 business meeting in Ensenada.

## **WSN 2019 LOGO CONTEST**

Submit an Original Entry for the **100<sup>th</sup> Meeting** of the Western Society of Naturalists! Entries must be submitted to Jason Toy ([jatoy@ucsc.edu](mailto:jatoy@ucsc.edu)) by June 1, 2019.

Designs should:

- Reflect the research and values of the Society
- Contain the words "Western Society of Naturalists" and "2019" (location flexible)

- 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 [jatoy@ucsc.edu](mailto:jatoy@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, 2019 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, 2019.

### **WSN 2019 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. WSN is a non-profit organization, and all donations are tax deductible. If you have items that you would like to donate, please e-mail Erin Dillon, Social Media and Auction Coordinator ([erinmdillon@ucsb.edu](mailto:erinmdillon@ucsb.edu)). If you have any other questions for the WSN Student Committee in general, please e-mail Amelia Hesketh, Student Committee Chair ([hesketh@zoology.ubc.ca](mailto:hesketh@zoology.ubc.ca)).

### **WSN 2020: JOIN THE STUDENT COMMITTEE**

We are once again looking for members of WSN student community who would like to join the WSN student committee for 2020 & 2021 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 2018 ANNUAL MEETING IN TACOMA**

The 99<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Western Society of Naturalists was held November 8–11, 2018 at the Hotel Murano in Tacoma, Washington. The meeting was a success, with **476 registered attendees**. In total, there were **202 contributed papers and 153 posters**. The presentations highlighted a broad range of top-notch science. A huge thank you is due to our local host, **Bonnie Becker**, of the University of Washington, Tacoma.

The successful Thursday night workshop, “Left brain, right brain: integrating science and art” kicked off the meeting, providing a venue for artistic members of our society to share their work during a reception, and featuring talks by three speakers on how art can be used as a tool for scientific communication. During the Student Symposium on Friday morning, “Learning from the unexpected,” four invited speakers shared how they turned obstacles, failures, and unexpected results into opportunities.

Also on Friday morning, the Rafe Sagarin Fellowship was awarded (see below). The **Naturalist of the Year** award was presented to **Andy Lamb**, who introduced us to the magnificent rockfishes of the Pacific coast.

We continued a recently added component of the annual meeting by sponsoring **Special Topics Sessions** of contributed talks, which this year included marine conservation of seagrasses and seaweeds (in honour of **Susan Williams**), microplastics, ecosystems as coastal resilience mechanisms, 'taking the long view', science to action on changing oceans, and environmental DNA.

To help celebrate the Society moving into its second century, the traditional **AAH** was held on Friday evening.

On Saturday morning, **Ginny Eckert** presided over the **Presidential Symposium**, which addressed "New Approaches to Classic Questions in Ecology and Evolution." Four invited plenary speakers presented their perspectives.

To continue encouraging broader attendance – particularly among students – at this year's Saturday night dinner, we once again went with a buffet-style meal. After dinner, **Ginny Eckert** – resplendent in her 'sharkskin suit' – presented her Presidential Address. The WSN Auction was organized by Sam Starko and presided over by auctioneers extraordinaire Kerry Nickols and Ben Ruttenberg, who helped raise money to support WSN students. Thanks, and bragging rights go once more to the Cascadia Consortium (led by Aaron Galloway from the University of Oregon), for their winning bid on the prized "tequila trophy" at \$2,400. Overall, the silent and live auction and donations by members raised a total of \$6,904 for student travel. These funds will be awarded as WSN Student Travel funds to help offset travel costs associated with the upcoming 2019 WSN Annual Meeting to be held in Ensenada, Mexico. Following the live auction, entertainment included the WSN Olympics organized by the student committee and live music by Captain Napkin and the Napkin Boys.

The **poster session** was held on Sunday morning along with a **WSN brunch**. This scheduling contributed to a fantastic poster session with lots of lively discussion. On Sunday afternoon, **Jennifer Ruesink** (University of Washington) brought the meeting to a close with her excellent and highly attended plenary address, "Sailing to South America: Natural History and Adventure."

**Big Thanks!** Thanks again to our local host, **Bonnie Becker**, for all of her hard work. The **Departments of Botany and Zoology at UBC** helped support the creation of the meeting program and the nuts and bolts of organizing a conference of this size, and their contribution is gratefully acknowledged. Special thanks go to the 2018 **WSN Student Committee** (June Shrestha, Erin Dillon, Aaron Ninokawa, Grace McKenney, Amelia Hesketh, and Sam Starko) for their critical contributions organizing the workshop, student symposium, merchandise, gala, and auction. We are also grateful to the many student volunteers who assisted during the meeting, as well as **Cassandra Konecny** and **Kaleigh Davis** for their many hours spent before the meeting on websites, registration, and abstracts. The efforts and enthusiasm of all of these students made the Tacoma meeting a memorable success!

## **ELECTIONS, NOMINATIONS, AND OTHER SOCIETY BUSINESS**

A number of decisions were made at the 2018 business meeting. Highlights included:

- **Danielle Zacherl** (California State University, Fullerton) was nominated and unanimously elected President-Elect.
- **The 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting** is planned for Monterey, California in November 2020. Dr. **Alison Haupt** at the California State University Monterey Bay has graciously volunteered to serve as local host.
- **Andy Brooks** (UC Santa Barbara) finished his three-year term as treasurer, and has agreed to serve a second term. We owe an enormous thank you to Andy for his past and ongoing service.
- The new chair of the WSN Student Committee is **Amelia Hesketh** (University of British Columbia). The other members of the hard-working student committee are **Theresa Burnham** (San Diego State and UC Davis), **Erin Dillon** (UC Santa Barbara), **Cassandra Konecny** (UBC), **Jason Toy** (UC Santa Cruz), and **Yaamini Venkataraman** (University of Washington).

## **STUDENT PAPER AND POSTER AWARDS**

From the student papers presented at the 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, awards for Best Student Paper were given in four categories: (1) Observational Ecology, (2) Organismal and Population Biology, (3) Community and Ecosystem Ecology, and (4) Applied Ecology and Conservation 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/>). For posters, WSN presented a Best Student Poster Award and a Best Undergraduate Student Poster Award.

Many thanks to **Alison Haupt, Kerry Nickols, Jayson Smith, and Danielle Zacherl** 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 so many oral presentations and posters! Special thanks also to the many, many members who volunteered to serve as judges. 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**

#### **OBSERVATIONAL ECOLOGY (Rafe Sagarin Award)**

**Winner:** Erin Slade, “Estimating historic baselines in relative sea otter prevalence: integrating archaeological and contemporary mussel size structure”

**Honorable Mention:** Ana Sofia Guerra, “Seabird spatial subsidies: Nutrient deposition on coastal islands by a ubiquitous generalist seabird”

**Honorable Mention:** Dana Morton, “Food web topology of southern California kelp forests”

#### **ORGANISMAL/POPULATION BIOLOGY**

**Winner:** Jacoby Baker, “Gene expression responses of gopher rockfish (*Sebastes carnatus*) larvae to ocean acidification and hypoxia”

**Honorable Mention:** Nicole Moyon, “Heating rate affects thermal tolerance in intertidal mussels”

## **COMMUNITY/ECOSYSTEM ECOLOGY**

**Winner:** Joshua Smith, “Golden gonads in sea otter country: how sea-urchin condition influences patch selection by sea otters”

**Honorable Mention:** Samuel Starko, “A comprehensive kelp phylogeny sheds light on the evolution of an ecosystem”

## **APPLIED ECOLOGY/CONSERVATION BIOLOGY (Mia Tegner Award)**

**Winner:** Tim White, “Predicted hotspots of overlap between highly migratory fishes and industrial fishing fleets in the Northeast Pacific”

**Honorable Mention:** Sarah Lummis, “Understanding eelgrass responses to shellfish aquaculture and developing drone monitoring methods”

## **BEST GRADUATE STUDENT POSTER**

**Winner:** Joey Peters, “Using long-term monitoring data to model consumer-mediated nutrient cycling in kelp forests”

**Honorable Mention:** Katrina Munsterman, “Size-mediated role of herbivores in nutrient dynamics on coral reefs”

## **BEST UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT POSTER**

**Winner:** Travis Leggett, “The impacts of ocean acidification and hypoxia on key kelp grazers in the California Current”

**Honorable Mention:** Torrey Gorra, “Outbreaks of the purple sea urchin are deforesting reefs in southern Monterey Bay, California”

## **TRAVEL AWARDS**

Travel awards totaling **\$5,020** were given to 84 students who presented at the 2018 meeting. There are still several unclaimed Student Travel awards from the 2018 meeting. If you felt that you should have received a travel award and did not receive one, please contact Andy Brooks ([AJBrooks@ucsb.edu](mailto:AJBrooks@ucsb.edu)), the WSN Treasurer, to inquire about the status of an award. 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 or 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 **Emily Longman** (UC Davis), who received the award in 2018 for “Utilizing Historical Data to Better Understand Climate-related Changes in Bodega Bay Ecosystems”. **Ethan Cissell** (Florida State University) received an honorable mention for “Exploring viral interactions with cyanobacterial

mats in a coral reef ecosystem”). Proposals were reviewed in 2018 by a Selection Committee consisting of **Ben Miner (chair), Michael O’Donnell, and Kim Selkoe.**

We are shifting the timing for the applications and awards in 2019. We will advertise the awards during the annual meeting and then review applications in January. We hope that this will increase the applicant pool and allow new students to apply for funding. 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.

### **STATE OF THE SOCIETY AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER**

The membership in WSN remains strong and the Society continues to flourish. The Society operates exclusively by e-mail, so please contact the Secretariat with changes to your e-mail address and other contact information so that we can update our database. If you would like to join this list, please also email us.

Please note that when you renew your membership, you now have THREE ways to make a donation in support of the Society: (1) a donation to the Student Travel/Dave Montgomery Endowment Fund; (2) a donation to the general fund to help support the day-to-day costs of running the Society; and (3) a donation to the Rafe Sagarin Fund for Innovative Ecology.

Thank you for supporting WSN and we hope to see you at the upcoming meeting in Ensenada, Mexico!



Logo credit: Andrea Dingeldein

