

SCB meeting 11/01/2005

Present: Rodd, Katie, Elizabeth, Pete

General Announcements

- Introductions
- Events:
 - This Friday the John Muir Institute is sponsoring Mountain Film, a selection of films about the outdoors and the environment from the Telluride Film Festival. Show starts at 7pm, tickets are \$10 for students.
 - Next Monday SCB will be hosting a Proposition lunch to discuss the propositions and Measure X. It's a brown bag lunch from 12 to 1pm in Storer 2346A the tropical room. The first hour will be background with an optional discussion period from 1 to 2pm. Presentations will be made by:
 - Elizabeth – Measure X
 - Christina – Prop 76
 - Matt – Prop 77
 - Katie – Prop 78, 79
 - Pete – Prop 80

Please come participate and pass the word, especially to those new to the state. If unable to come you can find voting information in the CA voters guide, the League of Women Voters website, and Davis wiki (MeasureX)

- The International Meeting, June, San Jose:
 - Mark Schwartz, a member of the steering committee for the San Jose meeting, contacted us asking for volunteers to help evaluate abstracts for submitted papers during Winter quarter. Email Rodd (trkelsey@ucdavis.edu) for more information.

Committee updates:

- Membership - Pete
 - Pay Up! Membership in our local chapter is \$5, payable to Pete. Only paid members have voting privileges! Dues are payable with cash or check.
- Education – Katie
 - NCEAS (The National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis) has funded a program in the past where we go into a school and help students do a project on an endangered species in the classroom and then exchange it with a school in another state. Katie is in touch with them to determine if that will happen this year. We did a similar exchange with Bolivia and with other schools locally. Contact Katie if you are interested or have input on whether we should join up with the NCEAS or just do our own version of the program.
 - WIDSI (Watch it don't squash it!) made their first visits last Monday and Tuesday to Harmon Johnson Elementary in Sacramento. The Theme was California Conservation. They brought animals into 3-4 grade and 5-6 grade classrooms and talked about bat boxes, tarantulas and scorpions. Harmon Johnson has just been rated a failing school and arts and science programs have been cut, so the kids were really excited to get some fun science activities. If you are interested in participating contact Amy (asleonard@ucdavis.edu). There is a meeting next Tuesday 2 – 5:45pm.

- Sister chapter – Ingrid
 - Our sister chapter in La Paz, Bolivia is very poor and would like to send 2 members to the International SCB meeting in June.
 - Last year we sponsored their chapter president, Alejandra, with a \$500 gift for airfare to attend the annual meeting in Brazil. SCB International matched the fund at our request so another member, Alejandra’s boyfriend, could attend as well. Both of them are now planning to attend graduate school in the states so this year we would sponsor two other students to travel up here. Ingrid estimates the cost at \$1500 per person, so we would need to raise \$3000 total by June.
 - Alejandra is sending crafts from Bolivia for us to sell. Ingrid plans to sell them outside the Ecology seminar series, maybe with coffee as well. She also was potentially thinking about holding a benefit dinner, but it might be difficult to organize. If you have fundraising ideas or suggestions, as well as ideas for a good fundraising pitch for the importance of sponsoring international students, please contact her at ibhogle@mindspring.com.
 - There is potentially a scholarship which we could nominate the students for up to \$1000 – usually faculty act as sponsors but our chapter would be the sponsor in this case.
 - Our sister chapter , with Alejandra leading it, has been active in environmental education programs in low income schools, field trips for undergraduates, and short courses which students pay a fee for. Alejandra is concerned that there is no one to replace her but that travel to the conference might inspire someone to continue working actively in the chapter.
 - Also, the students who come will present at a workshop the day before the conference. The workshop will either be all day or in the afternoon with a possible bird watching trip in the morning, and will be for chapters specifically, so plan on going to San Jose an extra day before the meeting opens.
- Website development – Rodd and Elizabeth
 - Rachel and April have fixed the code for our website, and that fixed code should go up the website on a new web savvy server (ICE) sometime this week.
 - We’d like to revamp the website all together if the group is interested
 - The newest edition would be a “Current Issues in Conservation” page which would be a joint effort between the new Current Issues committee and the website committee.
 - If you have cool pictures of SCB activities for the website, like those that Jim Thorne has taken that are posted, please email Elizabeth (erheeg@ucdavis.edu) to set-up getting them on the web. And please take pictures at SCB events!
- Restoration – Rodd presented
 - Jim Thorne is just back from vacation and very busy, so no seed collections have taken place yet, but Jim has the list of interested participants. He will contact you when a collection is going to take place.

- Rodd had a meeting with Andrew Fulks, the restoration manager for the Putah Creek Reserve. Mr. Fulks wants to make sure that graduate students know about opportunities for project, and that we as a chapter know about the many restoration activities upcoming. These include:
 - Oak restoration, which we have participated in in the past
 - Adopt-a-flat, which the Putah Creek Council undertook last year. Adopt-a-flat is a program where flats are planted with native grass seed and then taken home by volunteers, who raise them for several months before they are planted on the reserve. This programs need flat adopters, and there is the idea of starting a sister program here at the university, for which the reserve would provide the materials. If you are interested in this program, contact Rodd (trkelsey@ucdavis.edu)
 - Trail restoration on the reserve will take place next spring. The reserve is trying to develop their trail system and fix erosion problems. Eventually they would like to connect their trails with the arboretum trails.
 - Seed collection days (willow cuttings and many native plant species) – these are upcoming and will need volunteers.
 - The reserve also has an interest in creating a native plant nursery. They have a spot for the nursery, a water source, and tools, but they would need people with the interest. They are discussing redirecting the water to make a swale for willow cuttings to grow in , etc. Contact Rodd if interested.
 - Mr. Fulks was instrumental in the EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) for Cache Creek weed removal. The area is only accesible by kayak, and Mr. Fulks has recorded GPS coordinatates of the invasive plants. He will need people to kayak (the rapids are at the most class 2, and that is towards the end) and cut tamarask and arrundo. He has some kayaks for volunteers to borrow, but the project will be a major effort in partnership with the Napa Land Trust. Greg proposed that we might also rent kayaks from Outdoor Adventures. Molly suggested me might also advertise the activity on the NorCal SCB listserv. NorCal includes the email addresses of many members of the Berkeley, Stanford, Sonoma State, and other Bay Area college chapters. This would also be a good activity for website advertisement.
- Miscellaneous
 - Ingrid also mentioned that the UC Berkeley chapter of SCB is raising funds for their sister chapter, which is the East Africa chapter, to send members to the international conference, so any fundraising ideas will help them as well.
 - Rodd also needs help with the journal donations – he collected many journals this summer after a request from a Mexican university to Peter Moyle. We will also potentially send some to Bolivia. Email Rodd (trkelsey@ucdavis.edu) if you are interested in helping mail the journals or have journals with more conservation

content (many of the journals currently ready for shipping are animal behaviour). We will also need to raise some funds to cover the cost of shipping.

- Seminars
 - Katie - Last year we offered low key seminar series through EVE for undergrads through peer advisors. Right now Thurs. 5-6 pm are reserved. Katie is soliciting anyone interested in doing presentations. Last year presentations were on topics as broad as a general overview of conservation research to a survey of conservation in pop culture. The purpose of the seminars is for undergraduates for learn more about further study in conservation. If you are interested in presenting please contact Katie (kamchugh@ucdavis.edu) . We have a CRN and room reserved but we can change the time if the majority of the presenters can't make it.
 - Rodd – SCB sponsored seminars in the past, including CalFed, graduate students, a talk from Holly Doremus about environmental law, and others. We could sponsor a seminar in winter, which would be difficult to organize on such short notice, or in spring,. Rodd's idea is to sponsor a seminar on the role of ecologists in international development. We could invite representatives of the World Bank, professors, or others involved in the field to speak. This series will go up for a vote for funding. We can likely also get funds from the GSA, since in the past this has been a less competitive and helpful source of funding.
- Current Issues in Conservation
 - email Rodd if you are interested in getting involved in this new committee which will keep our chapter abreast of current issues in our field. This group will work closely with our website committee.
- Fun committee
 - We are currently discussing the possibility of planning an upcoming bird watching trip, snowshoeing or cross country skiing. Past bird watching trips to the McLaughlin Reserve (a UC reserve) were very successful, and we could potential stay overnight at this reserve in the future. Contact Elizabeth (erheeg@ucdavis.edu) if you are interested in planning a weekend excursion.
 - We also discussed the possibility of having another Happy Hour with the Wildlife Society and the American Fisheries Society. This would be especially convenient to plan for the first of the month with our new meeting time.