



SCB growing, meeting its objectives

The Society for Conservation Biology is thriving. Three major initiatives—internationalization, *Conservation in Practice*, and the establishment of an Executive Office—and dozens of smaller undertakings are on course thanks to the staff, Board of Governors, and membership at large. At the 2003 annual meeting, SCB President (now Past President) Mac Hunter was particularly pleased to report that, with the recent ratification of the Asia Section's bylaws, all seven international sections are in place, and we are already seeing their influence. For example, the number of countries represented by our membership grew from 90 to 114 during 2002, a 27% increase. Overall membership increased by 28%, in large part due to a near-doubling in the number of readers of *Conservation in Practice*. We also saw a growth in our "traditional" membership, the subscribers to *Conservation Biology*; they increased 10% overall during 2002 with much of the growth (a 30% increase) among members outside of North America. Finally, the number of institutions that subscribe to *Conservation Biology* increased by 40%. In his remarks, Hunter acknowledged that much work remains before we have fulfilled all the potential encapsulated in our new tag-line—Society for Conservation Biology: a global community of conservation professionals—but he emphasized that we are swimming in the right direction.

The annual SCB members' meeting was held on 1 July 2003, during the third full day of the SCB annual meeting (see page 12). More than 235 people attended. Minutes from the 2002 members' meeting were approved unanimously. Chief Financial Officer Stephen

see **Members**, page 11

President Mac Hunter greets Distinguished Service Award recipient Martha Isabel Ruiz Corzo at the 2003 annual meeting

SCB needs your feedback!

Please participate in a survey for
Conservation Biology

For more than 16 years, *Conservation Biology* has been the voice of our global community of conservation biologists. Now, the Society for Conservation Biology and the Editorial Office of *Conservation Biology* need to hear your voice!

To make the journal as relevant as possible, we invite you to participate in an anonymous online survey for *Conservation Biology* readers, authors, and reviewers. This survey is the first of its kind for *Conservation Biology*—your feedback is extremely valuable! To participate, simply go to www.conservationbiology.org/journalsurvey.

We hope to hear from you soon!

Executive Office, SCB & Editorial
Office, Conservation Biology

National security must include the health of the land by Michael Dombeck

Ever since the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 in the United States, the world has been in a security-induced frenzy. Never before have so many of the planet's people been so keenly focused on security. In the United States, the date "9/11" itself is now used in the American vernacular with "security" overtones. A zealous, "security-infused" patriotism has swept the nation. The U.S. government passed the Homeland Security Act, designed to defend and "secure" its citizens. And across the globe, security matters have pushed to the front in shaping foreign relations, forging alliances, and setting budgets.

Hearing "security" again and again has caused me to think a lot about what the term *really* means. To be sure, all nations' interests ideally should be assured. We should all feel safe at home and abroad.

But when I think of "security," I think beyond war and peace, violence, terrorism, and narrowly defined economic interests. Of course, these issues are important, but I think that the long-term health of Earth's basic life-support systems also must be made secure.

Aldo Leopold referred collectively to the air, water, soils, plants, animals, and the processes that link them and us as the "land." The threats to the land are as real and potentially as damaging to our long-term well being as those posed by dictators and desperation. Moreover, the threats to the land never rest; they march continuously, often silently and invisibly. Sometimes they mount, erupt, and attract attention. Others are pushing ecological thresholds to levels that we cannot foresee and may not be able to live with. Yet, we

see **Dombeck**, page 2

seem to be increasingly underplaying or even rejecting some of the threats, despite society's generally sympathetic view of environmental needs.

The results of this environmental neglect can be seen in Iraq. Although the live war coverage focused on bombs, missiles, and troops, the stage on which it all played out held testament to our fallibility—a degraded landscape. Iraq is of course home to one of the great cradles of civilization. As part of the Fertile Crescent and centered along the once bountiful Tigris and Euphrates rivers, Iraq was lush agricultural land for millennia. But today the region is anything but fertile or lush, due in large part to the misuse of soils, water, and vegetation over thousands of years. The once great agricultural societies that sprouted from the region's rich floodplains are mere ruins dotting the now-parched landscape.

True individual freedom cannot exist without economic, human, and environmental security

Unfortunately, the Iraqi saga is repeating itself today as the world faces a multitude of environmental threats—fertile soils are washing away and becoming too salty to support agriculture, precipitation regimes are changing, water tables are falling, lakes and streams are drying up, glaciers are retreating, and grasslands and forests are slowly transforming into deserts.

A modern example is currently unfolding in China, where the Gobi Desert expanded by perhaps more than 50,000 square kilometers during the 1990s. There were five major dust storms in China in the 1950s. The number rose to 23 in the 1990s and to 20 during the last two years. The potential consequences are serious. Some 400 Chinese cities already lack sufficient water to meet basic human needs. As the desert expands, this number will surely increase. The desert has reached to within 250 kilometers of Beijing. The American Dust Bowl of the 1930s pales in comparison.

At the same time, China's food production has fallen to below consumption. The potential ramifications for world food security are mind-numbing—China accounts for a sixth of the world's population.

In response to its challenges, China has embarked on the world's largest ever water diversion project, which will move 40 billion cubic meters of water per year from the humid south to the arid north.

By comparison, that amount of water is 3.5 times the volume of Lake Superior. While food production in the north may benefit from the project, the ecological consequences remain unknown, but will surely be great.

Even in the United States, as our government works aggressively to protect Americans from terrorism, we face unprecedented environmental degradation that threatens the long-term health of the land. Acid rain, depleted supplies of clean drinking water, increased mercury and PCB levels in fish, unchecked toxic pollution from the mining industry, the rapid decline of biodiversity, and the dirtying of our air from aged power plants and automobile emissions have become daily facts in the lives of all Americans whether they are aware of it or not.

Despite a rosy report from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency citing cleaner air and water, the overall trends are negative. As an example, the gas mileage of the fleet of automobiles that rolled off the assembly lines last year dropped to a 22-year low.

President Franklin Roosevelt, who helped lead the charge against the threats to world security posed by Hitler, Mussolini, and Hirohito in the 1930s and 1940s, once said, "True individual freedom cannot exist without economic security." An update relevant to today's realities might read, "True individual freedom cannot exist without economic, *human, and environmental* security."

If we want a future free of threats to global security, we must think seriously about what constitutes security. If security means more than avoiding violence and protecting our immediate economic interests, and includes our quality of life and long-term ecological well being, then we must begin to prioritize what those threats are and how we are going to respond to them all. We also need to ask ourselves if we are making a mistake spending billions of dollars and incalculable hours addressing the likes of Saddam Hussein and Osama Bin Laden, while ignoring threats to our land, air, food and water—threats that have toppled more civilizations than either of these two men could ever dream of.

Of course we cannot ignore threats from terrorists and dictators. But securing our borders and our citizens from violence and terror ultimately will accomplish little if we continue to degrade the land that supports us. We can look at Germany and see the degree to which our species can recover from the despotism of a Hitler. By the same token, we can look at Iraq to see the enduring nature of environmental mismanagement.

Mike Dombeck is former head of the Bureau of Land Management and Chief of the U.S. Forest Service and currently Professor of Global Environmental Management at the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point. He received a 2003 Distinguished Service Award from the Society for Conservation Biology for his leadership in making the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem health the guiding principles for the U.S. government agencies with which he was associated.

2003 SCB Student Awards

FIRST PLACE

Nicholas Souter
Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia

Adding burrows to enhance a population of the endangered pygmy blue tongue lizard, *Tiliqua adelaidensis*

SECOND PLACE

Reuben Keller
University of Notre Dame

Keeping out the next invasive mollusc: a modelling approach to predicting the impact of future freshwater mollusc introductions

THIRD PLACE (TIE)

J. Alan Clark
University of Washington

Taxonomic bias in conservation research

Nicola Koper
University of Alberta

Ducks as surrogate species for avian conservation in wetlands and prairies

Wei Liu
Iowa State University

Development of conservation strategies with biological and socioeconomical investigations: a case study on white-headed langur

FINALISTS

Alex Dehgan—Plasticity-dependent changes in demography, behavior, and physiology in response to fragmentation for rainforest lemurs in S.E. Madagascar

Evan Girvetz—A predictive spatial model of Yellow-billed Cuckoo occupancy in riparian forest patches on the meandering sector of the Sacramento River, California

Marcelo de Lima—Cerrado fragmentation: do birds perceive it?

Emily Latch—Relative utility of molecular markers for Wild Turkey management

Betsie Rothermel—Assessing landscape resistance and complementation for amphibians based on migratory behavior of juveniles

Ana Trakhtenbrot—Representing species diversity: a test of the efficiency of cluster analysis based on environmental factors

Shannon Wiegmann—Historical changes in northwoods understory communities: the effects of exotic earthworm invasion and overbrowsing on the abundance of native lilies and exotic plants

James Yount—Resource use, cultural identity and conservation in the Mikea Forest of Madagascar

Call for 2004 Award Nominations

Edward T. LaRoe III Memorial Award

The Edward T. LaRoe III Memorial Award is given annually to an individual with a distinguished record of research and outstanding application of science to the conservation of our biological resources. The intention of the award is to recognize the innovative application of science to resource management and policy. Although all scientists will be eligible for the award, because of Edward LaRoe's distinguished career as a public servant, preference will be given to employees of governmental resource management agencies or science agencies.

Past recipients of the LaRoe Award are

2003	Stephen Schneider
2002	John Lawton
2001	Robert Pressey
2000	Phil Pister
1999	Chandler Robbins
1998	J. Michael Scott
1997	Barry Noon
1996	Kathy Ralls
1995	Reed Noss

Please send nominations for the 2004 LaRoe Award to J. Michael Scott, Department of Fish and Wildlife, P.O. Box 44-1141, Room 103, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844-1141, msscott@uidaho.edu (with copies to Sarah Martinez, sarahm@uidaho.edu).

Nominations should be in the form of a nominating letter with an accompanying resume of the nominee. Multiple letters of support for nominees are encouraged. Nominations must be received by **1 October 2003**.

Distinguished Service Awards

SCB annually presents awards for distinguished service in the field of conservation biology. For the 2004 awards, SCB is soliciting nominations from its members and others working in the field of conservation biology. Among the categories eligible for awards are

Academia
Government
Outside academia and government
Social, economic, and political work
Education and journalism

To obtain a nomination package, please contact Eleanor Sterling, Awards Committee Chair, sterling@amnh.org. Nominations must be received by **1 October 2003**.

2002 *Conservation Biology* Editor's Report

Gary K. Meffe, Editor

Highlights

In 2002, six issues of *Conservation Biology* were published on time. The number of manuscripts submitted in 2002 decreased slightly from the previous year (-10.8%), returning to the levels of 1999 and 2000. A total of 1690 pages was published, a decrease of 8.5% from the previous year, but still slightly above our page budget of 1632. After a flurry of Special Sections in recent years, none were published in 2002 (but several are coming up). *Conservation Biology* continued to receive much press coverage due to our media consultant, Robin Meadows, who provides news tips to the media of selected articles. Our Editorial Assistant, Margaret Flagg, and Managing Editor, Ellen Main, continue to be highly dedicated and do exceptional work.

Submissions

The submission rate for this journal year (January through December 2002) decreased slightly from 2001, but is still robust. We received 573 manuscripts, down from the all-time high of 643 manuscripts submitted in 2001. The trend in submittal rate is as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of manuscripts</u>	<u>% change</u>
1993-94	302	
1994-95	378	25.2
1995-96	434	14.8
1996-97	540	24.4
1997-98	579	7.2
1998	614	6.0
1999	581	-5.3
2000	580	-0.17
2001	643	10.9
2002	573	-10.8

We also received and processed 159 preliminary manuscript inquiries, a 31% increase from the previous year's total of 121 (with 89 in 2000). Most of these consisted of an abstract and an inquiry as to its suitability for the journal. This is an increasingly popular feature for authors.

We used 26 ad hoc Assigning Editors this year, individuals who handled one or more manuscripts but are not on the Board. Ad hoc Editors were used when a manuscript did not fall within the expertise of existing Editors, when they had special expertise in the area, or if the appropriate Assigning Editor was particularly busy with other manuscripts. This system has worked very well and will continue to be employed. Ad hoc Editors are acknowledged in the December issue of each year and are an integral part of this journal; I thank them for their contributions.

Decisions and Rejection Rates

Of the 573 papers received in 2002 (Table 1), 238 (41.5%) were rejected by the Editor without review, usually within three days of submittal and usually due to inappropriateness of subject matter or low quality; 335 (58.5%) were sent for review, most through Assigning Editors and a few directly by the Editor.

Of the 335 manuscripts sent for review, 177 (52.8%) were rejected, 96 (28.7%) were accepted, and no decision had yet been reached on 61 (18.2%), which are still in review or in revision with authors. Of the total number of papers submitted (573), 415 (72.4%) were rejected (about the same as last year's 70.9%), 96 were accepted (16.8%, the same percentage as last year), and no decision was yet reached on 61 (or 10.6%, down from

Table 1. Journal-year statistics, 1 January – 31 December 2002

NUMBER OF MANUSCRIPTS						
Month	Submitted	Rejected by editor	Sent for review	Total rejected	Accepted	No decision
January	46	21	25	31	14	1
February	40	10	30	25	14	1
March	49	21	28	41	8	0
April	50	24	26	38	8	4
May	49	22	27	38	7	4
June	50	24	26	35	10	5
July	51	27	24	37	8	5 (+1 withdrawn)
August	49	10	39	27	13	9
September	45	19	26	35	6	4
October	40	22	18	32	3	5
November	49	14	35	36	4	9
December	54	24	30	39	1	14
TOTAL	573	238 (41.5%)	335 (58.5%)	415 (72.4%)	96 (16.8%)	61 (+1 withdrawn) (10.6%)

12.1% last year) as of 23 May 2003. Of the 512 papers for which decisions have been made, 415 (81.1%) were rejected. However, some of the “no decision” papers are being revised and are likely to be accepted, so the overall rejection rate will be lower than this, probably near our usual of 75%.

Turnaround Time

For about the last 10 years, the Editor’s report has followed the format that you see. However, we recently realized that because this format reports on the fates of manuscripts from a given journal year, we are in fact truncating the right side of the distribution of the statistics. There is always a lag period because manuscripts submitted in a given year typically are published in a subsequent year. Thus, review turnaround time for a given journal year is fairly accurate but submittal to publication and acceptance to publication are misleading because they do not include manuscripts that

have not yet completed the review and scheduling process. Consequently, these numbers are useful for inter-year comparisons but not for assessing absolute turnaround times. For that, one would need to collect data directly from the published submittal and acceptance dates directly in the journal in subsequent years.

Mean turnaround time for manuscript review continues to fluctuate between 70 and 80 days; it was up slightly in 2002 to 79 days (Figure 1; min = 7; max = 375). We continue to have a struggle with busy reviewers who do not complete the task in a reasonable amount of time (or never complete it), and we continue to replace Assigning Editors who are consistently slow. Time from acceptance to publication (Figure 2) stayed about the same as 2001, at 236 days (from 237; min = 125; max = 442). Total time from submission to publication (Figure 3) increased from 353 to 391 days (min = 139; max = 547). Again, these latter two statistics are right-censored and should be used only in a comparative sense.

Region of Authorship

Region of authorship is determined by the address of the first author at the time the work was done, and only partially reflects sovereignty of contributions. International participation in authorship is actually higher than

Figure 1. Review Turnaround Time

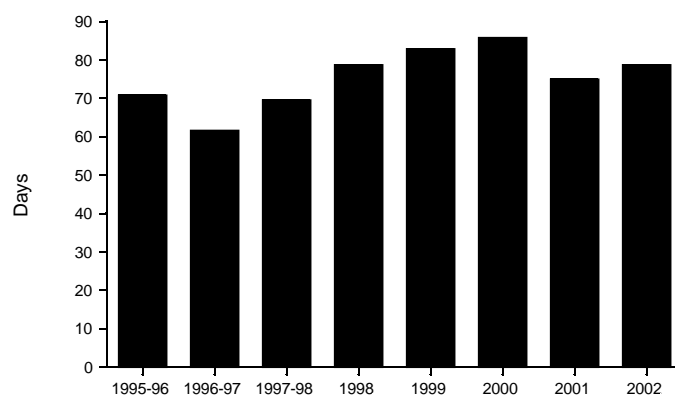


Figure 2. Acceptance to Publication Time

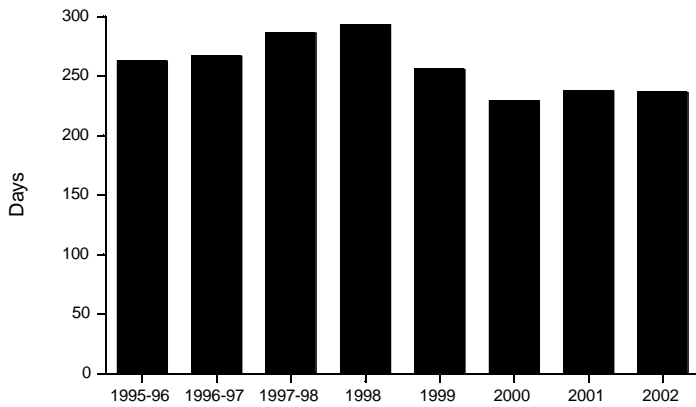
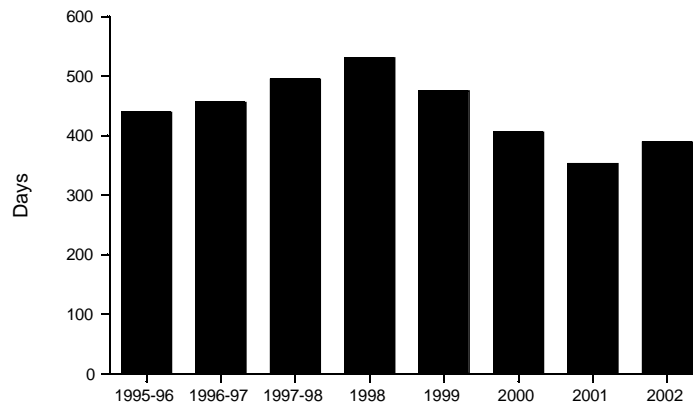
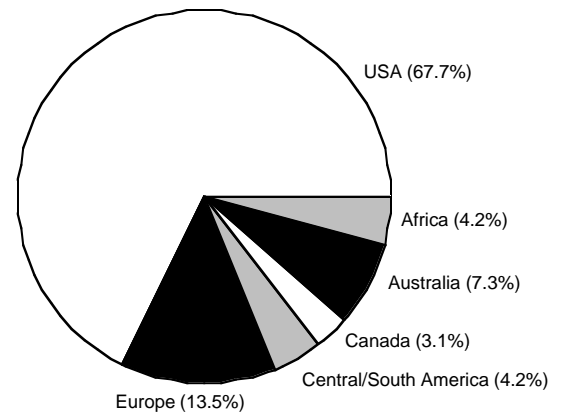


Figure 3. Submission to Publication Time



indicated by these statistics. Of the 96 papers submitted and accepted in 2002, the proportion that were first-authored by U.S. authors stayed almost exactly the same as in 2001: 67.7% (vs. 68%; Figure 4). This continues to be higher than we would like. Regional changes from 2001 are Asia (2% to 0%), Africa (0% to 4.2%), Australia (7% to 7.3%), Canada (5% to 3.1%), Central/South America (3% to 4.2%), and Europe (15% to 13.5).

Figure 4. Acceptance by Region 2002



Miscellaneous Information

The Editor sent letters to all section presidents in May 2003, explaining journal procedures and philosophies regarding publishing here. In particular, we are trying to boost representation of papers from outside the United States, as well as other participation including Editorial Board membership, writing of Editorials, and development of Special Sections. The Editor offered various suggestions and sought input from all sections with the hope of developing a more fully international journal as the sections develop. There will also be an Editorial in the October 2003 issue of *Conservation Biology* to this effect.

Donations to SCB promote the science of conservation biology and protect the diversity of life on Earth

- Donate appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual funds. If you donate equities owned more than a year, you can avoid tax on the capital gains and reduce income tax by deducting the fair market value as a charitable contribution.
- Make a bequest to SCB in your will. A bequest may reduce taxes on your estate.

Please send donations to
 Stephen Humphrey
 Chief Financial Officer, SCB
 College of Natural Resources and Environment
 Box 116455, 103 Black Hall
 University of Florida
 Gainesville, FL 32611-6455, USA

Death Notice

Vim Wright passed away on 1 June 2003. Born Lizetta Iacovidis, her energy and zest for life sparked her nickname, "Vim." Vim was an adamant believer in democratic grassroots, respected good science, and worked closely with people of diverse views and backgrounds. Her accomplishments included streamlining organizations, harnessing talent, building research cadres, clarifying issues, and planning political strategy. Vim was a mentor and model to many of today's environmental leaders and an intellectual resource to political leaders of both parties. Dee Boersma, Past President of SCB, said, "Vim lives on in each of us. She excelled as a connector of people, a practical problem solver, and an advocate for the wildlife and the land upon which we all depend. The people she inspired and the lives she enriched spread out like ripples from a dropped pebble. Her ideals motivated all she touched and the connections and networks she established will continue to be used as vehicles to solve environmental problems."

INTERNATIONAL SECTION NEWS

AFRICA

About 40 people attended our section's meeting during the 2003 annual meeting. We had an active discussion, and many members volunteered to take on projects.

Issues Discussed at the Meeting

Fundraising. Financial needs include regional meetings to facilitate participation and networking among conservation biologists in Africa, regional short courses in Africa, SCB memberships (including subscriptions to the journals) for African conservation biologists and students, and travel awards to attend SCB meetings. To help develop fundraising contact Beth Kaplin, bkaplin@antiochne.edu.

Short courses. We could sponsor or co-sponsor regional short courses in Africa depending on expertise of our membership, local interests and needs, and financial costs.

Potential topics include grant writing, manuscript writing, giving professional presentations, field research methods, and data analysis. Short courses would be a direct way for the section to interact with young conservation biologists in Africa. If you are interested in developing this program please contact Beth Kaplin.

Web page. There is significant interest in expanding our web page. SCB's Executive Office will assist us, but we must determine what features, content, and functionality we would like to see on our page. Email your ideas to Beth Kaplin.

Symposia. Elise Granek of the Marine Section approached us about sponsoring a joint African Marine conservation symposium in 2004. If you are interested in working with Elise please contact her at granek@science.oregonstate.edu. If you have suggestions for symposia or would like to recommend potential African nationals to speak in a symposium on African conservation issues at the 2004 meeting contact Nobby Cordeiro, ncorde1@uic.edu.

Action Steps

We agreed to complete the following by September 2003.

Develop communication channels. We will develop a simple paragraph that will explain the section's mission, activities, and contact information. This will be distributed by email or can be attached to the general SCB brochure for mailings. We need someone to draft this brochure—if you are interested please contact Beth Kaplin.

Create a listserv. Beth Kaplin has initiated the section's listserv and will serve as moderator. Anyone, including non-SCB members, may join this listserv. To join, go to <http://list.conbio.org/mailman/listinfo/africalist/>. If you do not have web access, send a message to africalist-request@list.conbio.org. In the body of the message, type `<subscribe [password][nodigest][address=YourEmailAddress]>`. For example, `subscribe [pw1][nodigest][address=adt@conbio.org]` subscribes email address adt@conbio.org with password `pw1`. To send messages to AfricaList use africalist@list.conbio.org.

Newsletter. We agreed to begin publishing a quarterly electronic newsletter for our section. Erika Barthelmess, barthelmess@stlawu.edu, will be our first editor. Please contact her you are interested in contributing to the newsletter or have ideas for its development or layout.

Symposium committee. This committee will coordinate the section's efforts to sponsor at least one symposium at each annual meeting. Chairs are Nobby Cordeiro (ncorde1@uic.edu) and Lori Eggert (lori_eggert@hotmail.com). Deadline for submitting proposals for symposia to Nobby and Lori is 31 October 2003.

Increase communication. We agreed to send at least one email to our members every two months with news and updates. We also will send members an email requesting information on African conservation interests to be incorporated into a database for our section. Members requested information on how to obtain a list of section members. You may contact Beth Kaplin to send an email to the section membership at any time. SCB's Executive Office maintains the list based on paid members who checked off membership in the Africa Section.

Mentoring program. This program links researchers and offers assistance to African students or conservation biologists who need assistance with writing manuscripts, proposals, or abstracts. Membership in SCB is not required to participate. We also discussed an anonymous system to review meeting abstracts for African conservation biologists. If you are interested in working with this program contact Matthew Kauffman (matt.kauffman@mso.umt.edu) or Julia Jones (jpgj2@can.ac.uk).

Gender equity. We identified the limited representation of women in the African conservation biology community as an issue on which the section would like to work, and proposed a mentoring program for African women in conservation biology. Suggestions included an awards program and workshops for women in higher education who are interested in conservation biology, publishing, or presenting at professional meetings. To help, contact Lori Eggert, lori_eggert@hotmail.com.

Currency exchange. We developed a program to allow Africans to pay SCB membership and subscription fees in local currency to local NGOs who will in turn pay SCB in U.S.

currency. Africans who wish to become members should contact Beth Kaplin; she will locate an institution in the home country that will accept the local currency and send U.S. dollars to SCB. Please spread the word about this service.

Sponsorship. We are seeking sponsored SCB memberships for African conservation biologists. If you wish to sponsor a specific person or to donate money towards our sponsorship fund, please contact Beth Kaplin or visit SCB's web site. If you work with an conservation organization that would be willing to contribute, please contact Beth Kaplin and we will prepare a brief proposal statement.

Beth Kaplin

ASIA

The first meeting of the Asia Section, held at the 2003 annual meeting, was attended by more than 40 individuals. Attendees included both native Asians and non-Asians working in or interested in conservation biology in Asia.

Members discussed the possibility of holding a section meeting in Katmandu, perhaps in November 2005. Several members who live in Nepal agreed to explore logistic issues relevant to such a meeting in cooperation with the Board of Directors.

Concerns and interests that will be explored in the coming months include

- Monitoring compliance and follow-through on international agreements such as the Rio Convention. Most countries within the section are signatories, but members feel there has been little action.
- Capacity building in Asian collections and databases. The European Union's paradigm of "information repatriation" may serve as a model for the ethical and practical support of data / collection capacity building in Asia with the help of those who benefit from their work in Asia.
- Creation of a section database with membership expertise profiles.
- Facilitating communication among section members is a challenge, and much will be done electronically. The section needs to assess the electronic capabilities of its members. For example, email groups often are more practical than web sites.
- Preparation of educational materials in native languages for local conservation capacity building. The section would like to build a pool of volunteer translators. Members also see a need for national contacts in each Asian country—perhaps a national node model, or at least a contact person.

Linda Olsvig-Whittaker

AUSTRALASIA

Section members and others interested in our region are encouraged to check our website periodically to keep informed: <http://www.conbio.org/SCB/Activities/Sections/OzNz/>.

latest news

Section meeting. Our annual section members' meeting was held at the 2003 SCB meeting. Members were updated on section activities and ideas were sought for areas in which the section could advance. The meeting was attended by a select few, but the New Guinea contingent was a strong presence.

Symposia/conferences. The Australasian Section aims to maximize exposure of SCB and the section within the region over the next few years by supporting symposia at conferences in conjunction with other established societies within our region. To that end, the Australasian section is supporting three conferences in 2003: the 5th New Guinea Biology Conference in Goroka, Papua New Guinea; the 3rd International Wildlife Management Congress in Christchurch, New Zealand, and the Australasian Ornithological Conference in Canberra, Australia. We will be supporting student awards (two year memberships to SCB with hard copies of *Conservation Biology*) at each of these venues.

Membership. Our membership currently stands at 288 with 134 of those residing within our region. There is a real need to increase the active membership to attain a critical mass for our section. We will be targeting conservationists working within Papua New Guinea and the Pacific region in 2003/2004.

Section members are also encouraged to distribute SCB materials at other regional conferences that they may be attending. Please contact Menna Jones, menna.jones@anu.edu.au, for brochures or other promotional material.

Pacific Conservation Biology. SCB and the Australasian section are formalizing links with the journal *Pacific Conservation Biology*. We aim to have financial arrangements with the publisher and editor finalized by the end of this year and to offer *Pacific Conservation Biology* as one of the journals available to members when they join SCB or renew their membership.

Bring SCB back to Australasia! We are aiming to host the SCB annual meeting in Australasia in 2007 in conjunction with the marine section. If you are interested in helping to organize a proposal to host SCB annual meeting please contact Menna Jones, Karen Firestone (karenf@austmus.gov.au), or Robert Davis (rdavis@cyllene.uwa.edu.au).

Section elections. Five Board of Directors positions will be opening up for next year, including President, President Elect, and three one-year terms. If you are interested in running for a board position, contact Caroline Gross, cgross@metz.une.edu.au, for further information.

Job board. If you have a job/studentship that you would like to post on our website, contact Angie Penn, a.penn@unsw.edu.au.

Karen Firestone

MARINE

News

In June 2003, the Pew Oceans Commission released a report on the state of the oceans, "America's Living Oceans: Charting a Course for Sea Change" (www.pewoceans.org). The report concluded a three-year United States-based study of the oceans by a group of scientists, fishermen, conservationists, business leaders, and elected officials. The report cites overfishing, coastal development, and land-based pollution as key factors leading to the decline of marine species and collapse of marine ecosystems, and suggests immediate change in ocean policy to restore our ocean ecosystems.

Section Update

As per our bylaws, some of the first officers on the Marine Section's Board of Directors will be retiring at the end of 2003. At least three of the six positions on the board will be open for elections. The term of office is three years, beginning January 2004. We are looking for motivated individuals with sufficient time in their schedules to contribute to increasing the role of marine conservation in SCB. If you are interested in running for these positions, please send a brief statement (300 word maximum) describing your objectives in running for the Board and a brief summary of your experience in marine conservation biology to marine@conbio.org. Self-nominations are welcome, and please feel free to nominate others by sending us their contact information. We encourage international scientists to run for these positions in order to further diversify our board. Statements are due 1 October 2003, and online elections will take place during November. For further information on the duties of these offices, please see the Marine Section web page and bylaws (see below) or contact any of the current officers.

We had a very successful annual meeting this year, convening numerous events for Marine Section members. The program included one plenary session, two contributed sessions, and three invited symposia, as well as contributed talks on marine research. While several of the marine sessions unfortunately were scheduled concurrently, the Marine Section will be actively involved in scheduling for next year's meeting to assure that this is not a problem in the future. The presentation of the PISCO/COMPASS video "The Science of Marine Reserves" was well received, and allowed members to learn of this and other valuable tools in marine science. Our social event at Little Angie's Cantina also was well attended. Carolyn Lundquist represented the Marine Section at the SCB Board of Governors Meeting and participated in the press conference for the annual meeting, resulting in coverage of marine conservation in the local Duluth newspaper.

Our membership meeting was very successful in directing our leadership and committees toward a task list that will enable us to reach our objective of furthering marine conservation science, both within SCB and in the public eye. In addition to recruiting many new members for committees and nominations for Board members, we also developed ideas for symposia and workshop proposals for the 2004 annual meeting, and ideas (and tentative authors) for editorials and position statements.

One of our many goals is to assure that marine scientists are aware of SCB's Marine Section as a home for marine science. We have drafted letters to various listservs to raise awareness of the presence of Blue in SCB, and are working to increase the number of marine submissions to SCB journals. We expect to submit editorials and a special section on marine conservation directly linked to presentations at the 2003 meeting.

To assist with any of the above activities, for additional information on the Marine Section, or to join the marine listserv (marinelist@conbio.org), visit <http://conbio.net/SCB/Activities/Sections/Marine/> or contact us at marine@conbio.org.

Carolyn Lundquist

NORTH AMERICA

Following our section bylaws, the North America Section will be holding elections during spring 2004 for three board positions (each with a three-year term), a president (two-year term), and a president elect (a two-year term followed by two years as President). This is the first election we've held under the bylaws, thus the unique situation in which we will elect both the President and President Elect simultaneously. All board members will begin their terms at the 2004 annual meeting.

The current board of the North America Section can be viewed at <http://www.conbio.org/SCB/Activities/Sections/NAmerica/>, and the section bylaws can be viewed at http://www.conbio.org/SCB/Activities/Sections/NAmerica/Bylaws_NA.pdf.

The section's Nominations Committee is currently soliciting nominations for all of these positions. Nominees must be members in good standing of both of SCB and the North America Section. Board responsibilities include an interest in working to develop the section as an active body for advancing conservation biology in North America and for representing conservation biologists in this region. Responsibilities for the president and president elect include an interest in providing leadership to the section board to achieve these goals, as well as represent the section on the Board of Governors of SCB. In practical terms, it is expected that members of the board will respond to email concerning section business, participate in occasional conference calls, and, if possible, attend the section board meeting held during a lunch at SCB's annual meeting.

Self-nominations are welcome. Students are especially encouraged to consider this opportunity for increasing their professional involvement with SCB. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else, please send the following information to Steve Trombulak (Trombulak@middlebury.edu), who currently serves as coordinator for the committee.

see **Sections**, page 15

Members, from page 1

Humphrey and Executive Director Alan Thornhill gave brief reports. The SCB website is receiving about 50,000 visits per month, with an average visit length of 14 minutes. Job listings are the most-visited section. Thornhill welcomes suggestions for other material that can be linked to the website.

Editors of all SCB publications provided reports. Gary Meffe noted that in 2002, about 33% of first authors on articles published in *Conservation Biology* were from outside the United States (see page 4). Meffe recently asked all SCB section presidents for their assistance in increasing the submission rate from authors outside the United States.

Chairs of standing SCB committees and representatives from each section (see page 8) summarized progress over the last year. The 2004 and 2005 annual meetings will be held, respectively, in New York City (see page 14) and Brasília (see back page). Three Board positions will be open in the 2004 election: governmental agency, non-governmental organization, and social sciences. Ballots will be published in November.

A clear majority of members approved a series of changes to the SCB bylaws that were proposed by the Board of Governors. The revised bylaws are posted on SCB's website. Articles 5 and 6 now codify that one representative of each section is a voting member of the Board. Article 8, Section 4 now allows the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to delegate some functions, such as collection of membership dues, to the Executive Office, and to appoint Financial Trustees to provide advice on management of the endowment. Article 12 was modified to rename and broaden the scope of the Student Awards Committee. The new committee, Student Affairs, will promote a supportive environment for undergraduate and graduate students in SCB.

In response to comments that SCB's mission statement (Article 3) was difficult to explain, particularly in languages other than English, the Board proposed a slight clarification (not intended to change the statement's meaning). The revised statement, approved by the membership, is "*The mission of the SCB is to develop the scientific and technical means for the protection, maintenance and restoration of life on Earth: species, ecosystems, and the processes that sustain them.*" (The previous wording was "The mission of the SCB is to develop the scientific and technical means for the protection, maintenance and restoration of life on this planet—its species, its ecological and evolutionary processes, and its particular and total environment.") The Board may revisit SCB's mission in the broad sense during its ongoing strategic planning process, which will include opportunities for member participation.

A number of members encouraged the Board to allow them more opportunity to consider bylaw amendments in advance of a vote. The number of issues that the Board faces sometimes prevents them from reaching a consensus until shortly before the members' meeting. However, the Board will make every effort in the future to finalize issues for member action as early as possible during the annual meeting.

At the end of the meeting, incoming President Deborah Jensen thanked Mac Hunter for his tremendous service to SCB.

Announcements

Funding

The Dennis Raveling Scholarship for Waterfowl Research is awarded annually to students with a desire to pursue a career in waterfowl or wetlands ecology. Awards are based on the candidate's resolve, academic achievement, and project merit. Candidates must be pursuing an advanced degree in wildlife, zoology, botany, ecology, or other pertinent biological science. Two scholarships, one for US\$8000 and one for US\$4000, will be awarded in 2003. Applications must be received by 31 October 2003. For more information contact Nicole Berset, California Waterfowl Association, 4630 Northgate Blvd., Suite 150, Sacramento, CA 95834, USA, (916) 648-1406, FAX (916) 648-1665, nicole_berset@calwaterfowl.org/.

New Publication

The U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announce the release of a new snag, down wood, and wood decay management advisory system for forests in Washington and Oregon, the DecAID Advisor. The Advisor, available at <http://www.notes.fs.fed.us:81/pnw/DecAid/DecAID.nsf>, is a synthesis of data on wildlife species' use of decayed wood, inventory data on snags and down wood, and information on insects and pathogens associated with decayed wood. It presents a new meta-analysis of wildlife and inventory data using tolerance levels to depict proportions of populations that pertain to snag diameters, snag density, down wood diameter, down wood percent cover, and other wood decay elements, and detailed management implications. A product of several years of teamwork, the DecAID Advisor also can help long-term planning. References on the DecAID Advisor are available at http://www.fs.fed.us/wildecology/decaid/decaid_background/decaid_papers.htm. For more information contact Bruce Marcot, (503) 808-2010, bmarcot@fs.fed.us or Janet Ohmann, (541) 750-7487, johmann@fs.fed.us.

Educational Opportunity

EcoLife Expeditions' International Universities Program will offer a wildlife management field course from 28 December 2003 – 12 January 2004. The course is for students and professionals interested in African conservation. Students will

see **Announcements**, page 12

Society for Conservation Biology Newsletter is published quarterly. To submit materials or request permission to reprint articles contact the Editor: Erica Fleishman, Center for Conservation Biology, Department of Biological Sciences, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305-5020, USA, (650) 725-9914, FAX (650) 723-5920, e fleish@stanford.edu. Decisions concerning publication rest with the Editor.

© Society for Conservation Biology 2003

2003 ANNUAL MEETING: A great gathering on a Great Lake

SCB's 17th Annual Meeting was held on the dynamic shores of Lake Superior from 28 June to 2 July 2003 at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center in Duluth, Minnesota, USA. As participants arrived on Saturday, the northeastern winds off of Lake Superior surprised those dressed for summer, but the lake calmed and gorgeous summer weather returned for the remainder of the meeting.

Co-hosts of the meeting included the Natural Resources Research Institute, Minnesota Sea Grant, and Continuing Education (all from the University of Minnesota Duluth) and the Conservation Biology Graduate Program of the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Additional financial sponsors of the meeting included SCB, the U.S. National Science Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Sea Grant, Blandin Paper, Large Lakes Observatory of the University of Minnesota, and The Wilderness Society. These sponsors allowed the partial support of symposia, 25 speakers from outside the United States, four plenary speakers, and partial support for more than 100 students from around the world.

The meeting was attended by 1137 individuals, including over 300 students, and, hence, was the largest gathering of SCB. Forty-five countries were represented as well 47 U.S. states. The four-day meeting included 15 symposia, eight workshops, and nine discussion groups. Most days included eight concurrent morning and afternoon sessions, and a total of 418 oral and 133 posters were accepted for presentation. Nearly 100 individuals attended ten field trips to the International Wolf Center, Isle Royale National Park, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, and other destinations.

The meeting's theme, *Conservation of Land-Water Interactions*, was the focus of no fewer than seven symposia that emphasized marine, freshwater, and wetland ecosystems. Each of the four outstanding plenary lectures also focused attention on these interactions. Following the successful format of the 16th annual SCB meeting in Canterbury, each morning was ignited by a plenary address. Michael Dombeck, former Chief of the U.S. Forest Service and now at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, opened the meeting on Sunday morning and presented the many challenges that SCB faces in the 21st century. On Monday morning, David Schindler of the University of Alberta – Edmonton enlightened members on the rapid changes that are occurring in Canada's boreal forests. On Tuesday, Joy Zedler of the University of Wisconsin – Madison articulated the tremendous needs and opportunities associated with wetland restoration. The last plenary on Wednesday, given by Jane Lubchenco of Oregon State University (and Past President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Ecological Society of America), laid the foundation

for marine conservation, a huge challenge and opportunity for SCB members.

An evening was dedicated to meetings of the emerging SCB sections. Substantial progress was made by all sections: Africa, Asia, Austral and Neotropical America, Australasia, Europe, Marine, and North America. The SCB members' meeting also had a dedicated time slot and was attended by more than 200 individuals (see page 1).

The meeting included numerous social gatherings at local pubs and restaurants. Sunday night included inspiring performances by The Third Generation (a Finnish cultural group with an amazing operatic tenor), Liz Jaakola (a Native American folk singer), and Willowgreen (a world-famous Celtic vocal and instrumental group). Monday night was highlighted by a cruise on a tame Lake Superior, rock and roll band and hula hoop contest included. The awards ceremony and banquet concluded the meeting on Wednesday night.

It was a pleasure to serve SCB and share the western Great Lakes region with so many wonderful individuals. We thank all of the enthusiastic people that contributed so much time to organizing this meeting. We look forward to seeing you all at the 18th annual meeting in New York City in 2004.

*Gerald Niemi and Carl Richards, Co-hosts
On behalf of the SCB 2003 Organizing Committee*

Announcements, from page 11

travel through conservation areas of South Africa in a mobile classroom. Lectures, classes, and hands-on projects will be led by instructors from the University of Pretoria's Centre for Wildlife Management. Course topics include wildlife management techniques, sustainable resource utilization, and ecosystem and biodiversity conservation. The course may be taken for 8 credits from the University of Pretoria, South Africa. Cost is US\$1400. For more information contact Ecolife Expeditions, 976 Duncan Street, Brooklyn, Pretoria 0181, South Africa, + 27 12 460 5430, FAX + 27 12 460 9707, Education@ecolife.co.za, www.ecolife.co.za.

Meetings and Workshops

The School of the Chicago Botanic Garden and the Garden's Institute for Plant Conservation Biology will present the Janet Meakin Poor 2003 Symposium, *Sowing the seeds for change: restoration of plant communities*, on 23 October at the Chicago Botanic Garden. The symposium, designed for both conservation researchers and practitioners will focus on seed ecology and the use of seeds in restoration projects. For program updates or to register, see www.chicagobotanic.org/ symposia or telephone (847) 835-8261. For information on submitting a poster proposal, contact Kayri Havens, khavens@chicagobotanic.org, (847) 935-8378.

Conservation Education: Capacity building through international partnerships in graduate education

It may be debatable to say that present-day conservation philosophy has its roots in the western “outdoor” culture. However, the biodiversity-rich developing countries of the southern hemisphere definitely have gained from northern expertise. Northern governmental agencies and nongovernmental organizations have been providing considerable financial and technological support to conservation capacity building in the south. Assistance has ranged from, for example, the critical support of the United Nations / Food and Agriculture Organization (UN/FAO) to southeast Asian nations, to long-standing U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) aid to Indian wildlife research, to the Smithsonian Institution’s research contributions in Nepal, Conservation International’s enterprising work in South America, Wildlife Conservation Society’s explorations in Myanmar, and World Wildlife Fund’s support of conservation efforts in Indonesia.

My institution, Wildlife Institute of India, has been a beneficiary of such international partnerships. Wildlife Institute of India was founded by the Government of India, with the support of UN/FAO, in the early 1980s. Several of the institute’s notable research projects have been funded by USFWS. USFWS not only provided funding to support project expenses but also provided research expertise by facilitating collaboration between wildlife biologists in India and the United States. The project that I worked on for my Ph.D. research, sloth bear ecology in Panna National Park, central India, was among the latter group. Cliff Rice of the state of Washington’s Department of Fish and Wildlife was our primary U.S. collaborator and he in fact developed the original proposal. The project metamorphosed from Rice’s pet project to a multi-institutional collaboration, in the process broadening considerably in intensity and scope.

As our study on sloth bear behavioral ecology progressed in Panna, USFWS brought in further international expertise in order to conduct a mid-term review of the project. This led to additional partnerships and created opportunities for enhanced capacity building. Among the reviewers was John Seidensticker, an expert carnivore biologist and a senior scientist with the Smithsonian Institution’s National Zoological Park. Seidensticker was part of a Smithsonian team in the 1970s that pioneered wildlife research in Nepal. Seidensticker also has a long association with Indian wildlife biology. My own Ph.D. supervisor and an authority on wildlife biology in India, A.J.T. Johnsingh, conducted his postdoctoral research with Seidensticker in the early 1980s.

Seidensticker spent a few days with me at the field site, appreciating and reviewing my research. He then added a new perspective to the study by suggesting alternative ways of looking at my data in terms of

behavioral energetics. This framework transformed the way I interpret behavioral patterns and helped me gain better insights into animal behavior. After completing my fieldwork, I was supported by the National Zoo to write my dissertation. I continue to be supported by the Zoo while I write papers and plan further conservation science work on the sloth bear, a species that lives

in a fragmented landscape close to so many millions of people.

This partnership has helped expand the scope of my research from a site-specific study on animal behavior to a countrywide program for the conservation of the species. It is helping me in my effort to base sloth bear conservation in India on sound science. For the next few years, I will be conducting a field assessment of the distribution, threats, and conservation requirements of the sloth bear and developing a comprehensive action plan. The international partnership will be at work in the background encouraging me and facilitating partnerships with local experts where it is much needed. The essential point is that we could not have done this independent of each other. It will take all of us working together and in support of one another to make such programs work. This kind of partnership is essential for conservation science to progress.

A great deal of wildlife management in India has thus far been ad hoc and not based on sound science. Conservation successes too, mainly have been attributable to the authority of the state, sometimes even at the cost of grossly violating people’s fundamental rights, rather than products of scientific management. However, this cannot continue for long. There is an urgent need to base conservation on good science to the benefit of one and all. International partnerships in graduate education have an important role here. These partnerships would primarily help in local capacity building but ultimately might help replace arbitrary and authoritarian conservation to conservation based on sound science.

*K. Yoganand
Wildlife Institute of India
P.O. Box 18
Dehradun, 248001, India
Slothbear_research@yahoo.com*

2004 ANNUAL MEETING—New York City, 30 July – 2 August

Call for proposals for symposia, workshops, and organized discussions

The 18th Annual Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology will be held at Columbia University's Morningside campus in New York City, New York, USA from 30 July – 2 August 2004. The meeting will be hosted by the Center for Environmental Research and Conservation (CERC), a consortium of five New York City research and education

organizations: Columbia University, the American Museum of Natural History, New York Botanical Garden, Wildlife Conservation Society, and Wildlife Trust.

The theme of the 2004 meeting is *Conservation in an Urbanizing World*. 2003 marks the first year in which more of the world's population lives in urban settings than in non-urban settings. The urbanization process has resulted in significant conservation challenges in cities as well as in suburban and ex-urban settings. It also has changed local, regional, and global patterns of consumption and trade. Conservation biology must begin to turn more of its attention to the challenges of conservation in the urbanizing world.

Field trips to several sites in the New York City region will be organized, including

- A land and sea tour of the Gateway National Seashore. The Seashore includes Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, where about 25-30% of all bird species in the United States spend some part of the year.
- Visits to New York area parks and recreational areas, where attendees will be able to see ecological restoration projects and species reintroduction programs.
- A visit to Black Rock Forest to learn about long-term forest monitoring and the impacts of invasive species.
- A visit to Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University's campus on the Hudson River.
- Visits to each of the CERC partner organizations.

The organizing committee for the 2004 annual meeting invites proposals for symposia, workshops, and organized discussions

Symposia

There will be opportunities for both 2-hour and 3.5-hour symposia. Symposium presentations will be in multiples of 15 minutes so that the timing of the symposia will be coordinated with the contributed paper sessions. Symposia will either be related to the meeting theme or address newly emerging topics or significant syntheses. Symposium proposals should differ from those addressed at recent SCB annual meetings (see below for a list of recent symposia).

Proposals should be as brief as possible and include the following explicit headings:

1. Symposium title
2. Organizer(s) and complete contact information
3. Length (2 or 3.5 hours)
4. Justification of theme (why the topic is appropriate and significant for presentation at the 2004 meeting)
5. A tentative list of speakers, presentation titles, and whether they have agreed to participate

Workshops and discussions

Workshops facilitate the presentation and application of new concepts or methods. Discussions allow audience participation for exploration of new or controversial issues. Proposals must include the following:

1. Workshop or discussion title (specify whether workshop or discussion)
2. Organizer(s) and complete contact information
3. Length and location in schedule (lunch, evening, pre-meeting)
4. Justification of theme (why the topic is appropriate and significant for presentation at the 2004 meeting)
5. Format of workshop or discussion
6. Expected number of participants

Dates and times of workshops and organized discussions should be structured to have minimal conflict with paper sessions (evenings, days immediately before or after the meeting, and lunches are preferred). All workshop and discussion organizers must be registered for the meeting.

All proposals must be submitted by **31 October 2003** to 2004@conservationbiology.org. The local organizing committee will complete the selection of symposia, workshops, and organized discussions for inclusion at the 2004 meeting by 1 December 2003. Proposal authors will be notified of the committee's decision as soon as possible so that organizers can acquire any necessary funding for their symposium. The Call for Abstracts will be published in September 2003. For more information contact 2004@conservationbiology.org or visit the meeting website, cerc.columbia.edu/scb2004.

Symposia from recent SCB annual meetings

2001—Hilo, Hawaii, USA

Sustaining island ecosystems: can it be achieved in Hawaii?
Removal of exotic animals from islands in the Americas
Population biology of invasive species
Perspectives in conservation genetics: novel approaches to old issues in conservation biology
Conservation research in tropical island stream systems: importance of a watershed perspective
Island paleoecology: draining the past to irrigate the future
The application of top predator distribution to the design and efficacy of marine reserves

2002—*Canterbury, United Kingdom*

Integrating people and conservation
Direct payments as an alternative approach to conservation investment
Gerald Durrell's legacy: managing species in human-modified landscapes
Mitigating unsustainable hunting and the bushmeat trade in tropical forest countries: using science to change practices
Approaches to conserving exploited species in marine and terrestrial ecosystems
Sustained use and conservation of wild plants: building on traditional knowledge at the local people and protected area interface
Conservation planning for the Cape Floristic Region
Cultural landscapes and land-use: the conservation-society interface
Ecological networks: carnivores, cores, and approaches for protecting wildlands
Human-carnivore conflict: local solutions with global applications
Living with wildlife in Africa: conservation challenges and opportunities
Protected areas, conservation, and people within a rural society: case studies from Myanmar
The future of biodiversity in Britain's agricultural landscape
Global amphibian declines: is current research meeting conservation needs?
Climate change and biodiversity: what are the solutions?
Toward evidence-based conservation practice: a policy framework for co-ordinating science and practice

2003—*Duluth, Minnesota, USA*

Conservation in a warmer world: Great Lakes ecosystems, climate change and the need for new approaches for ecosystem protection
The interface of land-use planning and biodiversity protection
Maintaining connections for nature: the importance of connectivity for conservation
Human interaction with aquatic systems: how knowledge of aquatic systems impacts individual and institutional action
The future of conservation biology in Austral and Neotropical America
Values, ecology and management: integrating biodiversity and Great Lakes fisheries management
Reversing the paradigm: science-based conservation planning in the boreal forest
Freshwater biodiversity conservation: from priorities to action
Protecting moving targets: integrating movement ecology and conservation practice
Coastal wetland vegetation as a harbinger of environmental change
Community involvement in crane and ecosystem conservation on three continents
Comparing marine and terrestrial ecosystems: implications for conservation theory and practice
Education in conservation biology: translating education into practice
Conservation planning for wide-ranging species
Marine reserves: a global perspective

Sections, from page 10

For the nominee: name, position (member at large, president, or president elect), email address, complete mailing address, and telephone number.

For the nominator (if not a self-nomination): name, email address, complete mailing address, and telephone number.

If you are nominating someone else, please make sure that the person you are nominating is interested in the position and is willing to meet the responsibilities described above. Nominations must be received by 15 January 2004. An announcement about the ballot and election procedures will be made via email to all members of the section in early 2004. Elections will be held via the web during spring 2004.

Steve Trombulak

FRESHWATER WORKING GROUP

At the 2003 annual meeting, more than 40 people with an interest in freshwater issues convened to discuss forming a formal freshwater working group. Because it is not possible to form a new section at this time, the participants unanimously agreed to create a working group, which can receive various forms of support from SCB without requiring bylaws. Overarching goals of the group will be to increase representation of freshwater issues in SCB's activities and publications, bring new members into SCB, stimulate freshwater-related contributions and participation from SCB members, and serve as a contact network for SCB members. The group will begin to address these goals by establishing a bulletin board, listserv, email address, and possibly a web site, newsletter, and information sheet; by liaising with communications point people in SCB's sections; by planning symposia, contributed sessions, and/or workshops for SCB's 2004 annual meeting; by liaising with other societies (e.g. American Fisheries Society, North American Benthological Society) to explore sponsoring symposia at their meetings; by establishing an expert locator; and by submitting an editorial or commentary to *Conservation Biology*.

All SCB members are invited to join the freshwater working group. For directions to subscribing to the new freshwater listserv, go to <http://www.conservationbiology.org/FreshWater/>. If you lack web access, send an email to freshwater@conservationbiology.org to receive directions. Minutes of the meeting in Duluth, along with a description of roles that need to be filled, will be sent to everyone on the listserv. If you already have an interest in any of the activities mentioned above, let us know by sending a message to same email address. Thanks to everyone for their initial support—let's keep up the momentum!

Robin Abell

"Renewal Season" Is Upon Us!

October through December is a busy time for SCB. In the Executive Office, controlled chaos reigns: papers flying, telephones ringing, caffeine intake increasing dramatically. What's so special about these 90 days? Because SCB membership was linked to the calendar year until quite recently, more than 4000 members have renewal dates that fall at the end of the year!

There are three things you can do to help us during this hectic time.

1. Renew early. Our membership system will extend your SCB membership and subscriptions appropriately if you renew before your anniversary date. Renewing early has the added benefit of reducing the number of people who may need help in December. You will receive early renewal reminders by email and paper.

2. Use the web-based renewal system. Using the secure online renewal system <https://www.conbio.org/renew/> and paying with your credit card is the easiest way to maintain your affiliation with SCB and subscriptions. The technology allows us to process your requests automatically and manage the flow of information far more efficiently than by paper. The online system has the advantages of saving not only paper but also time and money. All you need is your SCB Member ID or your SCB Username to renew online. You will find one or both in any email you have received from the Executive Office or in the email and paper renewal reminders arriving soon.

3. Stop by the Executive Office and join us for coffee!

UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETINGS

2005: Brasília

The 19th annual meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology, *Conservation biology capacitation and practice in a globalized world*, will be held at the Universidade de Brasília, Brasília, Brazil, in July 2005. The chair of the meeting will be Miguel Marini from the Zoology Department of the Universidade de Brasília. The organizing committee will be composed of professors from the Zoology Department, members of the Austral and Neotropical America Section of SCB, and other researchers, mostly from Brazil and other Latin American countries. Exact dates and detailed information about the meeting will be available in 2004. Please send this information to your colleagues, students and anyone else who might be interested in attending the meeting. We look forward to your presence at the meeting in Brazil in 2005.

2006: Host proposals invited!

The SCB Board of Governors is soliciting proposals from organizations that would like to host the 2006 annual meeting. Proposals are specifically sought from North America. To obtain a copy of the format for proposals email Alan Thornhill, AThornhill@ConservationBiology.org. Deadline for receipt of proposals for the 2006 meeting is 1 April 2004.

See page 14 for more information on the 2004 meeting

Center for Conservation Biology
Department of Biological Sciences
Stanford University
Stanford, California 94305-5020
USA

Nonprofit Organization U.S. Postage -PAID- Palo Alto, CA Permit No. 28
