

## **SCB LOCAL CHAPTERS: REPORT FROM SAN JOSE, JUNE 24-28 2006**

Once again this year's annual SCB conference (San Jose, CA, USA) was a resounding success for chapters. Two new events were held, an activity returned from last year, many important issues were discussed, and chapter representatives built communication and forged working relationships. And, most importantly, the chapters had their biggest voice ever in expressing their opinions and concerns in relation to chapter activities, services, and the parent SCB organization. Very exciting happenings!

Details from the activities are below. Questions or comments can be sent to Fiona Nagle, chair of the Chapter Advisors Committee. The chapter webpage also provides a wealth of information <http://www.conbio.org/SCB/Activities/Chapters/>.

### ***Chapter Business***

#### *Chapter Activities:*

- ◆ 27 chapters are active; 15 chapters are chartered but inactive. This is a 22.7% increase from last year on active chapters, a 21.0% decrease on inactive chapters.
- ◆ 6 New chapters: Central New York (Syracuse), Iowa State University (Ames), Northwest Argentina (S.S. de Jujuy), Washington DC (DC), Western Maryland (Frostburg), Yale (New Haven, CT)
- ◆ 9 Chapters forming: Ohio (June 2005), Brasil (July 2005), Mexico (July 2005), Peru (October 2005), China (December 2005), Bhutan (March 2006), Colombia (June 2006), Pakistan and Slovenia (continued from 2004).
- ◆ 4 New sister chapters: Berkeley-East Africa (June 2005), Minnesota-Peru (November 2005), Washington D.C.-China (January 2006), Maine-Bhutan (August 2006).
- ◆ New Orleans Chapter sidelined by Hurricane Katrina, September 2005; Back in action, May 2006.

#### *Advisory Committee:*

- ◆ A new Chapter Liaison, Tom Sisk, was voted onto the SCB Board of Governors for a 3-year term. Tom replaces Paul Beier. July 2005.
- ◆ Discussions began on incorporating chapters into the SCB Strategic Plan, March 2006.
- ◆ The SCB BOG instituted a change in bylaws whereby all chapter members must be SCB members, May 2006.

#### *Resources:*

- ◆ Spanish versions of the generic bylaws and charter are on the chapter website, August 2005.
- ◆ 7 seed grants and membership grants have been awarded since the program was inaugurated in 2004.
- ◆ New chapter logo created, June 2006. This is available to be adapted and used by chapters for promotional materials. Check with Fiona or Kat for more information.

### ***Chapter Information Booth***

This was the second year we had the booth, and it was just as popular as last year's in Brasil. The UCDavis Chapter and Berkeley Chapter were co-hosts. About 10 chapters contributed

posters, brochures, or newsletters, and the co-hosts displayed t-shirts from their annual regional symposia. We also had a world map showing all the new and forming chapters; a collage of individual chapter logos; and a large banner with the new SCB Chapters logo. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped set up and take down the booth, and who answered questions and sold tickets for the Networking Night (see below).

**Workshop: “Capacity-Building for SCB Chapters in the 21st Century”,  
Sat June 24, 12:30-4:30pm**

16 chapters were represented at this inaugural workshop, with 27 attendees. Talks were given by chapter officers and were designed to help chapters function and improve. Topics included: strategic planning, forming chapters in developed and developing countries, membership retention, balancing science and activism, environmental education, organizing symposia, research and communication, building professional support, and sister chapters. An extremely productive discussion ensued, with chapters sharing their opinions and experience. An impromptu follow-up meeting occurred a couple days after the workshop. This allowed further discussion on issues of concern. These conversations are now leading to a growth spurt in organizational and resource capacity for chapters and SCB.

We plan to include a workshop or organized discussion, plus a follow-up meeting, at every future annual conference. This will help build continuity, support, and networks for chapters and their officers.

Many thanks to Ingrid Hogle for all her hard work organizing the workshop, and to Jerry Niemi for his input.

\*\*Copies of the agenda and talks are available on the chapter website. These have invaluable information and insights. Be sure to check them out!\*\*

**SCB Networking Night. Chapter Hosts: Minnesota, Davis, Berkeley, Iowa, Washington DC, Toronto, and the Chapters Advisory Committee; Sponsors: SCB, SCB North America Section, The International Association for Society and Natural Resources, and The Caltrans Wildlife Corridor Working Group. Mon June 26, 8pm-12am**

This was the chapters' most visible event ever, and has definitely put us on the SCB map. It gave an opportunity for conference attendees to unwind and connect in a relaxed atmosphere, and over 500 people attended! It was held at a local British-style pub with appetizers and free drinks. The live bluegrass band, *Poor Man's Whiskey*, 'blew the roof off the joint,' and people danced and networked half the night. Great feedback from the crowd, such as "This is the most fun I've ever had at a conference social event!" There was a display of chapter materials and a handful of speeches about chapters and the event sponsors as well.

\*\*The 2007 steering committee has already asked us to do this again in South Africa, so watch for it. Pictures from 2006 are on the SCB chapters webpage.\*\*

## ***New Developments***

- ◆ An important issue was the new membership bylaw change passed by the BOG last spring. A discussion occurred among the chapter representatives, the Chapters Advisory Committee, the Chapter-BOG Liaison, and members of the SCB executive office. Several chapters asked for clarification and/or expressed concern. Results of that discussion are now being considered by the executive office and the Chapter Advisory Committee, and will be addressed shortly.
- ◆ A new 5-Year Strategic Plan for the Chapters Advisory Committee is being developed. This is a direct result of the workshop and discussions. Its goals address interchapter communication, the SCB relationship, annual conferences, new chapters, sister chapters, the regional sections, student support, and finances.
- ◆ The chapter link with regional sections continues to grow. As of August 2006, the Chair of the Chapters Advisory Committee is now an ex-officio (non-voting) member of the Board of the North America Regional Section. This position will allow the North America Section and chapters to work more closely to build a mutually beneficial relationship. Also, the North America section is establishing an annual or bi-annual conference, and there is interest and opportunity for chapters to be heavily involved. Discussions with the Austral-Neotropical (Central/South America) Section are beginning as well.

\*\*Your ideas and comments on the relationships and potential activities with the sections are welcome. Send them to Fiona.\*\*

### ***Heads-Up (WATCH FOR MORE ON THESE SOON...)***

- ◆ The 2007 conference is in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. We will have a workshop or organized discussion, an information booth, and another Networking Night. Be there or be square.
- ◆ A survey of all chapters will be taken this fall. This is to help measure chapter demographics and needs.
- ◆ Chapters will need to register once a year on-line. This is to ensure your chapter remains in the SCB database and to give you access to SCB services.
- ◆ Revised generic bylaws will soon be available on-line.
- ◆ The Chapters Advisory Committee is being expanded with several new members. The fresh voices and energy are very welcome! If you'd like to be part of this committee and haven't yet expressed an interest, please contact Fiona.